

# Bulletin Friday 15th March 2024

Dear Parents,

We have been enjoying a really great week in School. So much has been going on, and I've been delighted with how well the children have risen to the challenges.

Today, as well as being Red Nose Day, we are having our Virtual Reality Workshops, as part of Science Week, enabling the children to explore a few aspects of this tech and find out a bit more about what it can do for us. Yesterday was Pi Day, and it was a real pleasure to see how well the children have applied themselves to trying to memorise it in assembly this morning. Congratulations to all the big hitters this year – Gina, Allegra, Claudia, Kao, Giulio, Philippe and Noah all memorised Pi between 80 and 105 decimal places. In addition to this, a tag team of Year 6 girls delivered Pi to 331 with Kao reciting 131 numbers, making her the champion Pi Master for this year's competition. A special mention, however, goes to Arthur in our Reception Class who stood in front of the whole school and recited Pi to an awesome 17 decimal places. We also got the chance to listen to our quirkiest entry into the Pi Competition too! Sebastian decided he would learn Pi to 30 decimal places... and deliver it in 5 seconds! And he did! A really big thank you and massive well done to everyone who has taken part in the competition again. The discipline and creativity around the different strategies for learning something as incongruous as Pi, is eye-opening and will only add to the strength of our children as learners throughout their lives. We will be putting a few of our recitations on to Instagram, so do please have a look and maybe share them a like!

On Tuesday, we held our Spring Open Morning. I would like to thank Sr. Noella and a number of our parents for coming and supporting the event. We are very grateful to you all for the time that you have given, and for helping make the event so positive. The feedback that we have had from some of the attendees has been really encouraging, so I am very happy with everything. As a School, we do not have a big marketing operation, so we are grateful to all of you who mention us to your friends and colleagues.

Next week is the last week of clubs, which means that we are heading into the end of term already — I know! We are looking forward to the Passion Play from the Year 6 class, and we still have a number of exciting events to look forward including many sporting events.

Your road update for the week is that the work is likely to be finished next week. We have been given the 22<sup>nd</sup> March as a working date, but I know that the guys making the repairs have some doubts about another section that they have reported to their superiors at Thames Water. So, watch this space!

I hope that you are able to enjoy a happy and relaxing weekend with your family.

Alastair Gloag **Headteacher** 

# Saint Christina's Pi Day Challenge: Unveiling Mathematical Brilliance! π

In celebration of Pi Day, Saint Christina's pupils showcased their exceptional memory prowess in a thrilling challenge. From the youngest of minds to the seasoned veterans in Year 6, the enthusiasm for Pi Day and its mathematical feats was palpable.

Arthur in our Reception Class, stunned everyone by flawlessly recalling 17 digits of Pi, becoming the new Pi record holder in Reception. Luna followed at 6 digits, who was then followed by Arya and Juliet at 5. In Year 3, Amelia was named the Pi class record holder as she recited 35 decimal places.

Multiple pupils astounded with their ability to memorise approximately 100 digits each, demonstrating an impressive grasp of this irrational number.

However, it was Kao in Year 6 who managed to steal the spotlight, by recalling an outstanding 131 to the decimal. The children's dedication and determination truly exemplified the spirit of Pi Day.

Yet, amidst these impressive displays, one challenger emerged as a true expert. With unmatched speed and precision, Seb effortlessly recited 30 digits of Pi in a mere 5 seconds, showcasing not only memory prowess but also remarkable adaptability and initiative to the challenge.

Saint Christina's Pi Day Challenge was not just a test of memory but a celebration of mathematical curiosity and ingenuity. These young minds have not only memorised Pi but have also ignited a spark for the infinite wonders that arise with mathematics.

# **Science Week**

This year's theme celebrates the passing of **TIME** since British Science Week began 30 years ago, as well as looking at what the future may hold for us and our planet. Year 5 became time travelling programmers and enjoyed creating and coding their own time-travel games and animations. Years 3 and 4 explored the concept of time by researching about the life spans of different animals; for example, the Greenland shark is the world's longest living vertebrate and can live for 400 years! Other activities included: investigating the relationship between the length of a pendulum and the period of time for its swing; studying the relationship between the orbital time of planets and their distance to the sun; and timing how quickly they could do a task such as recite the alphabet backwards!

We also had a visit this week from our sustainability expert, Anna, from our caterers, Holroyd Howe. Anna taught us all about living sustainably and reminded us what materials we can recycle – more than most children thought of – for example, even light bulbs can be recycled if they are taken to larger recycling centres.

The final part of Science Week has been our virtual reality day, Early Years and Year 1 travelled to the small world of mini-beasts and got up close and personal with ladybirds, slugs, and spiders! The older years travelled inside the human body to study the digestive system, blood, and skeletal systems.

Mr Hirst – Science Teacher









# **First Reconciliation Service**

Five children in Year 3 received the sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March in the School Chapel along with Fr Tom, their parents, classmates, and children in KS2. The sacrament of Reconciliation is a very special time in our lives when we are given an opportunity to say sorry to Jesus for all the things we have done wrong.

The whole class beautifully dramatised the story of 'Zacchaeus' giving us the message that Jesus loves us no matter what we do. Soon after, hesitatingly, we approached Fr Tom and confessed all that we were sorry for. It was truly surprising how light we felt when we returned to our seats.

#### Here are some of the thoughts of the children who received the sacrament of Reconciliation:

Oliver: I was basically nervous at first but then it got better.

Isabella: I felt there was something heavy near my heart and then it vanished.

Diana: I feel light and now I believe in Jesus even more.

Ava: At first, I felt heavy but now I feel light. I feel very relieved that all my sins are gone.

Aurora: There were butterflies in my tummy because I was excited and nervous. Later I was shaking a bit as I was very happy.

#### Ms Sephton and Ms Fernandes





# Year 4 celebrate Pi Day

Year 4 really enjoyed practicing their memory skills by learning the value of Pi to as many decimal places as they could. Our highest record belongs to Philippe who made it to 100 decimal places!

It is clear that everyone put in a lot of effort, and their hard work has undoubtedly paid off. Keep up the fantastic work, Year 4! Who knows what other amazing feats you'll accomplish with such determination and perseverance.

Miss O'Leary - Year 4 Class Teacher



# **Key Stage 1 STEM Club**

This week STEM club was really out of this world! Key Stage 1 created posters to replicate the solar system. We learnt rhymes, songs and mnemonics to help us remember the order of the planets from the sun. 'My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Noodles' (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune).

#### Miss O'Leary - Year 4 Teacher







# **Sustainability Workshop**

Year 5 enjoyed seeing Anna from Holroyd Howe who came in to talk to us about sustainability, specifically food chains. She talked to us about producers and consumers in the food chain, and we looked at various different food chains. Anna then explained that the challenges facing the food chains are:

- Changing temperatures can cause the amount of a certain animal in a food web to increase or decrease.
- The distribution of species in a food web could change with rising temperatures.
- Loss of habitats can remove key animals from a food web either from humans or climate change.



# **PSHE in Year Six**

On Monday morning, Alex Perry came to speak to us about the safe usage of London Transport and its services. He kept an upbeat tone throughout and interspersed films with stories and question and answer sessions. This kept all of Year Six on their toes and thinking carefully about the best way to use tubes and buses (and by default, trams and other modes of transport). They learnt a lot from the talk, and here are some of their main findings and views:

- > I learnt that it was important to step back by your body and one step back when waiting for a bus and tube
- We should never go across the gap in the train because there is a risk of falling!
- If it is late at night on the tube, always go into the middle carriage as there are more people there
- > I learnt more about 'safer stranger' as it is someone who has a particular uniform on
- Now I feel safer about where to stand when travelling
- > The talk was relevant because it was about safety and how to treat other people on the trains

There were a few utterly astonished faces when they realised that the value of a Zip card was well in advance of £3000, since that represented the amount of money that could be saved by using their Zip cards while at secondary school!

## **Mathematics at Saint Christina's**

Mathematics has had a great boost this week at Saint Christina's – not only did we experience Pi day, but we also had some very informative talks from Anna, a lady who works for Holroyd Howe...

#### Pi Day

Many of you, as parents, might want to encourage children's interests in Pi further. There are many activities that you could do with this aim in mind, but here are a few that do not require rocket science!

- 1. Gather a collection of bottles, cans and other objects that have circular cross sections or based. Use a tape measure to find out the circumference of such objects, and then divide the circumference by how far it measures across the base of the object. You may get a range of different answers here, although they will all approximate or come close to Pi...so that children can see that you do not just memorise digits of Pi, but find it occurring in real life!
- 2. Use a tape measure to see how far it is around your child's head. It is vital to do this activity in inches, however! Then divide by PI and hey presto! You will have your child's hat size...
- 3. Look into Ancient Egyptian history even the ancient Egyptians tried to find out the size of Pi although they did not have the wherewithal to calculate Pi to as many places as we have done, they still came up with some interesting values and approximations.
- 4. For trivia about Pi, presented in an interesting or child-friendly way, try accessing the following video from Mash Up Math on YouTube:

#### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kd6wX6cWWM&t=95s

So even though you will be reading this article after Pi Day has come and gone, it will still provide you with some interesting or worthwhile activities!

#### Sustainability and Mathematics

On Thursday morning, we were fortunate to have a talk on sustainability from Anna, a lady who works for Holroyd Howe. Year Six learnt much information on sustainability and how it can be encouraged. The realised

that it was not good to grow crops in the same place over and over again, and also about the different sustainable certificates for sustainability and what they stood for.

We were able to see some of the links that sustainability had with the Geography that we had learnt in class, and this made the talk that much more relevant to our everyday lives – the care for our environment and earth that we had been reminded about in our lessons on Catholic Social Teaching also featured in sustainability, much to the surprise of some of the community.

How is Mathematics linked to sustainability and what can we do to reinforce some of the messages?

- 1. Go around supermarkets and see how many different sustainability stickers you can see. Count them. See which ones are more frequently displayed. Encourage your children to find out more about the different stickers.
- Find out why foods with FairTrade stickers often cost more, and by how much: in this way, your child is realising
  that justice and fairness of pay for people comes with a price... Calculating percentage increases incurred by
  buying FairTrade products will help children to realise the need, hopefully, for us to buy justly sourced
  products.
- 3. Listen in Assembly or look at the school noticeboards when the subject of food waste comes up. Make their own estimates of how much food is wasted on a weekly or monthly or yearly basis. What can children do about this?
- 4. What happens in supermarkets with food that goes beyond its sell by date? What proportion of food is affected by this? How should we act as a result?

These are just a few ideas that you could consider using with your children to reinforce what sustainability is all about.

Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

# **PE Update**

We have had another busy week of sports, with Year 6 involved in both football and netball fixtures this week. On Monday, the Year 6 netball teams played their final matches of the year with two great performances against St. Marys. The A team were sadly beaten by a strong opposition; they showed a great improvement in the second half and did not let their heads drop despite a heavy defeat. The Year 6 B team put in an excellent team performance narrowly winning 2-1. The team defended really well, with Sofia being awarded Star Player for her great defending throughout the game.



On Thursday, the Year 6 football team took part in a football tournament hosted by Devonshire House along with 11 other schools. It was an enjoyable afternoon, with some excellent football being played. The team had some good victories and some extremely close matches. Alice B was awarded star player for some brilliant performances throughout the afternoon. Sarah played really well in goal throughout the afternoon, and Alice M and Allegra scored some great goals.



Year 6 began their Inter House cross-country preparations this week during their PE lesson with some very good performances. Year 3, 4 and 5 will start their cross country during their lessons next week. Some children from Year 5 and 6 will also be involved in a cross-country competition hosted by Devonshire House.

	Cross Country Session 1	Cross Country session 2
Year 3	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 4	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 5	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 6	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	-

Next week, Year 3 and 4 have their Inter House football competition on Wednesday, which they are very much looking forward to.

The Year 4 class has been fantastic during their 2-week intensive swimming sessions, which has resulted in them making some excellent progress. It has been lovely to see the children improving their all-round swimming, and on Thursday, the children enjoyed some lifesaving and water safety skills. The final session on Friday involved a mini swimming gala with lots of games and races, which were greatly enjoyed by the children. Year 3 will start their intensive swimming course at the start of the summer term.

#### **Upcoming Fixtures**

Date	Opposition	Year Group	Time
Wednesday 20th March	Sarum Hall	Yr 5A and 4A Netball	15.45-17.00
Thursday 21st March	Devonshire House	Year 5/6 Girls Cross Country	13.00-15.30

# **LiveSimply Award**

I am pleased to share with you that our school will be working towards becoming a LiveSimply school and achieving the LiveSimply Award.

The LiveSimply Award, coordinated by CAFOD, the Catholic agency for overseas development, is presented to schools who demonstrate they are **living simply**, **living sustainably**, and **living in solidarity** with the world's poorest communities.

During our LiveSimply journey, we will be taking faith inspired actions that support our school & local communities and our global sisters and brothers too.



We look forward to telling you more about our actions and inviting you to also take part with us. We really appreciate your support.

If you would like to know more about LiveSimply for schools, please visit <a href="mailto:cafod.org.uk/LiveSimplySchools">cafod.org.uk/LiveSimplySchools</a>

Mr Burke

# 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 half 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 Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

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



# **Trip to Fr Terry's Food Bank**

On Thursday, we visited Fr Terry's Food Bank on Quex Road, Kilburn, where we dropped off the generous donations collected from our recent drive. Together, we sorted and organised the donations to help those in need.

We had the opportunity to speak with Fr Tom and learn more about the essential work of the food bank. Thank you to everyone who donated this half term!

We're excited to return in the summer term to continue our support. Your contributions make a real difference in our community.



### **Caritas Ambassadors and Charity Prefects**

## **Comic Relief**

We were thrilled to see out in their own clothes, spreading smiles and laughter today for Comic Relief Day. It's heart-warming to witness such enthusiasm for helping others.

Thanks to your support, we've already raised an impressive amount of £265 so far, and collected numerous contributions for Fr Terry's Food Bank.

Don't worry if you haven't had the chance to contribute yet—there's still time! Donations can be made here: <a href="https://superkind.org/campaign/comic-relief">https://superkind.org/campaign/comic-relief</a>

A big thank you to everyone for your kindness and generosity. Together, we're making a real difference in our community and beyond.





### **KS2 Music Assemblies**

KS2 Music Assemblies will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 9.05am in the Hall. If your child is performing a solo or with a group they will have been told by their teacher, and you will also receive a message by email.

Wednesday 20th: Piano, cello and flute solos, KS2 choir

Thursday 21st: Guitar, ukulele, singing and violin solos, guitar group, ukulele group, string group, orchestra

Parents are warmly invited to attend either or both assemblies which should last no longer than 45 minutes.

**Mrs Bryant - Director of Music** 

# Choir - join now!!

KS2 Choir has been relaunched and both old and new members from years 3-6 are very welcome. We will be working towards performances at the open morning and the Easter play so please come along straight after half term on Mondays, 3.45-4.30pm in the Hall.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

**Mrs Bryant - Director of Music** 

# **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 Update**

#### Quiz Night May 23rd

Calling all parents & staff...are you a master of general knowledge? Would you like to stop nodding at familiar faces at the gate, get to know more parents in your class? Perhaps you've been dying to meet your child's teacher for next year? Then get ready for Quiz Night!

Always a super fun evening, with a healthy dose of competition thrown in. The Parents' Link Committee are delighted to be hosting this annual event again on Thursday, May 23rd. Tickets go on sale in April, but in the meantime book the sitter & get the date in your diary...the staff are already in training!

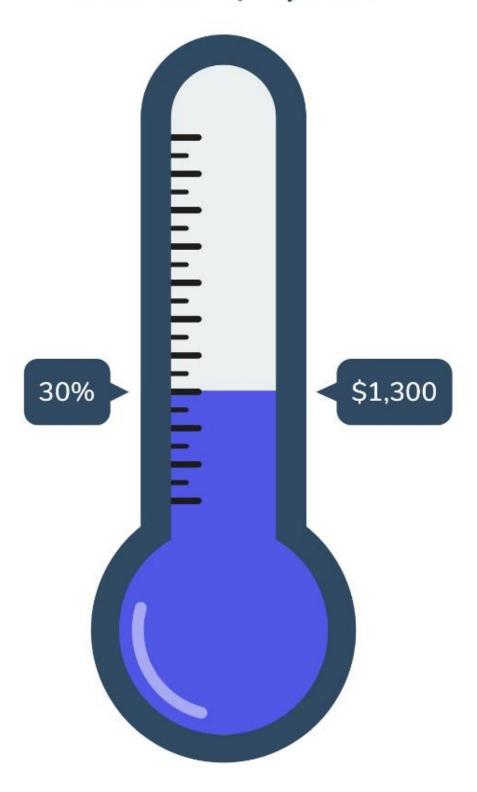
#### **Nearly New Uniform Sale**

The PLC will be holding a Nearly New Uniform sale next Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, ahead of the changeover to summer uniform in the new term. This will be a cash free event, in the Arts Hall. Please note the changed time, the sale will be held 3.00pm-4.15pm to allow for those who wish to shop before collection.

#### **Fundraising**

Many of you will be aware that the PLC are fundraising for a very special project in honour of Fr Terry. The current keyboard in the Chapel is coming to the end of its usefulness & it's been agreed a fitting tribute to Fr Terry, his service, & endless enthusiasm for the children's singing is to not just replace it, but upgrade it & have a plaque placed in his memory. Ms Bryant has kindly looked into suitable digital pianos & our target is below. We have had a great start in funds raised from the PJ movies nights/EYFS Mini Movie afternoon, & many have expressed a wish to donate privately also. Thank you all! More detail about how to donate will be published in next week's bulletin, but in the meantime thank you again to this wonderful community.

# **GOAL: \$4,289**







# EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 March 2024

St John's Wood Church Gardens - 10 am to 4 pm

£5 TICKET PRICE

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# **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 any 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

If a parent enrols one child into a club and needs to put another in Homework club, they will be charged a fee of £15 for the second child. Additionally, 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 TAs 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

#### Safety around drop-off

A polite reminder – if you are dropping your child off for breakfast club or a morning music lesson, **your child must be supervised until the doors open at 8am and under no circumstances left unattended**.

# **Dates for your diary**

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Last week of clubs
	EYFS Parent teacher meetings (whole week)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 & 4 Inter house football
	Year 5A & 4A Netball Fixture
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 6 Summer Production auditions
	Year 5 & 6 Cross Country
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 1 Mass
	PL Uniform Sale (Arts Hall)
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Play

Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul> <li>SCHOOL CLOSES AT MIDDAY FOR EASTER:</li> <li>12.00 – EYFS</li> <li>12.10 – Y1, Y2 &amp; Y3</li> <li>12.15 – Y4, Y5 &amp; Y6</li> </ul>
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Nursery Stay and Play
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	• Mass – 2:45pm
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	<ul> <li>Year 3 Swimming – CHILDREN TO BE DROPPED OF EARLY TO LEAVE BY 8:30</li> <li>Parent Teacher meetings Year 1 – Year 6 (Whole week)</li> </ul>
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	• Year 6 Mass – 2:45pm
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	• Year 5 Mass – 2:45pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 and Year 6 Parent Residential Meet

# **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/