



Saint Christina's

Pre-Prep and Prep School
for boys & girls aged 3-11

Bulletin

Friday 12th January 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a happy Christmas and New Year. It has been an incredibly positive beginning of 2024 in Saint Christina's, with plenty of excitement and enthusiasm from both the children and staff alike.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Bryant, our new full-time music teacher, to our school community. With her expertise and passion for music, the sound of melodies and harmonies has been filling the air. We are thrilled to have Mrs. Bryant on board, and we look forward to the wonderful musical journey that lies ahead. This morning, during assembly, we had a special treat where the children performed a surprise new song (welcome to our school), which they have been secretly working on with Mrs Bryant during the week. It certainly put a smile on all of our faces! Moments like these remind us of the power of music to bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

We have many things to look forward to this half term, including Heritage week, Diversity Day, Parent Link Movie nights and Parent Child Learning Reviews to mention just a few. In preparation for Heritage week, the children will be starting a project to learn about their cultural roots and gain a deeper understanding of their identity.

This half term, our focus in Catholic Social Teaching is on the theme of peace and solidarity. We will be exploring the importance of peace within our relationships, the wider world, and ourselves. Through various discussions and activities, we aim to instil the values of compassion, empathy, and unity. You will be able to read more about this in Mr Burke's piece below.

I hope you enjoy reading the first bulletin of 2024 and as the weekend approaches, I would like to wish everyone a pleasant and peaceful weekend.

Simon Hirst

Deputy Headteacher

Catholic Social Teaching at Saint Christina's

Catholic Social Teaching is an expression of the Catholic faith, which touches on many aspects of life. Writings by Popes and Catholic leaders show how the Catholic faith can guide our response to different issues.

There are 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we are called to uphold them.

- **Sharing God's world, protecting the poor** - How do pupils share at home and at school? What are the kinds of things that are shared? Should everyone get exactly the same? Should some people get more? Why? For example, families with more children might need more resources, or someone with a disability might need extra help.
- **Human Dignity** - 'What makes me special?' 'What makes people special?' 'How should we treat each other?'
- **Caring for Creation** - How do I show respect for Creation? The earth and all life on it are part of God's creation. We are called to respect this gift. We are responsible for taking care of the world we live in and for sharing all the wonders and resources the earth gives us.
- **The Common Good** - What is 'true community'? The common good is reached when we work together to improve the wellbeing of people in our society and the wider world.
- **Solidarity** - Who are our leaders? How do we stand with others? How did Jesus show service and justice?
- **Family, community and participation** - This means all people have the right to participate in society and to seek the common good, which means the good for all.
- **Dignity in work** - All people work in some way because work is more than making a living, it's participating. Therefore, jobs and pay should be fair for everyone.



We will be looking at each of these principals throughout the academic year. The principal we will be focussing on this half term is Solidarity and Peace.

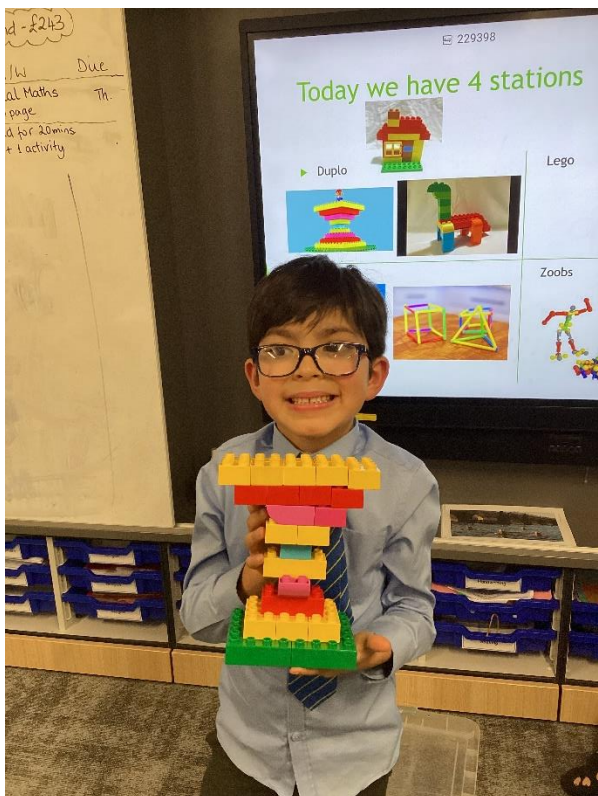
Solidarity is a word which can be overused and little understood. However, it is fundamental to the way in which we treat one another. If we truly believe that we are all sisters and brothers of one another, made in God's image and likeness as seen in the guideline of human dignity, then seeking the good of one another cannot be ignored. The quotation from St John Paul II is an ongoing challenge. Solidarity is not just feeling sorry for those who suffer. It is a commitment to action. "We are all really responsible for all" – all of us. Wherever we are. Whatever our age. Whatever our circumstances. We are all responsible for one another, those close by, and those far away. All of our actions have consequences locally and globally. From how we treat people we meet in the street, to the coffee we buy in the supermarket. It is how we live out Caritas, love in action.

Mr Burke

KS1 STEM Club

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 had a great time being engineers this week! We learnt about the different types of engineers and we know what their job involves. We then used our engineering skills to build some structures using different building materials such as Duplo, Lego, Straws and Zoobs!

Miss O'Leary



Heritage & International Week

This year we are combining our International week with Heritage week. The children will be learning all about a specific country in their classes throughout the week. In addition to this we are asking all children to have a think about the history of where they are from and create a project / presentation for their class.

We are all unique, with different family backgrounds and experiences of different cultures, so this project is all about learning their heritage and their identity and having a chance to share their findings with their friends.

Project presentations will take place on **Friday 26th January**.

Your child's class teacher will be providing more detail in their weekly updates this week.

Mrs Ellidson

Fr Terry's Food Bank

We believe, at St Christina's, that we are called to serve those around us throughout the year.

We were so touched by your generosity towards Fr Terry's Food Bank last term and we will continue to collect non-perishable food to celebrate his legacy.

All donations will be distributed to the homeless and local families in need. We would be delighted if you would support us with this initiative – even the smallest donation can make a big difference.

If you would like to donate any non-perishable goods to this cause, please ask your child to leave their donation on the designated tables underneath the stairs next to the Arts Hall. We kindly ask that all donations for this half term are brought into school by Monday 5th February.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

Mr Burke, Kao and Tilly-Rose (Year 6 Charity Prefects)

Saint Christina's Food Collection



Guitar/Ukulele Lesson

Our Guitar/Ukulele teacher Keith Taylor currently has some space to take on some new students. If your child is in KS1 or KS2 and would like to have Guitar or Ukulele lessons, please contact Keith on ktaylor@saintchristinas.org.uk

Ukulele Club

The Ukulele Club is now open to Key stage 1 and Key stage 2 children. Please contact the office if you would like your child to join or try it out. It is a good opportunity to play music with others.

It is run by Mr Keith and takes place on a Thursday morning at 8am in the music room.

Parents Link Updates & Events

Christmas Jumper donations

Christmas 2023 has been and gone, and apart from some left-over mince pies lurking in the cupboard, there's nothing left but to clean out the Christmas jumpers. What do you do if you have Christmas jumpers in good condition, that you know won't fit your kids in 12mths time, but equally you don't want them in landfill? Donate them of course, to the PL Christmas Jumper drive. Please leave your laundered jumper donations in the PL uniform donations box inside the school main entrance. We'll do the rest.

Pyjama Movie Nights are back!

Yes, the days are still short and the temperatures are still low, but we can still get a glow at our annual Pyjama Movie Nights. A detailed letter to follow early next week but in the meantime get these dates in your diaries;

*Yrs. 3-4 Friday January 26th 5.30-7.30pm

*Yrs. 5-6 Thursday February 1st 5.30-7.30pm

*Yrs1-2 Friday 2nd February from 5.30-7.30pm

EYFS are not forgotten, with a special afternoon tea and mini movie planned with Ms Randle and her team. Date to follow.

Happy 2024 from the Parents Link Committee

REMINDERS / HEALTH & SAFETY

NUT FREE SCHOOL

We have a number of pupils and staff in the school who have serious nut allergies. Please will you ensure that you do not give your child any nuts or nut products (e.g. Nutella) to bring into school.

MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

Please do not send your child into school with any medication on their person. Medication can only be administered by qualified personnel. The only medication that we can administer, therefore, is prescribed medication e.g. Antibiotics, Inhalers, EpiPen's. Children should not be sent into school with any other type of medication e.g. Cold and Flu medicines / Calpol / Lozenges etc. If your child is unwell and in need of medication, they should remain at home until they feel better.

If your child does have prescribed medication, please contact Miss Georgia, and she will ask you to fill in the relevant forms and keep the medication safely in the School Office. Thank you for your co-operation.

Late collection of children

Children who are collected late at the end of the school day or after a club will be sent to Homework Club and parents will be charged accordingly. Homework Club runs from Monday to Thursday from 3.30-5.00pm and costs £15 per session. A late fee of £50 will be charged if children are collected after 5.00pm.

Items left in the front office

Please ensure that your child has everything they need for the school day before they arrive in the morning: e.g.

snacks / PE Kit. Items are regularly being left in the office by parents and carers throughout the day and, whilst they will do everything they can to help you, this causes disruption not only to the office staff but also to the children, Class Teachers and TA's who have to come to the office to collect the items. Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Sunday Mass

Just a reminder to everyone, you are all invited to join Sunday Mass, which is held in the Chapel at 10.00am

Dates for your diary

Friday 19 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass led by Year 4
W/C Monday 22 nd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Week
Tuesday 23 rd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 4 Trip
Thursday 25 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F1 Trip
Friday 26 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL Movie Night YR3 & YR4
Monday 29 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YR5 and YR6 Netball Fixture • Diversity Day
Wednesday 31 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YR 3 Netball Fixture
Thursday 1 st February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL Movie Night YR5 & YR6
Friday 2 nd February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y6 Mass • PL Movie Night YR1 & YR2

ABOVE TIMES/DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please note: Policies can be found on the School Website – please click link below:

<https://www.saintchristinas.org.uk/our-school/policies/>