

THE ST. CHRISTOPHER CONNECTION

www.thestchristopherschool.co.uk | Weekly Newsletter | 27/03/2026

Overview of the Week

Parent Newsletter – End of Spring Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the Spring term, it's hard to believe how quickly the weeks have flown by. It has been a truly positive and memorable term here at school, and we are delighted to share some highlights from this final week.

Spring Fayre Success

A huge thank you to Mr Scott, Ms Mills, Friends, and everyone else who worked so hard to make our Spring Fayre such a success. It was wonderful to welcome so many families into school and to see the community enjoying the event together. Your support is, as always, greatly appreciated.

Southend United Trip

This Wednesday, a group of our Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 learners had the fantastic opportunity to attend the Southend United vs Woking match.

A huge thank you goes to c2c for their generosity in donating the tickets and for their kindness in helping make this experience possible. The learners had a brilliant time and represented the school beautifully.

MAT Awards Ceremony

Yesterday we held our inaugural MAT Awards Ceremony, an evening dedicated to celebrating the achievements of learners from across all schools in our Trust.

We are incredibly proud that *eight of our secondary learners* received awards for areas including independence, community contribution, sporting success, and creative skills.

It was an inspiring and uplifting event, and we very much look forward to making it a regular and valued part of our annual calendar.

Parking and Collection from Holiday Clubs

It has been brought to our attention that parking in the Sports Hall Car Park—particularly in the mornings during drop-off—has become increasingly unsafe. As pupils arrive, they tend to wait in and around the Sports Hall entrance while cars are driving up the side entrance, creating a potential risk of accidents.

To help keep everyone safe, we kindly ask parents to park in the front car park and then walk children to the Sports Hall entrance.

We hope this change will reduce the concerns that have been raised and ensure a safer and calmer start to the day for all.

New Classroom Block Update

Our brand-new classroom block is now extremely close to completion. We are expecting to receive the keys when we return after Easter, and we cannot wait to begin using this fantastic new facility. It will provide even more opportunities for high-quality learning experiences and development.

Termly Learning Reports

Your child's Termly Learning Report will be coming home today. We hope you find it both informative and encouraging. It has been wonderful to see the individual progress made by so many learners, and we want to thank you for your ongoing partnership—together, we make these steps of progress possible.

Looking Ahead

It has been a very positive term overall, and we are now looking forward to the Summer term with excitement and optimism.

We wish all our families a wonderful Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming learners back to school on Monday 13th April.

What's been happening?



Attendance

ATTENDANCE Why is it important?

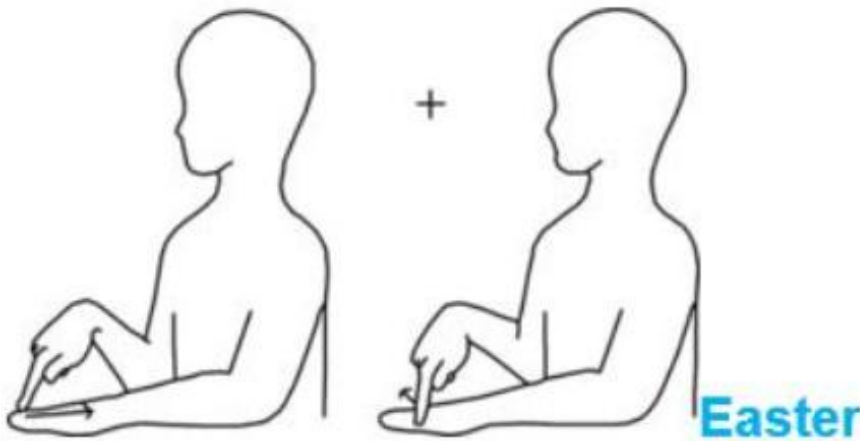
Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons



Our current attendance is 92%, which is above the national average for special schools, though still not in line with the overall national average for all schools. Every school day really matters, and we want to see our children in as much as possible so they can make the most of every learning opportunity.

Thank you for your continued support with this — let's work together to make our summer term attendance even stronger.

Sign & Joke of the Week



Upcoming Dates for the Diary:

March:

- Friday 27th March – Quiz Night (tickets still available)

April

- 13th April – Back to School
- 20th April – Parents evening

May

- 4th May Bank Holiday

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

▶ YOUTUBE ▶

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.



CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.



CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.



MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.



LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!



Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2011, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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