



## Independent Learning and Self Directed Learning

At St Christopher's School, we always aim to promote a challenging curriculum which successfully guides students to high achievements at 11+. This is at the heart of the school's mission.

However, we know this is not enough. Mrs Morton, our Pastoral Deputy-Head says: "We also need to equip our students with values and life-skills which will make them successful young adults. One key skill and attitude is 'independent learning'. It is one of our school's six values (*together with self – esteem, moral conduct, communication, resilience and co-operation*). In many ways 'Independent Learning' forms a link between these personal values and success in future studies and careers. Success in a subject area, exam-course or a career comes from deep-rooted self-motivation. We want our students to understand how important this self-motivation is."



Miss Robertson, our Academic Deputy-Head has introduced new 'Independent Learning Journals'. She would like every child to start using them over the Christmas period. Miss

Robertson has written a message inside each journal:

Please use this journal to record all of your independent learning.  
What do you enjoy doing? What are you interested in?

**Cooking?** **Reading?** **Travelling?** **Science and Biology?** **Games?** **Maths?** **Chess?**  
**History?** **Art?**  
**Writing Stories?** **Geography?** **Computers?**  
Animation? **Sport?** **Nature?** **Music?** **Drama?**

We are all different from each other and enjoy doing different activities. All of your experiences help you to learn, so open your mind, get started and enjoy! You can record your learning in so many ways:

**Pictures and sketches -**  
**Photos with captions -**  
**Reports -**  
**Diary entries -**  
**Art -**  
**Your views about a book or a documentary or a trip with your parents -**  
**Information you collected and want to stick in -**

Miss Robertson writes:

"It is our aim to teach pupils to become effective and independent learners; to get on with each other and develop key learning skills. We recognise that the learning process is different for each child and many enter school at different stages of development. We aim to develop their skills and independent learning through a variety of processes. These include;

- investigation, experimentation, questioning and listening



- observation, co-operative learning (small mixed ability work groups)
- talking, discussion, group work, research and discovery
- practical exploration and role play.
- problem solving
- making choices and decisions

The new journals are one way of recording our children's ideas and interests and an enjoyable way for them to pursue their own interests, develop their intellect and increase their motivation."

At St Christopher's, we believe it is not enough to simply take in information - passively. Each child should record, review and reflect on what they have experienced and learnt. Please use the journals for this purpose over Christmas.

GP Musetti  
Headmaster

### Friends of St Christopher's

We would all like to say a huge thank-you to the Friends of St Christopher's and to all our parents who have supported us through fund-raising, cake sales, bazaars and fairs.

The Friends raised £5,000 to contribute towards another whole-class set of ipads which our children are already using; they also contributed half the money for our whole school trip to see the Pantomime 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarves'. However The Friends also organise great fun-packed events like the Christmas Bazaar and there will be a number of charity events that all our parents can be involved in the New Year, like the Wembley Colour Run.

Most importantly, the Friends are closely linked to our Student Council and requests from the Student Council go directly to the Friends. It is a way of getting children and parents involved in a democratic process, with the Friends acting as the Treasury.

At St Christopher's, we want parents, children and teachers to be actively involved in charity and school development; so please get involved with 'The Friends' in the coming year.

### CHARITY

Thank you to all our parents and to our charity monitors in Year 6, N—and De---- and our Year 6 student Council reps Sa---- and Ar --- who helped to raise:

- £194 for Jeans for Genes
- £305 for Macmillan Cancer Support (end of last term)
- £214 for Children in Need
- Harvest Food contributions for SUFRA Foodbank
- Over £460 for the NSPCC - Wembley Colour run (end of last term)
- £221 for free books for the school in the Book Sale

### RECEPTION

Reception have been working very hard on various aspects of their learning. They have learnt how to manipulate materials and record using a combination of different mark making equipment. They have been introduced to a phonics scheme and used their knowledge of letters and sounds to practice blending and segmenting cv and cvc words independently. Children have also been taught how to learn some of the high frequency words through short rhymes and use them when writing sentences.

Identifying numbers and shapes has also been a skill that has been developed over this term





through practical work, games, rhymes and songs. Children have learnt to recognise numbers to 20 and beyond; learnt to identify and talk about odd and even numbers, and learnt how to use a number line to add and take away. Identifying 2D and 3D shapes through practical activities and shape hunts has been really fun. We have even begun to identify the properties of 2D and 3D shapes!

The children have learnt the importance of sharing and respecting similarities and differences through stories such as Elmer and Rainbow Fish. The children enjoyed taking a trip on an aeroplane to visit Handa, Akeyo and Mondri all the way to Africa and learnt all about their lifestyle. Similarly we looked at the importance of light in different cultures. For example we looked at how important light was and how it was used to celebrate Diwali and Hanukkah.

Visiting the local supermarket was a real treat. The children learnt how to walk safely and cross the road. We learnt about the Green Cross Code and talked about ways to keep pedestrians and motorists safe. We even had a go at designing High Vis jackets and helmets for cyclists.



### YEAR 1

Year 1 went to visit the RAF museum.

El--- writes: "I went to the RAF museum and it was amazing. We travelled by bus

and on a train. We went inside and after my snack, we saw lots of big and small aeroplanes from a long time ago."

Ay--- writes: "They were very big aeroplanes. We also saw medals and old uniforms. It was so interesting. I would love to visit again one day."

### YEAR 2

Year 2 also went to the museum and visited Golders Hill Park to research nature and Autumn.

Ma----- writes:

"We arrived at Golders Hill Park. We ate our snack. Afterwards, Miss Clarke gave us a little bag to collect leaves. Later on we saw ducks; it was AMAZING. We saw the Canada Geese. Then we saw lemurs, then we saw donkeys. Then we saw horse poo - we saw a fallow deer. We went to have lunch and it was delicious. (I think we were very hungry) We went to the park. I went on the swing. Finally I went on the 83 bus and I fell asleep."

A perfect day!





### YEAR 3

This term Year 3 enjoyed their visit to the Museum of London to study the Romans. We recorded lots of details about what the Romans ate, their towns, money, transport, houses, religion and so on! Class 3 even looked ahead to their next History topic by sitting in an Anglo-Saxon hut and trying on shoes and clothes from that time. Our favourite part was seeing the real Roman wall around London and imagining how it looked in Roman times.

Miss Trembath



### THE CHOIR

The school choir was invited once more to sing in Southwark Cathedral on Wednesday, 28th November, raising money for Barnado's. Besides congregational carols and two specially-written carols for massed choir, they also performed Rutter's Heavenly Aeroplane on their own to a packed audience.

Perhaps the children's highlight might have been the preceding guided tour round the Clink museum, or even the tasty food served in the Gourmet Burger Kitchen! Whatever their preference, it was one of the most enjoyable choir trips I can remember, so thank you to all and especially to the staff for giving up their day.

Mrs Pott





#### YEAR 4

Year 4 went to visit Wembley Stadium to discover more about their local History studies:

Dha--- writes: " On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December we went to Wembley Stadium, A man called Nick told us all about the stadium's history but we had already studied it, so he decided to give us a quiz challenge against the adults. You won't believe who won – the kids won by half a point!

Nick showed us a video about Pickles the dog who saved the World Cup Trophy. We then did some great activities about the countries which play and compete at Wembley. Now it was time for the best part: We went inside the real stadium and saw all the empty red chairs, but best of all we went to where the players get changed and warm up. We even saw the Trophies and the studios and got our photos taken with the World Cup.

#### Year 5

Year 5 have been studying water and the water cycle.

Ib----- and La----- and Al---- wrote:

'This term, Year 5 went to visit a Thames Water Supply Centre in Slough. Our study unit in Science and Geography was water and the water cycle. We learnt that we can't put wipes in to the toilet because it would interfere with flushing; but we also learnt how dirty toilet water could eventually be filtered clean.

We found out loads of great ways to save water and not waste it; Year 5 loved the trip and for one day we all wore 'white coats' and became water scientists and did science experiments.





## Year 6

Year 6 pupils visited the Museum of Childhood at Bethnal Green this term.

The Museum houses the UK's national collection of childhood-related objects, one of the finest in the world. The children had the opportunity to enjoy and explore the array of hands-on exhibits to support their learning in History- our focus being The Victorians Era. They were able to view how clothing had changed over the last two centuries to date; they were also able to view collections of Victorian houses and miniature models, which allowed them to learn a lot about how people used to live.

We also attended a workshop about 'Victorian children' which was based on a 'Who dunnit' style murder mystery. The children worked in groups to investigate which Victorian suspect had committed a dastardly crime. The children were able to draw upon their own knowledge and understanding about the different roles of Victorian suspects and analyse the evidence and draw their conclusions based on evidence and opportunity. The workshop allowed plenty of scope for discussion and team work and we ultimately identified the culprit!

An enjoyable trip had by all.

Mrs Ahmed

## SPORTS AND GAMES

We have had an exciting and successful term of Sports events. At St Christopher's School, we aim for Sports excellence and for inclusivity. We believe that every child should have the chance to be a sporting success; this is what

makes us special. This term, every child in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 had the opportunity to be involved in a competitive fixture.

On 8<sup>th</sup> October we played in mixed football teams in a tournament with Buxlow. Children from Year 3-6 were mixed with children from Buxlow in an ILG football tournament. Furthermore on the same day, our girls Year 5/6 netball team played Buxlow's team. We won this match 10-4, though it was a close game. We hope to play further tournaments with Buxlow and St Nicholas.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> November, our school had the pleasure to play against Reddiford School for a football tournament in our indoor venue.

After a couple weeks of training, our Year 5/6 teams were thrust into a competitive match against Reddiford School.

The children were eager to play a competitive game of football and display their skills. Our teams soon found their feet and stuck to their positions; and they became stronger and more determined to score. With great goals from Fo-, Ay---, Niy-- and lbr----, our boys won all their matches. Our girls found much more determined opponents and showed great resilience, drawing two matches and losing one.

All the children had fun and are looking forward to a fun, action-packed Spring season ahead. Well done to all!!!

The results were the following:

St Christopher's boys A v Reddiford: 2:1

St Christopher's boys B v Reddiford: 2:0

Reddiford Girls Vs St Christopher's Girls C: 1 : 1

Reddiford Girls Vs St Christopher's Girls B: 4 : 0

Reddiford Girls Vs St Christopher's Girls A: 1 : 1

Mr H Neves



**Blue Winter Coats and Cagoules** are no longer available from the school and should be purchased through our approved supplier [www.beatschooluniforms.co.uk](http://www.beatschooluniforms.co.uk).

**Speech & Drama** lessons will resume on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Payments should be made via bank transfer directly to Mrs Dearnley. Please use the Reference: StC/Child's First Name/Yr Group/SP19ear group/Sp19 (eg. StC/Peter/Y4/Sp19)

**Piano lessons** will commence from Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Your child's Piano Teacher's will be emailing you their invoices shortly. Please make every effort to ensure payment has been made in time for your child's first lesson of the term. Please may payment be made via bank transfer using your child's name as a reference.

**Milk:** Should you wish your child to have school milk – DO NOT REGISTER DIRECTLY WITH COOL MILK –but email Mrs Woodbridge directly at [admin@stchristophersschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@stchristophersschool.org.uk)

We plan to have our Spring Term Calendar & After School Clubs finalised in the beginning of the term. An electronic and hard copy will be sent home. However, the most important date to remember is that we all return to school on Tuesday 8th January.

Mrs Woodbridge  
School Secretary

Finally, from all the staff at St Christopher's School, have a great Christmas holiday and a wonderful time with all the family!



