



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents,

It has been a very positive first week back. I have been delighted with how well the children have fitted back into their routines and impressed with their work rate and focus.

I would like to congratulate Year 6 on another very impressive performance in the 11+ examinations, as revealed by the initial offers that have been made over the last week. As mentioned in my previous bulletin, we will not say anything definitive at this stage as we are still waiting to hear the outcomes from some processes. However, we are very pleased with the overall picture at this stage.

I hope that you will not mind that I have written to you all separately to ask for your help in promoting our upcoming Open Morning. I would be very grateful to you if you would be prepared to share a flyer with anyone you know who might be interested in the offering that we have at Saint Christina's - or even slip a leaflet under a neighbour's door! Those of you who use Instagram and Facebook will also know that we are active on these platforms and would greatly value your support in terms of liking and sharing our posts, including the current Open Morning post. I hope you do not feel it's cheeky to ask for your support in this regard, but any recommendation from you, as a current parent, will be far more powerful than all the slick marketing in the world.

You might know that we will be holding a Mass for Fr. Terry next Friday 1st March. May I extend an invitation to all who knew him to come. We thought that it would be fitting for the offering to go towards Fr. Terry's Food Bank, so we encourage the children to please bring a single item of food (e.g., can, pasta, non-perishable). And may I use this opportunity to thank all of you who have contributed to the food bank through our regular half-term giving. You have been most generous. Thank you.

We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day next week, so do be aware that we will have the Book Fair in school, and the opportunity to dress up as our favourite literary characters on Friday. Details of these events will come to you separately in this bulletin.

Thank you for all your kind words of support to me personally, and for your expressions of gratitude to the work of the staff. It is greatly appreciated.

I do hope that you all enjoy a relaxing weekend together.

Alastair Gloag
Headteacher

Open Morning

We would be most grateful if you would pass on the details of our upcoming Open Morning to anyone that you think may be interested. The link to our Open Morning registration page on our website is [here](#). Please feel free to share it with anyone you feel may be interested in finding out a bit more about the School. Thank you.



Saint Christina's

Pre-Prep and Prep School
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OPEN MORNING

Tuesday 12th March 2024

9.30 to 11.15 am

An outstanding Co-educational School located in St John's Wood

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 responses 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.



The principal we will be focussing on this half term is **Community and Participation**.

As human beings, we are called to live in community, with others, growing together and flourishing as a result. We are also called to get involved. At World Youth Day in 2013, Pope Francis challenged us: "Don't be observers, but immerse yourself in the reality of life, as Jesus did."

We are called to be active members of society, our local and global community. Observing the reality of the world, remembering that first guideline of the dignity of all people, supporting one another, and recognising how our gifts and talents could be used to the advantage of the wider community. We can't just sit back and bemoan what's happening, whether in our own parish and community, society, or the world. We are called to get our hands dirty, to get involved, and to help build a better world. We're all called to put love into action. These lessons help students to understand the role we all have to play in creating a fair society and strong communities.

Mr Burke

Year 6

Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

As promised, here are two of the questions that girls in Year Six were asked:

Q2 What is the difference between the smallest two digits prime and the largest two digits prime?

Q22 When a cube is cut into two pieces with a single plane cut, two polyhedra are obtained. Which of these polyhedral cannot be obtained in this way?

- a. A polyhedron with 4 faces b. A polyhedron with 5 faces c. A polyhedron with 6 faces
d. A polyhedron with 7 faces e. A polyhedron with 8 faces

Question 22 is not as hard as it looks (!) – it could be fun if you had a block of plasticine to see how you could solve this problem, and your children would certainly learn a lot more about 3D shapes in the process!

Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

Year Six Class Mass



On Friday 2nd February we celebrated the Feast of the Presentation, when we remember how Jesus was presented in the temple. Year Six took charge of the readings for this Mass, as well as many of the prayers. They spoke up beautifully, and sang very well. This was all the more impressive, as two of the pieces at the Mass were being performed for the first time even at Saint Christina's.

While the Gospel was being proclaimed, they were able to mime out the story, thereby helping the youngest children to gain a fuller understanding of the presentation. The message of the Gospel was therefore made clearer: How could each and everyone in the school community be a light to the world, just as Jesus is!

Many thanks go to Mrs Bryant for the beautiful way in which the whole school sang and performed the music.

Fr Rudolf - Celebrant and Year Six teacher

Intermediate Mathematics Challenge and other challenges

We have now had the results from this national challenge. The results and awards are dominated by children in Key Stage Four (i.e. children between the ages of 13-16), but we were delighted that one of the Year Six girls was awarded a Bronze in this year's challenge. Gina did well in this respect – and the other participants in Year Six (Allegra, Anna, Claudia, Kao and Sarah) did well to take part too. Later this year, a group of pupils from Years Five and Six will participate in the Junior Mathematics Challenge (aimed at children who are for the most part in Key Stage Three!); the First Mathematics Challenge, which takes place in June, will have contestants taken for the most part from Years Three and Four.



Fr Rudolf Loewenstein - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

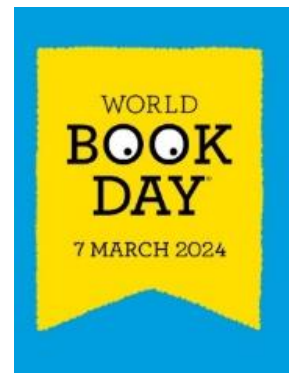
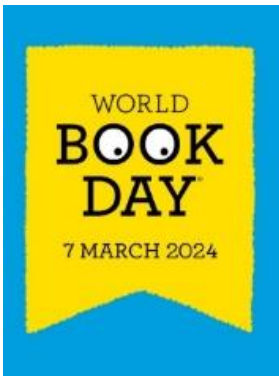
United Kingdom Linguistics Olympiad

We had a total of 27 children participate in the Breakthrough (KS2) round this year, which took place in the week preceding the half term. They had three problems to solve, which used the following languages: Old English, Friesian, Warlpiri and Khmer. For Old English and Friesian, they had to match up words and phrases from Our Father and puzzle out the meanings of the words in the different languages, seeing how they matched. The Warlpiri problem had children working out what endings to use for words so that prepositions could be worked out. Khmer was the most exciting round, as the children inspected a restaurant menu in Khmer and had to work out what exactly was on offer in the restaurant. They then extended their deductive skills to deciding which Khmer dishes could be eaten by vegetarians! Many of the Year Six found it fun to work out what the different words meant, and to learn words in different languages!

Many of Year Six went further, and solved problems aimed at children in Years Seven and beyond. Thus, they learnt more about words and phrases taken from Xhosa, Tariana, Adinkra, Kannada and Georgian.

Our results have now been entered into the Linguistics portal, and it will be a few weeks before we discover who has gained which awards.

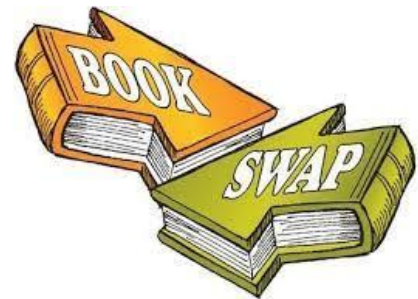
Fr Rudolf



WORLD BOOK DAY & Book Swap

World Book Day takes place on **Thursday 7th March** and we are very excited to celebrate! Dressing up or bringing books into School is a big part of World Book Day celebrations, and is something that the children particularly enjoy. We are inviting children to dress up as their favourite 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. If there are any books left at the end these will go into the School library or be donated to charity.



The boxes will be in the hall each morning from 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)

In advance of World Book Day, the children will receive a £1 token on Monday. Simply take this £1 book token to your nearest bookseller and swap it for a World Book Day £1 book OR use it at our Book Fair for £1 off.

It is sure to be a wonderful day!

Mrs Ellidson - Head of English



Book Fair

Our annual **Book Fair** will be in school next week and promises to have many new and contemporary book titles on offer!

Just like last year, the Book Fair will be cashless. All payments for books will need to be made via the QR Code.

The children will browse the books with their teacher early next week. They will make a list and cost out the books that they would like to buy on a form that they will bring home.

If you would like to purchase some or all of the books your child selects on their wish list, please make payment for the total amount via the QR code on the form. Once you have paid you will be given a reference number. Please write down the payment number on the form and clearly highlight the books you have purchased. Please then return the form to your child's class teacher or Mrs Ellidson (**no later than Friday 1st March**). The books will be issued on a first come first served basis and once out of stock in the school fair the book will be ordered. Your child will receive the book as soon as it arrives (likely after a few days).

Forms which are received without payment reference numbers will not be processed by the School.

Please note that you can only order books which are at the Book Fair as not all books on the Scholastic website are available for schools at the Book Fair costs. Please see the list of books generated on your child's list.

Mrs Ellidson - Head of KS2 and English

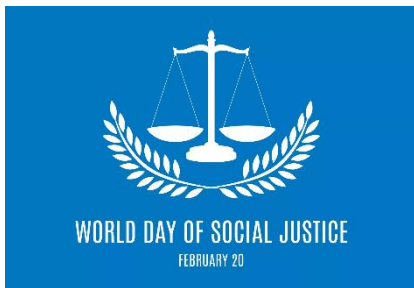
 **TRAVELLING BOOKS**



**Scan the QR code to pay for your books online
or visit travellingbooks.co.uk/pay**



World Day of Social Justice and International Mother Language Day



This week, Saint Christina's delved into two important global themes: World Day of Social Justice and International Mother Language Day.

For Social Justice Day, classes had insightful discussions on making the world fairer. Children explored ideas like kindness and empathy to create positive changes in their communities.

On Mother Language Day, we learned that 43% of languages are at risk, with one disappearing every two weeks. Sadly, 40% of people can't access education in their first language. Classes celebrated language diversity by using their own languages during the registers and teaching their friends phrases in their mother tongues.

These activities promote cultural understanding and empower our children to be advocates for fairness and language preservation.

Mr Burke

INTERNATIONAL
MOTHER
LANGUAGE DAY



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



Choir – join now!!

I will be relaunching our KS2 Choir after half term 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.

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 26 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travelling Book Fair (1 Week)• Year 5 and 6 Football Fixture (Away)
Wednesday 28 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forest School• Year 5 Netball Tournament (Away)
Friday 1 st March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fr Terry Thanksgiving Mass
Monday 4 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 4 Swimming (2 Weeks)• Year 5A and 4A Netball Fixture
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 Mass
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)• Year 5 and 6 Football Inter-houses
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/>