



It has once again been a pleasure to write the first Spring Term newsletter and reflect over an action packed half term. The term began with a review of academic results over the past 3 years in our initial staff training day. Over the past 3 years, Year 6 students at St Christopher's have done exceptionally well at SATs tests. 70% of grades over this period have been Level 5 or above, whilst 97.5% of our students have gained grades at or above National expectations. It is notable that our Year 6 students continue to do well at SATs, even when their primary focus is often the 11+ entrance tests held earlier in the year. Students this year are applying to schools such as Merchant Taylors, Haberdashers', Aldenham, St Helen's, St Augustine's, John Lyon and City of London, amongst others. We wish them well.

Despite our continued strong academic emphasis, life at the school revolves around a wider sphere of learning. It includes citizenship, pastoral development and a sheer love of learning.

Twinkle the Barn Owl visited the school, together with several of his friends, including a tawny owl, small owl, and eagle owl. Children learnt about issues linked to conservation and

the ancient art of falconry.



The school was also able to invite Nigel Blackman, author and illustrator of the Dinotek Adventure series. Nigel spent a day teaching different classes. Our students from Year 1 upwards learnt how Nigel uses a process of drafting and redrafting to get his stories and drawings perfect. Nigel also read some of his exciting dinosaur/robot adventures and children bought signed copies of his books. It was great for children to meet a real author in person.



E-safety Day saw us inviting CEOP speakers (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) to hold workshops at the school teaching different Year Groups about internet safety. I was particularly pleased to see that parents

attended the CEOP workshop after school. For those who were unable to attend, the main messages were:

- Use internet filters to block inappropriate material.
- Actively supervise your child when using the internet.
- Listen to your child and encourage him/her to confide in you about their internet use.

Furthermore, our ICT teacher has taught a programme of study based on SMART rules.

SAFE: Don't share information.

MEET: Don't arrange to meet online 'friends'.

ACCEPT: Don't accept unknown emails.

RELIABLE: Check online information with another source.

TELL: Tell an adult if anything upsets you.

The Friends of St Christopher's outdid themselves again in their ever popular cake sale. Behind the seemingly effortless events goes a great deal of work. I would like to thank the Committee members who sold the cakes but above all, the parents who contributed in making and buying them. Apart from the extra funds raised for our range of charities, children came to school with an extra reason to smile



that day. Furthermore, no applied maths lesson could be more fun than working out how many cakes £1 will buy you!

Children in the choir have continued to practise for our year-round programme of concerts. At the moment we're preparing for our 'Voice in a Million' concert at Wembley Arena on the 2nd March 2016.



Children in Year 3 have also held their Roman and shadow puppet assembly. This was a unique celebration of Ancient Roman and ancient Chinese culture. Reception also had their special Chinese cultural experience when one of our parents kindly brought in Chinese artefacts to show our younger students.



Trips this term have included the Royal Academy of Art for Year 3 and 4. Excited Year 4

students even recognised one of my more colourful ties as a Van Gogh painting they studied at the Academy; the children took part in an art workshop making their own paintings. Year 1 and 2 children visited the Bank of England and looked at the minting and printing of money. Year 2 also visited the Harrow synagogue and had a go at singing and writing in Hebrew.

Year 5 and 6 students are also looking forward to an exciting 4 days of trips next half term, which includes pirate-adventure on the Golden Hinde, performing Midsummer Night's dream at the Globe Theatre and negotiating the maze at Hampton Court.

Our focus in Assemblies has continued to be about 'values'. Children have learnt about how the Magna Carta is linked to Big Ben, the House of Commons and Lords and (just as important) our very own Student Council!



Amidst all this high octane activity, tremendous work is being achieved on a daily basis in all lessons and subjects across the school by our dedicated students and teachers. A simple walk through the school will bear testament to this. I'd like to reiterate that tours of the

school are available to **existing** parents whenever you want. Please book an appointment. Above all, St Christopher's is **your** school and your children's school.

The close-knit nature of our school community was brought home to me when a group of four fathers asked if they could organise a sponsored event to raise funds for Mr McNeill. Their challenge included sky diving and a series of strenuous activities in extreme temperatures. Our staff were particularly thankful for this. Further events for Mrs McNeill next term will include a non uniform day, a teachers bake-off and a quiz night on Thursday 10th March to which all staff and parents are invited.

Finally, our staff would like to thank all parents for their support of the school. We wish parents and students alike a restful and fun half term.

GP Musetti

Headmaster



