



# Saint Christina's

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

## Bulletin

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to write to you at the conclusion of a truly exceptional week. Each morning, I have marveled at the outstanding heritage projects that have poured in. It has been a genuine privilege to witness the presentations given in class by the children as they explore and share insights into each other's heritage. The vibrant display of colours and captivating national attire showcased during this time has been excellent. The photo below captures the collaboration between Year One and Four, where they teamed up to delve into the cultures of Bolivia and Ireland.

International Week has always held a special place in our school calendar, and this year, intertwining it with the exploration of heritage has made it the most memorable one to date. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for wholeheartedly embracing Heritage and International Week.



On another note, I had the pleasure yesterday of accompanying Year 6 to RAF Benson in Oxfordshire for their participation in the F1 in Schools competition. The children represented Saint Christina's admirably, showcasing their extensive research and understanding of F1 cars and aerodynamics. The teams orchestrated impressive pit stops featuring merchandise, delivered articulate verbal presentations, provided comprehensive overviews of their designs and engineering, and engaged in thrilling races. The judge took a moment to commend our Year 6 students for their confidence in presenting their portfolios, their knowledge, and their enthusiasm. Myself, Fr Rudolf, and Ms. Overing couldn't be prouder. As if that wasn't enough, our cars secured notable positions – coming in 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 8th. Furthermore, 'The A Team' was awarded the prize for the best portfolio!

Thank you for your continued support.

## TOTAL TIMES

POS	NAME	CLASS	BEST TIME	DIFF
1	SPEED DIVAS	PRIMARY	1.836	
2	F.3	PRIMARY	2.077	+0.241
3	FEARLESS FALCONS	PRIMARY	2.132	+0.296
4	THE CHOCOLATE CHEETAHS	PRIMARY	2.136	+0.300
5	ESL	PRIMARY	2.152	+0.316
6	SHOOTING STARS	PRIMARY	2.154	+0.318
7	WALKER RACING	PRIMARY	2.207	+0.371
8	THE A TEAM	PRIMARY	2.311	+0.475
9	CHARGING CHEETAHS	PRIMARY	2.383	+0.547
10	LIGHT SPEED	PRIMARY	2.401	+0.565
11	BLUE BULLS	PRIMARY	2.419	+0.583
12	XFS MOTORSPORT	PRIMARY	2.435	+0.599
13	FLAMING PHOENIXES	PRIMARY	2.514	+0.678
14	UNIT 6	PRIMARY	2.826	+0.990



Best regards,

Simon Hirst

Deputy Headteacher

## KS2 Collective Worship

This week the children in Year 5 lead the Key Stage 2 Collective Worship.

Drop what you're doing and come now! Jesus gives us the best news and this is His invitation – to listen to Him, turn back to Him and believe what He tells us because the Kingdom of God is close at hand.

*There He proclaimed the Good News from God. "The time has come," He said, "and the Kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News."*

*Mark 1: 15*

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

- The first disciples dropped everything to follow Jesus.
- Jesus invites us to leave our old ways behind and follow Him.
- We can follow Jesus through our words and actions

The Year 5's chose to sing the 'My God is so Big, so Strong and so Mighty!'

It was a wonderful Collective Worship and as always, a great way to start our Tuesday.



## Nursery Heritage Week

For Heritage week, Nursery has been learning all about Ecuador! We travelled to South America and spent some time looking at where it is located on Google Earth before comparing Ecuador's landscapes and animals to England's. We next looked at the Ecuadorian flag and experimented with colour mixing with the three flag colours red, yellow and blue using playdough. During the week we also made flags, wrote and 'sent' postcards and had a go at weaving as we made blankets for them. Finally, we had a very special guest parent who shared lots of information with us about their home country and brought in plantain chips ("chifles"), toasted corn ("chulpi") and lupin beans ("chochos") for us to try! Nursery learnt lots and had a fun filled and busy week!



**Miss Williams – Nursery Teacher**

## Reception Heritage Week

For Heritage Week, Reception explored the wonderful African country, Angola! When we looked up Angolan crafts, we came across lots of beautiful woven baskets. Children loved having a go at weaving themselves and came up with some excellent patterns. At the easel, we painted red, black and yellow Samakaka (an Angolan print) patterns. We also made our own Angolan flags! We dedicated our cooking session this week to making Charuto de Coco, a sweet treat the children enjoyed. We also had the pleasure of Alex's mum, who is Angolan, come in to teach us more about Angolan life and Semba culture. Alex even demonstrated some Semba dancing! We looked at animals native to Angola and compared them to the animals from cold places we had been learning about the week prior. Alex has also been helping children learn a few Portuguese words this week like ola and obrigado!

In addition to our Angolan explorations, children have been so excited to share about their own heritages and cultures with their friends. Children had such thoughtful questions and we've all learnt so much about one another.

**Miss Nunes – Reception Teacher**



## Year 1 International Heritage Week

It has been a busy International Heritage Week in Year 1. We have been learning all about Ireland! We have learned about traditional Irish foods and sports. We have listened to traditional stories like Oisín i dTír na nÓg and the Salmon of Knowledge, and enjoyed some traditional Irish music. We can find Ireland on the map and locate some different places. We baked some Irish fruit bread and tried some soda bread.

We enjoyed presenting projects from each of our cultures, including videos, presentations, games, language songs, books and toys. We spend time with our Year 4 buddies, sharing our learning with them and learning about Bolivia. We have learned more about all our wonderful cultures and had a great time learning and celebrating together!

**Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher**



## Year 2 International Week

This week, our Year 2 children enthusiastically embraced the excitement of Heritage and International Week. Our journey led us deep into the wonders of Egypt, where we immersed ourselves in crafting detailed fact files, learning all about hieroglyphics, and getting hands-on by constructing pyramids using sugar cubes and Lego. The classroom buzzed with energy as we even took on the role of mummies for the afternoon!

As the week unfolded, we expanded our focus to appreciate the diverse heritage within our own class.

Friday marked a special showcase where each child presented their heritage projects. It was heart-warming to see them share insights into their respective countries, showcasing a rich tapestry of cultures. Their presentations were not only informative but delivered with great enthusiasm – a testament to their dedication.

The finish off our celebration, on Friday we led International Mass. The Year 2 led this mass confidently, delivering lines flawlessly and lending their voices to a beautiful chorus that resonated through the entire school. It was a proud moment as we came together to celebrate unity in diversity.

Well done Year 2!

**Mr Burke – Year 2 Teacher**



## Year 3 International Week

Year 3 have had a fantastic time celebrating International/Heritage Week. Everyone really enjoyed sharing their fantastic heritage projects with the class. We chose to focus on Italy and began by locating Italy on a globe and maps of various scales. We then went on to investigate the physical and human features of Italy and wrote a report in our English lessons. We also learnt about the importance of hand gestures and how to speak a few words in Italian. The most exciting part of the week was when we made our own pizzas. They were delicious!





Ms. Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher



## International Week Year 5



The children in Year 5 have enjoyed learning about Kazakhstan during International Week. At the beginning of the week the children used atlases to locate Kazakhstan on the world map. They then zoomed in on Central Asia to locate its exact position and identified it has a large border with Russia to the North and West. (The longest continuous land border in the world!) It borders China to the east, [Kyrgyzstan](#) to the [southeast](#), [Uzbekistan](#) to the [south](#), and [Turkmenistan](#) to the [southwest](#).

Kazakhstan is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest country in the world and the largest land locked country.

Throughout class discussion we generated everything that we would like to find out about Kazakhstan (see table below) and then the children spent the week creating a project all about Kazakhstan.

Capital city	Languages Spoken	National Symbols
Population	Alphabet	National Day
Climate	Schools & education	Government
Human & physical features	Currency / economy	Inspirational people from Kazakhstan
Etiquette	National Anthem	Traditional dress
Music		Sport

As the week progress we learnt so much about Kazakhstan and facts were flying around the classroom with enthusiasm.

*“The largest city in Kazakhstan is Almaty which is known as the City of Apples. “alma” translates to apple and “ata” is grandfather – so Almaty is technically the “the grandfather of apples”. The oldest ancestor of the modern day apple has been traced back to the Tian Shan Mountains of Kazakhstan”*

*“Kazakhstan experiences a continental extreme climate with long, hot summers and cold winters. In some years it has reached -52C!”*

*“Half of Lake Balkhash, one of the largest lakes in the world, consists of fresh water, the other half of the salt water”.*

*“Medeo is the highest mountain skating rink in the world. Highlands and pure mountain water to make the ice contribute to achieving high performance in speed skating, 170 world records were set here.”*

A lot of hard work has gone into the projects. They are incredibly detailed and absolutely brilliant.

To make our International week even more impressive, it has been wonderful to see the huge efforts from the children and their parents as they have researched their family trees and some even traced their ancestors back several centuries! I was blown away by the variety of presentations, creativity and knowledge that the children shared throughout the week.

We have also enjoyed trying lots of food and drink from all of the different countries represented in the class!

All in all, we absolutely loved International & Heritage Week!



**Mrs Ellison - Year 5 Class Teacher**

## Heritage Week - Caritas Ambassadors

This week, our Caritas Ambassadors dedicated their efforts to a special language initiative, recording videos to teach basic phrases in Marathi and Hindi to the children at our sister school, Premadhar Crèche and Nursery in Mumbai. This cross-cultural project reflects our ongoing commitment to global education and fostering meaningful connections.

In conjunction with this initiative, we celebrated the culmination of Heritage Week on Friday. Embracing the colours of our respective countries, we created a vibrant display of cultural diversity. The collective spirit of our celebration translated into a substantial fundraising effort, generating over £150 amount of funds. In a gesture of solidarity, we've decided to direct these proceeds to support the urgent needs of Premadhar Crèche and Nursery in Mumbai.

Specifically, Premadhar Crèche and is a critical need to rewire their electrical fittings.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our school school community for support in raising these funds. Your contribution will play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of the children at Premadhar.

**Caritas Ambassadors and Charity Prefects**

## Year Six Poetry

I am sure that for many of you, learning what word to use when confronted with homophones was not always automatic or easy when you were younger.

This time round, we decided to create poems to help us use homophones correctly:

Dear Deer,

Do you want some thyme?





Or would it take up your time?

Dear Deer.

Dear Deer,

You become a knight in the vast dark night,

As a mite flees. Might it hold you back?

Dear Deer.

Dear Deer,

I see you two galloping by the sea,

To above and beyond as one might see,

Dear Deer.

Dear Deer,

An heir to vast places

As the air you breathe will bow down to you,

Dear Deer.

Dear Deer,

As you grow wings,

As a hair from a hare falls down quietly.

Dear Deer.

**By Claudia**

Homophones may seem,

Like something so easy,

It's as easy as pie,

For example, 'Bye' and 'By'.

A deer doe, pizza dough,

A warrior's bow, or a tree bough,

The air you breathe, the heir to the throne,

Your little sisters moan or a garden freshly mown.

So here are a few more examples,  
A few little samples,  
Of words like, 'Hi' and 'High'  
And even like 'Vein' and 'Vain'.

So now you know,  
Not to say 'No!',  
When somebody asks you if,  
You know what a homophone is!

**By Gina**

If you would like to challenge yourselves or your children into creating homophone laden sentences, how about:

Where will you wear it? We're at the weir in Ware?

Merely having fun by playing with words will often tempt a child to practise grammar or spelling where otherwise they'd refuse outright!

**Fr Rudolf - YR6 teacher**

## Year 6 Mathematics

How can mathematics fit in with Heritage Week?

I am sure you can all imagine how Mathematics can be a part of Heritage/International Week, but how can it appear in a way that is potentially quite interesting?

You could explore counting numbers in different countries. Even in the European countries there is great variation in how numbers are written in different countries – for example, twenty-three is written as drei und zwanzig (literally three and twenty) in German.

You could also look at the different flags, as not only will you look at the colours, but maybe you will also work out the proportion of the flag devoted to all the colours that that flag uses. And then area, fractions, percentages and proportion enter.

And don't forget the geography of your chosen/heritage country. What is the annual rainfall or pattern of rain throughout the year? What graphs can you use to show this information? And so on...

I hope that some of these exercises will tempt you to have a go at investigating some of the mathematical aspects of any country that particularly comes to mind.



Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

## PE Update

The younger classes have thrown themselves into their gymnastics sessions this week. They have enjoyed exploring different ways of travelling using different body parts. They have been introduced to a variety of apparatus with a focus on using a variety of jumps to dismount safely and effectively. The Nursery and Reception classes have enjoyed finding different ways of travelling and have used their imagination to link these movements to different animals.



The Key Stage 2 classes have enjoyed their gymnastics sessions this week. Year 3 and 4 have been developing their routines with themes of symmetry and bridges while Year 5 and 6 have been working on their vaulting. Year 6 have spent time in preparation for their upcoming football tournament with a focus on shooting this week.

Year 4 and 5 have had two fixtures this week with some excellent performances against St Marys and South Hampstead. The Year 5 team have put in a fantastic effort and worked really well as a team and bounced back with a fantastic 4-1 victory with some great shooting from Alice B. Year 4 continue to impress with two great victories with some excellent shooting from Beatrix and Eunjae.

Next week Year 3 are looking forward to their first netball match and we have the Year 3 and 4 Inter House netball competition.



A special well done must go to Arya in Year 3 who recently attended her cricket clubs prize giving. Arya was awarded player of the year for the Under 8 team, which is an excellent achievement. Arya plays and trains at Primrose Hill Cricket club, which is a fantastic club.

The club have informed me that there is a variety of weekly training sessions on Saturdays for children from Year 2 upwards throughout the Winter. The sessions are taking place at Haverstock School in Chalk Farm. They are offering a free trial session for anyone from Saint Christina's. If this is something that may be of interest to you please do get in contact with me so I can let you know further details or alternatively have a look on the clubs website <https://www.primrosehillcc.org>.

**Upcoming Fixtures**

Date	Against	Team/Yr	Venue	Time
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

## Independent School Magazine

'As a Catholic School, we've always been committed to philanthropy, but like most schools, we've tended to move quickly from one fundraiser to the next. Now, we're trying to add meaning to our social action and help pupils build a deeper understanding of why we do the things we do.'

In a recent feature in the Independent Schools Magazine, Mr Burke shares the incredible strides that Saint Christina's has been taking to elevate our approach to philanthropy, social action and helping out 'pupils build a deeper understanding of why we do the things we do'. The magazine highlighted our impactful social action initiatives led by dedicated charity Prefects and Caritas Ambassadors. Join us on this educational journey towards a brighter future, where education extends beyond textbooks to empower our students as compassionate change-makers.

Explore the online version here (attached hyperlink):

<https://www.independentschoolsmagazine.co.uk/issues/2024-january/index.html#p=28>

to delve into the inspiring work of our children as they make a positive difference in our community and beyond.

### Embedding social action



Maha Yousaf says, "One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world." Today more than ever, her words ring true. As teachers, we all believe in the life-changing impact of education. But what if that impact could extend beyond the children we teach, and achieve something for the greater good? Head of KS1 and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Dan Burke, from Saint Christina's School London, considers social action and how as a school they have been working to elevate their approach.

As a Catholic school, we've always been committed to philanthropy, but like most schools, we've tended to move quickly from one fundraiser to the next. Now, we're trying to add meaning to our social action and help pupils build a deeper understanding of why we do the things we do.

Mr Burke shares the incredible strides that Saint Christina's has been taking to elevate our approach to philanthropy, social action and helping out 'pupils build a deeper understanding of why we do the things we do'. The magazine highlighted our impactful social action initiatives led by dedicated charity Prefects and Caritas Ambassadors. Join us on this educational journey towards a brighter future, where education extends beyond textbooks to empower our students as compassionate change-makers.

Explore the online version here (attached hyperlink): <https://www.independentschoolsmagazine.co.uk/issues/2024-january/index.html#p=28>

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Thank you for your support with this cause.


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

## KS1 Story Club

Year 1 and 2 Story club have been listening to a variety of stories. We have enjoyed reviewing each story and rating it out of 5 stars. We have been designing and making our own puppets which have features in our own stories!

Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher

# 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

## 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](mailto: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.

### 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.

## 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**

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 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**

Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YR5 and YR6 Netball Fixture</li> <li>• Diversity Day</li> </ul>
Wednesday 31 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YR 3 Netball Fixture (During School Hours)</li> </ul>
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years 3 &amp; 4 Inter House Netball Competition (During School Hours)</li> <li>• PL Movie Night YR5 &amp; YR6</li> </ul>
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YR 6 Mass – 2.45pm</li> <li>• PL Movie Night YR 1 &amp; YR 2</li> </ul>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drama 4 All Workshops EYFS &amp; KS1</li> <li>• YR 4 &amp; YR 5 Football</li> </ul>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reception - Year 6 Parent Child Learning Reviews</li> <li>• YR5 Girls Football Tournament</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reception - Year 6 Parent Child Learning Reviews</li> <li>• <b>School Closes for Half Term at usual time</b></li> </ul>

**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/>