



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 1st March 2024

Dear Parents,

We have enjoyed a full and busy week within School. Monday felt very February, but as we have traipsed our way through the week, we now find ourselves in March. Time really is flying.

Today, members of Year 6 who have applied for maintained secondary settings will receive details of their placements, so please spare a thought for them at this time. We are almost there in terms of offers being made through the process and accepted, but families have until next week to confirm their choices. We are quietly very excited about how the class has performed and will look forward to sharing more results towards the end of this month.

You may have noticed that there has been some work on the road at the front of the School. Some of that work was expected: Thames Water knew that there was a leak to repair. However, in repairing the main leak, older pipework further down the line gave way and created a mini tsunami on Wednesday and Thursday, forcing the team to expand their work. In completing these works, the site team have also identified a leak further up the hill towards the junction with Titchfield Road. They mentioned that they have not been tasked to do this job, so it may be that further works are required once the current repairs are completed.

I hope that you enjoy looking through the bulletin this week. It's full of all sorts of things that will inspire and encourage you, so do please have a browse with a cup of tea in a quiet moment.

I hope that you are able to enjoy a relaxing weekend.

Alastair Gloag

Headteacher

KS2 Collective Worship

Last week children in Year 5 led the Key Stage 2 Collective Worship. This was the first of our Lenten assembly series focussing on God's Perfect Promises, where we explored the symbol of the rainbow given to Noah as a sign of hope. Lent is a time to remember that Jesus is the fulfilment of all our hopes!

God spoke to Noah and his sons, "See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you."

Genesis 9:8-9

The Year 5 children explained that Lent is a period of six weeks where we prepare for Jesus' death on the cross on Good Friday (followed by Eastertide, which celebrates His Resurrection!) Lent is 40 days long (excluding Sundays). Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (last week) and ends on Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday. The last week of Lent is called 'Holy Week'.

Ash Wednesday is on 14th February 2024 (Lent begins)

Lent lasts 40 days

Palm Sunday is on 24th March 2024.

Lent ends on 28th March 2024 (Holy Thursday)

Good Friday is on 29th March 2024

Easter Sunday is on 31st March 2024

The key messages which Year 5 shared with the other children were:

- God's promises (covenant) show His unchanging love and commitment to us.
- God gives us hope through His promises and through sending His son Jesus.
- Jesus is the fulfilment of all our hopes and we can bring that hope to others as we GIVE, ACT and PRAY this Lent.

We sang 'Who put the colours in the rainbow'

It was a lovely Collective Worship and the children were encouraged to continue to think about How they can share God's hope with others this Lent when you GIVE, ACT and PRAY.

Mrs Ellisdon - Head of KS2



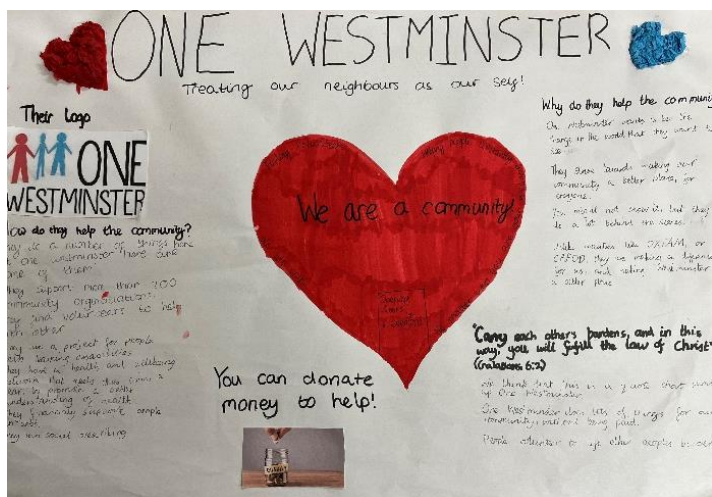
Catholic Social Teaching



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 responses to different issues. As noted in last week's bulletin, the principle we will be focussing on during this half term is **Community and Participation**.

In response to this theme, Year 6 have created wonderful posters reflecting on what community means to them.

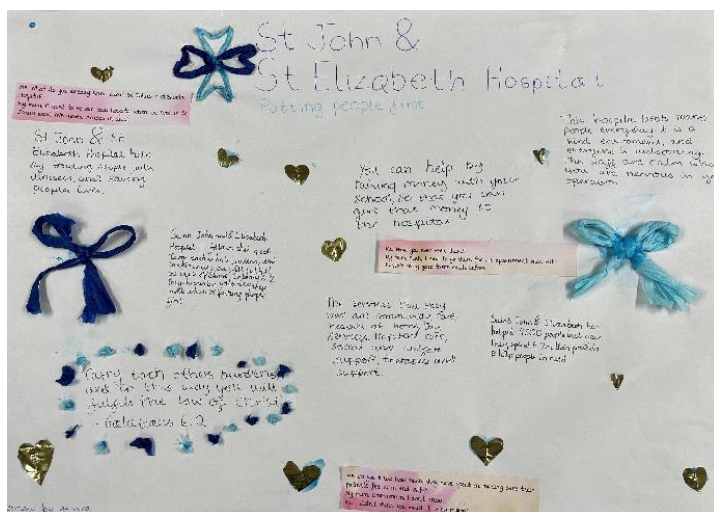
They conducted research about various causes in the community, including Fr Terry's Food Bank, One Westminster and St John and St Elizabeth Hospital and Hospice.



They were able to link the activities undertaken by these charities not only to what Jesus teaches us but also to what they have learnt this term from Catholic Social Teaching.

Well done to all of Year 6 for their fantastic responses to our Catholic Social Teaching theme for this half term.

Fr Rudolf and Mr Burke



Reception:

It's been out of this world exploring space with Reception these past couple of weeks! Last week, we learned about rockets and life in space. We learned that astronauts often eat dehydrated food out of a bag! We had a go at making our own astronaut food using powdered pudding mix, water, resealable bags, straws, and a funnel. This was a hit.

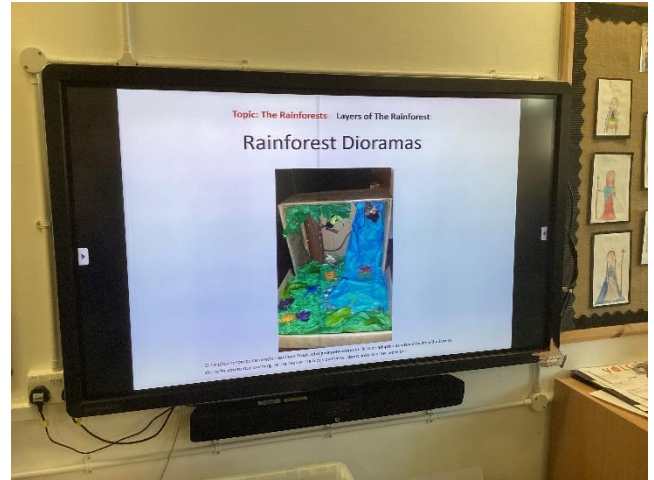
Children also had a go at making their own rockets using super-light clay. I was so impressed with their attention to detail when moulding the different components. They also enjoyed painting planets with puffy paint. We continued our investigations this week, with a closer lens on the different planets in our solar system. We started making our own papier Mache planets. This has been a good opportunity to reflect on the appearance and size of each planet. The Children have thought up of some interesting queries that we've been exploring as a class, like 'Why don't people live on Mars?'. Space has also made its way into our writing as we've been going on planet word hunts, 'Write the Room' around the classroom and retelling the story, 'Talk 4 Write', 'How to Catch a Star.' We're looking forward to continuing our space quest next week and seeing how we can dig even deeper!



Ms Nunes – Reception Teacher

Year 4 - Design and Technology:

This week Year 4 started creating their exciting Rainforest dioramas! Last week the children planned and researched animals and plants of the rainforest. This week they completed their first step which was to paint their shoeboxes green to represent the lush green vegetation which the rainforest is so well known for! This project ties in well with what the children are learning in other curricular areas such as English, Geography, Science and even Music!



Ms O'Leary – Year 4 Teacher

Algebra – the Beginnings

For those of you with long memories, you may well recall something from algebra lessons when you were at school. And then there are all those topics that you studied, not all of which may have seemed relevant to you at the time...

How do you prepare children for starting algebra?

- The first thing you need to know about this is that you do not have to wait until the children are 'old enough' or at secondary school. In fact, training in algebra can begin at almost any age – part of what is involved in algebra involves pattern recognition and pattern spotting.
- Look at a pattern of squares and circles, say, and help the children to identify the shapes – then you can guess together at what shape comes next, and so on...
- Think of a number of problems can be fun at an elementary level – 'Think of a number, add 3, and the answer is 8. What is my number?' Once a child is used to this type of question, you can allow your child to make up their own problems on you, the parents...And as many of you realise, this is one of the early foundations for solving equations!

- Even simple shopping problems can be seen as a start to algebra: 'One egg costs 60p, so how much do 3 eggs cost?' Here, you are laying (at least in part) the foundations for algebraic substitution.

These are just the foundations, and there are plenty of other ideas to try out en route.

Just keep the activities short and enjoyable so that your child has positive associations with these forays into algebra!

PS Should you be at all interested in discussing matters related to algebra and how to teach it further, do please e-mail me to fix up a meeting. I would be happy to discuss this, or any other related mathematical activity.

Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

PE Update

We have a busy few weeks of sport ahead with several upcoming fixtures and the Inter-House football and cross-country events in Key Stage 2. Year 4 begin their intensive swimming sessions on Monday 4th March, which they are very much looking forward to.

The younger classes will be continuing to work on gymnastics and team games during the rest of this term. This week they have enjoyed exploring the apparatus with a focus on climbing and developing their strength, which they have greatly enjoyed. They have also continued to develop their coordination through football and running games.



The Year 3's and 5's are close to completing their gymnastics routines, which have required them to plan and execute a short piece in small groups. I look forward to seeing their final performances next week. The children will also be enjoying some football, netball, and tag rugby sessions this half term.

On Wednesday, we took part in the SHHS netball tournament along with five other schools. It was an excellent event, and the children put in a fantastic effort and represented the school so well. They should all be proud of their efforts. It was a great experience for some of the Year 4 children who were playing against Year 5 girls. Special congratulations must go to Alice (Year 4) for being nominated as a star player.



Next week, the Year 6 team will be taking part in the South Hampstead tournament, and there is also a netball match for Year 4 and 5 against Devonshire House on Monday. As well as this during lesson time.

Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Year Group	Time
Monday 4th March	Devonshire House	Yr5A and 4A Netball	16.00-17.00
Wednesday 6th March	SHHS	Yr6 Netball tournament	15.00-17.30
Monday 11th March	St Mary's	Yr6A and B Netball	16.00-17.00
Wednesday 14th March	Devonshire House	Yr6 Football tournament	13.00-15.15
Monday 18 th March	Trevor Roberts	Yr4 and 5 Football	15.45-16.45

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport

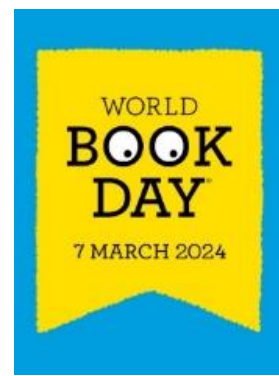
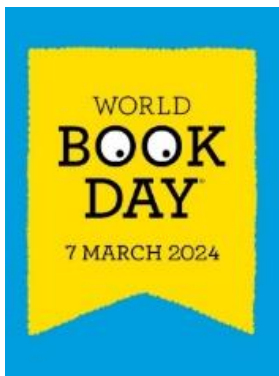
House Events

Before half term, the Key Stage 2 classes enjoyed the Inter House Quiz. The children spent time in their House groups answering six rounds of questions from a variety of categories, including geography, science, general knowledge, and problem solving. They then had the picture round, which involved looking at a selection of baby photos of different teachers and trying to decide who was who. Well done to the Year 1 and 2 classes who participated in this round. After this, the children headed down to the hall for two more rounds involving running to the correct answer and the challenge round, which involved children competing in a variety of 45 second tasks, which was great fun under pressure.



Congratulations to Saint Joan of Arc, who were the overall winners of the competition. Thank you to the House captains for your help in running this competition. This half term, the Key Stage 2 classes will have their Inter-House cross-country races during their PE lessons as well as Inter-House football, which I look forward to updating you about later in the term.

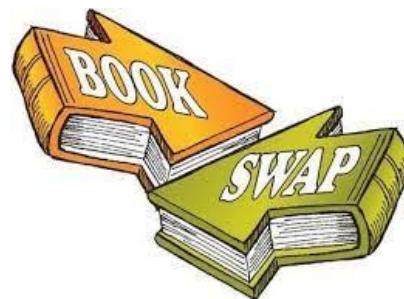
	Saint Cecilia	Saint Francis	Saint Joan of Arc
Overall Score	141	162	194
Position	3rd	2nd	1st



WORLD BOOK DAY & Book Swap

World Book Day is on **Thursday 7th March** and we are very excited to celebrate it! The children are invited to dress up as their favorite book character as it's an exciting way for children to get book recommendations from each other.

Throughout the day the children will be participating in a number of book related activities and spend time with their buddies. We will also be hosting a very special book swap. We invite you to donate any unwanted books which you might have at home (which are in good condition) and place them in the relevant box (EYFS, Y1 & Y2, Y3 & Y4, Y5 & Y6). During World Book Day every child will have a chance to go through their box and select a book.



The boxes will be in the hall on Monday - Thursday morning next week, so your child can put their donated book(s) in the relevant box when they arrive at school. (I urge you only to send in books which your child is happy to give away)

It is sure to be a wonderful day!

Mrs Ellidson - Head of English

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 22nd March.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

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

Saint Christina's Food Collection



Let's Make A Difference
JOIN us in collecting
Canned and Non-Perishable
Food Items.

Suggested items: Pasta, Sauces, Rice, Beans, Soup, canned vegetables and fruit, Mac and cheese, Cereal and Boxed Meals

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

Bingo Night is coming March 15th to be exact!

Shake off the winter blues at this guaranteed fun night, with the bonus of really great prizes to be won. Ticket purchase of £25 includes a buffet style dinner, and a bingo card for each of the 3 rounds for the evening. Tickets are limited due to seating capacity so don't wait around, once they are gone, they are gone! This year's event is a fundraising event, as we aim to raise sufficient funds to replace the existing Chapel keyboard with a new Digital Piano in honour of Fr Terry and his years of dedication to the children and the wider school community. Tickets are on sale now at www.pta-events.co.uk/saint-christinas

Nearly New Uniforms...All Change!

It's the 21st Century and Parents' Link are launching a new, improved system for your ad hoc purchase of Nearly New Uniforms from Parent's Link stock. This does not replace our regular physical sales, it's for days when you find your child has had a growth spurt, lost their hat, or the weather has suddenly changed...now you can place your order for ad hoc uniforms using <https://form.jotform.com/240054518102342>

Here you'll find a guide to the uniform items needed across the age ranges, you can order the items you require, and subject to stocks, your order will be filled ready for collection from school. Parents' Link will still host scheduled live sales of Nearly New Uniforms in the schools Arts Hall too. Our next sale event is March 22nd 3.30pm, ahead of the changeover to Summer uniform across the school.

A vibrant poster for a bingo night event. The background is dark blue. In the center, the words "BINGO NIGHT" are written in large, bold, yellow and white letters, enclosed in a yellow rectangular frame. Surrounding the frame are several colorful bingo balls (red, blue, purple) with numbers like 19, 35, and 7. There are also yellow starburst graphics. In the corners, there are illustrations of bingo cards with some numbers marked with red 'X's. The overall theme is festive and game-oriented.

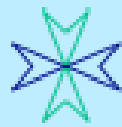
BINGO NIGHT

PARENTS' LINK WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO BINGO
NIGHT 2024

Get ready to shout "BINGO!" and win some amazing prizes at this fun-filled event. Our Guest Bingo callers will guide you through three rounds of the classic game, and enjoy a buffet dinner by Chef Nigel. Refreshments available to purchase

FRIDAY MARCH 15TH - 6.30PM
MAIN SCHOOL HALL

Tickets at www.pta-events.co.uk/saint-christinas



St John's Hospice
St John & St Elizabeth Hospital

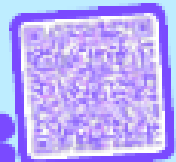
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YEARS OF CARE

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 March 2024

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

£5
TICKET
PRICE



A WEEKEND OF EASTER FUN TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HOSPICE

With an Easter trail, face painting, arts and crafts, refreshments and more!

Purchase tickets by scanning the QR code or visiting
www.stjohnshospice.org.uk

Proudly sponsored by

Winkworth



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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 enrolls 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

Dates for your diary

Monday 4 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 4 Swimming (2 Weeks)• Year 5A and 4A Netball Fixture
Tuesday 5 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 5 and 6 Football Inter-houses
Wednesday 6 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 3 Coffee Morning• Forest School• Year 6 Netball Tournament
Thursday 7 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• World Book Day – Children can come into school as a book or rhyme character
Friday 8 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 3 First Reconciliation Service
Monday 11 TH March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science Week• Year 5 and 6 Football Fixture
Tuesday 12 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open Morning (No swimming for Year 4)

Thursday 14 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pi Day• Year 6 Football Tournament
Friday 15 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science Workshop – VR Human Body• Year 6 Mass• PL Disco Bingo Night

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/>