

Newsletter

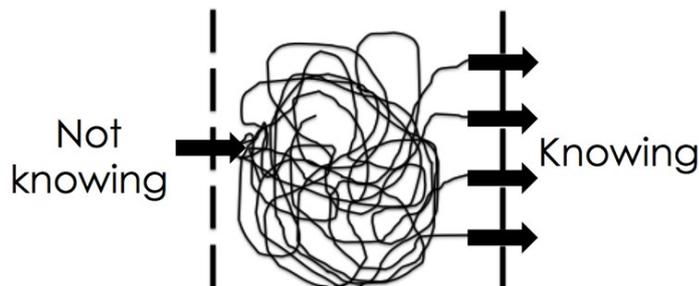


Head's Update

Over the last few weeks, the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors have collaborated to articulate our vision and ethos, in light of recent discussions about what makes St Christopher's special. As I wrote in one of my recent newsletters, finding the adjectives that best capture the magic of our little school is no simple task.

What we were able to articulate with more ease was the importance for our pupils and our teachers to be creators, and not merely consumers, be it in terms of knowledge, learning, or outcomes. I was inspired by educator Mary Myatt, who regularly writes about curriculum impact. A recent blog of hers on teachers' approaches in the classroom, and sometimes over-reliance on worksheets or 'gimmicks', resonated strongly with me. She urges us to consider how our teaching material adds value to a child's learning. Just because a resource is beautiful and we have spent hours making it – designing, cutting, colouring it – does not necessarily make it a good teaching tool. We need to question the use of technology in the same way: how does it further our pupils' learning?

I have spent quite some time in the classroom this term (online and face-to-face), and these questions have peppered the conversations I have been having with our teachers: how can we impact the deep learning of our pupils? Lockdown, thankfully, did not stop our teachers from creating engaging and thought-provoking lessons. Our teaching allows pupils to develop the ability to manipulate what they learn; be messy with it, try and try again. I think this illustration, from English teacher and writer David Didau, sums it up well:



In our staff inset day in April, we will be spending time looking at our development plans and our curriculum, as a school and in departments. One of our strengths is our ability to combine breadth and depth in our curriculum content, integrating important concepts and core skills, so that knowledge, as Mary Myatt puts it, sticks! I look forward to hearing the teachers' ideas for their subjects for the next few years, and building on our values of creativity, curiosity and challenge. We are already in a strong place – I see it whenever I go into lessons. Only last week, I observed a Year 1 RE lesson; the girls were learning about faith and worship, and I was impressed with the girls' deep reasoning and ability to apprehend complex topics in a respectful and thoughtful manner. What a joy it is to be a teacher and a learner at St Christopher's.

On that uplifting note, I wish you a sunny (and maybe messy) weekend.

Sandrine Paillasse

Head

Weekly Reminder

Tuesday 23 March

Parents Evenings Rec - Year 5

(please check your bookings schedules and have your Zoom links ready)

Wednesday 24 March

Year 4 Shakespeare on the Heath

(details have been shared with Y4 parents)

Thursday 25 March

Coffee with the Head

9:00am

Parents Evenings Rec - Year 5

(please check your bookings schedules and have your Zoom links ready)

Friday 26 March

End of term

Please note the collection times below

FORWARD NOTICE

Tuesday 20 April

Dr Bike visit

Please see details below

Wednesday 21 April

Term Starts

Please note: there are no clubs during the first week of term.

Saturday 24 April

Y2-6 Football Festival 2021, Wilf Slack Sports Ground

Please remember to send your completed forms in to school

Friday 30 April

FOSC meeting via Zoom

9:30am

Zoom details tbc

Dr Bike

The school has arranged for Dr Bike to visit the school on Tuesday 20 April from 14:00-17:00. This is a free cycle check and service. Get your child's bike checked over and adjusted ready for the summer term. Advice is also given on free cycle training and Cargo Bike loans.

End of Term Arrangements

We have confirmed the arrangements for the last day of school to ensure that there is no overlap of bubbles.

Girls are to arrive at school with coats, water bottle and a simple named carrier bag or tote bag for any last day items – no school bags to be brought in on the last day.

Collections will be consistent with the usual end of day sequence and the same gates for collection. Sisters club arrangements will be the same as usual and timings will be as follows:

12.00	Reception
12.10	Year 1 & Year 2
12.20	Year 3 & Year 4
12.30	Year 5 & Year 6

Menu w/c 22 March

	Meat-free Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Something Hot	Macaroni cheese topped with cherry tomatoes	Roast chicken with gravy	Beef and tomato sausage with onion gravy	Crispy beaded cod fillet with tartare sauce
Something Veggie	Roast vegetable and chilli bean Quesadillas	Vegetable Biryani with naan bread and mango chutney	Vegie sausage or stuffed courgette and peppers	Fresh vegetable and edamame bean spring roll
On the Side...	Carrot and cucumber pot	Roast potatoes Mixed vegetables	Creamy mashed potatoes Carrots and peas	Parsley potatoes Minty peas Chopped mixed salad
Something sweet	Orange polenta cake with cream	Fresh fruit pot	Strawberry ice cream	Fresh fruit pot
Fruit salad pots and a selection of seasonal fresh fruit served in peak condition, ripened and ready to eat				

Communication

Please contact the school office to report absences before 8:30am on Tel 020 7435 1521 option 1, or email secretary@stchristophers.london

When emailing, **please use your daughters' full name and year group.**

Afternoon collection arrangements, where possible, should be notified by 2:30pm please.

Requests for absences within term time should be avoided but if essential will need to be agreed with the Head. Please then email the Head's PA, Mrs Haydon with your request:

HeadsPA@stchristophers.london

The school office is open from 8:00am to 5:00pm during term time.

SPRING TERM 2021

Term ends Friday 26 March

SUMMER TERM 2021

Term begins Wednesday 21 April

Bank Holiday Monday 3 May

Half-term Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June (inclusive)

Term ends Thursday 8 July

The last day of every term ends at midday

Term dates are published in advance for parents to plan holidays outside school term time. It is school policy that girls are expected to be in school for the entire term.