



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 22nd March 2024

Dear Parents,

As we wend our way to the final few days of the term, it is exciting to see so many things proceeding at full pace. This week we have enjoyed a number of treats outside of the norm. On Wednesday and Thursday, those children who are pursuing their musical interest entertained us with two concerts. The standard of performance was really good and I was very proud of the progress that the children are making in their studies. There was a confidence and a sense of enjoyment in all the performances, that speaks very well to those who are teaching them. My thanks go to Mrs Bryant who has made a fantastic impression on music within the School in such a short amount of time.

On this note, if you will excuse the unintended pun, if you are considering the idea of your son or daughter taking up an instrument or singing lessons, do please contact Mrs Bryant who will be happy to connect you with one of our peripatetic teachers. Equally, if you would like to discuss the merits of taking up an instrument, you are very welcome to meet with me to do so. Suffice to say, I am a signed up member of the music club: it is very clear that there is a huge overlap between pursuing music, playing and singing for pleasure and academic performance and a sense of personal achievement and well-being. Mrs Bryant can be contacted via the Office should you be interested.

There has been much happening in sport too! You will know from the regular updates, that the programme is full and that Mr Raveney is constantly looking at ways in which he can expand and develop it to meet all the needs and interests of the children here. Last week, our Year 4 children finished their intensive swimming course down at Camden Leisure Centre, and this week there have been many departures out into our locale, to do some cross country. On top of this, there are the house football competitions ... it is all go.

You will receive a letter separately to this bulletin outlining the 11+ results and informing you about fee matters from September. Suffice to say that I am unbearably proud of our Year 6 pupils who have achieved another record breaking set of outcomes. Not many of the local prep school heads are talking to me at the moment, but I'm managing even so!! Whilst I have had the opportunity to speak to the 11+ children, I have not been able to speak to all their parents on whom the process can be very hard. Well done!

I hope that you enjoy looking through this, our last bulletin for the term. The children and staff at Saint Christina's are amazing. I have never worked in a School where there is such a strong sense of unity, love and support. We are incredibly lucky. Thank you for all you do to contribute to this.

If you are moving away from London or your circumstances are changing for September, please don't forget that you need to inform the School in writing by the end of term to avoid incurring fees in lieu of a term's notice.

We are of course in Lent and this offers us all a time to pause and reflect on where we are and what we are doing. It is easy to clatter through life without really thinking very much about the next thing. I do hope that once we get to the Easter break that you will be able to slow down a little and spend a little more time to think about more than the daily transactions that fill our days. I know some of you will be visiting family who you do not see very often because they are scattered around the globe. I do hope that this time will be special and something that you will be able to treasure in the future. Happy Easter to you all!

Alastair Gloag
Headteacher

TCS London Marathon – Sunday 21st April – Mr Hirst running

We have a good track record at Saint Christina's of teachers running the London marathon, with Mr Burke, Miss Randle and Miss Williamson having run it recent years. This year it is my turn to lace up!

I am running in memory of my brother Tim and raising money for 'Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis' and any donations would be gratefully received.

<https://2024tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/simon-hirst>



If anyone else in the school community is running, it would be great to hear from you!

Mr Hirst – Deputy Head Teacher

Year Six Class Mass

On Friday 15th March, Year Six presented Mass for the upcoming feast of St Patrick. They had prepared their parts carefully, and read with appropriate expression. This was all the more remarkable since one of their number was unwell at the last moment! The singing was beautifully done, and this was very much thanks to how Mrs Bryant had taught all of the children. Even though it was also Red Nose day, it was nice to see how many of Year Six were wearing green clothing.

Their miming of the gospel really helped the school to understand the parable of the sower and the tares – and in the homily they were all reminded that just as St Patrick had used the shamrock to preach the faith, so they could use simple objects to help share their faith with others.

I was very pleased with how Year Six had helped the Mass to become a prayerful and uplifting occasion.

Fr Rudolf - Class Teacher and Celebrant



KS2 Collective Worship

This week's Collective Worship was led by children in Year 6. It was the final session in the Lent series and we reflected on God's Perfect Promises. We heard Jeremiah's prophecy declaring that God's people will find belonging when His law is written on their hearts.

This is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them, I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:33

The children in Year 6 shared the following key messages:

- God promises that we all belong to Him through His covenant promise – Jesus.
- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as a permanent sign of belonging to God.
- We can GIVE, ACT, and PRAY during Lent to express our belonging to God.

We concluded the Collective Worship by singing a new song that Mrs Bryant has taught the children, 'My God is a Good God'.

Mrs Ellisdon Head of KS2



Art

As we approach the end of term, it's time to reflect on the incredible artistic journey that our young talents have embarked upon. From exploring the vibrant culture of the UK to delving into the depths of volcanoes and even mastering the delicate art of sewing, our students have truly excelled in creativity and dedication.

In Year 2, our children have crafted a UK map using the timeless technique of papier maché.

Inspired by the works of modern English artists like Banksy, they've added their own twist by creating airbrush versions of graffiti art.

Meanwhile, in Year 3, the classroom has been ablaze with excitement as students explored the magic of volcanoes. Experimenting with layers and splashing techniques, they've crafted very original artwork inspired by the artist Nick Rowland.

And let's not forget our Year 5 artisans, who have embarked on a meticulous journey into the world of sewing. From adorning their t-shirts to personalizing pillowcases and cotton bags, they've stitched beautiful Japanese-inspired water lilies. They have also captured the essence of Japanese landscapes with elegant black and red pastel creations.

To all our little artisans, Banksys, and textile virtuosos, a big applause! Your dedication and creativity are turning our school into a vibrant gallery of imagination. Keep up the fantastic work, and let your artistic spirits soar!



Miss Bretones – Art Teacher

Year 1

Year 1 have been focusing on the story of Flat Stanley this half term. We have sequenced the story and retold the story, written descriptions about Stanley and written lists of things he should pack on his trips. We have made our very own Stanleys that we are going to post around the world on adventures and we look forward to following their journeys as they go.

Story Club

This term, story club has explored lots of different stories and themes. The children have created their own finger puppets to represent their favourite characters, listened to and reviewed a variety of stories, written their own stories and typed and recorded retellings of them.

Pen Pals

This week, Year 1 and 2 had a video call with their pen pals from America. We loved getting their letters. We loved getting to see what our buddies looked like and their classrooms. We even noticed they have a prayer table with a purple cloth for lent. We liked learning their names. We liked telling them about ourselves and our favourite things and asking them questions when we send them nice letters.

Miss Higgins – Year 1 Teacher



Mathematical Adventure Games and Simulations

I have long been an advocate of certain types of mathematical adventure game – at least, those games where one must solve mathematical problems in order to make progress within a game.

Way back in the 80s, there was a lady who created some of the earlier adventure games for primary schools. Her name was Anita Straker, and when I was teaching in Ladbroke Grove we used quite a few of her games. They were fun to play, and had the children solving not only plenty of mathematical puzzles but also working on some elementary mapping skills.

Should you wish to access any of these games on the computer/internet, you should follow the instructions:

1. Type in: Computer Games by Anita Straker
2. Select the option that says: BBC Micro Games Archive (with Anita Straker's name directly below)
3. Of the seven games that follow, not all of them are accessible. You can select (by clicking on the title of the game on the image) any of the following games: Merlin's Castle, The Lost Frog, Martello Tower. These three are all adventure games, with The Lost Frog suitable for younger children, Martello Tower and Merlin's Castle for older children. Mallory Manor is more a game of deduction, and Tea Shop is a simulation where you are running a tea shop. It's very useful for practising arithmetic skills as well as estimating and prediction skills.

The games are very much a product of their time, but can yield plenty of interesting problems. Should any of you try these games and experience problems, do please let me know and I can give you appropriate hints!

And should you wish for a more complex game that currently has Year Six involved, type in: L – a mathematical adventure.

Although it is not created by Anita Straker it does involve a good range of problems that will draw children in. It is best accessed via the BBC Micro Games Archive.

Fr Rudolf Loewenstein - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

United Kingdom Linguistics Olympiad 2024

Children from Years Five and Six participated in the annual Linguistics Olympiad back in early February. Results have now come through – and although there were fewer candidates overall who took part across the country, the boundaries for Bronze, Silver and Gold were far higher than usual.

However, we received five Bronze awards – which was a good result given the raising of the national boundaries.

Our Bronze awards went to Alice, Anna, Lara, Marta and Tilly-Rose, all of whom are in Year Six.

The highest scorers in Year Five were Apolline, Edda, Hugo, Isabella and Kyosuke.

Special mention should be made for Claudia and Gina in Year Six. They decided to see how far they could go on some of the more advanced problems in this year's contest and narrowly missed attaining Bronze awards at the Intermediate level of the Linguistics Olympiad, where the questions are broadly aimed at pupils in Key Stage Four. This is no mean feat for two pupils who were not yet 11 at the time of the competition!

We look forward to seeing how well Saint Christina's pupils will do in next year's Olympiad.

Fr Rudolf Loewenstein - Year Six teacher

PE Update

This week, Key Stage Two classes started their cross-country sessions with enthusiasm. We used this week to introduce the children to the course and spent some time talking about pacing strategies. Notable efforts were seen, with promising times from the children. Next week during their lessons the classes will take part in their Inter House Cross Country races. Please do ensure that all of the children do bring a spare pair of shoes with them on the day of their race to change into, as the park is rather muddy at the moment.

	Inter House Cross Country Race
Year 3	Wednesday 27 th March
Year 4	Monday 25 th March
Year 5	Tuesday 26 th March





The Year 3 and 4 classes displayed their progress this term during the Inter House Football competition, which took place on Wednesday. It has been so good to see the children working hard and making excellent improvements in football. The competition involved several close games and some excellent sportsmanship and teamwork. Saint Francis were crowned the champions with some fantastic results throughout the morning. Special recognition goes to the standout performances of Arlo, Annabell, Ari, Arya, Philippe and Pia who were the star players from their teams. Congratulations must also go to Kodai and Harry for scoring the most goals during the event.



On Wednesday, The Year 4 and 5 netball teams played their final league match of the year against Sarum Hall. The Year 5 team put in a spirited performance but were convincingly beaten. The Year 4 team started slowly but came back from 3 goals down to draw the match 3-3 thanks to some good shooting from Beatrix and a good all-round team performance. Well done to Alice and Milana who were awarded the star players of the matches.

On Thursday 12 girls from Year 5 and 6 took part in a Cross-Country festival hosted by Devonshire House. The Year 5 race consisted of a 1km run and the Year 6 race was 1.5km. The children all put in a fantastic effort and showed

great determination to complete the challenging course. Well done to all the children who competed and a special congratulations to Anna and Edda who both finished 6th in their races. As well as this, a special mention must go to Annabell from Year 4 who finished the course in 12th place, which was a brilliant achievement.



Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Year group/Sport	Time
Monday 22 nd April	St Marys	Yr 5/6 Football	16.00-17.00
Monday 29 th April	Trevor Roberts	Yr 4/5 Football Boys	16.00-17.00
Wednesday 9 th May	St Margaret's	Yr 5/6 Cricket	15.30-16.30

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport

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



Comic Relief Fundraising

We are thrilled to announce that we raised an amazing £448.75 for Comic Relief through our Red Nose Day own clothes day last Friday.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who participated and generously donated. Your kindness will make a real difference.

Thank you also to all that brought in donations for Fr Terry's food bank. Your generosity will go a long way to supporting those in need within our community.

Caritas Ambassadors



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!

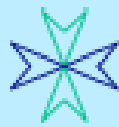
Always a super fun evening, with a healthy dose of competition thrown in. The Parents' Link Committee are delighted to be hosting this annual event again on Thursday, May 23rd. Tickets go on sale in April, but in the meantime book the sitter & get the date in your diary...the staff are already in training!

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.

'Parents Link has launched a fundraiser on gofundme.com to buy a piano in memory of the lovely Father Terry. Any donations large or small much appreciated! <https://gofund.me/64d876c0>'





St John's Hospice
St John & St Elizabeth Hospital

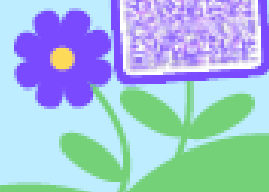
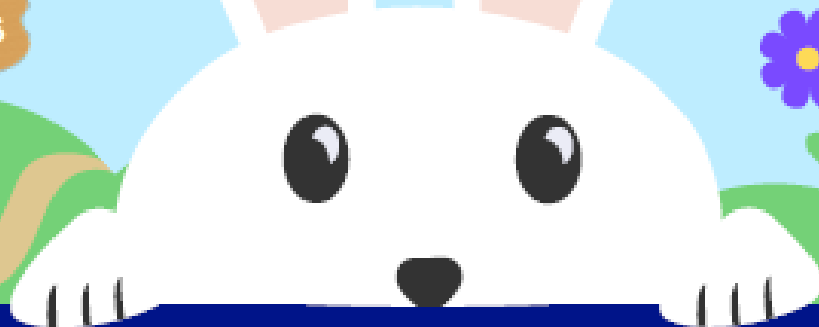
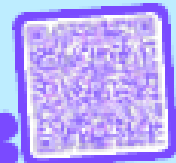
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YEARS OF CARE

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

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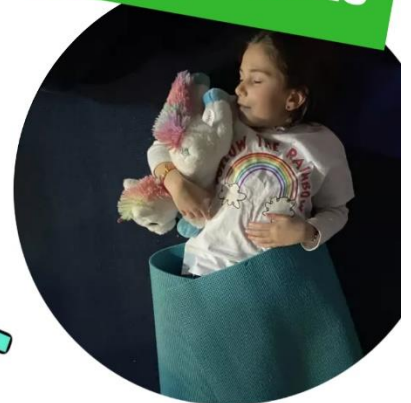
Mindfulness



Arts & Crafts



Meditations



Literacy, Maths & PE activities



FUN-FILLED DAYS



AT RAINBOW CAMP!

"Jess is a delight and incredibly committed. There were some wonderfully calm and creative days at camp (plus a lot of fun!) under her team's care and the venue is perfect. Would 100% recommend to all." Parent

FREE T-SHIRT or BAG



10% Siblings and recommendations discounts and Tax free childcare information
All props & yoga mats included

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

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 25 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NO CLUBS THIS WEEK
Tuesday 26 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easter Play
Wednesday 27 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCHOOL CLOSURES AT MIDDAY FOR EASTER: 12.00 – EYFS 12.10 – Y1, Y2 & Y3 12.15 – Y4, Y5 & Y6
Wednesday 17 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL (Summer Uniforms to be worn)
Thursday 18 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nursery Stay and Play
Friday 19 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass – 2:45pm

Monday 22 nd April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 3 Swimming – CHILDREN TO BE DROPPED OFF EARLY TO LEAVE BY 8:30 • Year 5 and 6 Football Fixture • Parent Teacher meetings Year 1 – Year 6 (Whole week) • CLUBS START
Wednesday 24 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 4 Coffee Morning
Friday 26 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6 Mass – 2:45pm
Monday 29 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 4 and 5 Football Fixture
Friday 3 rd May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 Mass – 2:45pm
Tuesday 7 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing and Vision Tests
Wednesday 8 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 and Year 6 Parent Residential Meeting
Thursday 9 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6A and B, Year 5A Cricket Fixture
Friday 10 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 4 Mass

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/>