

St Christopher's EYFS News

Friday 16th September 2022

Happy Birthday!



Coming
Soon



Dates for your Diary

19.09.2022—Bank Holiday

20.09.2022—FS2 Full Time

21.09.2022—FS2 Phonics and Reading Workshop

28.09.2022—FS2 Maths Workshop

07.10.2022—INSET Day—Both St. Christopher's & Sunflowers will be closed

21.10.2022—Last day of half term

Welcome!

Firstly, we want to offer a warm welcome to all of our families as we start a new academic year, especially those who have joined us recently. The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time, full of possibilities and opportunities to explore with the children. Staff across St. Christopher's and Sunflowers have been hard at work setting up the learning environments to ensure children have exciting places to explore and learn. We have all been so impressed with how well the children have settled back into school life and to feel the energy in the building as the children go about their learning is a real joy.

As we continue to re-establish relationships, routines and expectations after the summer break, it is also a time to re-enforce our behaviour expectations with the children. Across both St. Christopher's and Sunflowers we share a set of 3 Golden Rules that run across both settings to provide consistency for the children. More information about these can be found attached to this newsletter.

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II and with the coverage in the news and conversations happening at home and all around us, it is something we have spoken with the children about. If you would like advice on talking with children about loss and grief, we recommend visiting <https://www.winstonswish.org/>

Next week will see FS2 offer a Family Learning Programme on how to support children with phonics and reading. We have had some great feedback from parents in the past with one parent saying:

'A very informative session that will enable me to support my child at home.'

We recommend, wherever possible, that parents attend this session as it is full of information about our approach to early reading and how you can help at home.

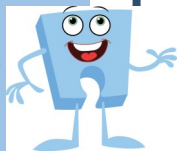
What have we been up to?



In our first weeks back in Sunflowers we have been resettling in, making new friends and reconnecting with other friends who were off over the summer period. We have also welcomed some new faces. We have begun work on our theme Being Me In My World by looking at *The Colour Monster*, and talking all about our emotions and how we feel, as well as looking at our family photo's and how each of our families is unique to us. In the outdoor area we have been using water in a variety of ways, pouring, funnelling, squirting and more. Over the summer we have rearranged both indoor and outdoor settings to reflect a more natural and homely theme in line with promoting the curiosity approach. In baby room we have been enjoying improving our physical abilities as we have begun to find our feet. The toddle box has been very popular in furthering our physical development as well as meeting some new friends.



In FS1 the children have been busy exploring their new learning environment and have been making the most of the outdoor area. The bikes and den building have been popular. Over the past couple of weeks, the children have been getting to know new friends and reconnecting with others. It has been lovely to see new friendships blossoming. They have also shown us their artistic skills as they created some beautiful self-portraits. In our circle time sessions, the children have been talking about how they are feeling and coming up with strategies for what to do if they feel sad. We have also introduced our favourite friends Jigsaw Jenie and Jerrie Cat and reminded them of our Golden Rules.



In FS2 the children have been getting to grips with their new routines and environments. This week they have also started staying for lunch which is another milestone in their FS2 journey. Over the past couple of weeks, the children have been re-introduced to their favourite JIGSAW characters Jerrie cat and Jenie. These characters form an important part of our PSHE sessions. In the outdoor area, the children have been busy creating their own dens using crates and fabric and have also been experimenting with tyre rolling and investigating which will go the furthest. In our My Happy Mind sessions, the children have been learning how brilliant their brains are and all of the things their brains can do. They have also started daily phonics sessions, so are already on their journey to becoming readers.



A message from Sunflowers & St. Christopher's...

Please be aware that all future editions of our newsletter will be published via Tapestry only. We are trying to do our bit to look after the environment. Check the memo section frequently for updates and information.

Keeping Hydrated

We encourage the children to drink regularly throughout the school day. There are water stations for the children to refill their bottles if they need to.



Golden Rules



At St. Christopher's and Sunflowers, there are three simple rules that all children and adults do their very best to follow.

These three simple rules underpin everything we do and right from our very youngest children through to our practitioners and office staff, we strive to live these rules consistently, every day.

As early educators, we understand that there will be times that things don't go to plan, particularly as children develop their early social skills. In these instances adults will sensitively support children in making better choices. Our staff endeavour to build strong relationships with the children in our care and it is these relationships that allow us to support children's personal, social and emotional development.

We will be sharing more about how we support behaviour as we move through the term.

Something to try at home...

All About Me

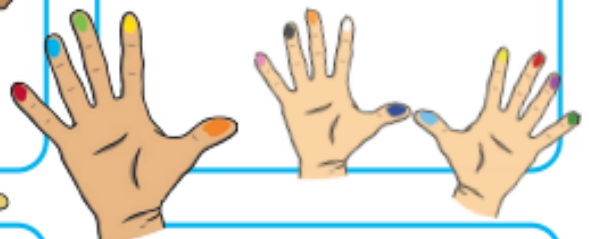
Home Learning Challenges

Bring in a photograph of you when you were younger and tell us one of the ways that you have changed.



Use some paint to make handprints of everyone's hands in your family and then cut out the handprints.

Can you put them in order of size from the smallest handprint to the largest handprint? If you haven't got any paint, you could draw around hands instead!



Draw a picture that shows all of the people who are special to you.



When you get home, sit quietly and listen carefully to see what you can hear. Draw pictures of some of the things you could hear in your house or garden.



Talk to someone at home about what you would like to do when you grow up. Try and find out a little bit more about it by talking to people who know about that role or looking in a book or on the Internet.

Then, you can share what you have found out with the class.

Write a list of three things you can do to help you to stay healthy.

