



## Weekly News

Friday 18th October 2024

**Dear Parents,**

### **Exciting New for St Christopher's**

We have some exciting news to share! We are delighted to introduce our new Head of Music, Mrs Sophie-Lee Colchester, who will be joining St Christopher's in January. With her wealth of experience and passion for music education, we are exciting about the dynamic opportunities she will bring to our school.

In addition to this wonderful news, we are equally delighted to announce that we will be offering LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) classes at St Christopher's! LAMDA is renowned for developing communication, performance, and public speaking skills, and we believe this will be a fantastic opportunity for children to grow in confidence and creativity.

Further details on these 2 exciting developments can be found below!

### **New Music Teacher Announcement**

We are thrilled to announce that Sophie-Lee Colchester will be rejoining St Christopher's as Head of Music from January 2025. Mrs. Colchester is no stranger to our school, having previously served as Head of Music from 2017 to 2018 as maternity cover. With over 13 years of teaching experience in the area and her role as Musical Director of Fitznells Music Centre, she brings a wealth of knowledge and passion for music education.



Mrs. Colchester expressed her excitement about returning to St Christopher's, stating: "It is very exciting to be back at such a brilliant school, and I am looking forward to meeting all the children in the new year. Music has always been a very big part of my life, and I think it is important that everyone has the chance to discover the joy and magic of music from a young age."

Fitznells Music Centre, where Mrs Colchester has been instrumental, has been a cornerstone of musical education in Ewell Village since 1960, offering lessons in piano, singing, trumpet, flute, guitar and more. The centre runs a popular Summer Musical Theatre Workshop for pupils. We look forward to welcoming Mrs. Colchester back and to the exciting musical journey ahead for our children under her guidance.

### **LAMDA classes at St Christopher's led by Mrs Russell**

#### **A message from Mrs Russell:**

After 30 years of classroom teaching, I am delighted to be venturing into the peripatetic world of teaching Speech and Drama lessons, taking me back to my roots. I am very excited to be able to offer these lessons to St Christopher's Year 1 & 2 children starting this January. These lessons will be similar to how a visiting music teacher works – going from school to school to teach.

Lessons will follow the **London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA)** syllabus. Like music lessons, children can embark on their LAMDA journey with the option to take exams that provide recognised and respected qualifications – they can even be converted into UCAS points to support an application to university in the future, should the children continue with their LAMDA journey!

LAMDA lessons develop a child's confidence and creativity, and their physical and vocal awareness. Learning to stand and speak in front of an audience from a young age is an impressive skill; it will stay with them for life. It also benefits young pupils in an interview type situation. Conversation skills will be developed, diction improved and confidence to perform will increase through these weekly lessons.

These bookable lessons will be taking place on Mondays during the school day, rotating to ensure that no child misses the same 30-minute school lesson each week. There are likely to be 10 lessons each term, set in our outdoor classroom, a perfect space for creativity and expression; children will be escorted to and from this location.

Children will participate in small groups of three at a cost of £8.50 each. Booking arrangements will be made directly through me and not via the school.

If you wish to know more or to sign up for a place, please contact me at [figuresofspeechlessons@gmail.com](mailto:figuresofspeechlessons@gmail.com)

Please note – Drama Club will continue to run. This club does not follow a syllabus but through games, exercises and improvisation helps to develop confidence, voice production and performance skills.

Lizzie Russell BA/PGCE

## Year One News

In Literacy, the children have been fully engaged with the story of The Three Little Pig. On Monday, they worked in small groups to act out the tale, bringing some very scary wolves to life! They each chose their favourite characters and wrote speech bubbles, practising the use of capital letters and full stops. The children then discussed how the wolf should have behaved in the story. In a creative twist, they wrote letters to the wolf, explaining how he could have acted differently – some suggested that if he was truly hungry, he should have gone to a café or had a snack instead of trying to eat the pigs! In Maths, the focus was on finding 1 less than a given number, using number lines and hundred squares. The book “Ten Little Dinosaurs” by Mike Brownlow and Simon Rickerty, along with familiar songs like Five Currant Buns in the Baker’s Shop, supported the children’s understanding of this concept.

In Science, the children explored the sense of taste through a fun food-tasting investigation, learning vocabulary such as sweet, savoury, bitter, sour and salty. Some children were surprised by how much they enjoyed the taste of bitter lemon! In Art, the children used various objects and paint to create their own printed wallpaper designs for the brick house in The Three Little Pigs, adding an extra layer of creativity to their learning.

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## Year Two News

In maths this week, the children revisited the concept of money and practised finding change from 10p and 20p. They also worked on column subtraction, focusing on crossing ten, and solved missing number calculations to further enhance their problem-solving skills.

In Literacy, the children read the book The Heart and the Bottle. They explored synonyms for words such as “happy” and “sad”, expanding their vocabulary and understanding of emotions. Additionally, they focused on words ending in “ous” and wrote a short description about the little girl from the story, applying these new words and their descriptive skills.

Year 2 have also been in action with their roles and responsibilities this week. Our Eco Warriors, Leo and George, visited each classroom to see how many classrooms have recycling bins and are looking at how we can improve recycling across the school.

Our Playground Prefect and Play Champions, Thomas Mc and James M, have been catching children playing positively and gave out stickers in our merit assembly to children who have been just brilliant at positive play in the playground. A big thank you to our Art Captains, Florence and Alisa, for creating the front and back cover for our Harvest Festival Programme and our School Council Chairs, Farzan and Luca, who are bursting with ideas for the school. Well done, children!

## PTA News

A huge thank you to our amazing PTA for organising 2 events today. During the day, the PTA arranged for our first “Wow” event of the year with a Virtual Reality Eco Workshop. The children got the opportunity to virtually visit our amazing planet and understand the challenges it is facing. The children were given a positive message of empowerment and hope for the future of *their* planet.

The second event is our annual Halloween Disco. The children looked splendid dressed in Halloween colours in school today and I know will have a fabulous time dancing and having fun at the disco today.



## Christmas Festive Fun Bags

The PTA have provided white paper bags, which will be in your child's book bag **today**.

- We kindly ask that you and your child decorate the bags with fun, Christmas-themed designs—feel free to use drawings, stickers, paint, or any creative touch!
- After decorating, please fill the bag with small goodies such as sweets, chocolates, stationery, or toys. Once filled, seal the top with clear tape.
- These decorated bags will be used as part of the festivities at the Christmas Fair.

*All Festive Fun Bags to be returned to school on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024***

This is a great way to get creative with your child and contribute to the fun of the fair!

## Parents Evening

On Tuesday and Wednesday, it was lovely to see so many parents attend parents evening this week and meet class teachers.

## Staff News

It is with mixed emotions that we announce Mrs Henry's departure from St Christopher's in November, after four years of dedication and hard work. She has decided to pursue a new opportunity as a teaching assistant in a school closer to home. While we will all miss Mrs Henry, we are excited and wish her well for her next chapter and wish her all the very best in this new endeavour.

This week's lunch time superstar is Thomas B for delighting the kitchen team with amazing manners when asking for seconds. Well done Thomas!

On behalf of the whole staff team, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a lovely half term and we look forward to welcoming you all back to on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Best wishes,

Mrs Grehan

## Merit Awards:

Hattie B, Lyana L, Ryan P, Muzhi D, Henry W, Kian Y, George T, Cora M, Reva M, Jack S, Georgia S, Hugo Q and Clara C

## Work of the Week

The focus story in Year 1 this week has been The Three Little Pigs. Izzy H has written this wonderful letter to the wolf. Well done Izzy.

Ind

Dear wolf

~~you~~ You <sup>made</sup> maid me ~~feel~~ feel

~~sad~~ Sad be <sup>because</sup> cas you

blow<sup>ew</sup> my house down. You

can ~~can~~ come to my

house to <sup>have</sup> hat. cup caid

with ping<sup>k</sup> is<sup>c</sup>ing and

blow <sup>blueberries</sup> brerees. Love from the

little pigs.

✓ 😊 A fantastic

letter. You have

used capital letters,  
full stops and adjectives.

17.10.24

L.O To punctuate sentences with a capital letter and full stop.

## Nursery and Pre-Reception News

It has been a wonderful last week of another busy half term in Nursery and Pre-Reception. The children celebrated Harvest at the church singing their wonderful song and reciting their poem. Thinking about this celebration the children have been eager to learn more about Harvest. The children have been busy creating their own squirrels just like in our poem. Creating bushy tails for the squirrel with leaves collected from the garden and using other resources such as pencils, chalk, and tissue paper to finalise their creations. In our main area of the Nursery the children have been looking at all the different types of fruit and vegetables we may find at harvest time. At the playdough table the children have been creating their own corn on the cobs, using their fine motor skills to roll the dough as small as they can. Looking at images of fruit and vegetables the children have been creating their own colourful harvest baskets. We have also had a very popular fruit and vegetable stand with a cash till and baskets for the children to buy lots of produce. Size ordering has been the focus in our calm room. Cutting out big, medium, and small leaves and putting them in their correct order, starting with the biggest. Our outdoor area has been bustling this week with pumpkin patches and autumnal trays and the warm smell of freshly baked rolls has been wafting through as the children have been busy baking hedgehog rolls in the kitchen! What a fantastic week to finish off the half-term!



## Reception News

As we continue to explore Autumn and the harvest we looked at where food comes from. Our focus story was “Holy Squawkamole: Little Red Hen Makes Guacamole” by Susan Wood. This delightful tale took us on a journey to Little Red Hen's Cocina in Mexico as she searched for ingredients to create her guacamole, while seeking the help of her friends. The children had a fantastic time rereading the story and developing the narrative in our role play kitchen, using great expression to bring the characters to life! Thankfully the Reception children are much more helpful than the Little Red Hen's friends. In their ready for writing books, they crafted impressive recounts of the story, showcasing their developing phonics skills in their independent writing. It's remarkable to see such progress, especially as we wrap up our first half term. After talking about guacamole, we of course had to make some. When the teachers asked for help, all of the children were keen to get involved although we decided to leave out Red Hen's secret ingredient, chilli! We loved mashing and mixing the ingredients together and couldn't wait to taste it. Closer to home, we explored where bread comes from and how grain is harvested. The children enjoyed tasting various types of bread and even held a vote to determine their favourite. In addition to our literary adventures, Mrs Degg explored colour inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe using glue and coloured powder which should dry to create a stunning translucent autumnal leaf. We can't wait to see the end result.



## Dates for the Diary

**Monday 4th November - Term starts**

**Monday 4th November - Diwali Dance Workshop sponsored by the PTA**



**Wednesday 6th November - Year 2 trip to Bourne Hall**

*Year 2 parents are welcome to attend the event at Bourne Hall please arrive by 11am*



**Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**

*Week commencing 4th November Poppies will be available to buy in school*



**Mathletics:** Congratulations to **William I & Caitlyn M** for your Bronze Certificates

Congratulations to **Mateo B, Tristan T, Georgie GD, Reva M, Izzy H, Rory L, Henry W, Aaron E, Martha VA, Daniel G, Muzhi D & Luigi CM** for your Silver Certificates



**Spotty Box: Awards for success outside school:**

**Luca G** - Stage Coach certificate for outstanding performance and focus

**Alisa S** - Star of the week certificate at gymnastics & certificate for completing a 1.5km Spartan race

**Leo SM** - Yellow belt certificate from London TKD

**Heidi L** - Star-Tastic certificate for lovely balancing and cartwheels & Stage Coach certificate for amazing listening in class

**Oscar M** - Certificate of achievement for Little kickers - Team player

**Sophia M** - Bronze 2 certificate & riding a bike without stabilizers

