



# Saint Christina's School Bulletin

## Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents,

The weather, this morning, has made very clear that we are transitioning into autumn! I am sure that I was not the only one who arrived slightly damper than usual having run the gauntlet past the enormous ponds that were developing on Avenue Road. A quiet, if wet reminder, that we are moving back to our winter uniform on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are still waiting for a few items from the suppliers, don't worry if you have to use the Summer uniform for a little longer but, the nights are drawing in as well as the temperature, and it would be good if the children were in slightly warmer clothing now.

You will know from the news that the R rate is now said to be between 0.8 and 1.0 in and around London. This means that we should see a stabilising of infection and spread, however, the numbers who are becoming infected across the country on a weekly basis are still very high – the 7 day average to 28<sup>th</sup> September was over 35,000. The demographic within which we are seeing the greatest levels of infection is now children and teens. The forecast is that this will, over the next three or four weeks, 'move' up to the older age groups. Whilst the vaccine has helped mute symptoms of many who have become infected, it has not, for obvious reasons, prevented that infection. Since the start of term, we have had a small number of cases where children and their families have tested positive. As you know, where this has occurred we have contacted the relevant class and year group. However, your vigilance and cooperation has really helped our management of the situations as they have arisen so do please continue to act cautiously. Please also be aware that a couple of the children who did test positive for the virus had sore throats and headaches and not the symptoms that we are more familiar with. This complicates things somewhat, because there is a headache / sore throat that is currently doing the rounds which is seasonal and not Covid. So please administer a LFT if your child complains of these symptoms. Whilst a LFT is not as good as a PCR, we have been led to believe that false negatives are very rare.

On other matters, you may have noticed that we now have a pedestrian railing at the main entrance to the School. WCC do not like doing bits of jobs outside of the bigger scheme, however, they have accepted that the railing is an important safety feature, particularly near a School, and therefore reinstated it on Tuesday. Otherwise, the works on the road are being described by the authorities as 'ongoing', which suggests something more than the complete inaction that we have seen around the project since May. The Council want to complete the job but are unable to do so until Thames Water repair the leak that you may have noticed on the Camden side.

The build is moving on. The children have been extremely excited on seeing such an enormous crane arriving on site to help with the steel frame construction. We should, by the end of next week, have all the steels on site and by half term, the frame assembled, now that all the work in the ground is more or less complete. From a safety point of view, the crane will operate after school hours and the east end of the School, where it is located, will be closed off after 3.45pm on the days that the steels are being delivered. Any clubs that might normally meet in this part of the school on those days next week have been relocated.

You may know that we have been able to expand, since the beginning of September, the number of minibuses that are available to parents. This is partly to meet the level of demand and also to respond to requests on the service to reach a few more areas. Currently the routes cover Queens Park, Maida Vale, St John's Wood, Finchley Road and Hampstead. There are currently a number of spaces on the buses so if you are interested in the service then please contact Chloe or Michelle in the office, and they will connect you to Miss Georgia.

You will see from the bulletin that it has been another great week in School. It is nice to see sporting fixtures restarting alongside the very many other things that the children have been doing. If there are any more posters to come in, following the Construction Company's Assembly last week, do get them back as soon as possible so that they can consider which to put up in the playground. In the meantime, enjoy looking at some of the things that the children have been doing, and do have a lovely weekend.

Alastair Gloag  
**Headteacher**

## Year 6 Mass

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September, Year 6 presented the school Mass on the theme of St Vincent de Paul. They prepared their readings and singing very carefully and were able to set a great example in how they read, sang and behaved. Mr Rhodes had very kindly recorded the music for us beforehand, so we still had accompaniment! They also reflected on how St Vincent de Paul had worked for the poor, and were given the chance to follow his actions by contributing food for Father Terry's foodbank.

I was very proud of how well Year 6 did their Mass.

Fr Rudolf – Year 6 teacher and celebrant



## Reception Classes

Reception have been making the most of our local area over the past couple of weeks. Last week, we went on an Autumn walk through the park, right to the top of Primrose Hill. We had a wonderful view of London from the top of the hill and collected lots of sticks, leaves, conkers and acorns on our way.

This week, we enjoyed a sunny morning in Primrose Hill and played some games with our friends. We are looking forward to some more outings to the park and even muddy adventures over the next few weeks.



Miss Higgins & Miss Nunes – Reception Class Teachers

## Year 5 History

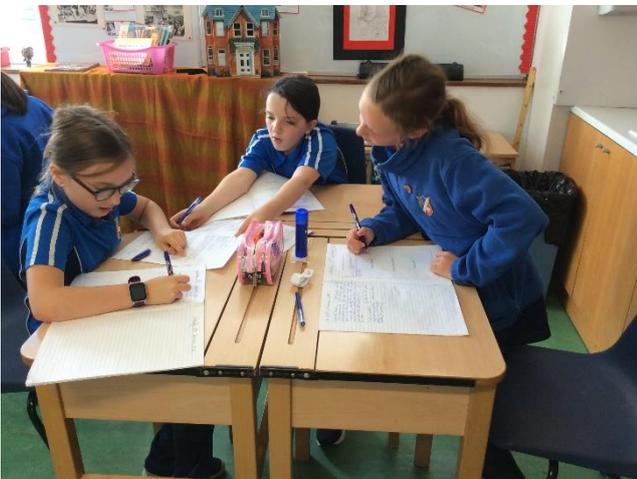
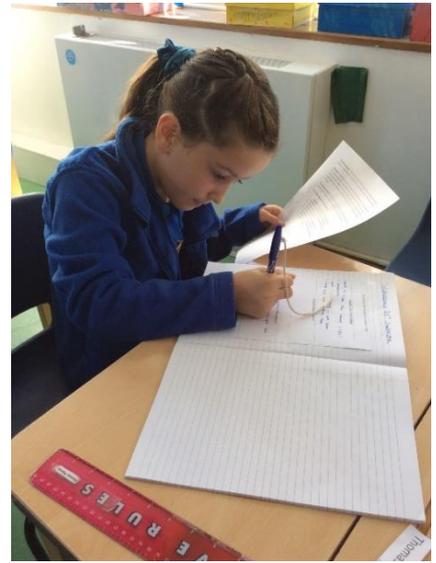
The children in Year 5 are learning about the Victorians this term. In the writing lesson this week, their task was to choose an influential person from the Victorian era and to write a biography of that person.

The children decided whether to work individually, in a pair or a three to research their chosen influential person. Through research, they were able to generate a plan to write their biography.

The children have chosen to find out about: Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Florence Nightingale, Joseph Lister, Sir Robert Peel, Lord Shaftesbury and Elizabeth Garrett Anderson.

I look forward to sharing some of the biographies next week once they have been completed.

Mrs Ellisdon – Year 5 Class Teacher



## Problem Solving in Mathematics

This week, Kenken puzzles were introduced to some of the Key Stage 2 children in school. For information on these puzzles, you are advised to look at the [www.kenkenpuzzle.com](http://www.kenkenpuzzle.com) site. This will give you an idea as to what was being attempted – once we have copyright permission, I shall be publishing a few of these puzzles in the newsletter and inviting you to try your hands at solving these.

For those of you who are not familiar with these puzzles – they consist of a Sudoku style grid, where numbers are filled in according to arithmetic clues. So your daughters are not only practising logic, but also arithmetic at the same time.

Year 5 also considered the age old problem of 'If  $A = 1$ ,  $B = 2$ ,  $C = 3...$ ' then what are the values of different words. For example,  $SCHOOL = 19 + 3 + 8 + 15 + 15 + 12 = 72$ . Year 5 investigated their names – whose name was worth 100 points exactly, as well as whose name scored the most points or the least points. It was very gratifying to hear children working out which words were worth more than others by reasoning about the properties of numbers.

And although this seems a simple enough problem, it does have the advantage of having your daughters practising their arithmetic in such a way that traditional number haters can accept and enjoy.

For more on how we are encouraging children to solve a wide range of problems in school, please see what we are reporting on next week!

Fr Rudolf Loewenstein – Teacher in charge of Mathematics

## Nursery visit to Primrose Hill

This week, Nursery visited Primrose Hill for the first time this year to try and spot any signs of Autumn. We first found a Horse Chestnut tree and the children loved to fill their pockets with as many conkers as possible whilst comparing who had found the biggest, smallest, shiniest, and the best of all, twins!

We then moved on to find a HUGE oak tree and enjoyed sheltering underneath it taking in the sheer size of it whilst collecting acorns and "little squirrel hats". We finished off the afternoon with a bit of hill rolling which is always a favourite and then headed off back to school.

Ms Randle – Nursery Class Teacher



## PE Update

It has been a rather wet week which has resulted in lots of our PE lessons taking place indoors. When we have managed to get out we have had a continued focus from Year 2 upwards on football and netball.

For the indoor lessons the children have played a variety of team games and have taken part in some individual challenges which have been focused on key skills required during football and netball like dodging, moving into space and passing and receiving a ball from a team mate. The Year 2 group really enjoyed their ball skills sessions this week as they continued to focus on passing the ball using chest passes and bounce passes. We then added in a defender so the children had to try to keep the ball away from the defender which was great fun.



On Monday, the Year 6 girls had their first Netball matches against St Mary's School. It was so lovely, after such a long wait, to play a competitive match against another school, and the girls were a credit to the Saint Christina's. The girls worked hard throughout the game and did not give up despite being behind. We used this week's netball club and their games lesson to develop some of the areas of weakness so hopefully we can give a stronger performance in next week's matches.

Well done, to all the girls who took part and a special mention must be made to Adriana, Raffie, Gracie and Helen who all scored during the games. Thank you to the parents who came along to support the girls. I look forward to updating you next week about our next fixture against Devonshire House.



### Review of the games from our Sports Captain



On Monday Year 6 played a netball match against St Mary's. Unfortunately, both A and B teams lost. The weather was good and we played quite well but just not well enough. We were playing away with a bigger court so we were all scrunched up trying to get the ball. We were too polite and needed to be a little feistier. The St Mary's players were taller than us which made it hard to get the ball. The other team's shooters were very good and Mr Raveney is still trying to figure out what positions we are best at. I have been practising my shooting in the playground during lunch times so hopefully I will be GA or GS in the next match. Overall Year 6 played quite well and our players of the match were Emily and Lilly. A big thank you to Mr Artur for refereeing the matches.

### Upcoming fixtures

**Monday October 4th Year 6 Netball v Devonshire House (Away)**

**Monday 11th October Year 6 Netball v St Christopher's (Away)**

**Thursday 14th October Year 6 Football tournament (Away)**

Mr Raveney – Director of Sport

### Year 1 Toy Topic

This week in Year 1 we have been exploring our topic of Toys all the way into the world of augmented reality.

Firstly, we chose from a range of templates and then let our imaginations run wild, adding favourite colours to our masterpieces. When we were ready, we scanned our images using iPads and then watched as our images came to life! We were able to play football, ice skate and blast rockets through the use of our AR toys.

Well done on a fabulous delve into the world of augmented reality Year 1!

Mr Burke – Year 1 Class Teacher



## Mr Burke's Marathon

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated so generously towards my London marathon run from last year. It was so much fun\*, I've decided to do it again on Sunday!

I will again be raising funds for WaterAid – an international not-for-profit, determined to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere within a generation. Only by tackling these three essentials in ways that last can people change their lives for good.

If you feel you would like to support me and this wonderful charity, please find the link to my fundraising page here:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/dtburke>



Thank you so much for your generosity in advance and I know that you and your children's support will be invaluable to me on the day.

Mr Burke

\*may not have been fun

## School Council

The School Council for 2021-2022 had our first meeting this week. The children already had lots of exciting ideas to discuss. Examples of some of the things they discussed were:

- The possibility of creating a compost bin for the vegetable garden
- Reminding their classmates about the building poster competition
- They discussed ideas for how we can get our message across to COP26 that 'We have our eyes on you' following Mr Gloag's assembly
- They wanted to do the 'Boxes of Love' Christmas gifts for residents of Saint John's Hospice
- They discussed ways in which we might be able to make the school easier to access for people in wheelchairs

I was very proud of their excellent suggestions and initiatives, especially since many of them had charity, the environment and others in mind. I think that in this year of the building project taking place, there will be some wonderful opportunities for the school council to represent the views of their class mates when we ask them for ideas of what they would like to see in all the wonderful new learning spaces that will be available to us in the future.

Mr Hirst – Deputy Head



## Parent Prayer Group

You may know that October is the month of the Holy Rosary. This is when the Church focuses on prayer and is particularly keen to pray for peace in the world and against those who might cause harm and injustice. A number of parents meet throughout October to pray and would like to extend the invitation to all members of our parent body, should you wish to join them:

Time: Tuesday starting at 9.00am (after drop-off)

Place: Convent Chapel

### **ILLNESS**

If your child is unwell, please do not send them to school. If they are displaying any symptoms relating to Covid:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste – this means they have noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or that things smell or taste different to normal

They will be required to have a **negative PCR test** and to be fully recovered before returning to school.

If your child has vomiting and/or diarrhoea, please ensure that they are kept off school for a minimum of 48 hours since the last bout and that they are fit and well enough to return to school.

## REMINDERS / HEALTH & SAFETY

### Medication

Please do not send any medication into school with your child. If your child has specific prescribed medication, please contact Miss Georgia who will advise you on the next steps – [georgia@saintchristinas.org.uk](mailto:georgia@saintchristinas.org.uk)

### Nasal Flu Vaccination

Please ensure that if you would like your child to have the vaccination in school on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October that you return the consent form by Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October at the latest. Thank you.

### Winter Uniform

Winter uniform is to be worn from **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October**. Please ensure that all items are labelled clearly with your child's name. Thank you.

### School Lunch Menu

We always try to ensure meals are as advertised on our school website, but due to the current situation around food shortages and delivery times for fresh produce, we may have to adapt our menu from time to time. Thank you for your understanding.

### UNIFORM

Please ensure that you label all items of uniform with your child's name as we have a selection of uniform either without a name label or with names of former pupils. Any items without name labels that have not been claimed will be donated to the nearly new uniform sale. Thank you.

## Dates for your diary

Date	Event
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children to wear winter uniform from today</li> <li>• St Francis Feast Day</li> <li>• Individual 11+ Transfer Meetings for Year 6 Parents</li> <li>• Year 6 Netball Fixture – away game</li> </ul>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual 11+ Transfer Meetings for Year 6 Parents</li> </ul>
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 4 Mass</li> </ul>
W/C Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nursery to Year 4 &amp; Year 6</b> Parent/Teacher Meetings via Google Classroom or Zoom – details to follow directly from your child's Class Teacher</li> </ul>
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 6 Netball Fixture – away game</li> </ul>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optional Nasal Flu Vaccinations for children in Reception to Year 6</li> </ul>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Morning for Prospective Parents</li> <li>• Year 6 Football Tournament – away game</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KS2 House Poetry Competition</li> <li>• <b>SCHOOL ENDS FOR THE HALF TERM HOLIDAY</b></li> </ul>
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CHILDREN AND STAFF RETURN</b></li> <li>• Year 5 Netball Fixture – away game</li> </ul>
W/C Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Year 5 ONLY</b> Parent/Teacher Meetings via Google Classroom or Zoom – details to follow directly from your child's Class Teacher</li> </ul>
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual Photographs – AM</li> </ul>
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 5 Football Tournament – away game</li> </ul>
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 5 Mass</li> </ul>
8 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bebras and Primary Mathematics Challenge (Years 3-6)</li> </ul>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 5 Netball Fixture – away game</li> </ul>
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 4 Netball Fixture – away game</li> </ul>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remembrance Mass – led by Year 2</li> </ul>
W/C Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-Bullying Week</li> </ul>
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 5 &amp; 6 Netball Fixtures – away games</li> </ul>

Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 3 Museum Trip</li> </ul>
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friendship Friday – children may wear their own clothing and donate £1 to Kidscape Anti-Bullying Charity.</li> <li>St Cecilia House Mass</li> </ul>
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Cecilia Feast Day</li> </ul>
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 3 Enrolment Mass</li> </ul>
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visiting Pantomime – ‘The Reluctant Dragon’ TBC</li> </ul>
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-School ISEB Examination Day for Year 6</li> </ul>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-School ISEB Examination Day for Year 6</li> </ul>
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 4 Mass</li> <li>House Photography Competition deadline</li> </ul>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Netball Fixture – away game</li> </ul>
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursery and Reception Christmas Nativity (to parents TBC)</li> </ul>
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 1 and 2 Christmas Play (to parents TBC)</li> </ul>
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KS2 Carol Service (to parents TBC)</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SCHOOL ENDS AT 12 NOON FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (exact timings to be confirmed nearer the time)</b></li> </ul>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Mock Exams – TBC</li> </ul>
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Mock Exams – TBC</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>STAFF INSET</b></li> </ul>
<b>WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>CHILDREN RETURN</b></li> </ul>