



Weekly News

Friday 4th October 2024

Dear Parents,

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the Macmillan Coffee Morning such a success. An amazing £605.12 was raised. Donations from thousands of Coffee Mornings, big and small, help raise vital funds to support the 3 million people in the UK living with cancer, from the moment they are diagnosed, throughout treatment and beyond.

Open Morning

We held a very successful open morning today, welcoming prospective parents to St Christopher's. The children were magnificent in showcasing all that is fabulous about our school and our Head Boy and Girl and Deputy Head Boy and Girl spoke beautifully at the beginning of the day. Year Two also gave us a wonderful rendition of a song they have been rehearsing for Harvest. A huge thank you to the parents who also came along to talk to the prospective parents about St Christopher's.

Black History Month

Black History Month, celebrated in October in the UK, is an important occasion to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of black people to British society. This year, BHM has a particular focus on celebrating and "Reclaiming narratives". This is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the untold stories of Black people in the UK. For example, this week Year Two have been learning about Asquith Xavier, a West Indian-born Briton who became the first non-white train guard at Euston railway station in 1966 where he stood against discrimination. A plaque at the station commemorates his achievement. Later this month the children will be comparing the lives Neil Armstrong and Mathew Henson. Both men were explorers but where television may have contributed to Neil Armstrong's rise to fame, Mathew Henson lived in relative obscurity after he returned from the Arctic. We will also be listening to the wonder story written by Floella Benjamin, "Coming to England."

Reception Trip to Painshill Park



Reception had a delightful day at Painshill Park searching for a mysterious dragon's egg, building houses for fairies in the woods, and exploring the beautiful grounds of the park and visiting the stunning crystal grotto. A fabulous day was had by all!

Year One News

The children in Year 1 have had a busy and exciting week engaging with the story of The Gingerbread Man. At the start of the week, they focused on retelling the story, carefully incorporating time words and practising forming sentences using sounds. As the week progressed, they had a wonderful time making their own gingerbread men! They enjoyed being "bossy", thinking of action verbs such as pour, stir, mix, crack and roll to ensure they followed the recipe correctly. The highlight, of course, was eating their creations.

In Maths, the children have been exploring the concept of "1 more". Using number lines, tens frames, bead strings, and numicon, they practised finding one more than a given number. To make it more engaging, the created "1 more" stories, incorporating time words such as first, next, and now to explain each step.

This week in science, the focus was on the sense of sight. The children had a fun activity where they were blindfolded and challenged to throw objects into a bucket. They quickly noticed that they were much better at this task when they could see! They also used torches to explore dark areas and learned about the use of Braille.

In Geography, the children read "The Gingerbread Cowboy" and discovered where ginger comes from. They had the opportunity to explore different types of ginger – root ginger, ground ginger and stem ginger – discussing how each felt and looked.

Year Two News

The children have been working hard this week, busily practising their lines and poems in preparation for the upcoming Harvest Festival. Their enthusiasm is building as they perfect their performances.

In Maths, the focus has been on addition and subtraction, including crossing ten. To begin, we used counters and ten frames to help visualise the process, and then moved on to practising mental methods of addition and subtraction. The children have also been working on problem-solving challenges to further their understanding. In addition, we explored lines of symmetry by folding both regular and irregular 2D shapes and using mirrors to investigate how many lines of symmetry each shape has.

In Literacy, Year 2 have continued to read the Minpins and began learning the rules of writing dialogue. The children acted out a scene from the story and then wrote their own dialogue, practising how to punctuate speech correctly. They also explored how authors build suspense in their writing, before applying these techniques to craft a descriptive piece about a haunted house. The creative energy and eerie descriptions the children came up with were fantastic.

Dates for the Diary

We have some wonderful events coming up this term. Our Harvest Festival is on Friday 11th October at St Martin's Church; it's the first event in the school calendar when the whole school gather to celebrate this autumnal festival. We look forward to seeing you there!

Parents, relatives, and friends are very welcome to join us and celebrate as a school community. We would advise that parents use the public pay-and-display car parks near Church Street. Parking is not permitted in front of the church apart from drop-offs as this area will be very busy. We do look forward to welcoming you all to a memorable celebration.

On Friday 18th October, the PTA are organising our annual Halloween Disco for the children. This will be a Mufti Day where the children are welcome to come into school that day wearing clothes in the Halloween colours of orange and black.

Parents Evening

We will be holding our parents' evenings in the week before half term where parents are invited to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss how well your child has settled into the new academic year. We look forward to seeing you then.

Arthur M has been nominated by the catering team as this weeks lunch time superstar for being such a fantastic eater and for appreciating the delicious lunches so much. Well done !

Top of the leader board this week is **Dahl** House with a superb total of **1593** House points. Congratulations to house.

Best wishes

Mrs Grehan

Work of the Week

This week, Year 2 have been exploring the art of speech. This is Alisa's wonderful work

02.10.24

LO: TO write speech



"Do you actually live in that tree?" questioned little Billy.
"yes I do!" answered the minpin.
"Have a look inside if you like?"

"Why are you even up here any ways?" asked the minpin.
"Because some thing was chasing me so I climbed up this tree for safety!" replied little Billy.



"Are these trees hollow?" asked little Billy. "yes" replied the minpin.

(3hp)

what wonderful dialogue Alisa. You have included inverted commas and used synonyms for said!

Nursery and Pre-Reception News

We have had great fun in Nursery this week. Our focus book was 'Cave Baby'; the story includes cave baby, his mum who is good at art and his dad who is very brave. Cave baby loves using his imagination to create paintings. When a woolly mammoth takes cave baby on a journey they meet some animals along the way, tiger, hare, laughing hyena and a big brown bear...just like the ones cave baby had painted himself.

The Children have been learning about mark making just like the Cave Baby and have been talking about what pre-historic means. Thinking about pre-historic times, the children made tea stain paper as backgrounds for their painted pictographs, copying images from ancient caves. The children have also been creating, La Cueva de las Mano (Cave of hands) artwork. Using their handprints as a stencil, the children sprayed paint over the top to leave the imprints of their hands on the paper. The children then needed to count how many fingers they can see on their imprint, finishing it off by adding numbers 1 to 5 at the top. In our outdoor area we have been continuing our autumn hunt, using a checklist to tick off the things we found. Collecting conkers in our garden; using them to roll along our wooden ramps, seeing how far they travel. We have also been using our wellies to explore in the rainy weather we have had. Fossil cookies have been our speciality in the Nursery/ Kitchen this week. The children have been weighing out the ingredients and using small world dinosaur fossils to imprint onto the cookies. It's super hard to rub the butter into the flour with our fingers but the cookies tasted delicious!



Reception News

This week we have been very much looking forward to our trip to Painshill Park in Cobham. When Thursday finally arrived, we were relieved the weather was dry and bright. It was all so exciting especially wearing wellies with our PE kits and going on an enormous cream coloured coach.

At Painshill Park, we were met by a very cool dude called Adam who knows loads of fun facts about nature. He explained the day to us and told us what to look out for. This included looking for dragons, fairies and not touching 'stingy thingies' (stinging nettles). He chose Clara to wear a special twig crown that he made by hand in two minutes; she liked it so much she wore it all day. After that, we ventured into the woods to make fairy dens and checked they were all 'wolf proof' by huffing and puffing at them to make sure they stayed together.

After this we explored lots of different areas of the park and played games using different coloured ribbons from a special sack and visited crumbling ruins. Next, we made magic wands using natural items and saw huge ponds with bridges and ducks swimming around.

For lunch we had a tasty picnic outside under a wooden shelter and then hiked to a 'Crystal Grotto' over a very wobbly floating bridge! It was so much fun, we were sad to leave, but exhausted too. Some children slept all the way back to school. What a wonderful day out.



The Foundation Team

Dates for the Diary



Wednesday 9th October - Year 2 trip to The Poppy Factory



The children should wear their School uniform and have their waterproof coat in school. The children will not need any money and a packed lunch will be provided.



Wednesday 9th October - Stars Parents afternoon from 1.30-4.00



This year we will be supporting the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank—Please remember to bring your food donations to the back porch on the 9th of October

Thursday 10th October - Harvest Festival rehearsal

If you are helping to walk the children to the church please arrive at school at 9am

Friday 11th October - Harvest Festival at St Martin's Church 10am

If you are helping to walk the children to the church please arrive at school at 9.20am



Mathletics: Congratulations to Chris, Alisa, Arthur and Ethan for your Bronze Certificates



Spotty Box: Awards for success outside school:

Lyana – Trophy from the Ambition School of Dance for Ballet and a medal for tap.

Clara – Stage Coach certificate for amazing listening in class.

Lars – a certificate from the Chocolate Chefs Academy for singing songs, making chocolate treats, and finding the golden ticket.

Amy – Startastic certificate for being the star of the week for amazing walking and balancing on the beam.

Lucy – for completing her first junior parkrun and first Leatherhead parkrun where she ran 2km.

Heidi – 2 certificates this week. Startastic star of the week for excellent listening and hand-stand work. And another achieving her Copper 2 Level over the summer holidays.

Isabella – for achieving Level 2 in Balanceability with stabilisers off and can now cycle.

