

Newsletter



Head's Update

Dear Parent,

A few months ago, I was invited to the launch of a new book. As it turned out, I would welcome its author to St Christopher's not long after: Maria O'Neill, our new Deputy Head Wellbeing. As I reflect on the year gone, the foreword written by Dr Pooky Knightsmith (an esteemed specialist in child and adolescent mental health and ambassador for well-being in schools) strikes a chord: she challenges the idea that teachers are 'here to teach', not to 'love pupils'. An idea that permeated teacher training courses when I qualified as a teacher! I even remember being instructed by our lecturer, rather sternly 'Do not smile before Christmas'. (If you haven't come across Dr Knightsmith, do check out her website and very helpful resources and videos). I ponder, as I read her introduction.

Since I started teaching, the role of the teacher has evolved greatly: educating our pupils goes beyond giving them mere facts (which, nowadays, are at our fingertips). Educating our children, instead, means preparing them for *a* future; the challenges they will encounter; the opportunities they will need to seize; the future they will make for themselves. I was warned by an experienced and weathered Headmistress that Heads wear multiple hats: teacher, site manager, marketeer, website designer, communications specialist, first aider, negotiator, counsellor, peacemaker. Epidemiologist was recently added to the list. Actually, I believe that list (not exhaustive) befits any teacher. We do more than teach mere facts, for we educate, and we care.

The Government has made this clear in recent iterations of key safeguarding documents and policies for schools - mental health leads should be recruited, and staff trained better to support the wellbeing of the children. We have hosted several Senior School Heads webinars for Year 5 parents over the last months. Invariably, all Heads stated that outstanding pastoral care was non-negotiable. One Head went as far as saying that pastoral care was more important than academic provision. It has become a pillar of our education system. So, when teachers are trained, nowadays, are they trained to love our children? It begs the question: what is love in a school?

An eminent therapist and writer once told me that one of the most important qualities in love is attentiveness. Attentiveness implies having an open channel of communication: listening, observing, being truly open to what people tell us. Our teachers display this attentiveness in all their lessons: how and what they plan for their pupils; the quality of their responses to a pupil's question; their annotations in the margin of an exercise book. They show attentiveness in their morning greetings; in their conversations with the girls; in their goodbye waves.

And so, I recall my philosophy classes and Mr Meyer's teachings. I am compelled to cite Simone Weil, who featured in our lessons regularly. She believed that through attentiveness, life recompenses us. Although her musings were often spiritual or religious in nature, they speak an important truth: attentiveness creates connections. We have heard, and ourselves used, the phrase 's/he is seeking attention'; I always think that we mean 's/he is seeking connections', looking for someone's attentiveness.



Simon Weil: 'Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.'

So, the question again: Are we here to love our pupils? If attention is love, if love is attention, the answer is plainly obvious, a simple word: yes.

We have needed that level of attentiveness this year; the world has been challenging, worrying, frustrating—and school has provided us with a haven, a place of safety. When I say us, I mean all of us, not only the girls. As life becomes freer once more, we get to a well-deserved holiday, a summer to enjoy with friends and family. Mrs Shaw told me this morning – after the last (mad) 16 months, we realise that *life is for living*. That is very much what I plan to do this summer – and here I should share a secret I have kept from you and the girls so far; I will come back to school in September married! I only wish I could have each and every one of them as my flower girls.

Thank you for your continuing support this year. After such a year, we need to recharge the batteries— you, the girls, the staff. You won't hear from us therefore until late August, as I urge our community to switch off, truly, for a few weeks.

I wish the Year 6 the very best in their next future. As I told them yesterday in their Leavers Assembly, they will have lots of tests to take in their life – as a young person, as an adult. The most important and enduring test of all will be to engage with life, to participate in it, to help shape it and make it better - even in small ways - both for themselves and for those around them.

Class of 2021, we salute you; wherever chance scatters you, we will be proud of you.

I wish you a restful and peaceful holiday; wherever it takes you, I hope you bring back happy memories.

Spaillasse

Sandrine Paillasse
Head

In Other News

New House Flags

We wanted to share a creative project that the girls and FOSC have been working on this year. The Year 6 House Captains challenged the girls of St C's to create designs to celebrate their houses using symbols that represent their namesakes. FOSC organised for these designs to be made into wonderful flags and they will hang in our hall and decorate Sports Day for years to come.

Lizzie Elvidge



Bronte Charity Event

For one day only the beach came to St C's!

On Monday 5th July Bronte arranged a charity event to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund. Following on from our STEAM week where we have been looking at Global Development Goals, we thought that this would be the perfect opportunity to protect communities and wildlife by donating to this charity.

There were paddling pools, inflatables, bubbles and a whole lot more.....and we even had sunshine!

We are asking you to please donate to WWF using the link below.

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/st-christophers-school-bronte-charity-fundraiser>

Thank you!

Nikki Coyle

Around St C's

On Tuesday 6 July, St Christopher's celebrated the end of the school year in our annual extravaganza, Around St C's. The whole school visited the art exhibition to view the work created in Jewel Book and STEAM week on the theme of *Innovations for a Better Future*.

Each year group were also able to sing songs together. We are delighted to share the day with you through our video. Use the link to experience this wonderful event: <https://vimeo.com/572212463/c689ab8fa2>

Music Department Update

Last performance of the year. We hope you enjoy this beautiful Music in the Age of Corona Concert!

Link: <https://vimeo.com/572578958/e6cce5f8a3>

	<p>Music in the Age of Corona, July 2021</p> <p>This is "Music in the Age of Corona, July 2021" by St Cs on Vimeo, the home for high quality videos and the people who love them.</p> <p>vimeo.com</p>
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Password: music

Claire Shaw
Deputy Director of Music

Co-Curriculum Clubs Autumn Term 2021

We are delighted to announce our Co-Curriculum Clubs programme for Lower and Upper School in Autumn Term. Please see the links below for the club brochures to view with your daughter.

The booking system for the clubs will open upon our return to school on **Tuesday 31st August**.

Lower School Clubs:

<https://stchristophershampsteadschuk.finalsite.com/fs/resource-manager/view/e7ea4baf-7dec-4a8a-80fc-9b6b3c487354>

Upper School Clubs:

<https://stchristophershampsteadschuk.finalsite.com/fs/resource-manager/view/f0325132-3bc7-41bc-b990-ae0162bcd819>

Co-curricular Clubs table:

<https://stchristophershampsteadschuk.finalsite.com/fs/resource-manager/view/754020f8-2cbd-49e1-8e35-2f8768dccbfe>

Courmayeur Ski Trip 2022
Sunday 27th March – Saturday 2nd April 2022

Dear Parent,

If you would like your daughter to join us on next year's ski trip, please could you complete the attached form and return it to the school office. We also require you to make a bank transfer to the school's bank account (details below) of £350 deposit- please note that once the deposits have been sent to Interski, they are non-refundable. *The company has advised that should the school be unable to run the trip because of COVID-19 travel restrictions all payments will be fully refunded.*

Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis upon receipt of the completed reply slip and deposit. For the trip to go ahead, we require a minimum of 16 girls to sign up. If there is not enough interest and we have to cancel the trip, any deposits received will be refunded.

Details such as height, weight, ski equipment that needs to be hired etc. will be dealt with at a later date. The total cost of the trip, including all travel, will be £1,242 per skier (or £1,232 if your daughter has her own helmet - see the tick-box in the reply section). Please note that this figure might be subject to a small change, depending on the price of flights. Amounts can be paid either by cheque or electronically* and once the initial deposit has been paid, the remaining amount can be paid either as one lump sum or via instalments as follows:

£350 (deposit) received by 10th September at the latest.
£500 once places are allocated and by 15th October 2021.
£392 by Friday 19th November 2021 (or £382 excl. helmet hire).

With best wishes,

Katie McKerchar and Jamie McKenzie

The school's bank account details are set out below:

Account name = St Christopher's School Hampstead Ltd
School bank = Lloyds Bank
Account no. = 00209176
Sort code = 30 93 80
Swift code is: LOYDGB 2L
BIC: LOYDGB21065
IBAN: GB43 LOYD 3093 8000 2091 76

Please make sure that you mark the payment with your **daughter's surname **

Sports Tour Reminder

Year 6 Netball Tour Weekend

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to announce that I will be running a Year 6 Netball Tour next March 11th-13th to Conover Hall in Shropshire. The weekend will be an amazing experience for the girls, a chance to bond, socialise and create amazing memories. I have visited Conover Hall before, it's an amazing set up and the staff are wonderful. They promote sport participation, education, health and social inclusion by combining a love of sports with a range of exciting on-site activities where teams can challenge themselves while having fun!

Conover Hall has multiple all-weather netball courts for the weekend's round-robin of fixtures, plus its own indoor sports hall where girls can practice. Located close to a host of activities, the girls will be able to easily transition from the courts to their next JCA challenge without losing valuable playing or activity times. We will arrive on Friday afternoon to take part in a weekend of fixtures against competitors from around the country. Battling it out for the cup or plate, teams get to enjoy a wide array of indoor and outdoor activities such as abseiling, climbing, archery, kayaking and many more!

We estimate that the cost of the weekend will be about £300, depending on numbers.

The weekend will include:

- Pre-organised fixtures for the round robin netball tournament
- Umpires and scorers
- 2 night full-board accommodation with bedding and delicious meals
- Over 20 indoor and outdoor activities available on a drop-in basis
- Evening entertainment
- Prize presentation with medals and trophies
- Refreshment station by the courts
- Our own dedicated liaison for the duration of our visit
- Return coach journey
- A tour hoody

<https://www.jca-adventure.co.uk/sports/netball/junior-netball>

If you would like your daughter to attend, please confirm by email or return the below slip, by Friday 2nd July. A deposit of £30 will be put onto the end of term school bill.

Best wishes,
Hannah Comber
Director of Sport

Parent Name:

Daughter's name:

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

Dear Parents

We are delighted that the sun came out for the girls to enjoy the Summer Fair, our last event of the year.

And what a year it has been! We wish to thank all the Committee members, class reps, parent volunteers, teachers and staff who helped support our community and kept FOSC initiatives going.

We wish you a restful summer,

The FOSC Team

Early dates for next term:

Friday 3 Sept - deadline for E-shop uniform orders, to be sent home with girls by 17 Sept

<https://fosc-shop.myshopify.com/>

Friday 10 Sept - FOSC committee meeting, 8:15am the Library

Friday 17 Sept - new parents coffee morning, 8:15am the Library (all parents new to FOSC, not just new to the school, welcome)

Friday 24 Sept - class rep meeting, 8:15am the Library

Thurs 30 Sept - parent quiz night, 7-10pm

Thank you for your support,

The FOSC Team

Calling all Golfers,

We are very pleased to announce that we will be hosting our first ever St Christopher's golf tournament on Friday 1st October 2021 at Highgate Golf Club.

<https://www.highgategc.co.uk/>

It will be a fun event to raise some money for FOSC, meet some of the other parents and lose a few balls!

The format of the day will be as follows:

1. Meet from 8.30am for breakfast roll/coffee/tea
2. 9.30am Shotgun start
3. Circa 1.45pm sit down lunch
4. 2.30pm prizes
5. 3pm depart

We will endeavour to put teams together in respect to their daughters' form and one of the contests will be for the best team score. Other prizes will be for the best individual score, longest drive, nearest the pin and of course we will have a St Christopher's house competition!

It will cost £125 per person to run the event. We would like to use this event to fundraise for FOSC too so we are asking people to pay £150-£200 to play (i.e. to include a donation of between £25-£75 on top of the underlying cost to participate). We have already had 25 people indicate that they would like to participate and have space for more! If you would like to join, please email Ollie at ollie.bishop@gmail.com.

Unfortunately we do state that you need to be able to play golf to join in the competition.

It would be wonderful to have as many parents/golfers playing as possible.

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

FOSC Key Dates Autumn 2021

Date Event

Friday 10 September	8.15 am, the Library	FOSC Meeting
Friday 3 September	Online order deadline	Second hand uniform sales
Friday 17 September	Orders sent home	
Thursday 23 September	Donations	(specified items only) - Second Hand Uniform Sale via E-Shop
Friday 17 September	8.15am the Library	FOSC Coffee Morning for new parents
Friday 24 September	8.15am the Library	Class Rep Meeting
Friday 1 October	Collection from 8am	Harvest Festival
Wednesday 6 October		Deadline for Christmas Card artwork
Thursday 30 September	7pm	Quiz Night
Thursday 21 October	From 3pm	Cake Sale
18 October – 1 November		Christmas Card order window
Friday 5 November	8.15am, the Library	FOSC Meeting
Friday 12 November	From 4:15pm	Movie Night with Hereward House
Thursday 11 November	Collection from 8am	Little Village Charity Collection
Friday 12 November	8.15am, the Library	Class Rep Meeting
Friday 26 November		Christmas Cards delivered
Thursday 2 December	Collection from 8am	Christmas Gift Collection/ Care Home Christmas Cards Collected
Friday 3 December	afternoon	Christmas Fair
TBC – a Thursday	am	Wrap Up London coat collection

Forward Notice

Save the dates:

The DfE have issued guidance suggesting no more bubbles, but we will write to you mid-August when more details come to us. We are hoping that life will return to a more normal feel, based on the announcements this week.

9 September Curriculum evenings

15 September Strategy presentation

3 November 6pm Talk for parents with Emma Gleadhill:
Supporting your child through tough times with peers

Please see term dates on the last page!

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 2:00pm 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

AUTUMN TERM 2021

Term begins Thursday 2 September

Half-term Friday 22 – Friday 29 October (inclusive)

Term ends Friday 10 December

SPRING TERM 2022

Term begins Wednesday 5 January

Half-term Monday 14 – Friday 18 February (inclusive)

Term ends Friday 25 March

SUMMER TERM 2022

Term begins Wednesday 20 April

Bank Holiday Monday 2 May

Half-term Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June (inclusive)

Term ends Friday 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.