

Autumn 1 Newsletter

### A message from Miss Brown...

We've had a really positive and busy start to the new academic year, and it's been a pleasure to see our school community come back together with such energy and enthusiasm.

One of the highlights so far has been the successful opening of Fledglings Pre-school. It has been wonderful to welcome our youngest learners and their families into the school, and they are already settling in beautifully and becoming a part of our wider school community, even taking part in the Harvest Festival.

We were also very pleased to receive such encouraging feedback from our recent SIAMS Inspection. The inspectors recognised the strong sense of community among our children and praised how well they treat one another with respect and understanding. These values are at the heart of our school, and it was lovely to see them reflected so clearly in the report. Our children's commitment to their learning, and their determination to keep improving, has been truly impressive. They've worked incredibly hard—and as we head into the break, I think it's fair to say we've all earned our half term!

Wishing you all a restful and well-deserved break.

# Important Diary Dates



11<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Assembly
14<sup>th</sup> November - Children in Need
14<sup>th</sup> November - Family Bingo
18<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November - Parents Evening
20<sup>th</sup> November - Advent Crafts
27<sup>th</sup> November - EY & Pre-school trip to Duxford
5<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Fair
10<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Disco
11<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Jumper Day
11<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Dinner

11<sup>th</sup> December - EY & Pre-school Christmas Performance 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> December - Yr1 & Yr2 Nativity



Following two weeks of knocking walls down, building new ones, and making the space look amazing, our Fledglings Pre-school opened its doors on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September and welcomed its first cohort of children! Overseen by Miss Judd, Mrs Warvill and Miss James, our new pre-school children have settled-in brilliantly, and appear to be enjoying the exciting curriculum that has been designed for them. Already this half-term, the children have welcomed a police officer into their classroom as part of their 'People Who Help Us' topic where they got to try on lots of different uniform and hats, have joined the rest of the school and some of our parents to take part in our special 'Harvest' assembly, and have very much enjoyed exploring their wonderful new classroom and outdoor learning space.













Next half-term, Fledglings children will be going on their first ever school trip! Joining-up with Cygnets and Ducklings children, they will be visiting Duxford Air Museum to discover a range of different aircraft and other vehicles as part of their topic of 'Transport'. They will see first-hand just how large Concorde is, and learn how aircraft have evolved throughout time to look very different to what they did 100 years ago!

We currently have a few spaces left in our pre-school for this year, and are also welcoming applications for children to start in Fledglings for the following three years too!

For more information, please see the school website or speak to Mrs Kent in the school office.



## Black History Month

The Friends of St Christopher's organised two wonderful events this month to celebrate all of the many different cultures that make up our school. On Wednesday, families were invited to share and taste dishes from around the world in their food tasting afternoon, and on Thursday, children were invited to wear clothes that best represented their culture in place of their school uniform. Thank you to everybody that came along, donated money, or dressed-up in non-uniform to help us celebrate 'being unique'.

#### Harvest Festival

Our wonderful Collective Worship Council took centre stage on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October after planning their very own Harvest Festival celebration assembly. Supported by Alison Earl and Miriam Gee from Lightwave, representatives from across the school enjoyed giving thanks to the many people around the world that help to ensure that we have food to eat. We also reflected about those that are less fortunate, and were delighted to be able to donate over 400 tins, packets and jars to the Lightwave Food Bank charity which had been kindly received from our children and families at St Christopher's.

# Lights and Lyrics

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 have worked hard over the past 6 weeks to write their very own song! Using bible verses to help them, children wrote lyrics that reflected overcoming difficulties and challenges, and drew upon the story of David and Goliath as inspiration!





# **Sporting Success!**

Our first sporting fixture of the year was our cross-country event for Years 5 and 6 which took place on a very challenging course at Newmarket racecourse. All of our representatives performed incredibly well, with the standout performance across the school being Maddie who came an incredible 23<sup>rd</sup> out of over 100 girls!

We then had a busy two weeks of inter-school football tournaments. In the first tournament we came an impressive third place out of 24 teams, and only lost one match which came in the semi-final.

In our second tournament, our team worked incredibly hard and played brilliantly! The team were nominated to receive the 'Sportsmanship' award for their wonderful behaviour, respect and attitude. Well done to everybody that took part!



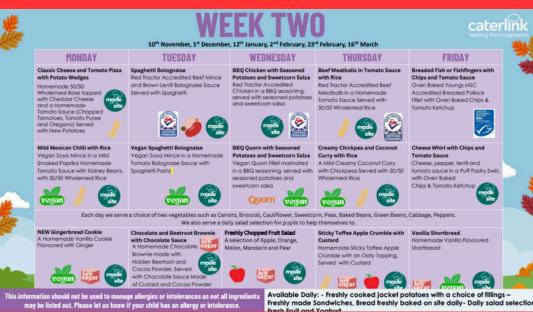


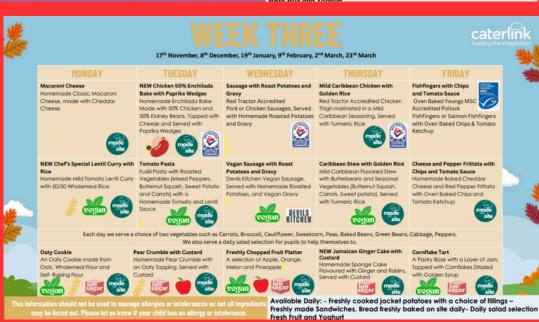


#### Our New School Caterers

We are pleased to welcome our new catering partners 'Caterlink' who will be providing all of our school lunches after half-term. Please see below for our new school lunch menus!







# Attendance & Punctuality



At St Christopher's, we recognise and value the importance of 'good' attendance in school for all of our pupils. When children attend school consistently they are more likely to do well in their work but also build strong relationships and feel connected with the school community. It also demonstrates reliability which will help prepare them for life beyond education.

As part of a Trust-wide initiative, we are aiming to raise the profile and importance of attending school regularly. We will therefore begin to contact parents more swiftly should their child's attendance begin to drop, look for increased opportunities as to how we can support those children that are persistently absent to attend school more regularly, and will discuss any absence concerns with parents at parents evenings too. We would like to thank you for your support with this

If a child has 93% attendance throughout their time at St Christopher's years, it equates to over 6 months of education lost.

#### New Arrivals

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Webb and Mrs Marques have both had their babies!
On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, Mrs Marques welcomed Leonor into the world, and only the very next day, Mrs Webb welcomed Samuel too! We are pleased to report that both mums and babies are doing well.

### School Ambassadors

In a change to recent years, we have decided to replace our 'House Captains' with a 'Head Boy' and 'Head Girl' who will be supported by their understudies- our 'Deputy Head Boy' and 'Deputy Head Girl'. Equally as important to our school are the roles of 'Prefect' and 'Worship Lead'. After a vigorous campaign and whole-school election, we are delighted to inform you of the following appointments:

Head Boy- Alfie Deputy Head Boy- Henry Head Girl- Eadie Deputy Head Girl- Leila

Prefect- Edward Worship Lead- Dolcie

Prefect- Charlotte Prefect- Lucy Worship Lead- Skyla Prefect- Arthur Worship Lead- Matilda

## Morning Routine

We wish to remind you of the expected morning routines. All children in EY & Year One should be dropped at their classroom door, whilst all other children in the school should be dropped at the school gate where a member of staff will welcome you each morning.

### St Christopher's School Christian Vision

"With faith, we soar on wings of strength and rise to every challenge."

Guided by Faith, a Journey of Strength, a Foundation of Pride