

St Christopher's EYFS News

Tuesday 5th July 2022



Happy Birthday! ★

Wishing many happy returns to all of our friends with birthday's over the summer period:

Ted	Arlo
Henry	Florence
Ivy	Cora
Savannah	Willow
Jasper	



Dates for your Diary

08.07.2022—Last Day of Term St. Christopher's EYFS

01.09.2022—First Day of New Academic Year

12.09.2022—National Day (Both St. Christopher's & Sunflowers will be closed)

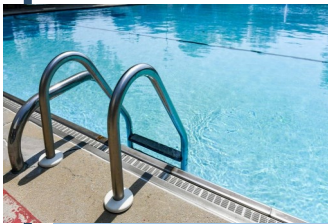


Wow, what a year it has been! I can't thank all of our families enough for the support, patience and engagement that we have had this year. We are incredibly proud of all of our children and the progress they have made and it wouldn't have been possible without your support. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff across St. Christopher's and Sunflowers for their hard work, energy and enthusiasm. We have achieved a huge amount this year, details of which are shared in the Parent Governor Feedback attached. I want to thank our SGC members for their support and commitment to helping us continually strive to achieve the best outcomes for our children.

FS2 recently held their Graduation Ceremony and it was lovely to be able to celebrate their learning and progress and to mark the end of their time in the Early Years Foundation Stage. We were so pleased to be able to welcome parents into the setting for this and to see so many parents and families attend. St. Christopher's has also been running induction meetings for parents with children moving into FS1 and FS2. Again it is brilliant to be able to hold these events and to give families an opportunity to have a look around the setting and to answer any questions in person. Sunflowers have been busy holding Parent Chats and it has been great to meet with parents and talk about children's progress. It is always amazing to see the change and growth in children over such short periods of time. Last week also saw us hold our first Sport's Day in a number of years, the children were very excited to have you come and watch them show off their sporting skills.

We are all looking forward to the summer break and we hope you all enjoy a well earned rest and we look forward to seeing you all again in September when we will be back for more learning adventures. For those leaving us, we wish you all the very best as you move on to start new adventures elsewhere. As the academic year comes to an end we at Sunflowers would like to send our best wishes and safe travels to those who will be moving on to new adventures. To our term time children, we hope you have a lovely summer and look forward to seeing you in September. To our new families arriving on the rock, we can't wait to meet you and begin your learning journey's. Finally to the children staying with us over summer, we hope you are excited for all the amazing things we have planned.

As Summer approaches the children in Sunflowers have been talking all about upcoming holidays, visiting relatives and flying on planes. In the morning the children have been exploring all things bubbles, with the children even coming up with their own ways to make and create them. In the afternoon the children have been making Choco Mud, and seeing what kinds of prints the dinosaurs might have left all those years ago. In baby room the babies have been enjoying various forms of water play, with some of the babies even climbing into the water trays, to explore water with their whole bodies.



What a busy couple of weeks it has been in FS1 and FS2! Not only have we been preparing for Sport's Day, but we have also managed to squeeze in two swimming sessions too! A huge thank you to Lindsay Edmeades and Davie Wilson for helping us to offer these sessions to the children. These were a brilliant opportunity to remind children of the safety rules when accessing the swimming pool, but also to build up their confidence in the water.

In school, the children have continued to enjoy spending time in the garden and have particularly enjoyed our BBQ Café role play area. We have several budding grill masters who have been showing their friends what to do! We have also been experimenting in the mud kitchen and checking on the progress of our vegetables.



Inside FS1 have been busy designing and creating different habitats and we were so impressed we kept them for FS2 to play with too! They created a desert, rainforest and grassland for our small world animals to enjoy.



Woodwork

If you have any of the following FS1 and FS2 would love to have them:

- Bottle tops
- Corks
- CD's
- Beads
- Fixings





School Governance Committee



Parent Governor Feedback

There were no specific points brought up by parents for your Parent Governors to raise at the last School Governance Committee, however the following might be of interest:

Saving the Planet, One Tree at a Time...

Vicky is trying to identify ways to take a lot of the school resources online and step away from paper—much to the delight of our environmentally-conscious children! These newsletters will, in time, go online via Tapestry only, and even the Reading Record may do so as well. As parents, it will be incumbent on us to make sure that we are using Tapestry fully to maintain awareness.

Families in School Helping (FISH)

Many UK schools have FISH swimming around their classrooms... Families who wish to support their schools through the gifts of time and effort. There are plans to re-invigorate the Ground Force Day that was cancelled due to inclement weather earlier this year at some point over the summer holidays. In addition, there could be an opportunity to repaint the Sunflower Quiet Corner to a more appropriate and restful shade, rather than the current stark Magnolia that we all know and love. Any potential FISHies should contact a Parent Governor to register interest.

Parent Governors Required!

Sadly, we lose two of our Parent Governors this summer as both Gemma Waldrom (FS2) and Kate Cullip (FS1, Sunflowers... ice cream saviour!) will leave Gibraltar. I would like to thank them for their great work in support of both the nursery and the school, and wish them the very best for their return to the UK.

What this will mean is that we will need to find some new Parent Governors to augment me, Davy Falla and Sam Ballanger (both FS2), ideally ones whose children will be in Sunflowers and FS1 come September. We will canvass again at the start of the school year, following the churn of

We wish all our families moving back to the UK this summer all the very best for the future.

What a wonderful year it has been. The list of successes and achievements for the staff and pupils of St Christopher's and Sunflowers is listed overleaf and is, quite simply, fantastic.

On behalf of you all, we have thanked Vicky, Megan and their teams for a job incredibly well done.

Have a wonderful summer!



St Christopher's EYFS and Sunflowers Nursery 2021-2022



Activities

Stay and Plays: Christmas, Easter and Diwali Nativity World Book Day Queen's Jubilee Picnic	World Nursery Rhyme Week Children in Need Tea towels Sports Day Children's Mental Health Week
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Guests

Gibraltar Defence Police Gibraltar Fire and Rescue Service RG Regt Band Dental Team Chinook aircrew	Command Divers JPSU COS Stn Cdr RAF Air Safety Santa and many more!
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Resources

Improved and developed learning environment
Expanded and updated: Baby Room, Garden including planting and water area
New: Reading Room with Calm Tent (Sunflowers) / Calm Corner (St Christopher's); Malleable Area; Hydration Station
Wall of Wonder; Art Appreciation Gallery

Trips Out

Eroski PRMC Around Four Corners HMS DRAGON Morrisons Gibraltar Airport	BFBS Queen' Birthday Parade in Casemates Square Transition visits to Notre Dame
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Learning and Development

Implemented self service snack and clean up
Increased (safe) risky play, including very popular woodworking area
Focused on self regulation with accessible calm

Communication

Produced Knowledge Organisers
Updated website—albeit still a work in progress!
Improved parent partnerships
Took lots of communication online via Tapestry

Continued Professional Development

Training with Alistair Bryce Clegg (Educational Consultant)
Training with Dr Dean Wolliter (Educational Psychologist)

Governance and Policy

Implemented new curriculum
2.2 health checks now conducted by HV in setting
New Mission Statement and Curriculum Drivers

Congratulations to all the staff of St Christopher's EYFS and Sunflowers Nursery, and thank you, for a job well done!

Something to try at home...

Edible Science Ice Cream in a Bag

Make your own delicious ice cream on a hot summer day... using science!

You will need:

60ml milk

60ml cream

$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp vanilla extract

1 tbsp sugar

a jug of ice

95g rock/sea salt

large ziplock bag

smaller ziplock bag

gloves

optional: toppings for your ice cream (think sprinkles, sauces, sweets, etc.)

Twinkl Tip:

Your ice cream won't end up like hard frozen ice cream, it will be softer in texture but very tasty!

Instructions:

1. Put the ice and salt in a large ziplock bag. The bag should be pretty full but you need some space for the next part.
2. In a smaller ziplock bag, mix together the milk, cream, sugar and vanilla. Make sure the bag is completely sealed.
3. Place the smaller bag inside the large bag and seal the large bag.
4. Put on your gloves as this can get very cold!
5. Shake the large bag for approximately 5 minutes. You may need to take it in turns to stop achy arms and frozen fingers!
6. Keep checking on your ice cream (inside the smaller bag).
7. Once it looks like ice cream, get the smaller bag out and pour your ice cream into a bowl.
8. Add your toppings and enjoy!

Seaside

Home Learning Challenges

Write a list of things you would need to take to the beach.



Can you help Sally Seagull count her shells? She had 8 shells, but the sea washed 2 of them away. How many shells did she have left? You could use objects or your fingers to help you work out the answer.

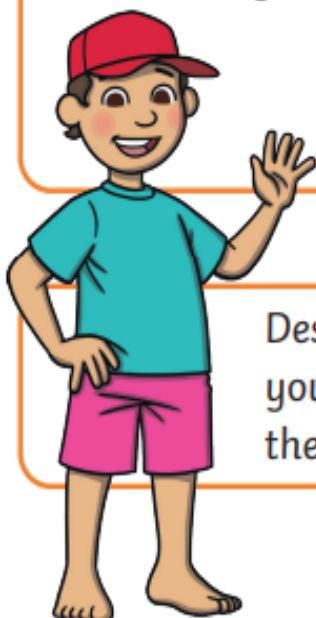
Can you make a boat from any empty containers you have got at home? Does it float? How many 10p pieces can it carry before it sinks?



Tell a grown-up about your favourite seaside story that we have read in class.

Can you tell them about your favourite character?

Draw a picture of an animal you might find in a rock pool.



Design an outfit you could wear at the beach.

