

Newsletter



Head's Update

Dear parent

This week has been exhilarating and exhausting in equal measure, but how wonderful to hear the girls' laughter around the school again! I hope you have also had a good week; perhaps you have even been able to reclaim a bit of calm around your household! The empty space may have felt strange too; I hope you enjoy the weekend as a family after this frantic week.

As I prepared my message for today's assembly, I reflected on my connectedness with the girls. Despite the lockdown, it feels stronger than ever. I have noticed small changes to the way the girls relate to me around the school. They were already very open and enthusiastic last term (they welcomed me with open arms from day one), but there is a renewed ease in the interactions we have had this week, including with younger year groups.

I wondered how that could be. After all, for most of the girls, their last day in school was 11 December. I had worried that there might be some distance, after such a long gap – but in fact, we did see each other during the lockdown. The power of technology – be it Zoom, Google Classroom, or a typed message – enabled us to stay connected. I heard and read their stories, about their fairy cakes, their dogs, their dens, their birthday treats. The girls heard about mine – my dog, my walks, my sensory box, my yoga, my attempts at bread-baking. Somehow, despite the membrane of technology, an attachment was fostered and maintained. That membrane is not always adequate, of course, and I am glad I can see the girls in school again.

The girls' attachment is visible in the classroom too: they are so close to their teachers. The girls and the teachers shared the lockdown experience, and somehow, a stronger bond has been created, in ways we could not have imagined.

Connectedness has been vital for us all at St Christopher's this year; it is a cornerstone of our hopes and aspirations for our future. It includes you, too. The coffee mornings I have held have been an important space to share our experiences and for parents to ask questions and discuss ideas. We have a few more dates scheduled for this half term. Since it has been so helpful to us all, the coffee mornings will run again next term, using this Zoom [link](#):

Friday 19 March 10:00 – 10:45

Thursday 25 March 09:00 – 09:45

Next term, from 23 April every Friday at 9.30am

The lockdown has showed us how resilient and resourceful our community is and has given everyone an appreciation of the experiences of being a parent and being a teacher. We have been innovative, harnessing the power of technology to enhance learning and interactions. We will continue to develop this, to support our values of creativity, curiosity and challenge. Our sense of community has been strengthened; learning conversations within our community, involving teachers, girls, and parents are here to stay.

Wishing you a calm weekend,

Sandrine Paillasse

Head

Charity Update and North House Charity Event

We wanted to write to you with an update on the fantastic fundraising that the children at St Christopher's have done for the Royal Free Hospital over the last year. I am very pleased to report that the donations to date stand at £2,816.

Originally, the Magical Medicine Garden is something that the children wanted to support, and we are very keen for this project to go ahead. However, Covid has meant that there has been a lot of change in the hospital and the Royal Free has had to adapt. The hospital has needed to change a lot, from non-essential staff working from home to areas and wards being repurposed at very short notice, so for this reason they could sadly not go ahead with the garden project at the moment. Therefore, the Royal Free has asked for the donations that were raised to be redirected to the Covid-19 Emergency Response fund. When the Magical Medicine Garden is able to restart, we will restart our fundraising efforts for the project.

With the Covid-19 response need in mind, our North House charity event will aim to increase our donations and support for this worthwhile cause. Any and all donations are very welcome.

Elizabeth Elvidge
Interim Assistant Head: Pupil Development

North House Charity Event Spring 2021

The North Captain and Vice-Captain will introduce the charity event to the girls next week.

The pupils in North are inviting the whole school to take part in a sporting charity event during the last week of term. Each class will participate in a fun obstacle run on the court, to raise much needed money for the Royal Free Hospital Covid fund. We will be creating colourful flower headbands to wear during the run, in honour of the botanist Marianne North and the arrival of Spring.

Please donate here:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/magical-medicine-garden-st-christophers-donations>

Stephanie Martineau
Head of North House

Music Department

Spring Music in the Age of Corona Concert Ballot

The second of this term's concerts will be made available on the last day of term, Friday 26 March.

How to sign up:

Places are allocated through our ballot system to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity.

Please follow the link to the Spring Term sign up here: <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk>

Click on 'make a booking'
Code – erxrb
Enter your personal details
Select your choices then click GO.

You will receive an email confirmation that you have entered the ballot.
If you wish to amend your bookings, follow the link in the email to log in and make changes.

The Music Department will then be in touch with you if your daughter's name is selected at random for this concert, but please be aware that videos of performances will need to be recorded at home and sent to us via a Google Classroom 'assignment' (which will be sent to you) by **Wednesday 23 March**.

A message from FOSC (Friends of St Christopher's)

Dear Parents,

You are invited to the FOSC AGM Zoom meeting.

When: Mar 19, 2021 09:30 AM London

To help us track attendance, please register for this meeting.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0lcuqvqDItE9MAtDH_CTn9TjqLoNpYCeKd

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting so do allow a bit of extra time to join, though registration will remain open after the meeting has started.

An agenda will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

We hope you can join us!

The FOSC Team

Weekly Reminder

Monday 15 March

Year 5 11+ Parent Webinar 6:00pm
(the link has been shared with Y5 parents)

Wednesday 17 March

Year 4 Shakespeare on the Heath
(details have been shared with Y4 parents)

Thursday 18 March

Parents Evenings Rec - Year 5
(please check your bookings schedules)

Friday 19 March

FOSC AGM Zoom meeting 9:30am
Coffee morning with the Head 10:00am

FORWARD NOTICE

Tuesday 23 March

Parents Evenings Rec - Year 5
(please check your bookings schedules)

Thursday 25 March

Coffee morning with the Head 9:00am
Parents Evenings Rec - Year 5
(please check your bookings schedules)

Friday 26 March

End of term
Please note the collection times below

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 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 15 March

	Meat free Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Something Hot	Cheese and to-mato puff pastry slice	Spaghetti with meatballs or fresh tomato sauce and cheese	Baked chicken with honey and lime	Baked salmon fillet	Lamb curry with mango chutney and Basmati rice
Something Veggie	Egg fried rice and vegetables with edamame beans and soya sauce	Creamy butter-nut squash and wild mushroom bake	Potato, pea and coriander samosa	Fresh vegetable lasagne	Crispy veggie burger with jacket wedges
On the Side...	Green beans Baked potato	Carrot and cucumber pot Crusty bread	Basmati rice Minty cucumber salad	New potatoes Fresh broccoli	Zesty coleslaw Carrot and cucumber
Something Sweet	Chocolate, strawberry muffin	Fresh fruit pot	Vanilla ice cream	Fresh fruit yoghurt	Lemon meringue tart
Fruit salad pots and a selection of seasonal fresh fruit served in peak condition, ripened and ready to eat.					
Daily selection of homemade yoghurt					

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 daughter's 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

SPRING TERM 2021

Half-term Monday 15 – Friday 19 February (inclusive)

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.