



Saint Christina's School Bulletin

Friday 7th May 2021

Dear Parents,

The week has been busy and it is nice to see the number of things that we are increasingly able to do as the situation around the pandemic progresses. It has been fantastic, for example, to see the children heading out to Primrose Hill for their Games lessons. It has been superb to see the House Cross Country reappearing in the schedule – albeit run internally – and for important School events to be back on the agenda and it has been a pleasure to speak with the Parent Link Committee about things that we might be able to do between now and July. Thank you to all of you for your support and optimism!

The information that I have around the pandemic is that hospitalisations and mortality are very low and that therefore there is an expectation that May 17th will see the further lifting of lockdown measures as planned. However, we are being informed that the R rate remains somewhere between 0.8 and 1.1, so we are still taking a cautious but optimistic approach. Please do not let down your guard around social distancing, mask wearing and hand washing but do look forward to May 17th when it will be possible for your children to meet again indoors.

I am pleased to say that we have the pavement at the front of the School back. There is work to be done around the base of the trees, and the island that will restrict traffic to a single lane outside the Convent is still to be completed. Once this is all done, the road will be re-surfaced and painted but we have been assured that this will be happening during Half Term.

You will receive a letter about an opportunity to book your child in for a hearing screening in school. This will come separately and is a service offered to Reception to Year 6. Do please have a look at this letter and if you would like your child to be screened, book through the links included within it.

The School Council had a socially distanced meeting in the Arts Hall today, as usual the children were full of interesting and exciting ideas of how they can be involved in the life of the school. They particularly focussed on the school's recent eco initiatives, and are challenging each class to create the most eco bricks - with the winning class being able to decide on our next eco brick build! Year 4 were keen on supporting homelessness charities, and growing our own vegetables in school. The idea of having more plants in classrooms was also mentioned, and the council were unanimous in adding to the wildlife in school – maybe even a school pet! The children are also looking forward to the Great Big School Clean, sharing some ideas of where we could pick up litter to look after our local area.

Please don't forget that next week is our Parent-Teacher Consultation Week. It is also a very special week for those members of Year 4 who will be taking their First Holy Communion on Friday.

I hope that you have a really good weekend and look forward to seeing you all again on Monday.

Sincerely

Alastair Gloag
Headteacher

Book Fair

We will be holding our annual book fair in the last week of this half term (week commencing 24th May). It will run in a slightly different way this year due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Unfortunately, parents and carers will be unable to visit.



The children will be allocated a time to browse the books at the Book Fair and will write down the books that they are interested in. The children will bring this form home (please see example below) so you can make the decision as to whether you would like to purchase these books.

If you decide that you would like to buy them, please return this form to Mrs Ellisdon by **9.00am on Thursday 27th May** with a cheque made payable to Travelling Book Fair (**cash is not accepted this year**).

The books will be allocated to the children on payment. If a book is out of stock it will be ordered and your child will receive the book after the half term break.

Name	Year	Book Title	Cost	Return to Mrs Ellisdon

Mrs Ellisdon – Head of KS2 and English

PE Update

Nursery have made some excellent progress over the last couple of weeks and should be proud of the improvements they have made.

We have continued to work on basic ball skills and have this week developed the children's dribbling skills being able to complete small kicks while keeping the ball close to them. As well as this, the Nursery children have started to kick the ball with more power when taking their end of lesson penalties. A special well done to Angelos for his powerful shooting at the goal!



Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have continued to focus on their hand eye co-ordination. They have had a specific focus on aiming at targets by either rolling or throwing balls/bean bags. They have applied themselves really well and have continued to make pleasing progress. As well as this, they have been introduced to some of the throwing Sports Day events, which they will continue to work on over the coming weeks. Special mentions must go to Maia, Arlo, Yuta and Edda for their fantastic efforts.

The KS2 groups have continued to develop their batting skills in cricket and are starting to become more confident and consistent in striking a ball off a tee, and also a ball fed to them underarm. They have completed several practices before applying the batting skills into conditioned games. 'Crounder' a mix of cricket and rounders has been hugely popular and the year groups seem to have really enjoyed their lessons. Particular mentions must go to Rio, Nafeesa, Lily and Mia for their excellent improvements this week.



The pupils attending Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 Rounders Club have continued to demonstrate excellent enthusiasm and efforts during the sessions. They have been a real pleasure to teach this week.

This week we have tried to teach the pupils a little more about the game by playing a few modified games with a focus on improving their striking of the ball. Most of the girls are now starting to feel a little more confident about the rules and are performing with more consistency.

Mr Raveney – Director of Sport

Science Lessons - Year 2 Bridges

As part of their topic on 'Materials', Year 2 have been creating and learning about bridge structures. The children reviewed some classic bridges and planned how they would create their own out of recycled paper - Year 6 might recognise the heart diagrams in the bridge below!

The children then tested the bridges using cars of increasing weight. They impressed each other and me with their authentic designs and strong bridges. Well done Year 2!



Mr Hirst – Deputy Head / Science



Looking at Medieval English in Year 6

This week, Year 6 were looking at how English has changed over time. They looked at various passages of English written over the course of time. Today they looked at recipes written in Medieval English and had fun deciphering the recipes. They noticed how some words have changed, and others are still the same!

Here is one of the recipes that they deciphered:

Crispels: Take and make a foile of gode paste as thynne as paper; kerue it out wyte a saucer & frye it in oile; over in grece; and the remnaunt, take hony clarified and flame perwith. Alye hem vp and serue hem forth.

This is what Catalina made of the recipe: Take and make a foil of good paste as thin as paper; cut it out with a saucer and fry it in oil; cover in grease; and the remaining, take clarified honey and cook. Line them up and serve them...

She did a very good job of this, considering she had not studied medieval English up until now!

Fr Rudolf – Year 6 Class Teacher

Conservation in the Nursery Class

This week, Nursery have been learning all about conservation. The children were fascinated last week when learning how dinosaurs became extinct which naturally led us to learn about endangered animals. A HUGE cage appeared in Nursery over the weekend filled with captured elephants and rhinos and the children learnt how poachers capture these animals to take their horns and tusks to sell illegally.

We then went into the playground on an animal hunt to help us understand that as hard as we found it to find the animals, this is the same when trying to find them in the wild. We were outraged! We discussed how wrong it was and decided that we needed to help, so we set about making posters and painting a big banner saying, 'Save our animals!' which we decorated with our favourite endangered species.

We also made some rhino imprints in salt dough to help us remember in the future that we need to help save our endangered animals.

Miss Randle – Nursery Class Teacher

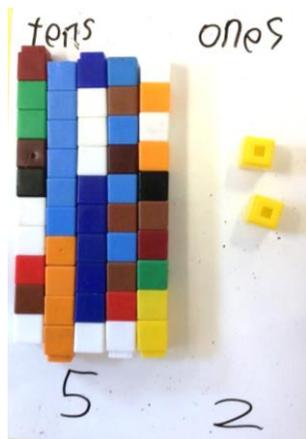


Learning in Year 1

Year 1 have been very busy this week. In Maths, we have been learning about place value. We have been counting how many tens and units are in a variety of numbers.

In RE, we are continuing to learn about the miracles Jesus performed and thought of questions to ask his disciples in an interview.

Miss Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher



Coronavirus testing requirements – difference between PCR and Lateral Flow tests

Regular asymptomatic testing in adults (and secondary aged children)

You will be aware that rapid lateral flow tests are now widely available. These tests are to help pick up asymptomatic carriers of the virus. We run a system where school staff test themselves twice weekly to reduce the chance of someone bringing the virus into school. It is recommended that all adults partake in a similar testing regime at home, particularly where they have children attending education settings and we strongly encourage all parents to do so. Please be aware that asymptomatic testing is recommended for adults and secondary aged children, but NHS advice is that it is not necessary for primary aged children.

If the outcome of a lateral flow test is positive, a confirmatory PCR test is required and the person and their household bubble must isolate pending the result of the PCR test. A positive test would confirm the result and require the remaining ten days of isolation to be adhered to. If the PCR test is negative, this overrules the lateral flow test. For more details on ordering and about asymptomatic tests please see here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

Symptomatic cases

You **must get a PCR test** (and isolate your household bubble) pending the results if you or your child have any of these 3 coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- you've lost your sense of smell or taste or it's changed

You must also take a PCR test if you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive or have been asked to by NHS Test and Trace or another valid reason detailed in the link following.

For more details on ordering PCR tests and when you should take one please see here:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

To be clear, if a person is showing any coronavirus symptom, a lateral flow test is not a sufficient or appropriate test in accordance with the guidance, a PCR test must be taken.

Key Dates

Date	Event
W/C Monday 10 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Parent/Teacher Meetings for Nursery to Year 6
Tuesday 11 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class Photographs - AM
Friday 14 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Holy Communion for Year 4
Tuesday 18 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Raphaela Maria's Feast Day (our Founder) Optional Vision Screening for Reception to Year 2 Y4 Cross Country House Competition during PE Lesson
Wednesday 19 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House Quiz – 9.30am Y3 & Y6 Cross Country House Competition during PE Lesson
Thursday 20 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Open Morning Book Fair arriving (ending 26th May) Y5 Cross Country House Competition during PE Lesson
Friday 21 st May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation
Friday 28th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional Hearing Screening for Reception to Year 2 SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR THE HALF-TERM HOLIDAY
Friday 28 th May to Sunday 13 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great British Spring Clean
Monday 7th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and Staff return Year 6 Cycle Training – all week (details to follow)
Friday 11 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Holy Communion for Year 3
W/C 14 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 & 6 Residential Trip (pending government announcements)
Friday 18 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 & 6 return
Monday 21 st June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last week for clubs KS2 Sports Day – AM TBC
Wednesday 23 rd June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABRSM Music Theory Exams (in school)
Friday 25 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EYFS/KS1 Sports Day – AM TBC
Monday 28 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO CLUBS THIS WEEK
Wednesday 30 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KS2 Summer Production provisional date (pending government announcements)
Thursday 1 st July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KS2 Summer Production provisional date (pending government announcements)

Monday 5 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Change Over• ABRSM Practical Music Exams (all day, in school)
Tuesday 6 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 Prize Giving
Wednesday 7th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 6 Leavers' Mass• SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 12 NOON FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

PLEASE NOTE THAT ABOVE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND MAY BE AMENDED DUE TO COVID GUIDELINES AND RESTRICTIONS.