



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 19th January 2024

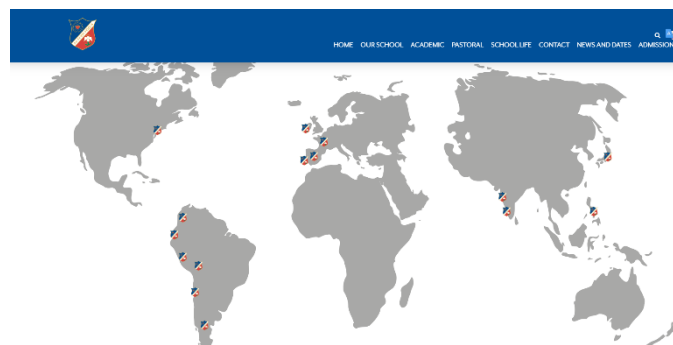
Dear Parents,

We've just wrapped up a chilly yet undeniably positive week, and it's heartening to see the children settling seamlessly into the rhythm of the new term. As we look ahead, the excitement is building for International and Heritage Week, a much-anticipated event on our school calendar.

During Heritage Week, our students will embark on a journey to explore and celebrate their individual heritage. This includes not only delving into their own cultural backgrounds but also sharing their heritage projects with one another. The exchange of these projects not only fosters a sense of community but also encourages a deeper understanding of each child's identity. Additionally, we will be having a diverse array of lessons to broaden their global perspectives, with each class immersing themselves in the exploration of a new country.

Another focus this year will be to explore and learn about some of the different Handmaid schools worldwide, fostering connections and global awareness. To discover where our sister schools are located globally, you can explore our interactive world map on the school website:

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



As we embrace International and Heritage Week, we are thrilled to announce another exciting event on the horizon - Diversity Day on Monday, January 29th. This day is dedicated to appreciating and embracing the rich tapestry of backgrounds and experiences within our school community. Key Stage 2 will actively engage in a Local to Global Project, providing a platform to explore diversity on local, national, and global scales.

I invite you to delve into this week's bulletin, where you'll find more detailed insights into the plans for Heritage Week and a look back at the events of this week.

Warm regards,

Simon Hirst

Deputy Headteacher

Heritage and International Week Own Clothes Day – Friday 26th January 2024

We are excited to announce that next week, we will be celebrating Heritage Week here at Saint Christina's. This initiative aims to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the diverse cultural backgrounds within our school community.

As mentioned by Mrs Ellisdon last week, we invite children to participate by creating a presentation based on their heritage. This is an excellent opportunity for them to share their unique cultural traditions, family stories, and any artefacts that hold significance to their heritage.

Throughout the week, each class will be focusing on learning about a different country, allowing students to broaden their global awareness. We believe that this immersive experience will contribute to the development of cultural competence and an appreciation for diversity.

The culmination of Heritage Week will be on Friday, when Year 2 will lead an International Mass. To make this day even more special, we encourage children to wear their own clothes, representing the vibrant colours of their heritage. We kindly request an optional donation to support the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Premadhar Creche and Nursery, one of our sister schools in Mumbai.

If you would like to contribute, we invite your child to bring in a £1 coin on Friday. Alternatively, an online link will be sent to parents next week. Your generosity will directly support children from families who have migrated to Mumbai in search of work and are from the lower socio-economic strata of society. The funds raised will go towards providing them with wholesome meals, contributing to their overall well-being.

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Your support in making Heritage Week a meaningful and impactful experience for our students is greatly appreciated. We look forward to celebrating the rich tapestry of our school community's heritage together.

Thank you so much for your support.

Mr Burke



Friday Mass



The Year 5 children led a wonderful Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. As we start to consider the period of Jesus' earthly mission, this Mass marked the end of the Christmas season. To mark that very important occasion, the children reminded us that Jesus descended into the river and we hear the Father speak from the heavens and the Holy Spirit descend upon him. The priest used to go to bless the houses of the people in the New Year, symbolising that we too begin again to live our Christian Commitments. Therefore, Father Chris blessed all of us present in the Church with holy water.

The children read their parts well and sang beautifully. A special thank you to Mrs Bryant who helped the children prepare for the responsorial psalm 'Fill my House' and even challenged them to sing it as a round. It was absolutely stunning!

Mrs Ellisdon - Year 5 Class Teacher

Year 1

Year 1 has been learning about everyday materials and their properties. This week, Year 1 carried out an investigation to find out which material would be best to make an umbrella for Ted. We made predictions using our knowledge of properties of the materials over the past few weeks. We then tested a variety of materials to see which were waterproof before coming to a conclusion.



Miss Higgins – Year 1 Teacher

Year Six and Creative Thinking and Writing

For the first part of the term we have looked particularly closely at creative writing and applying our knowledge of this to writing cinquains.

Two of the more imaginative cinquains were written by Lara:

The waters:

Perfect

It's beautiful

Crystal blue waters shine

Pond or a river – they shine

Perfect

Sunset:

Sunset

Pink and orange

Fluffy clouds in the sky

As if the heavens are blooming

Sunset

We also had a discussion on what it meant to have or be a best friend.

We considered how many best friends it was possible to have.

Sarah wrote a brief reflection on this, and reckoned that you could have as many best friends as you wanted, but you should be careful – if you made too many best friends, it could cause a fight!

What do you think? Is it worth discussing issues related to friendship with your children?

Mathematics in Year Six

We have spent the first two weeks of term with our principal focus on geometry. We started by calculating missing angles in a variety of figures, enabling us to practise working with vertically opposite angles, supplementary angles, and angle totals of different shapes. We went on to construct a variety of different 2D shapes, such as different types of triangles as well as polygons. Although this is outside of the syllabus, it was very pleasing to see several members of Year Six construct dodecagons, octagons, and so on.

We leave you with a challenge that provoked much discussion:

Can you have a quadrilateral that has three obtuse angles? Prove it!

Fr Rudolf Loewenstein - Year 6 Teacher

Collective Worship

Every Tuesday KS2 meet for Collective Worship. Over the Autumn term some of the children enjoyed leading the worship so this term we have scheduled for each class to take it in turns to take the lead. Year 6 started last week and lead us to think about the Baptism of Jesus. This week Year 3 took the lead.

Look, there is the Lamb of God.

John 1: 35

The key messages which Year 3 shared were:

- 'Lamb of God' is a title for Jesus that tells us about His sacrifice for us.
- Jesus' sacrifice enables us to get closer to God.
- Spending time with Jesus, helps us to get to know Him.

They chose the hymn 'Here I am to Worship' which the whole Key Stage sang. It was a lovely worship – thank you Year 3. Next week we look forward to Year 5 leading the Collective Worship.



Mrs Ellidson Head of KS2

PE Update

The children have made a fantastic start to the term despite the cold weather. During this half-term, the children will experience a variety of sports, including gymnastics, football, and netball. The EYFS and Key Stage 1 classes will be spending time working through units of work focused on gymnastics and some coordination skills. In these sessions, the children will be working on the theme of balance and will be exploring different ways to move, including jumps, rolls, turns, and twists. The children have spent time working on different types of jumping and have applied these ideas onto low pieces of apparatus.



The Key Stage 2 classes will spend time on gymnastics whilst also continuing to develop their football and netball skills which we have worked on previously. The Year 5 and 6 classes have been working on their vaulting in gymnastics and in Year 5 and 6 we have been working on passing and moving in football and netball. We have several fixtures coming up over the next few weeks and the Year 6 girls have their first football tournament of the Year at the end of this half term.



The sporting clubs have once again proved popular and it has been lovely to see so many children signing up to join the clubs. At the end of last term, we welcomed David from Little Musketeers in to talk to us about fencing. Fencing club runs on Wednesday before school for Year 1 and 2 and after school for Key Stage 2. David spoke to us about the skills involved in fencing and taught everyone the En Guard position. He then demonstrated some of the games and activities they do in the club. There are still a few spaces available for the fencing clubs so if you are interested then please do refer to the club letter, which provides details of how to sign up.



Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Against	Team/Yr	Venue	Time
Monday 22nd January	St Mary's	Yr 5A and 4A Netball	Away	16.00-17.00
Tuesday 23rd January	SHSS	Year 5A and 4A Netball	Away	16.00-16.30
Monday 29th January	St Anthony's	Year 5 and 6 Netball	Home	15.45-16.45
Wednesday 31st January	Sarum Hall	Year 3 Netball	Away	11.00-12.00
Monday 5th February	Trevor Roberts	Yr 4/5 Football Boys	Home	16.00-17.00
Wednesday 7th February	Cavendish	Year 6 Football tournament	Away	11.30-14.00

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport

A Visit from Caritas

On Wednesday January 17th we had the privilege of hosting a special assembly featuring Sr Silvana from Caritas. We gathered together to learn more about the incredible work of Caritas and delve into the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

Sr Silvana, with her warmth and wisdom, passionately explained the mission of Caritas and the impactful initiatives they undertake to make a positive difference in the world.

Sr Silvana brought along her friend, Nigel the penguin, who became an instant sensation and a delightful reminder of the importance of unity and care for our global community.

Sr Silvana recognised the dedication of our Ambassadors by awarding badges to all. These ambassadors are now equipped to lead their peers in embodying the values of Caritas and spreading awareness about the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The assembly served as a reminder of the impact that each one of us can make in creating a more compassionate and just world. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Sr Silvana for her enlightening visit and look forward to embracing the values of Caritas in our school community.



Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors

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)

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 Party Movie Nights/EYFS Tea Party and Mini Movie

The movies are chosen, the popcorn is packed and tickets are now on sale for the 2024 Pyjama Party Movie Nights and EYFS's Tea Party and mini movie screening. Priced at £10 per child and available at www.pta-events.co.uk/saint-christinas tickets will be on sale until Thursday 25th January, so don't miss out. In honour of Fr Terry, the proceeds

Saint Christina's Food Collection



from this year's Movie Nights, will be used to purchase a much-needed new keyboard for the Chapel. As the films are chosen specific for each class groups age range, these events are open to current students of St Christina's only, and children will need to attend in their class groups. Each class group will require 3 parent chaperones for the event, so if you are interested in volunteering please see your Class Rep.

Bingo Night is Back

Mark your diaries cause Bingo Night is back! March 15th will see the second annual Bingo Night for parents and staff. Hosted in the school hall, there will be food and drink, and fun for all. This year's theme is Disco so expect lots of glitter. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

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

W/C Monday 22 nd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heritage Week
Tuesday 23 rd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• YR 4 Rainforest Trip
Thursday 25 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y6 F1 Trip

Friday 26 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL Movie Night YR3 & YR4 • YR2 International Mass - 2.45pm
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"> • YR 6 Mass – 2.45pm • PL Movie Night YR 1 & YR 2
Monday 5 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama 4 All Workshops EYFS & KS1 • YR 4 & YR 5 Football

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/>