

St Christophers Academy Prospectus





Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to St Christophers Academy. We are delighted that you are considering our school for your child's education. We are a long established school that has seen generations of the same family pass through our doors. We opened in 1958 and have gained a solid reputation for providing a good education whilst maintaining our caring and nurturing ethos. We believe that happy children thrive and this belief is at the centre of our learning.

We have a reputation for high standards of attainment and behaviour both of which were recognised in our latest Ofsted report. Whilst we maintain the fundamental values and principles that have built the foundations of a good school we are innovative and forward thinking and strive to provide a 21st century education that will equip your child for the next stage in their educational journey.

As the Principal of St Christophers Academy I am committed to providing the very best education for your child.

Mrs P Jones

Principal

~Our Vision~

Our Vision is a Statement of Intent which encapsulates the core purpose, ethos and culture of St Christophers Academy.

We aspire to be a school

Where our children are keen to come and have an eagerness to learn.

Where children can develop their friendships and learn the social skills and independence that will support them as they learn and grow.

Which provides a nurturing and safe environment and where we understand that the physical and emotional wellbeing of our children is paramount if they are to learn effectively

Where we are good at identifying aptitudes and abilities in our children and do our best to develop them.

Where we put an emphasis on creativity, fun and enjoyment to inspire and motivate our children to learn.

Where we challenge and extend our children's thinking and have the very highest expectations of what they can achieve.

Where we enable children to develop their thinking skills, so they may use them in new learning situations.

Where we plan and deliver a curriculum that teaches children how to learn not just what to learn.

Where we prepare children well for the next steps in their learning and education.

Which is forward thinking, innovative and open to new ideas.

Which is well thought of and plays an active part in the local and wider community.

General Information

Introduction

I hope you find our information pack a useful introduction to our school and that it will answer some of the questions you may have, as your child joins us.

From September 2017 we transitioned from a one form entry to a two form entry Primary school taking children in the September before their fifth birthday. In addition we have our own nursery which takes children from 2 years old, from which many transfer to main school when they become of statutory age.

We provide wrap around care from 7.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. which is extremely popular from Energy-Kidz.

The school stands in extensive grounds which include sports field, playground, climbing frames, children's garden and quiet areas. All classrooms are spacious and equipped with the latest technology. We provide an extensive sports and music timetable and extra-curricular activities to suit all tastes.

The school works in partnership with parents and provides a Parent's Forum, a Toddler Group along with parent drop in sessions and workshops. We are a community school and regularly hold events which we strongly encourage our families to get involved with.

We encourage visits to our school and look forward to seeing you at your own convenience.

Our Curriculum

All children follow the National Curriculum and the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children have lessons in:-

- English
- Information, Communication, Technology
- Mathematics
- History
- Science
- Design and Technology
- Art
- Music
- Geography
- Physical Education
- Citizenship
- French
- Personal, Social, Cultural and Health Education

We deliver a book based curriculum and where appropriate, theme our learning through an interesting range of topics that inspire and motivate the children. Each theme begins with a 'Stunning Start' that gets things off to a fun start and the momentum is sustained through a range of lively activities. Beowulf and Lila and the secret of rain are just a couple of inspiring titles! The themes end with fabulous finishes which is usually an educational visit or experience to round off the learning unit.

Opportunities

We take a holistic view of education and believe that children should be provided with a wide range of activities and opportunities. To this end we offer the following as part of our everyday curriculum.

- Swimming
- Singing lesson, recorder lessons, ocarina lessons, keyboard lessons, violin lessons, African drum lessons, a variety of percussion instruments (with more instruments planned for the new year). We work closely with the Inspire music service to offer as many opportunities as possible. We are always keen to nurture talent and offer individual and small group music lessons.
- League football teams
- Sports teaching led by sports specialists
- Inter school tournaments matches across a range of sports.
- Gymnastics
- Dance
- Residential trips both home and abroad
- Visits to a variety of educational places that support learning.
- Visitors that share experiences in school with the children. E.g. The Fire Service bringing their fire engine to school, the town mayor talking about her special clothes and chain and a NASA scientist talking about space exploration.
- We believe in developing children's empathy and encourage them to think about those less fortunate than themselves. Therefore, we invite speakers from charities such as 'Water Aid', 'Shelter Box' and Macmillan and many others. We frequently carry out fund raising events that the children enjoy getting involved with.
- Artists that work on creative projects with children.
- Gardening
- Cooking
- After school clubs such as: Football, martial arts, cheerleading, street dance, tennis, multi sports, archery and many more.

We are constantly rethinking and revitalising our curriculum in order to cater to the ever changing needs and interests of the children in an ever increasing technological world.

Targets

We set end of year expectations that provide a guide to the standards expected of children at a given age. However, because all children are unique, we set individual targets against which children can measure their own progress.

Homework

All children are set homework and challenges and they are expected to complete them in their 'Homework Book '. In addition we expect children to read regularly and if possible to share a book with someone at home. We promote a love of reading and encourage children to read from a variety of material.

Special educational needs

Many children experience some difficulty during their time at school. The school makes provision for children who have a special need, in a variety of ways. The school has a special needs co-ordinator who will work with parents and outside agencies to offer the best possible provision and support for pupils.

Admission Policy

The admission number for the school is set by the Local Education Authority. Admission to the school will be on the basis of the school catchment area, but parents have the right to request an alternative school.

If the number of places in a year group exceeds the number of requests then the following will be applied (in the rank order shown)

- a) To all 'looked after children'
- b) To pupils living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
- c) Other pupils living in the catchment area
- d) On 'very exceptional medical grounds'
- e) Other siblings
- f) To any other children

The majority of the children who attend St Christophers Nursery go on to continue their education at our school.

School Organisation

There are approximately 300 children attending the school and 50+ children in FS1/Nursery.

Foundation Stage 1 (2+)

Foundation Stage 2 (4+)

Key Stage 1

Year 1 (5+)

Year 2 (6+)

Key Stage 2

Year 3 (7+)

Year 4 (8+)

Year 5 (9+)

Year 6 (10+)

Classes are mixed ability and children are set for some subjects.

The school day

Morning Session: 8.45am – 12.00pm. After 8.55 is deemed 'late'

Afternoon Session: 1.00pm - 3.15pm

Children are allowed into school at 8-45am but please do not leave them unsupervised before this time. Before school club is available from 7:30 am and will cater for early arrivals if they are registered with the provision. Contact reception for more information.

Early years and Key Stage 1 have a morning and afternoon break. Key Stage 2 have a morning break.

Communication

Good communication between home and school is essential. We are an approachable school and are always happy to speak to you about your child's education. You can come in to school to see if the teacher or Principal can see you immediately, if not you can make an appointment and you will be seen quickly.

We have a number of ways to contact you including text messaging, Parentmail Facebook and Twitter. Please make sure we have all of your contact details.

General letters are sent home with the children so please check their bags regularly. Copies of all letters sent home can be found on the school website.

Parental Involvement

We know that children's education is greatly enhanced when their parents work in partnership with their teachers. We have a Parent's Forum that meets once every half term to discuss issues and provide a parent voice on matters that effect your children's education and well-being. We have a thriving 'Friends of St Christophers' association and welcome new members and new ideas to raise funds for our school.

Complaints procedure

If you have a complaint about anything in school, the first person to contact is the class teacher. They are aware of the needs of your child and can often give you information about a difficulty.

The Principal will intervene at your request or will refer you to the Governing Body. A copy of the complaints procedure is available in school.

School Equipment



Jewellery

For Health and Safety reasons all jewellery, including earrings, must be removed for P.E. lessons. Staff are not allowed to remove earrings. If your child wears earrings, only plain studs are acceptable.

Plain watches may be worn to school, other items of jewellery are not allowed. This includes bracelets and items around the neck and wrist.

Hair

Hair should be tied back with a plain red/white scrunchie or band.

Additional games sessions

Children need to bring a warm tracksuit for P.E. sessions during cold weather.

Sun protection

In sunny weather please ensure your child brings a red sun hat to school. All day sun screen should be applied before school. If there are any particular health problems, office staff will be able to help.

Lost Property

Please make sure all your child's belongings are clearly named. Lost property is kept until the end of each term and located at the entrance to the school.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and 6)

As children move into Year 5 we encourage them to begin taking more responsibility for their belongings and school equipment. They will be allocated a locker which they will have full use of for the whole academic year. They may bring their own pencil case and writing equipment into school.

Keeping your child safe and well

It is important that you know your child is happy in school, if we have concerns we will talk to you. Please let us know if you have any concerns or if there are changes at home, for instance the loss of a pet, changes in your child's behaviour or if they seem tired or upset. Class teachers are available each day at the end of the school day. Occasionally the school may have more serious concerns and would need, by law, to follow the Child Protection procedures. We would discuss the concerns with you first, where possible. The school has a legal duty to follow these procedures.

Security

Children enter the school, in the morning, through the gate at the front of the school. Visitors to the school after 8-55 am must use the front entrance.



What if my child has an accident at school?

School staff are trained in first aid. Children will be given a note to take home, after first aid is given. In the event of a more serious accident parents are contacted. It is important **that your contact details are up to date.**

Illness

Children who are fit to attend school will be expected to participate in the full curriculum, including P.E. and outdoor breaks. If children have been sick or had diarrhoea they must not return to school for at least 24 hours.

Medicines

The school has no legal duty to administer medicines. The school will consider a request, if the medicine has been prescribed by a doctor and needs to be taken at least four times a day. All medicines need to be delivered and collected by an adult. An indemnity form must be signed.

Behaviour

The children at St Christophers Academy have a reputation for having excellent behaviour. We believe in conflict resolution and restorative practices as our first approach.

(Behaviour and Safety are outstanding. Excellent behaviour in lessons and around the school reflects pupils' highly positive attitudes to learning') OFSTED

The school has rules which are agreed with the children, school council, staff and Governors, each year. We expect that all children will keep the school rules, and that parents will support the school in this matter.

We believe in rewarding good behaviour, and the school has a strong rewards system which the children respond well to.

Should we be experiencing any significant difficulties with your child's behaviour, the class teacher will contact you. Should the matter not be resolved then a meeting with the Principal will be arranged.

Awards

We have many reward systems including 'Houses' to which the children are allocated and House points which the children are awarded for good behaviour, excellent work, trying hard and other achievements. The winning Houses have a reward at the end of each term such as a trip to the cinema, bowling, picnic etc. The Houses are named after local landmarks and attractions.

Chilterns – Ashridge – Whipsnade – Priory.

Children enjoy the sense of belonging and competition that this system encourages.

Each term we hold a 'prize giving' assembly where we present children with achievement awards, certificates and prizes they have earned both in and out of school and any other recognition of achievement earned that term.

Full attendance certificates are awarded to children at the end of the year who have had 100% attendance and the class who has the highest attendance record at the end of each term receives a special treat.

Lunchtime

The school provides a high quality cooked lunch that is cooked on the premises, using fresh ingredients. Children have wide choices of dishes, and menus are available in school. The school catering company is called Dolce and can be ordered via their Live Kitchen. Further information on lunches can be found on the school website. The price of school lunches is currently £2.30.

Children may bring a packed lunch. In accordance with our healthy eating policy, chocolate or drinks other than fresh fruit juice or water should not be included. However, the children may have a chocolate covered biscuit. Water is available for all children at lunch time.

Lunches may be paid for weekly, monthly or termly.

Some children are entitled to free school meals, please enquire at the school office for more information. Currently all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are entitled to Universal Free School Meal



Fruit

All children in FS2 and years one and two receive free fruit.

Water

Children are encouraged to drink plenty of water throughout the day. Children may bring a clear; pop up bottle containing water, to school. Bottles can be bought from the school office at a charge of £1.00.

Sending money to school

Please send any money or notes to school in a named envelope. Children hand these in to the class teacher, each morning. Should an envelope be left at home, please post it through the letter box.

School uniform: Foundation stage

Children in Foundation stage 1, Nursery, wear a red sweatshirt with the foundation stage logo once they turn three years old.

Two year old children in nursery can wear their own clothes.

School Uniform - Main school

Winter uniform		Summer uniform	
Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Red school logo jumper or cardigan	Red school logo jumper	Red school logo jumper or cardigan	Red school jumper
White school shirt or blouse	White school shirt	Red school logo polo top	Red school logo polo top
Grey school trousers (non tight fitting)	Grey school trousers	Red gingham dress	Grey school short trousers (non tight fitting)
Grey school dress or school skirt/tunic		Grey school dress or school skirt/tunic/culottes	
Black school shoes for outside	Black school shoes for outside	Black school shoes for outside	Black school shoes for outside

Black indoor plimsolls (after October half term until spring half term)	Black indoor plimsolls (after October half term until spring half term)	If sandals are worn they must have a back and preferably cover the toes, for safety	
Waterproof coat	Waterproof coat		
Red or grey school tights FS2-Year 4		School red logo sun cap	School red logo sun cap
Plain red of grey tights FS2- Year 4 Plain grey or black school tights year 5 and 6		Plain red of grey tights FS2-Year 4 Plain grey or black school tights year 5 and 6	
White school socks	White, grey or black school socks	White school socks	White, grey or black school socks
School Backpack FS2 – Y4 (no other backpack to be worn)		School Backpack FS2 – Y4 (no other backpack to be worn)	

School uniform may be bought from: Best Look, High Street North, Dunstable or the Tesco's embroidery service all items are clearly indicated.

We cannot hope to provide you with all the information you might require in this pack. The academy has many changes throughout the year. Please look on the website and come into school if you require more information. Keep your eyes on the website, our own twitter page @stchristophersacademy and to keep you informed at all times.

