

ST CHRISTOPHERS ACADEMY

Autumn Newsletter -18/09/2026

A Community of Ambition

SCA



A message from the Headteacher

What a fantastic second week. Thank you to those that attended our meet the teacher events and for supporting our PTA bounce back event.

This year we are continuing to raise standards across every area of school life; we are building on our academic success, maintaining high expectations of behaviour, attendance and the pride children take in their work and their school! Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

 *Miss Hayes*



Attendance

Our whole school attendance for this week is **96.1%**



The class with the best attendance this week is **"Muntjacs"**



Headteacher's Award

Honeybees - Freya
Bumblebees - Raya
Butterflies - Tessa
Dragonflies - Irha
Hedgehogs - Finley
Squirrels - Aedan
Rabbits- Maryam
Badgers - Nadiya
Foxes - Alessia M
Otters - Aimal
Roes - Daivya
Muntjacs - Oliver
Buzzards - Yusuf
Owls - Aaron

A message from our Head Girl & Head Boy:

We are so honoured to be your Head Girl and Head boy. We are excited to help staff and children and make school a better place to be. We have loads of ideas and plans for the school, we can't wait to share with you!

Iliyah & Vehant



Ambition | Community | Respect | Responsibility

Allergy Awareness

KEEPING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY SAFE

At St Christophers Academy, the safety and wellbeing of every child is very important to us. We are a caring school community, and we all have a part to play in helping to keep one another safe.

Some of our children have severe food allergies. For these children, even a very small amount of an allergen can cause a serious reaction.



Kind Choices
Make a
Big Difference



A kind reminder to all families

We kindly ask parents and carers to:



Please **check food labels carefully** before sending snacks or packed lunches into school.



Please **do not send foods containing nuts** into school, as these can pose a serious risk to children with allergies.



Please **remind children not to share** food with other children.



These simple steps can make a big difference and help children with allergies feel safe, included and able to enjoy their school day.

Common allergies in our school include:



Milk



Banana



Strawberry



Coconut



Chickpeas

(This list is not exhaustive, as we have other allergies too.)



Please be mindful when packing lunches and help us keep everyone safe.

Thank you!

TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER, HAPPIER SCHOOL

Key Dates for 2026-2027

Parent's Evenings:

10/11/2026 4:00 to 6:00 pm
12/11/2026 4:00 to 6:00 pm
16/03/2027 4:00 to 6:00pm
18/03/2027 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Sports Days:

16/06/2026 Key stage 2
17/06/2026 Key stage 1
18/06/2026 EYFS

Year Group Assemblies:

11/11/2026 Year 5

Year 3 & 4 Assembly

17/03/2027 Foxes
18/03/2027 Badgers
19/03/2027 Otters

Year 1 & 2 Assembly

22/06/2027 Rabbits
23/06/2027 Squirrels
24/06/2027 Hedgehogs

20/07/2026 Year 6 leavers assembly

Christmas Performance



**Dates to follow once
filming arrangements are
confirmed.**

Key Dates: Autumn term 1

<u>Date</u>	<u>Year group</u>	<u>Events and Trips</u>
29/09/2026	Year 3 & 4	Reading breakfast at 8:40 to 9:10 am
29/09/2026	All Parents	School nursing team at 8:15 am
06/10/2026	Year 5	Reading breakfast at 8:40 to 9:10 am
07/10/2026	All parents	Inclusion Lead coffee morning 8.40-9.20am
12/10/2026		Open Day at 9:30 am to 12:30pm
13/10/2026	Year 1 & 2	Reading breakfast at 8:40 to 9:10 am
21/10/2026	All year groups	Halloween Disco



Information about what each event looks like can now be found on the 'what's happening next week page'!

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!

Ambition | Community | Respect | Responsibility

- Letters Sent from School
- Guide for declaration of allergies
- Acceptable Use Agreement
- Letters Sent this Week from External Providers
- None
- Messages Sent this Week
- None



A quick clarification on 'outdoor trainers'

On PE days, children should have practical sports trainers suitable for running and physical activity. Where possible, please choose plain, neutral colours rather than fashion-style trainers. We'll update our uniform policy in the future to make this clearer. Thank you for your support!



Keep an eye out for our new road safety signs at the front of school! Our new child-shaped signs are a friendly reminder to drivers to reduce their speed, be mindful where parking and help keep our children and families safe at drop-off and pick-up times.

Stay in touch



01582 500 960



sca-admin@bestacademies.org.uk



stchristophersacademy.org



facebook.com/stchristophersacademybest



WE'VE CHANGED THE ANGLE, NOT THE STORY
Celebrating every moment. Protecting every child.
Adapting how we share, in response to evolving AI safeguarding concerns.

- HANDS ON CONTENT**
Learning, exploring and creating without showing faces.
- BACKS OF HEADS**
We can still show the moments that matter.
- SIDE FACING PHOTOS (WITH PERMISSION)**
Only when we have consent from parents/carers. No front facing photos.

SOCIALS

THANK YOU for all of the follows and likes on our new instagram!!!

You can now also follow us on TikTok!



@sca_dunstable

What's Been Happening at School this Week?



Honeybees

Nursery & Preschool



Bumblebees

We have had an amazing week welcoming our new children into nursery! It has been lovely to see new friendships forming and how well everyone has settled in. This week, we explored Owl Babies, learning about feelings, family and friendships. We practiced counting while playing with our favourite cars and enjoyed choosing and singing nursery rhymes together. Outdoors, we explored autumn activities, learning about seasonal changes and the weather.

Next week will continue exploring Owl Babies, focusing on story parts, recognising numbers, creating owl nests and learning about autumn and the weather.

Also, we will focus on tidying up, encouraging children to take responsibility for their toys, develop independence and work together. Children will be supported to share, cooperate and care for their nursery environment.



Butterflies

Reception



Dragonflies

This week in reception we have had a very busy week. We have begun our book 'Elmer' in Talk for Writing and the children have made their first story maps. In Phonics we have begun our journey with learning the sounds s, a, t and p. The phonics scheme we use is called 'Little Wandle' and it has some excellent videos online if you want to understand the way your child will be taught phonics. In maths we have looked at colours and patterns to link with our story, and in understanding the world we have been looking at ourselves and making self-portraits. What a busy week!

Today your child has brought home their first reading book, please don't be put off if the book has no words, the picture books are to look at and talk about what they see! Reading with or to your child is hugely beneficial for them.

If you couldn't make it please don't worry there will be plenty of opportunities to visit your child's classroom over the coming weeks.



Ambition | Community | Respect | Responsibility

Year 1&2



Another brilliant week for Year 1 and 2, the children have settled into their groups very well.

In English, we have begun our focus text, 'Where the Wild Things Are' - everyone has designed their own wild thing and they have written descriptive sentences to go with them.

In Maths, Year 1s have been recapping 1 more and 1 less and the Year 2s have been working on their understanding of place value.

Year 2 children have been sent home their first set of spelling words - please practise these as much as you can ready for their spelling test next Friday. We also had our first Cricket sessions which we all thoroughly enjoyed - we worked on throwing and catching skills and discussed the word 'resilience'!

We keep trying even if we find it tricky!

Keep up the hard work, Year 1 and 2!

Reminders: all children need a named water bottle and coat every day. Please remember that earrings should be removed or covered for all PE days and longer hair should be tied back.



Year 3&4

☀ Badgers, Otters & Foxes Weekly News ☀

We have had another busy and exciting week in Year 3/4! In Maths, we continued developing our understanding of place value, building confidence when working with numbers. In English, we have continued reading *The Puffin Keeper* and have been using the story to inspire our writing. We have focused on creating wonderful descriptions and using fronted adverbials to make our sentences even more interesting. In Science, we explored the different types of human teeth, learning about their names, features and different jobs. 🦷 Next week brings even more excitement as we begin rehearsals for our two amazing Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas shows!

🎄🎁 We cannot wait to get started and see our Badgers, Otters and Foxes shine on stage!





Roes

Year 5

It has been another fantastic week in Year 5!

In English, we are reading The Arrival by Shaun Tan. This week, we have been analysing the illustrations and using clues to infer the protagonist's feelings and emotions.

In Maths, we have been learning about place value, working with numbers up to one million. The children have been practising reading, writing and comparing large numbers and understanding the value of each digit.

In Art, the children enjoyed developing their observational drawing skills by carefully studying houses. They focused on shapes, lines and details to create their own drawings.

A huge well done to everyone for all their hard work this week! It has been lovely to see the children settling back into school, showing enthusiasm for their learning and challenging themselves. Keep up the fantastic work!



Muntjacs

Year 6

It has been a week full of new learning and continuing to settle back into school routines. All children have settled in well and have thrown themselves into all of their learning.

In P.E this week, both classes worked on their defending skills in Basketball. This led to some healthy competitions!

In Science this week, the children learnt about Carl Linneaus and the classifying system he introduced.

Thank you to all of the parents who came to the meet the teacher sessions.

Please be reminded, secondary schools are starting to host their open evening events - please have a look at dates on their individual school websites.

If you need any help with this, please contact your classes teacher.



Owls



Buzzards

Ambition | Community | Respect | Responsibility



HOMEWORK



Homework is an important part of learning, and we really value the support of our families in helping children develop positive habits, confidence and a love of learning at home.

On the pages below, are the bingo boards for each year group

At the start of each half term, all children will receive a Homework Bingo grid with a range of fun activities linked to their foundation subjects. The aim is to see if they can complete all of the tasks by the end of the half term, giving them plenty of choice and flexibility along the way! These will be shared in the newsletter next week.

EYFS:

Nursery/ Pre-School: Upload pictures to Tapestry. If your child makes anything and you would like to send it in, please do so by Wednesday 21st October.

Reception: Take photos and send these in. Any projects that are made please send these in by Wednesday 21st October.

KS1 & KS2:

Feel free to take pictures of the children completing their learning Any projects and learning they complete, need to be brought in by Wednesday 21st October.



Ambition | Community | Respect | Responsibility

HOMEWORK

Nursery and Pre-school

Homework Challenge

The homework on this sheet is optional and is to enhance your learning.

If you choose to complete any of these tasks, they will need to be in by Wednesday 21st October for an in-class "Celebration Showcase."

Be Creative and have fun!

Build a bumblebee:
Use blocks, Lego, recycled materials or anything you have at home.

Go on a nature walk. Look for sticks, flowers, leaves and bugs.
What can you find?

You could take photos or draw what you see.

Read a book about bees or look at pictures!
Enjoy this with your grown ups.

Visit the local library to find more books!

Look for yellow things around your home and outside.
How many yellow things can you find? Take photos or draw them.

Create a bumblebee or honeybee picture.
Use crayons, paints, markers or collage materials to make your picture.

HOMEWORK

Reception:

Homework Challenge

The homework on this sheet is optional and is to enhance your learning.

If you choose to complete any of these tasks, they will need to be in by Wednesday 21st October for an in-class

“Celebration Showcase.”

Be Creative and have fun!

Family portrait:

Draw, paint or collage a picture of your family. Could you include your pets?

All about me:

Decorate a box or small bag and fill with pictures or items that they can bring in and talk about.

Favourite things wheel:

Draw a circle split into segments. Draw or stick pictures of your favourite food, animals, books, games and more!

Number walk:

Go on a short walk in your local area.
See what numbers you can spot.

Playdough face challenge:

Use playdough and encourage your child to build a self portrait or to show specific emotions.

Take photos and share these.

HOMEWORK



Year 1 and 2:

Homework Challenge

The homework on this sheet is optional and is to enhance your learning.

If you choose to complete any of these tasks, they will need to be in by Wednesday 21st October for an in-class "Celebration Showcase."
Be Creative and have fun!



Rabbits



Squirrels



Hedgehogs

History

Research what our local area was like in the past. Interview family members or friends to ask what the differences are between our local area now and in the past.

P.E

Create a map for an obstacle course.
Label it and consider how you could make it more challenging or more inclusive.

Art

Create a self portrait using a 'rubbing' technique. Find different textured items and place them under a sheet of paper to create art.

Geography

Design a postcard of somewhere in the UK.
Write a message to family as if you are on holiday in that place.

Science

Design an umbrella for one of your toys.
Think about the materials that are best suited to the task.



HOMEWORK



Year 3 and 4

Homework Challenge

The homework on this sheet is optional and is to enhance your learning.

If you choose to complete any of these tasks, they will need to be in by Wednesday 21st October for an in-class "Celebration Showcase."
Be Creative and have fun!



Otters



Badgers



Foxes

History

1. **Interviewer:** Interview a parent, grandparent or other family member about their childhood. Ask them questions to compare your life with theirs.
2. **Toy Designer:** Draw and label a favorite modern electronic toy or gadget, then design a toy from the Victorian era (like a cup-and-ball or wooden doll) using household junk modeling.

P.E

1. **Fitness Challenge:** Create a simple physical challenge like a timed plank or dish-shape hold. Log your daily times to see if you can improve your personal best across the week.
2. **Netball:** Create a diagram of a netball court and label all positions on there.

R.E

1. **Mosque architecture:** Choose a mosque near you or one from another country. Find out about some of the important features. You could draw, label or make a model.
2. **Arabic Art:** Practice tracing or writing names in Arabic letters and decorating the page with geometric patterns.

Geography

1. **Rainforest Explorer:** Research one unusual plant or animal that lives in the rainforest.
2. **Layer Model:** Draw or build a 3D model of the four rainforest layers (forest floor, understory, canopy, and emergent layer) and add animals that live in each part.

Science

1. **Balanced diet:** Create a poster or 3D collage to show a balanced diet. Explain how we get nutrients from our food.
2. **Healthy Chef:** Help an adult prepare a meal at home. Write down a step-by-step guide on how to make this meal.



HOMEWORK



Year 5

Homework Challenge

The homework on this sheet is optional and is to enhance your learning.

If you choose to complete any of these tasks, they will need to be in by Wednesday 21st October for an in-class "Celebration Showcase."
Be Creative and have fun!



Roes



Muntjacs

History

1. **Viking Survival:** Create a Viking survival guide. Include 5 things you would need to survive a Viking settlement or voyage and explain why each one would be important.
2. **Vikings Invasion:** List reasons for and against Vikings invading Britain. Then write a short speech explaining your final decision.

P.E

1. **Fitness Challenge:** Create a 10-minute workout with 5 exercises. Record your score and try to beat it.
2. **Ball Skills:** Practise throwing, catching, bouncing or dribbling. Set 3 challenges and record your scores.

R.E

1. **Online Safety Detective:** Create a short online safety quiz. Include the answers and feedback explaining each choice.
2. **Spot the Risk:** Take photographs or draw 5 everyday situations around the home or local area. Challenge someone at home to identify the risks. Explain how each situation could be made safer.

Geography

1. **Great Barrier Reef Explorer:** Research the Great Barrier Reef. Find 5 interesting facts and explain why it is important.
2. **Water Cycle:** Create your own water cycle model using materials at home or make a detailed labelled diagram. Explain each stage.

Science

1. **Solar System Model:** Create a model of the solar system using household items such as balls or paper. Label each planet and include an interesting fact.
2. **Moon Challenge:** Observe the Moon for two weeks. Draw its shape and record the date and weather. Explain why its appearance changes.



HOMEWORK



Year 6

Homework Challenge

The homework on this sheet is optional and is to enhance your learning.

If you choose to complete any of these tasks, they will need to be in by Wednesday 21st October for an in-class "Celebration Showcase."
Be Creative and have fun!



History

1. **Victorian Detective:** Research a Victorian census return. Write a mini-biography about a real family from the 1800s.
2. **My Household Census:** Create a 2026 census for your home! Ask 5 questions, gather data, and turn it into a graph.

P.E

1. **Skills Coach:** Record a 1-minute video teaching a friend how to perform the perfect chest pass or bounce pass.
2. **Agility Challenge:** Set up a backyard basketball dribbling course and time yourself 5 days in a row!

R.E

1. **Rangoli Pattern:** Create a colorful Rangoli design using chalk, paper, or colored rice to welcome good luck.
2. **Deity Profile:** Research a Hindu deity (e.g Ganesh or Lakshmi). Draw them and label their symbols!

Geography

1. **Town Architect:** Design a fictional town map (2D or 3D) and label why people would want to live there!
2. **News Flash:** Film or write a short news report explaining 2 big reasons why world population grows or declines.

Science

1. **Be Carl Linnaeus:** invent and draw a brand-new invertebrate species! State all of its features.
2. **Minibeast Bug Hunt:** Go on a search for 4 different invertebrates. Create a mini-guide showing how you classified them by counting their legs or body parts.



CLUBS



As shared in last week's newsletter, we are excited to announce that we will be introducing a range of extra-curricular activities to SCA this year!

Places for clubs are limited and can only be booked through **Magic Booking**. Booking will go live on **Monday at 4pm** and will close once clubs are full. Places will be allocated on a **first-come, first-served basis**.

The clubs are run by the teachers and some are supported by an LSA.

Clubs will start the week commencing 28/09/26.

**At this stage, all clubs are for children from Year 1 to Year 6.*

We may consider offering clubs to EYFS children in the future.

Clubs will differ each term.

We are pleased to share the clubs for Autumn term are:



KS2 British Sign Language

**With Mrs George - No cost
Monday 8.10-8.40am**

British Sign Language Club: Children will learn BSL signs and discover a new way to communicate and connect with others. This club is particularly close to my heart, as my grandparents are profoundly deaf and BSL is how my family communicates with them. I can't wait to share this wonderful skill with our children!



KS2 Debate Club

**With Miss Hayes
& Mrs Ashfaq - No cost
Monday 3.30-4.00pm**

Build confidence, think critically and learn to make your voice heard! Develop speaking and listening skills while discussing exciting topics and learning how to share ideas, challenge opinions and argue your point respectfully.



Creating & Making

**With Miss Prosper - £2 per session
Monday 3.30-4.00pm**

A chance to get creative, use your imagination and make something amazing! Children will explore a range of hands-on activities, from arts and crafts to designing, building and creating.



Choir

**With Mrs Shannon - 50p per session
Wednesday 3.30-4.00pm**

As a KS2 choir we will be exploring different periods and genres of music, and the children will be given opportunities to not only perform in school but to perform and grow their confidence on community visits in local surrounding areas.



Drama Club

**With Miss McGowan - £1 per session
Friday 3.30-4.00pm**

Drama Club is a fun and creative space for children to build their confidence, imagination and teamwork skills! Through drama games, role play, improvisation and performances, children will have the chance to express themselves, work with others and, most importantly, have lots of fun!



Creative Writing

**With Mrs Mazzezy - 50p per session
Friday 3.30-4.00pm**

Let your imagination run wild and bring your stories to life! Join our Creative Writing Club to create exciting adventures; invent wonderful characters; and have fun with words.



**Magic
Booking**

What's Happening at School

next week?

Monday –

Tuesday – Year 6 Reading breakfast at 8:40 to 9:00am

Follow your child into the classroom and share a book with them whilst enjoying breakfast together.

See the class in action (Year 1/2 Hedgehogs) ★

Parents of Hedgehogs are invited to enter school via the office for tea and coffee in the hall, before visiting the classroom to see the mixed-age class in action and experience how the children learn.

Wednesday – See the class in action (Year 1/ 2 Squirrels/ Rabbits) ★

Parents of Squirrels & Rabbits are invited to enter school via the office for tea and coffee in the hall, before visiting the classroom to see the mixed-age class in action and experience how the children learn.

Thursday – MHST Parent coffee morning at 8:45 am ★

Join us for tea and coffee as we meet the Dunstable Mental Health Team and find out what support they offer.

See the class in action (Year 3/ 4 Foxes) ★

Parents of Foxes are invited to enter school via the office for tea and coffee in the hall, before visiting the classroom to see the mixed-age class in action and experience how the children learn.

Friday – See the class in action (Year 3/ 4 Otters & Badgers) at 9:10 to 9:30 am ★

Parents of Otters & Badgers are invited to enter school via the office for tea and coffee in the hall, before visiting the classroom to see the mixed-age class in action and experience how the children learn.

★ parent/carers invited to attend.

Ambition | Community | Respect | Responsibility

St Christophers Academy



Open Day!

Everyone is welcome -
Come and meet our dedicated team, look around our school
and ask any questions you may have.

**MONDAY 12TH
OCTOBER 2026**



**9:30am -
12:30pm**



**Gorham Way,
Dunstable,
LU5 4NJ**



High quality learning experiences.



Supporting every child to achieve.



Interactive learning zones.

For more information, please contact:



01582 500960



www.stchristophersacademy.org.uk



sca-admin@bestacademies.org.uk