



## Weekly News

*“St Christopher’s – nurturing independent, highly-motivated and engaged children.”*

Friday 17th January 2025

Dear Parents,

Another week of exciting learning at St Christopher’s! This week, we held our termly “Do Share I’ll Listen” assembly, reminding the children of the important role of our DSL’s (Designated Safeguarding Leads) in supporting our pupils. I highlighted to the children that our DSL’s Mrs Grehan, Mrs Fisher and Mrs Gunn, are always available in school to listen and help with any worries they may have. The children were reminded that they can, of course, speak to any member of staff whenever they need support during the day.

During the assembly, we also reflected on our core values: excellence, empathy, and endeavour. To inspire our approach to excellence, we use the phrase “At St Christopher’s, we do ordinary things excellently.” This guiding principle inspires us to bring our best to everything we do, no matter how big or small.

### **Year One News**

This week, Year One dived into the world of rhyming poetry. The children enthusiastically acted out familiar rhymes and songs before exploring Robert Louis Stevenson’s poem “From a Railway Carriage” in detail. Together, we identified the poem’s rhythm and rhyming words. Some children even rose to the challenge of writing their own rhyming lines. Daniel impressed us all with: “Here is the big mountain and there is the raining fountain.”

In comprehension, the children started working with the text “Marmalade Jam”, which they thoroughly enjoyed. In writing, the children have been focusing on using the connectives such as and, but, and or to enhance sentence structure.

The focus this week in maths was subtraction! The children used a variety of methods to solve subtraction! The children used a variety of methods to solve subtraction problems, both independently and collaboratively, and tackled some challenging problem-solving activities.

In Science, Year One explored the properties of materials by observing and describing objects around the classroom and school.

Finally, Year One

had a fantastic time at Downsends this week, participating in sports and drama activities. The children’s enthusiasm and energy made the afternoon truly enjoyable.

### **Year Two News**

This week Year Two has been buzzing with excitement as rehearsals for our upcoming pantomime got underway! To prepare for the performance, the children immersed

themselves in all thing’s panto. They showcased their creativity by crafting lollipop puppets, writing lively scenes, and performing them to a wonderfully interactive audience.

Our focus story for the week, 'House Held Up By Trees' by Ted Kooser, inspired the children to explore their inner advertisers. They wrote imaginative advertisements, each describing a charming countryside home.

In maths, the children honed their addition and subtraction skills, applying their knowledge to solve problems with the help of bar models.

Science saw a fascinating link to our storybook as we delved into the world of trees. The children observed nature firsthand, using iPads to deepen their understanding. Alisa made an impressive discovery while examining rings with a magnifying glass – determining that one of the tree stumps in the trim trail was 6 years old!

Lastly, in history, Year Two began their exploration of the Victorian era. Rory impressed everyone by calculating that Queen Victoria reigned for a remarkable 64 years.

It's been another engaging and enriching week in Year Two. We can't wait to see what next week brings!

### **PTA Events**

**Please see below for the some of the amazing events the PTA have planned. I must congratulate the PTA on the wonderful fund-raising events they have organised for this year, including some fabulous wow events for the children. If you have any time at all, please do contact the PTA, as they are always looking for volunteers to help. The next social event for parents is the annual Quiz, which already promises to be a hugely entertaining evening!**

#### **Quiz Night – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.**

Tickets are £20 per person, which includes a fish and chip dinner and fun-filled quiz.

#### **Valentine's Disco – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February after school**

Children are invited to wear red to school on Friday 14<sup>th</sup>. Further information will be sent out at a later date.

#### **SAVE THE DATE - The Spring Ball – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

This weeks lunch time superstar is Austin in Neptune class, you have impressed the kitchen team this week with your outstanding manners and cheery smile . Well done Austin!

#### **Merit Awards:**

Jack S, Florence D, Ralph C, Daniel G, Mateo B, Harry P, Clara C, Eva B, Grace C, Arthur SA,  
Charlie L, Thomas M

Best wishes

Mrs Grehan

*"St Christopher's – the best possible start through excellence, empathy and endeavour."*

## Work of the Week

In Science Year 1 have been exploring the properties of materials. They enjoyed examining objects, below is a wonderful list that Luigi made for describing their properties

15.01.25

Everyday Materials

L.O To describe materials according to properties.

Name: Luigi [Date: \_\_\_\_\_]



Touch some different objects to see what they feel like. List the objects in the first column, then choose two words to describe each one.

Object	Word 1	Word 2
pen	hard	shiny
paper	absorbent	bendy
tree	dull	hard
pencil	dull	hard
brick	dull	waterproof
glass	smooth	hard
hard hat	soft	bendy
desk	hard	shiny
tissues	soft	dull

## Nursery and Pre-Reception News

Welcome to the Spring term!

All the children have come back from the Christmas holidays so well and have settled back into the Nursery routines brilliantly. We would like to give a warm welcome to all our new starters (Sparkles) who have settled in wonderfully and are really enjoying exploring all the different activities we have set up around the Nursery. Our Pre-Reception children and Nursery children, who have been here from before Christmas, have done a great job at helping all our new children get to know the Nursery. It has been so lovely to observe all the new friendships blossom!

Our topic this term is "I wonder what's in the woods", our focus will be on fairytales! This week's fairytale has been Goldilocks and the three bears. The children have had a great time making porridge in the Kitchen and eating this at the snack table, it was all very delicious, and the most popular topping was honey.

In our creative room we have been making the three bears using tissue paper and paper plates, the children have created some wonderful bears. We have been exploring the number three in our playroom and the children have shown fantastic maths skills, they have been learning the different ways to make the number three. As well as this the children have been extending their vocabulary around the words big and small. We have learnt some great new words, including huge, enormous, gigantic, tiny, miniscule, and microscopic! Outdoors they have been using the mud kitchen to make porridge for the hungry bears and building bear habitats.

The children in Pre-Reception have blown us away with their enthusiasm for reading, they are very excited to be coming home with book bags this week. We hope you enjoy sharing the books with them as much as we do. They have also started to learn phonics. This week's letter sound is "S" they have worked super hard at sounding it out and writing it on whiteboards! Great Job everyone.



## Reception News

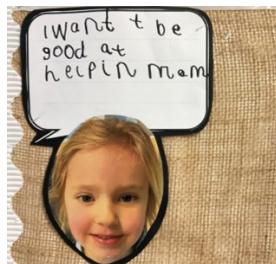
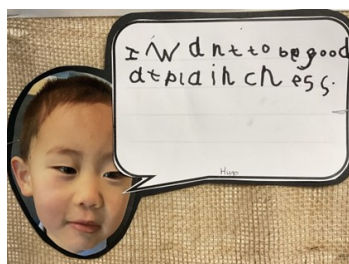
Welcome back everyone! It is great to be back in the classroom and hear about all the fun things the children did over the holidays.

We have been thinking about goals for the new year and what we would like to learn or get better at. The children had some super aims such as, being good at 'runin' (running), 'plain chess' (playing chess), 'helpin Mam' (helping Mum), 'hors' (horses) and 'gimnasix' (gymnastics).

In phonics, we revisited some digraphs (2 letters that make one sound). These were ch, sh, th and ng. To help us remember the 'ng' sound we made 'a thing on a string' with some funny results!

In maths, we have introduced the part-part-whole model to look at how numbers can be shared into 2 groups and how they can be made in lots of different ways.

We have also enjoyed the story 'There is a Superhero in my book' by Tom Fletcher. We dressed in capes and masks and wrote about super-powers. What a fun way to start the Spring term.



The Foundation Team

## Dates for the Diary

**27th January - Stem Week**

*Focusing on Lego*

**7th February PTA Quiz night**

*Tickets now on sale via the PTA website*

### Save the Date

Saturday 10th May—PTA Ball

*More details to follow soon*



**Mathletics:** Congratulations to Alisa S, Martha VA, Arvid M and Sophia M for your Gold Certificates

Congratulations to Georgie GD, Ivan C, Izzy H, Mateo B, Reva M and Luigi CM for your Platinum Certificates.



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

Luca G - Stage Coach certificate for being super brave moving up to the next group.

Leo SM - London TWK certificate for gaining his yellow belt with green stripes.

Leo SM - A certificate for Code Ninjas

Florence P - Certificate for successfully completing a skiing course.

Dawn F - Certificate for completing a 3 day ice skating course

Heidi L - Star-Tastics certificate for amazing cartwheels on her own

Georgie GD - Awarded her 'Yetison' badge for skiing.

