



9 October 2020

Dear Parent,

Autumn is well and truly upon us. The weather reminds us so, the leaves have put on their autumnal colours, and leaf-sweeping has returned to Paul Moore's morning routine. The girls, though, remain sunny and joyful, as 1L showed us in their bouncy assembly this morning.

I had the most wonderful day yesterday, shadowing Year 6. Their energy is infectious! What a treat to learn about Aaron Douglas and paint with the girls, to see them research and learn about Writers' Techniques, to work their way through science challenges, to act out Spanish role plays, and to end the day creating songs using graphic notation. I am already looking forward to next Thursday, when I will be shadowing Year 2.

Dyslexia Awareness Week

This week we celebrated Dyslexia Awareness Week. I attach to this newsletter a letter from Mrs Rachel Smith, our Learning Enrichment Coordinator. The girls have been busy trying to solve challenges, and have created wonderful resources, including songs and [videos](#). My thanks go to Mrs Smith and the teachers for organising such engaging and thought-provoking activities.

Welcome to Belonging

On Wednesday night, we were delighted to welcome diversity consultant Mark Gervais. It was the first of several webinars on the themes of inclusion; there will be many more over the course of the year as we strive to educate ourselves on a range of topics, including gender, disability, mental health.

Mark spoke about Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (Welcome to Belonging), which has a significant impact on young lives, most often revealed later on in their life journey. With humility and humour, Mark reminded us that kindness must be at the heart of our approach to diversity and inclusion. We want to develop a culture at Ct Christopher's where all pupils and staff feel valued, visible, and can thrive. We have a strong allyship in our community already, and I look forward to flourishing it further.

I attach to this newsletter two sets of slides; Mark's own slides, and an anti-racism toolkit, produced by the Schools' Inclusion Alliance, full of helpful tips and resources.

I hope you and your daughter have a great weekend; if you do not have anything planned, you may want to go to this year's [Festival of the Girl](#), held exclusively online on Sunday.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sandrine Paillasse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandrine Paillasse