



ST CHRISTOPHERS ACADEMY

Autumn Newsletter - 12/09/2025

A Community of Ambition



A message from the Head of School

It's been our first full week back and the school is buzzing! Thank you for helping make the start of term so positive. A special thank you to all of you who attended our "Meet the Teacher" sessions; your partnership makes a real difference. If you weren't able to come, or if you have any questions, please remember you can always arrange a time to speak with your child's teacher. Just contact the school office or email the class teacher to set up a convenient time.

After a busy first full week, you may find your children are more tired than usual, so I wish you all have a restful and relaxing weekend.

Miss Hayes



A message from our Head Girl & Head Boy:

Hi we are Mae and Joris - your head girl and head boy! We are really proud to be the head of the JLT this year; it means a lot to us to be able to help others and set good examples for all children. You may see us around school being part of the community by picking up litter, monitoring behaviour and showing visitors around.

Introducing our Junior Leadership Team 2025-2026



Mae (Head Girl), Joris (Head Boy), Samuel (House Captain), Lili (House Captain), Zahra (House Captain), Zack (House Captain), Kenneth & Maia (EYFS prefects), Zachary & Chloe (KS1 prefects), Abdullah & Louise (KS2 prefects)

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nursery & pre-school



Nursery and Pre-School have had such an exciting start to the year! The children have been settling in beautifully, making new friends, and enjoying time together both indoors and outdoors. We have loved sharing the story 'Owl Babies', which has led to lots of creativity as the children made their own little owls out of playdough. They've also been busy exploring Autumn treasures including leaves, sticks and conkers, using their imaginations and discovering the world around them.



Reception



In reception classes this week, we have continued to establish our daily routines. The children are getting so much better at their sitting and listening skills. We have a daily circle time where we learn to take turns and to listen to others. Our tables are set up with subject based activities each day, such as: fine motor skills to help to develop pencil grip, colour sorting and number matching for Maths, and mark making opportunities. Learning through play gives the children time to develop their play-based skills and to make friends with their peers.



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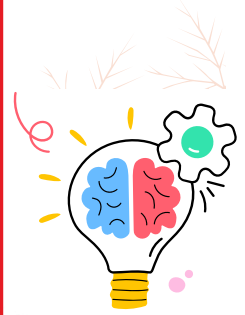


Year 1



Year 1 have had a busy and exciting week of learning! In Geography, the children have been exploring aerial photographs of our local area. They really enjoyed spotting familiar landmarks from above and discovering how different places look when viewed from a new perspective. In PE, the children have been developing their running skills. It has been great to see their enthusiasm and determination.

Well done Year 1!



Year 2



In Year 2, we started our week with an exciting discovery! Sunny, the meerkat from our new book, sent Year 2 a postcard from his new home in Dunstable. We then went on a hunt around the school to find Sunny the meerkat – he was hiding behind the PE shed! We are really looking forward to reading Meerkat Mail in our English lessons and finding out more about our friend Sunny.

In R.E, we started our topic about celebrations, discussing significant events we have enjoyed celebrating with our friends and families. In History this week, we looked at pictures of schools in the past and schools now. We talked about similarities and differences and completed a timeline putting the pictures in chronological order.



Year 3

Year 3 have been enjoying their learning so far. They have shown their knowledge for what is beneath our feet, name the 4 main layers of the Earth and making models out of clay. We have also had our 'head start' sessions for Music where the children will be learning to play the ukelele.

Notice: Every week the children will be doing a times tables test, we are starting with the 2's, 5's and 10's.





Year 4



Year 4 have had a busy week starting all of our new topics! We enjoyed making predictions about our new book in English, and we have started to explore place value up to 1000 in maths. The children were particularly engaged while 'exploring Ancient Rome' in our history lesson this week.

We look forward to introducing Rainforests in geography next week.



Year 5



Year 5 have settled into their academic timetable very well this week.

We have started reading *Room 13* and discussing what makes the story so sinister right from the first page. It is a fantastic choice of book for Year 5.

In Maths, the children have shown an excellent understanding of large numbers up to 1,000,000, whilst in History, we have just started to explore the Mayan culture.

As well as very demanding work in the class room, we all managed to appreciate the dramatic skills of both classes as the children worked in small groups to create their own short interpretations of five famous Fairy Tales, on the astro (between the showers). It was great to watch such a wide variety of talent, with many excellent voices acting the famous lines of each story.

Both classes have started their swimming at a local pool, with Red Kite walking back in record time despite some very grey skies.

All in all, the first whole week back has passed really well!



YEAR 6

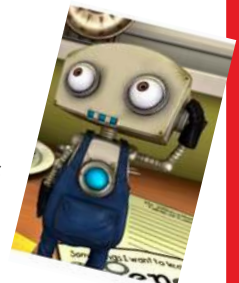


In year 6 this week the children have been very busy! We have all completed an adventure story in English. Everyone's robots went to different places and saw different things!

We have also started our study of the Hindu faith in R.E and of Census's in History. We learnt about different gods that are worshiped by Hindu's and we started to look at the census from 1851 and gathered data from our peers to create our own class census.

In Science we learnt about Carl Linnaeus and the system he brought in to classify all living things. We stepped away from the writing and brought out our inner actor by performing a role play!

Busy, busy, busy!!



School Activities



Bikeability

Year 4 had a great time practicing their bike skills for their Level 1



World First Aid Day Assembly



led by Mrs Paul

In their Key Stages, children gathered in the hall for a special World First Aid Day assembly led by Mrs. Paul. She spoke about the importance of knowing basic first aid skills and how they can save lives in emergencies. Everyone listened carefully and asked thoughtful questions, showing great interest in learning how to help others. The children were reminded of first aid procedures in school and what to do/ who to go to.



If you would like to enter please leave any entries at the office by 9am on Friday



We're inviting schools across the country to take part in our exciting Roald Dahl Competition, where pupils can put their imaginations to the test and design a brand-new Roald Dahl character.

Pupils can either:

Draw their new character

Or write a short paragraph describing them in Roald Dahl's famously mischievous style!

Think weird, wacky, wonderful – with a touch of the unexpected!



How to enter:

Simply send photos or scans of your pupils' submissions to this email by Friday 19th September.

Winners will receive a special Aspire Prize, and we'll be showcasing some of the most splendid entries on our social media!

Let the creativity flow – we can't wait to see what your young storytellers come up with!



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HOMework



What does homework look like for my child?

Homework is set on a Friday and due back by Wednesday.

Nursery/Preschool:

- There is no formal homework.
- Learn at home through play and experiences!
- Library books are sent home for you to read to your child.
- See page 35 of the EYFS Handbook (on the school website).

Year 1:

- Daily reading to parent
- Weekly phonics
- Bi-weekly maths

Reception:

- Weekly phonics
- Phonics books are sent home for the children to read to you. Library books are sent home for you to read to your child.
- See page 35 of the EYFS Handbook (on the school website).

Year 2:

- Daily reading to parent
- Weekly phonics
- Alternate English and Maths

KS2 will receive a blend of online and paper-based homework tasks each week.

Spellings are sent on a Monday and tested the following Monday.

Year 3:

- Daily reading
- Alternative English and Mats
- Weekly spellings
- One piece of English
- One piece of Maths
- As Y3 teachers said at Meet the Teacher, this week & next will be a gradual introduction to online learning.

Year 5:

- Daily reading
- One piece of English
- One piece of Maths
- Weekly spellings

Please check the school website for more information.

This is for Autumn 1 and will update after half term.



Year 4:

- Daily reading
- Weekly spellings
- One piece of English
- One piece of Maths

Year 6:

- Daily reading
- One piece of English
- One piece of Maths
- Weekly spellings
- Mock SATS questions to come during the half term.

In next week's newsletter we will share the different online learning platforms used 😊

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Key Dates for 2025-2026



Parent's Evenings:

11/11/2025	4:00 to 6:00 pm
13/11/2025	4:00 to 6:00 pm
17/03/2026	4:00 to 6:00pm
19/03/2026	4:00 to 6:00 pm

Year Group Assemblies:

22/10/2025	Year 2
12/02/2026	Year 5
04/03/2026	Year 3
25/03/2026	Year 4
20/05/2026	Year 1
15/07/2026	Year 6 leavers assembly

Sports Days:

16/06/2026	Key stage 1
17/06/2026	Key stage 2
19/06/2026	EYFS

Christmas Performance:

01/12/2025	Nursery/Preschool
03/12/2025	Reception
05/12/2025	Year 1
08/12/2025	Year 2
10/12/2025	Year 3
12/12/2025	Year 4
16/12/2025	Year 5
18/12/2025	Year 6



Key Dates: Autumn term 1



Dates	Year group	Trips and Events
15/09/25	Year 5	Meet the Teacher
17/09/25	Year 5	Meet the Teacher
18/09/25	All year groups	Bounce Back PTA Event
16/09/25	Year 1	Reading Breakfast (8:40 to 9:10am)
22/09/25	All year groups	Maths Workshop for Parents (9:45 to 10:45am)
23/09/25	Year 2	Reading Breakfast (8:45 to 9:10am)
24/09/25	All year groups	Maths Workshop for Parents (2:30 to 3:30pm)
26/09/25	All year groups	McMillan Coffee Morning Fundraising Event 9:00am
30/09/25	Year 3	Reading Breakfast (8:40 to 9:10am)
07/10/25	Year 4	Reading Breakfast (8:40 to 9:10am)
09/10/25	Everyone invited!	Open Evening (5-6:30pm)
10/10/25	Whole school	Wear Yellow for World Mental health day
13/10/25	All year groups	Individual photos portraits
14/10/25	Year 5	Reading Breakfast (8:40 to 9:10am)
21/10/25	Year 6	Reading Breakfast (8:40 to 9:10am)
22/10/25	Year 2	Harvest assembly (parents invited)
22/10/25	All year groups	Halloween Disco

Please note: we try our best to keep dates the same, but sometimes a new date might be added or there may be a change in date!

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Communication at SCA



Communication Friday



All letters from school will be sent on Communication Friday!

Other communication, either adhoc messages or letters from external providers, that need to be sent during the week will be. They will also be listed below in the school information section so you don't miss anything!

We are always here to help and want to make sure no one misses out on important information, please come and speak to someone in school if you have a question!



SCHOOL WEBSITE

We have been and continue to work hard making updates and changes to the school website to make sure it's easier to navigate, up to date with the latest information, and a helpful resource for our entire school community!



Communication:

ALL contact is made directly to parents via our system delivered straight to your inbox (the MCAS App). Please ensure you are up to date and able to access this.

Paper letters can be printed in the office for you upon request.

Check out our newsletter board!



let's make the connection!



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Letters Sent Today from School

- Nursery & Pre-school School Photos

Letters Sent this Week from External Providers

- Future Games Football After School Club
- Gymnastics After School Club

Messages Sent this Week

- Meet the teacher year 5 postponed and new dates
- Bounce Back postponed
- Bounce Back New Date



Reminder

Just a reminder earrings (plain studs) are not to be worn during PE lessons. Please can they be taken out on PE days.

For more information see the uniform policy on the school website.



Announcement



Friends of SCA - Bounce Back Event Update

As announced earlier this week, we had to take the decision to push our Bounce Back to School event onto another day due to the forecasted weather. We are pleased to let you know that we have managed to secure a new date, which is **Thursday 18th September 2025**.

Stay in touch



01582 500 960



sca-admin@bestacademies.org.uk



stchristophersacademy.org



facebook.com/stchristophersacademybest

Want to share an achievement?

Whether it's a sporting, musical, writing, cooking or a painting success....we want to hear about it!

Send in your news to:
SCA-admin@bestacademies.org.uk





Baby & toddler group



Week - 1

Our baby and toddler group enjoyed a fantastic first session this week. The children took part in a variety of activities, including building train tracks, creating shapes with playdough, engaging in role play by selling ice creams, singing nursery rhymes and listening to the story of The Gingerbread Man. The session was filled with smiles and laughter, making it a very successful start. We would like to thank all parents for bringing their little ones along and for their generous contributions. See you next week!



We love opening our doors to the community for this group, please do spread the word and tell friends and families to come along!



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