

St Christopher's EYFS News

Friday 15th September 2023

Happy Birthday!



Isabelle
Tori



Dates for your Diary

13.09.2023—FS2 Phonics and Reading Workshop

18.09.2023—FS2 Full Time

20.09.2023—FS2 Maths Workshop

20.10.2023—INSET Day—Both St. Christopher's & Sunflowers will be closed

27.10.2023—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. This half term sees us explore the theme 'Being Me in My World'. This is an opportunity to find out more about each other and to explore a little of the local area. Thank you to everyone who has sent in a family photo; the children love sharing these with their friends. If you haven't already shared any photos, there is still plenty of time. This can be done by uploading them to Tapestry or sending in a printed photo.

We offered our first parent workshop of the year on Wednesday. It was brilliant to spend time with our FS2 parents, exploring the way we teach Phonics and reading in school and to share strategies for how families can help at home. Over the coming weeks, we will be offering sessions on Maths and myHappyMind and looking ahead we have lots more in the planning stages. If you have a particular area or focus you would like to find out more about, please let us know.

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. In toddler area we enjoyed celebrating National Day by creating our own red and white themed art work flags. In the garden we have been making the most of the summer weather with water and sand play everyday as well as our investigation kitchen. In the afternoons the older children have begun recreating the 'We're going on a Bear hunt' landscapes and creating art using a variety of small parts found in everyday life. In Baby Room we have been identifying and recognising the different elements and parts of our faces. We have also been developing our fine motor skills as well as problem solving using pompoms.



Over the past fortnight, we have had lots of fun getting to know each other. The children have been getting to grips with their new routines and environments. This week FS2 have also started staying for lunch which is another milestone in their journey. Over the past couple of weeks, the children have been re-introduced to their favourite JIGSAW characters Jerrie cat and Jennie. These characters form an important part of our PSHE sessions. In the outdoor area, the children have been busy creating a Dinosaur land and helping to look after the garden. We have a bumper crop of aubergines and have been busy planting our next crop of beans and peas. Inside the children have been helping create a Home Corner and have been exploring colour mixing in the art area. They have also produced some beautiful self-portraits which we have put up on display on our Wall of Wonder. In our myHappyMind 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 listening/phonics sessions, so are already on their journey to becoming readers.



A message from Sunflowers & St. Christopher's...
Remember to check the memo section of Tapestry frequently for updates and information.

Grapes

Grapes, tomatoes and other soft fruits can be a choking hazard for children. Please make sure these are halved lengthways or quartered when including them in lunch boxes.



Keeping Hydrated

We encourage the children to drink regularly throughout the school day. Please make sure they have a water bottle with them. 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

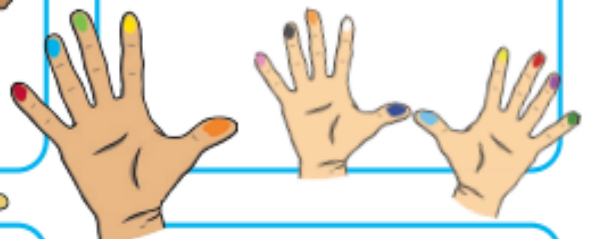
Home Learning Challenges

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.

