

Newsletter



Head's Update

Dear parent,

As I sit at my desk to write my weekly letter, I struggle to start it; not because I do not have anything to say (as you will probably know, I am rarely lost for words....) but because of the sheer breadth of the stories I could choose from to tell you.

Over the Easter break, I began reading a book on curiosity (*The Curiosity Drive*, by Philip Stokoe); I started seeing the concept pop up everywhere around me: regular news about NASA's Mars Rover (aptly named Curiosity); Jonathan Gibson, Mastermind's youngest winner, attributing his victory to curiosity; and of course, Michael Collins' obituary, reminding us of his extraordinary thirst for knowledge.

"It's human nature to stretch, to go, to see, to understand," he said on the 10th anniversary of the moon landing in 1979. "Exploration is not a choice really — it's an imperative, and it's simply a matter of timing as to when the option is exercised."

Never a day goes by at St Christopher's when curiosity is not exercised in some way.

Earlier this week, I sat on the netball courts one lunchtime, enjoying the spring sun and seeing the girls running around with their friends, and generally having good old fun. It wasn't long before a bunch of them joined me, and we engaged in a conversation around books (I have found that one of the characteristics of some of our pupils, is always to have a book in their hands). We soon got onto the topics of book clubs, and I was delighted to tell them about my upcoming club with Year 2 – a book club, you will have guessed it. I quickly whizzed to my office to pick up the books I had selected. The Year 5 soon immersed themselves in those books, telling me why this one or that one was better, why I should pick *Raffi Made It* or *The Little War Cat's* story to be near the top. They flickered through the pages, curious to discover the stories they didn't know, shrieking with glee when they recognised a much-loved book. I didn't have to say much, only to step back and watch with awe and wonder their enthusiasm come to life. How joyful, I thought.

The following day, I received the visit of a pupil – a Year 2 messenger – bringing me a letter written by a Year 4 pupil on behalf of her class. Their curiosity had led the girls to discover a 'beehive' (a little hole in the wall where bees were congregating). With Health & Safety in mind, our caretaker 'took care of it', to the girls' dismay. They wrote to me about their reactions: some were hurt, some gathered flowers for the bees, others tried to help. The Royal Bee Mail missive didn't leave me unmoved. I marched to their classroom, and we tried to think together of ways in which we could make it up to the bees. Needless to say, I have had a string of visits since then, with girls wanting to show me altars and flowers, and telling me what they have discovered about the bees. How touching, I thought.

On another day, a Year 6 pupil came to share with me a personal story about Ramadan and Eid. Following my assembly last Friday, she went home and quizzed her father about his own experience of Ramadan, as a traveller (and observer) in the Middle East. I imagined her conversation, the questions she asked, perhaps around the dinner table, to quench her desire to know and understand. How exhilarating, I thought.

Our pupils show us every day that they are curious individuals, that their conscious minds, communication skills and empathy are constantly developing. What a wonder to witness. How humbling, I think.

As ever yours,

Sandrine Paillasse

Head

In Other News

Year 4 History

In history, Year 4 looked closely at the painting, Children's Games by Bruegel to learn more about life for Tudor children. We then recreated some of the games they saw and noticed games that we still play today!



Year 5 History of Art

In history of art, Year 5 continue their work on the Hanoverians and Neoclassical art. We discussed the Grand Tour and considered the route that they may have travelled. We decided to use our geographical skills to plot a route for Dido Belle (the famous former resident of Kenwood House) to travel on her Grand Tour.

Beatrix Potter Workshop: Discovering new food

Our wonderful catering team and Michael set up Peter Rabbit's allotment in our hall today. The girls learned more about healthy eating and tried new foods all based on the theme of Beatrix Potter and Peter Rabbit.

Feedback from a Reception child:

During the workshop we tried new vegetables and fruits. They were in smoothies. We drank them and had to guess what was in them. I guessed that there was cranberry juice in the pink smoothie. It was yummy.



Ark Farm Visit

FOSC have very kindly organised for Ark Farm to visit us again next Thursday 6th May. The mobile farm will be at school for the whole day and all girls will have an opportunity to meet the animals, within their year groups.

This visit will offer a positive learning experience that will enrich their understanding of a range of species and allow them to ask any questions they may have. It will also aid their developing understanding of animal welfare and how to demonstrate a responsible attitude towards the treatment of living creatures. There will be a variety of animals and birds visiting the school (no reptiles) that the children will be able to touch and handle. The girls will be supervised when meeting the animals and we will be talking to them beforehand about how to handle the animals and the importance of washing hands thoroughly after touching them.

We hope that this will be a thoroughly enjoyable experience for the girls. If you have any concerns or are aware of any animal allergies that would mean your child may be anxious or not be able to engage and stroke any animals then please let the office know as soon as possible.

Menu next week

	Meat free Mon- day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Something Hot		Macaroni cheese topped with cherry tomatoes	Beef lasagne with crusty bread	Diced leg of lamb and spring vegetable casserole	Baked Salmon fillet
Something Veggie		Vegetable Biryani with naan bread and mango chutney	Spicy bean and vegetable quesadillas	Fresh vegetable and edamame bean spring roll	Vegetable Moussaka
On the Side...		Carrot and cucumber salad	Fresh broccoli	Basmati rice chopped mixed salad	New potatoes Green beans
Something sweet		Fresh fruit pot	Orange polenta cake with cream	Fresh fruit pot	Strawberries and ice cream
Fruit salad pots and a selection of seasonal fresh fruit served in peak condition, ripened and ready to eat					

Weekly Reminder

Monday 3 May	Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 4 May	May Day celebrations	
Thursday 6 May	FOSC Ark Mobile Farm visit	
Friday 7 May	Coffee morning with the Head Please use the link here	9:30 am
	(https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F5704835765%3Fpwd%3DRGVGUXZjcVRPSk92ME95bXMwTzNNdz09&data=04%7C01%7CHeadsPA%40stchristophers.london%7C23267a7167ad4327131008d8dd740292%7C0206b2c0cc80497a85c1ed3862f7f83) Meeting ID: 570 483 5765, Passcode: py3LZQ	
	Class Rep Meeting	9:30 am

FORWARD NOTICE

Monday 10 May	Reception Artburst Workshop Wellbeing Week Year 6 Art Therapy Day
Friday 7 May	Coffee morning with the Head Year 1 Roman Day

Coffee mornings with the Head:

Friday 7 May	9:30—10:30
Friday 14 May	9:30—10:30
Friday 28 May	9:30—10:30
Friday 4 June	9:30—10:30
Thursday 10 June	9:30—10:30
Friday 18 June	9:30—10:30
Friday 25 June	9:30—10:30

Communication: Letters and Newsletters

We endeavour to keep you informed with relevant information and details. Please do check emails carefully for details. The newsletter is a good source of information, not only of what has been happening in school during the week but also of upcoming events.

Please make a note of dates and details relevant to you.

When contacting the school office, please always include your daughter's full name and year group.

Absences

Please could we remind parents to 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 approved by the Head. Please email the Head's PA, Mrs Haydon with your request:

HeadsPA@stchristophers.london

Birthday celebrations in school

We regret, we cannot take birthday cakes from parents but we are continuing to help the girls celebrate their birthdays in school. On the last Friday of each month, Michael, our wonderful chef, bakes cupcakes for every girl in school. The form teachers take the time to celebrate any birthdays that have occurred that month, allowing the girls to mark their special day.

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

If you email the office after 4:30pm, please be aware that your message may not be seen until the following morning.

If you have an urgent query or message, please telephone the office.

Tel. 020 7435 1521 option 1

SUMMER TERM 2021

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.