

Newsletter



Head's Update

Dear parent,

The Christmas spirit has definitely descended upon St Christopher's! The Christmas tree is up, looking beautiful, the girls have been singing 'Sheep', and FOSC have been incredibly busy preparing for this year's Festive Fair; we are very grateful to all FOSC volunteers. I also had the chance to watch the Reception and Year 1 plays yesterday. It was such a treat! It put a smile on my face all day long. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did. The mood has lifted all round; the end of lockdown has provided much relief to us all.

Staff news

I would also like to inform you of some staff changes from next term, as some colleagues will be leaving us, and we will be welcoming new staff to St Christopher's.

At the end of the term, we will say goodbye to Denise Spreag, our librarian. Mrs Spreag has been working at St Christopher's for 17 years. We have many fond memories of her and can't quite believe she will be leaving. Many have asked – how will we manage without her? Her unmatched knowledge of literature, spanning all genres, is simply flabbergasting, and her book recommendations are always very personally chosen: Mrs Spreag has come to know the girls and the staff so well over the years. She leaves us to enjoy some well-deserved retirement and we wish her well; we are truly indebted to her. She is a long-standing resident of Hampstead, so we hope she will come and visit us. I have no doubt she will be very busy; her dedication to the Hampstead Parochial School Library as a volunteer tells me she probably will not rest much!

We also say goodbye to Francesca Jussa, our HR coordinator. Her eternal enthusiasm and incredible kindness make her an invaluable colleague and we are sad to say goodbye to her. Francesca joined us in May 2017, having worked in South Hampstead Junior School for many years. She has been a core part of our safer recruitment procedures and has supported the training of all the staff. Francesca is much more to us than an HR coordinator. Her incredible patience and care for others will be missed by all when she leaves; her departure will leave a huge gap in the bursar's office and in the staffroom. I have truly enjoyed working with Francesca this term, and I will miss her wise counsel.

Our teachers are experts in their field. That was evident when I first visited the school. The passion they bring to the profession, the leadership acumen they display, are unparalleled and attributes we nurture. Of course, strong leaders and teachers have ambitions, and whilst we are sorry to say goodbye when they leave, I know they are wonderful ambassadors and make the world of education richer. So I hope you will join with me in congratulating Ms Clarke on her appointment as Assistant Head Academic at Blackheath Preparatory School. She will take up her new post in the Summer Term. Ms Clarke has transformed our curriculum and approach to teaching and learning in many wonderful ways over the last few years; it will be sad to let her go! There will be time for us to celebrate her brilliant achievements next term before she leaves us - so much has grown here at St Christopher's under her wise leadership. We will start the

recruitment process to appoint her replacement early next term.

We are delighted to welcome new colleagues in January.

Mrs Philippa Flint will join the Bursar's team on the top floor as our new HR and Compliance Coordinator. After completing her MA in Biological Anthropology at King's College Cambridge, Mrs Flint qualified as a solicitor. She comes to us from Oliphant Solicitors, where she has been the HR Manager for over four years. Previously she was the Executive Assistant to the Headmaster at Queen Elizabeth's School for Boys for eight years, where she also served as Clerk to the Governors. Mrs Flint brings a broad range of human resources and compliance management experience to the role.

I am very pleased to let you know that we have also appointed a Head of Science, who will join St Christopher's in April, Carla Wallington. Ms Wallington has led Science at Brookfield Primary School for the last 6 years and helped the school to attain the Primary Science Quality Mark in 2016. She has a strong background in science pedagogy and has been involved with several external agencies, including the Francis Crick Institute and The Wellcome Trust, where Ms Wallington has presented at their national conference and supplied articles for the Wellcome and Primary Teach magazine. She has collaborated in developing resources and curriculum content for ASE, the Camden STEAM hub and has also contributed to the science section of the NASEN SEND teacher handbook.

Finally, I am very pleased to inform you that Miss McCann, Head of Drama, who was due to start at another school in January, will be staying at St Christopher's next term. She will continue to oversee the Drama department and will also support the Library whilst we seek a Librarian. Miss McCann is an outstanding Drama teacher; I am delighted that she has decided to pursue her teaching career with us!

With best wishes,



Sandrine Paillasse