



Saint Christina's School Bulletin

Friday 15th October 2021

Dear Parents,

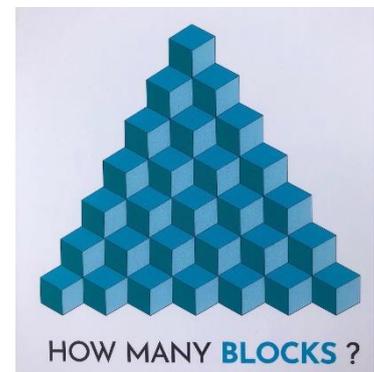
As the first half of term draws to a close, I think back to August and the very many things that we were told to expect as we came back to School. There were all sorts of predictions being made about what might occur around the pandemic and there was a tangible sense of trepidation as the term started. Whilst it has not been entirely straightforward and we have suffered a number of cases of Covid within the School amongst the pupils and among some members of staff, I am pleased that things have been easier than some of the forecasts predicted. We have been told to expect a bump in cases after Half Term as many families will travel and do things outside of their normal routine, so I would ask that as a community we all take the very greatest care to continue to be cautious and safe so that we avoid this eventuality.

We enjoyed our first Open Morning of the year on Thursday and would like to publicly thank Mrs Arbuthnott, Mrs Sanchez and Mrs Goel for representing the PL at the event. A very encouraging number of prospective parents attended the event and gave very positive feedback about their experience following their interactions with our community. I would like to say a very special thank you to Mercy and Martina, for delivering their first public speeches as our Head and Deputy Head Girls. I would also like to thank Grace, Sloane and the School choir for singing, playing and greeting everyone so magnificently.

You may know that November 15-19 is Anti-Bullying Week. This year the nation is being challenged to wear odd socks throughout the week as a way of showing support for Anti-bullying. This is not so easy if you wear tights but during this week, I will be very happy to see you and your children wearing odd socks to school if they would like to show solidarity. The theme is 'One Kind Word' and we are adding 'One Kind Deed' and this will be our message to the children through the second half of term. A kind word, a smile or an offer of help is generally free and can transform someone's day.

By the time we return to School, the COP 26 meeting will have commenced. You will recall that we would like to support Cafod's campaign and send a video message to the leaders of the world whilst they are meeting. Our message is very simple ... that "Our Eyes Are On You" as you meet and discuss policies that will shape the future of the planet." The children have been invited to spend some time thinking about what they might say to world leaders about what they would like the world to look like when they are older, and about the sort of world they would like to inherit in 20 or 30 years' time. Over Half Term I would very like it if the children did consider writing a letter to a Head of State (doesn't matter which). I will read them and hopefully, incorporate some into our video message. If they don't make it into the video message, they will still be posted on to the world leader to whom they are addressed.

Our 'Curious Questions' board which forms part of the emphasis we have on 'Intellectual Curiosity' – curiosity for the sake of curiosity - continues to throw up little challenges and I am delighted with the way that children across the School have been having a crack at responding to them. Many post-it notes with ideas and responses have appeared across the board as individuals and friends have taken a punt! I thought I would put our current challenge into the bulletin for you to see and maybe discuss with your child – parental responses are welcome!



I am pleased to say that the new extension is beginning to take a more exciting shape with the steels now largely in place. Whilst we have been affected by the industry-wide shortage in building materials, I am pleased to say that the construction company have been quite good at navigating the problems we have faced so far.

Thank you for all your ongoing support and care - I do hope that you have a really good half term and that you will return to School fully refreshed on Monday 1st November.

Alastair Gloag
Headteacher

Year 4 Mass

October is the month of the Rosary and so Year 4 were privileged to celebrate the mass on Friday 8th October dedicated to 'Our Lady of the Rosary'. Every year the feast day is celebrated on 7th October.

During our RE lessons we discovered how the rosary is prayed and some of us tried to pray a decade at home in the quiet of our rooms. The children read their parts wonderfully and Fr Terry was very pleased as they sang his favourite hymn 'Gentle Woman' with such elegance and grace. Well done Year 4!

Ms Fernandes



House Photography Competition

It's that time again! Time to get snapping and enter our annual House photography competition. This year there are 5 categories that the children can enter. I cannot wait to see what they can capture in their viewfinders.



Children are invited to enter photographs into these 5 categories:

- A. Landscape
- B. Portrait
- C. Contrasts – this could be old and new, light and dark, big and small, clean and dirty – what can you find?
- D. Action
- E. Toy Story – can you set up your toys and take a picture that tells a story?

Instructions for entering:

- A maximum of (no more than) 3 images, either in one category or across all 5 categories
- Name each image with your name and the category letter (joebloggs-A.jpg)
- Email photographs to lellisdon@saintchristinas.org.uk by **Friday 3rd December 2021**

Rules for photographers:

1. The person entering is the photographer
2. It is suitable for others to see
3. Any people included have given their permission to have their picture included in the competition

Winning entries will be published on the school website and displayed around the school.

Happy snapping!

Mrs Ellisdon – Head of KS2

What is happening in Year 6?

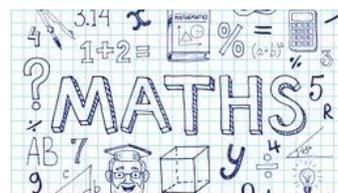
Many of you are all well aware that a good part of life in Year 6 is geared towards getting the girls ready for their secondary transfer examinations, which will happen towards the end of the term, or for some, in early January.

However, it is not all doom and gloom in Year 6, as plenty of other things happen. I decided to interview Year 6 to see what they are most enjoying doing, and what they like about life in Year 6 – and here follows a list of what Julie Andrews would refer to as ‘these are a few of my favourite things’!

- ❖ Being prefects and being able to take responsibility around the school
- ❖ Being trusted more to do things without having to be supervised around the clock
- ❖ Having the freedom to choose and select the method you want to use when learning certain subjects
- ❖ Creative Writing
- ❖ Doing puzzles and investigations in Mathematics
- ❖ History (the Industrial Revolution, and its background)
- ❖ Religious Education – learning about the Kingdom of God, and having drama activities to support the learning of RE
- ❖ Geography – learning about North America
- ❖ Designing, creating and lighting sets for theatres
- ❖ Science

So as you can see, there is much to enjoy in Year 6 – and this is only the start of things. There will be plenty more varied activities to experience throughout the year...

Fr Rudolf – Year 6 Class Teacher



Mathematics in the School:

One of the problem solving areas in Mathematics that yields much fruit for thought is when we look at numbers and their properties. Often questions from this area crop up in tests, and the Primary Mathematics Challenge (to be held in mid-November this year) is a rich source of unusual problems too.

Here is a problem which children are being invited to solve:

The factors of 6 are 1, 2, 3 and 6. If we add together $1 + 2 + 3$, we get 6 – and so we refer to 6 as a perfect number.

What is the next number under 100 to be perfect?

Another interesting area is that of 3D shape. You are invited to encourage your children to solve the school’s ‘Curious Questions’ problem on display in the school, as it concerns a pyramid of cubes – it is a particularly good problem, as it is what we would call a ‘low threshold high ceiling’ task. In other words, a task that is easy to understand, but offers children to penetrate its solution in a variety of ways, many of which are quite deep or involved.

Some of Year 6 are being invited to solve the ‘turning a piece of paper into a box’ problem (found on the NRICH site):

You have a square piece of paper measuring 10 cm by 10 cm, say. Cut out squares from each of its corners, and fold up the remaining piece of paper into a box.

What is the volume of the remaining box, and what size square maximises the volume of the box?

For those of you who are interested, this problem was originally set in the Inter School Mathematics Challenge held at Saint Christina’s School some ten years ago – and can actually be solved by using calculus if you want an exact answer!

However, with children, we are encouraging them to solve these sorts of problem in more heuristic ways!

Fr Rudolf – Teacher in charge of Mathematics

In Reception this week...

It has been a very spooky week in reception with lots of spiders and pumpkins!

We have been searching for skeleton bones and putting them back together, drawing pumpkins and then opening them up to see what we could find inside, mixing potions, singing rhymes and planning our very own Monster Mash Party!

Ms Higgins & Ms Nunes – Reception Class Teachers



PE Update

It has been another great week of Sport both during lessons and during the two sporting fixtures this week. The weather has been kind to us and the children have enjoyed their lessons which have involved a wide range of ball sports. I very much look forward to hearing all about the different sports the children have participated in during the half term holiday on our return to school after the mid-term break.

This week, the Nursery and Reception groups have continued to explore different ways to move with a ball. They have explored stopping the ball with different parts of their body and have continued to develop their hand eye co-ordination through rolling, kicking and bouncing and catching balls. A special well done must go to Sameera for mastering the stop position in football.



During their netball sessions, the group continued to develop their understanding of the game and had the opportunity to participate in full sided games. Years 5 and 6 continued to make progress with our key focus, which once again this week, has been marking and getting free from your opponent. The Year 3 and 4 groups are picking up the basic rules of the game and are becoming more familiar with the different positions on the court.



The Key Stage 2 classes have continued to work hard during their football sessions. They have adopted an excellent approach during their introduction to football and enjoyed playing the numbers game this week during their sessions. The Key Stage 2 group will spend more time focusing on football in January. It was lovely to take all of Year 5 and 6 together this week to Primrose Hill on Wednesday afternoon to prepare for the football tournaments. The girls enjoyed playing 8 a-side games and developed their understanding of the rules of the game and tactics which could be used in defense and attack. Thank you to Mrs Ellisdon and Miss Sandra for assisting with this football session, the girls really seemed to enjoy themselves and it really helped them prepare for the tournament.



The Year 6 Netball teams are continuing to work hard during their training sessions and showed some positive moments against a very strong St Christopher's School. A special mention must go to Adriana who did not stop running throughout the game, and also to Raffie for some excellent passing during the B team match.

Yesterday, Year 6 had their first ever football tournament where they played against 5 other schools. The team were all very excited despite having had limited football experience. Mr Raveney and Mr Artur could not have been prouder of the team who performed fantastically having only started football at the start of this term. The team managed to draw 3 games and narrowly lost the other two matches.

The girls all played brilliantly and gave their all. Charlotte made some very good saves in goal, Mercy, Gracie and Marta made some excellent tackles and clearances in defence. Helen, Georgia and Raffie did a great job in midfield making several interceptions and some excellent passes forward. Lilly made some excellent attacks and chased back on numerous occasions to win back the ball from the opposition. Sloane and Adriana were very close to scoring on several occasion and did not stop dribbling the ball and chasing after passes all afternoon. The girls demonstrated a fantastic attitude and played so well together as a team. Adriana was nominated by the other schools as our player of the afternoon.





A huge thank you must go to Mr Artur for his assistance with all of the sports fixtures this half term, his help is much appreciated.

Year 5 are looking forward to their first netball match the first day back after the holiday and also have their football tournament on Thursday 4th November.

Mr Raveney – Director of Sport

Saint Christina’s Upcoming fixtures
Monday 1st November Year 5 Netball v St Christopher’s (Away)
Thursday 4th November Year 5 Football tournament (Away)
Wednesday 10th November Year 4 Netball v Sarum Hall (Away)
Wednesday 17th November Year 5 and 6 V St Margaret’s (Away)
Monday 6th December Year 6 v Sarum Hall (Away)

Mr Burke’s Marathon

I would like to say a huge thank you again to everyone who donated so generously towards my London Marathon run on Sunday 3rd October. I was blown away by your support and all the well wishes really got me through the difficult final few miles. We raised over £2000 for Water Aid. This will go towards ensuring clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere within a generation.

Thank you again,

Mr Burke



Preparing for Bebras



Calling all parents and pupils from Years 3-6!

The UK Bebras Challenge exposes pupils to a new way of thinking. You can get a feel for the style of the problems by viewing last year's challenge 2020, which we practised in Year 3-6's lessons this week. The children had great fun helping each other and solving the problems together! Please have a practise during the break, as the Challenge will be after half term.

Please visit www.bebas.uk and hit *Challenges*, select your age group and try out some questions. You will be told straight away whether you are correct and an explanation to the answer is given.

Learn about computational thinking skills with BBC Bitesize

The BBC have produced some excellent resources for pupils wishing to learn about computational thinking.

Please try this one at home!

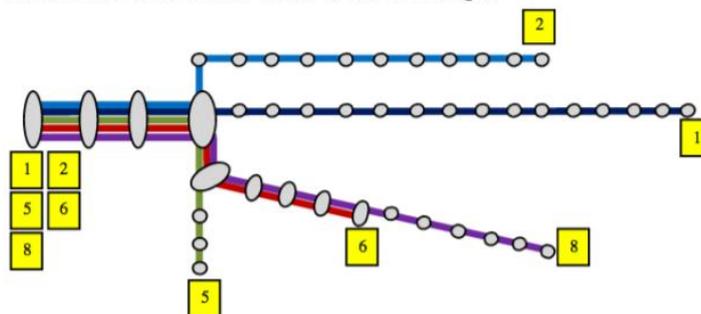
The train lines in Beaver City all have their own number. Unfortunately, the numbers are only shown on this map. When you are on a train you cannot see the line number anywhere! You get onto a train at the main station where all the lines begin. After three stations your train makes a turn. At the next station it makes another turn. Four stations later you have arrived at your destination.

The train lines in Beaver City all have their own number.

Unfortunately the numbers are only shown on this map.

When you are on a train you cannot see the line number anywhere!

You get onto a train at the main station where all the lines begin.



After three stations your train makes a turn.

At the next station it makes another turn.

Four stations later you have arrived at your destination.

Question: Which train line were you on? 1, 2, 5, 6 or 8?

Ms Overing – ICT teacher

Year 2 – Great Fire of London

Year 2 have been learning all about the Great Fire of London. The 1666 fire began in a bakery on Pudding Lane and due to the houses being very close together in narrow streets, the fire spread quickly.

This week, the children in Year 2 learned a little bit more about the Tudor era houses in London at the time of the fire. The children knew that the houses were made of wood, but this week, they found out that the walls were filled in with 'wattle and daub' which means wooden strips and either clay or dung!

Year 2 built their own models of Tudor houses using cereal boxes and paper. The children painted their boxes white and added black strips of paper as Tudor homes were made out of dark wood and the walls were painted white. The children also gave their houses latticed windows and either a thatch or tile roof.

Miss McQuillan – Year 2 Class Teacher



Year 2 STEM Club

This half term, the Year 2 STEM Club have been exploring the LEGO Education WeDo programme which allows children to investigate and create robots and they also learn basic programming skills. The children were able to build a snail which glowed different colours depending on the programme they set and their big project was to create 'Milo the Science Rover' who could move and change direction!

Miss McQuillan – STEM Club Co-ordinator



Dates for your diary

Date	Event
Friday 15th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCHOOL ENDS FOR THE HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 1st November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHILDREN AND STAFF RETURN Year 5 Netball Fixture – away game
W/C Monday 1 st November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 ONLY Parent/Teacher Meetings via Google Classroom or Zoom
Tuesday 2 nd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Photographs – AM – children to be looking smart in full winter uniform.

Thursday 4 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Football Tournament – away game
Friday 5 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Mass
8 th – 19 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bebras and Primary Mathematics Challenge (Years 3-6)
Monday 8 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Netball Fixture – away game
Wednesday 10 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 4 Netball Fixture – away game
Friday 12 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remembrance Mass – led by Year 2
W/C Monday 15 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 17 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 & 6 Netball Fixtures – away games
Thursday 18 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 Museum Trip
Friday 19 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendship Friday – children may wear their own clothing and donate £1 to Kidscape Anti-Bullying Charity. St Cecilia House Mass
Monday 22 nd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Cecilia Feast Day
Friday 26 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 Enrolment Mass
Monday 29 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visiting Pantomime – ‘The Reluctant Dragon’ TBC
Wednesday 1 st December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-School ISEB Examination Day for Year 6
Thursday 2 nd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-School ISEB Examination Day for Year 6
Friday 3 rd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 4 Mass House Photography Competition deadline
Monday 6 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Netball Fixture – away game
Tuesday 7 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery and Reception Christmas Nativity (to parents TBC)
Wednesday 8 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1 and 2 Christmas Play (to parents TBC)
Thursday 9 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KS2 Carol Service (to parents TBC)
Friday 10th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCHOOL ENDS AT 12 NOON FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (exact timings to be confirmed nearer the time)
Monday 13 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Mock Exams – TBC
Tuesday 14 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Mock Exams – TBC

Tuesday 4 th January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• STAFF INSET
WEDNESDAY 5 th JANUARY 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CHILDREN RETURN