

St Christopher's EYFS News

Friday 27th October 2023

Happy Birthday!



Megan
Nadine



Dates for your Diary

27.10.2023—Last day of half term

06.11.2023—First day of Term 1.2

10.11.2023—Diwali Stay and Play

23.11.2023—St. Christopher's visit to Alameda

24.11.2023—INSET Day—St. Christopher's and Sunflowers closed for staff training.

We were delighted to welcome so many families to our Celebration of Learning last week. This was an opportunity to visit the setting and explore some of the children's artwork and creations and for the children to share some of the favourite spaces to play. This week St. Christopher's has hosted Parent Consultations which allow us to celebrate the children's progress so far and unpick any areas where the children are less confident. It is always a pleasure to get to know our families better and to find out more about what the children are like at home.

As the weather is beginning to cool and become a little more unpredictable, please can we ask that children have a jumper and coat with them. We spend time outside every day, no matter the weather, so it is important that the children come prepared.

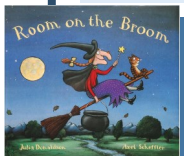
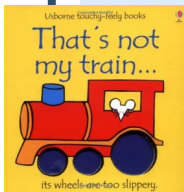
As part of our staff training day last Friday, we took the opportunity to reflect on the successes of this half term. All of the children across St. Christopher's and Sunflowers have settled beautifully into new routines and we have loved getting to know them all a little better. Not only have we welcomed new friends to both settings, we have also welcomed several visitors, from JPSU who came to talk about Stranger Danger to the visiting band, these opportunities bring the learning to life. The children have demonstrated their creative skills through modelling, singing, painting, sewing, building, baking, acting and drawing! We have taken the children to the beach, Commonwealth Park and explored Four Corners. It is hard to believe we have been back in school for 8 weeks already!

When we look ahead to next half term there are more action packed adventures to come.

What have we been up to?



We really enjoyed seeing you all for the Celebration of Learning evening, it was so nice to be able to share with you all the things your children have been up to, and share our setting with you! In sunflowers we have been planting our own spider plants using cuttings from a full grown one. In the afternoon the children have been creating their own Halloween monsters, complete with googly eyes, as well as learning how to manipulate paint by blowing it, using a straw. In baby room the babies have been using clay to create our own designs using sequins and stampers, the story shelf in baby room has been 'That's Not My Train' themed, and they have explored everything trains!



Over the past fortnight, the children have been busy creating musical instruments in the junk modelling area and creating their own bands outside. They are quite the performers and love an audience! Lots of this play was inspired by our visit to the band room at DTC, the children loved exploring all of the different instruments from Kettle drums to the Double bass.

This week has taken a spooky turn as we dug deeper into the story Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson. In the role play area the children experimented with creating different potions and magic spells and have even designed their own 'truly magnificent brooms'. They have been retelling the story in the garden using everyday materials to create props to bring the story to life.

We have also explored the story Pumpkin Soup which inspired us to make some pumpkin soup of our own. The children also explored the anatomy of a pumpkin and were fascinated by the many seeds inside. They are also learning a pumpkin poem!



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

Remember to check the memo section of Tapestry frequently for updates and information.

Naming Belongings

Please make sure that all children's belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name.

YOUR NAME

Teacher Jargon Buster

We know that there are lots of words and acronyms used in education that can sound like gobbledegook to others. With this in mind we will be unpicking common phrases in each edition of the newsletter, when we return after half term.



Spot the Difference Pictures

Spot the difference pictures are a great way for a child to develop concentration and observation skills while having some quiet time. Start with **simple ones with a few differences** and once they can do these easily, they can move onto more complex ones. If your child enjoys these games, you could challenge them to create their own spot the difference pictures, as this also requires careful concentration.

Tray Game

Prepare a tray of small objects from around the house, such as a pen, book, cup, apple, fork, scissors and small toy. Let your child look at the items for a minute and then cover the tray. Ask them to tell you the items on the tray. Make it more difficult by increasing the number of items on the tray.

Alternatively, you could let them look at the items for a minute, then cover the tray and remove an item without them looking. Uncover the tray and let them identify which item is missing.

This game requires good concentration to remember what they saw on the tray.

Jigsaw Puzzles

Jigsaws are a childhood favourite and they develop great concentration skills, as well as being fun. Ensure that your child is not trying to complete a puzzle that's too hard - a lack of success will quickly lead to boredom. Make it challenging yet achievable. Breaking it down into smaller steps will help too - encourage them to look for the corner parts first, then the rest of the edges, before finally filling in the picture with the pieces. Looking and comparing parts to the picture on the box requires them to pay attention to colours and shapes.