

From the Headmistress

This constantly awful weather hasn't managed to put a dampener on a busy few weeks in school! Mr George and myself will be travelling to London tomorrow to watch our 6 fantastic swimmers who have qualified for the ISA National finals. The competition is held at the Olympic Pool in Stratford and we are all very excited. We'll look forward to letting you know how they all get on in our next newsletter. The new school meals have been well received by staff and children. Based on feedback from the children there will be a few minor tweaks to the menu in the next 3-week cycle. This week we have started a wide consultation on the future of the school playground! We have discussed ideas with the children and they now have the opportunity to vote on suggestions that we have put forward. I will meet with the Heads of the 4 Houses next week to count up all the votes and we will then finalise the plan. I have explained to the children that the new equipment will need to be phased in over the next year to spread cost, but that we hope to have the first elements in during this term. Any ideas and suggestions from parents are of course also very welcome indeed. Now that we are well settled in to the school year, I would like to focus on the children in Preps Reception and above becoming more independent when they arrive for school in the morning. I often pass parents in the playground laden with school bags and sports bags which the children are more than capable of bringing in themselves. It would be really helpful if parents could support us in this, by dropping the children at the school gates and encouraging them to come into school independently. We were delighted to hear of yet more academic success this week with the news that Megan Rhodes and Amber Moeller had received offers of places at Exeter School. Amber received one of the top marks in these highly selective exams. Well done girls. I hope you all have a lovely weekend. Do remember you can follow school on Twitter @stchrischool, where I'll keep you updated on news from London this weekend.



Congratulations to Lilyann Cleland for passing her grade 3 violin exam and Amber Moeller and Megan Rhodes who have successfully gained entrance to Exeter School.

Prep 6 trip to @Bristol and Sleeping Beauty at the Bristol Old Vic

Prep 6's visit to Bristol has become a firm fixture in the Spring Term calendar. The @ Bristol Science Centre was as popular as ever with its range of 'hands on' exhibits and the couple of hours we spent there is never long enough.

Likewise, lunch at Za Za Bazaar proved as diverse and filling (!) as usual, while this year, we saw the Bristol Old Vic production of 'Sleeping Beauty' – a very non-traditional take on a pantomime favourite.

Roger Edwards

"On the 14th January we had a school trip to Bristol. First we went to @ Bristol where we did some amazing experiments. The girls went upstairs and did a news report with Hannah, Florence and Abi as the reporters, Megan as the camera woman and Zara and Amber as the producers.

After we had lunch at Za Za Bazaar. Everyone went up for fifths and two puddings! After lunch we went to the Bristol Old Vic and watched Sleeping Beauty. They changed the story a bit. My favourite character was Silvia, the bad witch."

By Hannah Khatwa



"On 14th of January, Prep 6 visited Bristol in the mini-bus. When we arrived we had a short walk to the science centre. Once we had been given these special bands to wear, we set off wandering in-between the different exhibits. One of my favourites was the human hamster wheel. When you turn the wheel you powered a small indoor water wheel. Upstairs there were lots of different types of animation exhibits. Next we had a small walk to Za Za Bazaar, an amazing buffet restaurant! We all ordered our drinks and sat down on a window view table. There were lots of different types of food sections including; Chinese, Far East, European, Indian and Mexican. The food was really tasty!

We then had a slightly longer walk to the Old Vic theatre, to watch Sleeping Beauty. We were really lucky and got great seats. The production was really good fun! We walked back to the bus and travelled back home! Overall it was an amazing trip!"

By Lawrence Gardner-Jenkins



Prep 1 and 2 visit to Cockington Court

“When we went to see the blacksmith, he showed us how to make shapes out of the iron. We went to a glassblower. The glassblower told us the different colours. Cobalt makes blue and gold makes red. When we went to see the carpenter, he showed us the rocking horse. There was little horses and big horses. The blacksmith made us a gold leaf. He got a piece of iron and put it in the hot furnace. When the blacksmith took it out he put it on the anvil and made a leaf.”

By Sarah Barrett



“We saw the blacksmith working with iron. The furnace is a big chimney that fire burns underneath it. We saw an anvil that has a hardy hole you put a hardy in. The head man is Rex. He heats up the iron and makes it into shapes and sizes. We saw him making a leaf. He used a special tool that makes it wrinkly. Rex chopped the leaf off with the hardy. He turned the leaf into gold. He used a magic brush to do it. We saw a woodworkers that makes rocking horses”.

By Oliver Brown

Sport at St Christopher's

ISA U11 Netball Championships

“On the 20th January, the Under 11s girls netball team played in the ISA netball tournament, held at Trinity School. The team was Zara Semmens, Abigail Warren, Florence Kennington, Megan Rhodes, Hannah Khatwa, Beatrix Morrell, Scarlet Burden, Olivia Gardner-Jenkins and Amber Moeller. Everyone got to play at least one-half of a game. There were 8 different schools including us and altogether we came 4th, based on points. It was a very successful ISA event as the Headmaster said ‘everyone walked away with a spring in their step, whether they won or lost’.”

By Amber Moeller



Looking Ahead

January

Sat 23rd – ISA National Swimming Championships – London Aquatic Centre

Mon 25th – Prep 2 & 5 –visit from the Fire Service

Wed 27th – ISA SW Cross County @ Haldon Forest

Thurs 28th – Nursey and Prep Reception to Paignton Zoo
Prep 3 and 6 Parents Evening

February

Mon 1st – Instrumental Open Week

Wed 3rd – ISA SW U11s Football tournament @ St Joseph's

Thurs 4th – Open Day

Piano Concert 3:30pm

Fri 5th – Prep Reception to Lomans Farm