



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 2nd February 2024

Dear Parents,

I trust this message finds you well. I am delighted to share the highlights of our week.

We kicked off the week with a great finale to Heritage Week, which culminated with the 'We are One – Local to Global Project Day' for KS2. Dr. Robert Power, our expert facilitator, led the day's activities where KS2 children were grouped into seven teams across different year groups. Using a creative approach, the children constructed a global map of community stories within their teams, marking their birthplaces, as well as those of their parents and grandparents with different coloured notes. It was heartening to witness the children exploring the diverse heritage within our school community. They delved into historical events, analyzed data, and considered various push and pull factors for global migration. The day concluded with each group crafting a poster and 'advert' for the 'We are One campaign,' celebrating community diversity and extending a warm welcome for people to join to our local community. This project was a wonderful opportunity for our students to appreciate the multitude of heritages that contribute to the rich tapestry of our community, bringing a fitting end to Heritage Week.



The Handmaids were honoured to welcome Sr. Marina, the new Provincial, and her team for a visit this week. Sr. Eileen and I had the pleasure of showcasing our school to Sr. Marina on Tuesday. The sisters experienced a typical morning at Saint Christina's, attending a collective worship assembly led by Year 4, observing early years focused in their phonics groups, witnessing KS1 engaged in comprehensive work, Year 3 learning about nutrition, and Year 4 exploring religion. They also admired outstanding heritage projects in Year 5 and engaged in discussions about the linguistic challenges faced by Year 6 in their study of ancient Greek. The swift overview underscored the hard work our children consistently put in, leaving the sisters thoroughly impressed.

In today's assembly, our focus was on online safety, in preparation for Online Safety Day next Tuesday. This year's theme, 'Inspiring Change? Making a Difference, Managing Influence, and Navigating Change Online,' prompted valuable discussions on ways in which our children can safeguard themselves in the digital realm.

We thank the hard working members of Parents Link for putting on fantastic fund raising movie nights last week and this week, which have been thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

Additionally, this week featured several other notable events, including the Intermediate Maths Challenge, insightful talks from Holroyd Howe's nutritionist, and some gripping netball matches.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend ahead.

Best regards,

Simon Hirst

Deputy Headteacher

Celebrating Artistic Achievements!

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to our incredible school community. Thank you all for having me back!

I would love to share the wonderful artistic endeavours our young talents in Year 2, 3, and 5 have been immersed in during these first weeks of the term.

Year 2 - Exploring the UK with Florence Nightingale Portraits: Our Year 2 students have delved into the history of the UK, capturing the spirit of Florence Nightingale through striking charcoal portraits. The dedication and attention to detail in their artwork showcase their artistic skills and creativity.

Year 3 - A Culinary Journey through Italy and Surrealist artwork. In the spirit of Italy, Year 3 embarked on a delicious journey by crafting pizzas from scratch. Now, they are set to create imaginative and fruity collages inspired by the renowned Giuseppe Arcimboldo. Get ready for a burst of surrealist portraits!

Year 5 - Watercolour Wonders in Monet's style: Year 5 has been diligently honing their watercolour brush techniques, and their efforts are culminating in lovely paintings inspired by the enchanting gardens of Monet. The vibrant strokes and careful detailing reflect not only their artistic growth but also a deep appreciation for the beauty of nature.



Well done to all our little artists, your hard work and dedication shine through each stroke, sprinkle of flour, and splash of colour. I am very proud of your accomplishments, and I cannot wait to transform our school displays into a gallery of your masterpieces.

Parents and guardians, prepare to be amazed when you witness the talent and creativity on display. Here's to a season filled with artistic exploration, learning, and the joy of creation!

Ms Bretones – Head of Art

Mathematics at Saint Christina's

Several times a year, children are entered for different national competitions in the UK. In late January/early February it is the turn of the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. Although this competition is principally aimed at children in Years 9 – 11 (i.e. Key Stage Four) we have found that children in Year Six who enjoy problem solving are happy to take part and solve some fairly challenging problems. What is more interesting is that we have always had one or more children achieve Bronze in this competition, which is no mean feat if you consider that the majority of pupils taking part are in the 13 – 16 age group.

On Wednesday of this term, six intrepid members of Year Six tried their hand at this year's challenge. We shall not yet hear how they have done, as schools all over the country have to submit children's answer sheets by a fixed date – but next week, you will be able to see one or two of the problems that were set and attempted this year.

Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

Work in Progress in Year Six

Last week, all of our children greatly enjoyed taking part in International week. Year Six studied Finland, and are in the midst of putting on a display of their findings and research. Whereas a lot of what they found out was similar to what happens in other countries, the following selection of facts were ones that they found the most interesting:

- There is no homework in primary schools in Finland. (Actually, there is homework – but hardly any of it!)
- The first clothing industry in Finland only used cotton
- They have three extra letters in the alphabet
- Miljoona means 'a million'
- Every year they have a reindeer race, which is a bit unusual if you live in England
- Their national flower is the lily of the valley
- Finland was the first European country to give women the right to vote
- The inventor of the text message, Latti Makkonen, was from Finland
- Ice hockey is one of their main sports
- They are famous for their long rivers and lakes
- Their famous foods include: Rye bread, Finnish squeaky cheese, sautéed reindeer, blood dumpling soup and salty licorice!

F1 Competition

This competition took place in the previous week and has already been reported on – but we reviewed it in Year Six and realised that we had learnt a lot more during the course of the competition than just being able to construct a racing car. Here are some of the reflections made by Year Six – it was interesting to observe that they absorbed plenty of 'soft' skills alongside the hard ones:

I think that F1 was an amazing experience. I think it gave me a real sense of teamwork, determination and hard work. Teamwork because I think in my team (F3) we just flowed as one in a way. We didn't fight, saying things like "No I said I wanted to be team manager first!" for example. We just knew what we wanted to do and then we discussed as a team. We also, specifically on race day, each did our own thing. Eunho did some last-minute drawing. Kao and I did some last-minute fixing and things like that. I was really happy when I saw our car on the leader board as second fastest in Primary, then I realised that would have never happened without the rest of my team. So, I also learned the value of teamwork.

Tilly-Rose

What I learned from F1

During F1 I learned about many scientific things like downfall but I also found out things about teamwork and how to work best with other people. I learned that the most important part of teamwork is cooperation and that if you don't cooperate everything will fall apart. I learned about the aerodynamics of the car and the movement of the car. So, during F1 I learned both scientific and teamwork things.

Marta

Participating in F1 was an enriching experience that exposed us to many ideas and the opportunity to connect with new people. The experience of designing the car and the pit stop, and other aspects of the project was fun and enjoyable. One of our favourite aspects of this day was when we presented our portfolio and we had to describe the mechanism of our car and bring up our portfolio. I was quite surprised when they called our name up for the portfolio award! We were all a bit stunned and it took a few seconds to then get up and have a photo taken!

Alice and Anna (working in conjunction with Allegra and Amara)



Fr Rudolf - Y6 teacher

PE Update

We have had another busy week of sport this week. On Monday, the year five and six netball teams took on Ivy House. The children played some excellent netball and worked really well as a team. This resulted in two pleasing victories. Year 6 won a convincingly 10-2 win with some great shooting from Allegra and the Year 5 team put in a strong performance in an 8-4 victory with some very good defensive play and passing from the while team and some clinical shooting from Alice and Beatrix. Thank you to Mr Burke and the Sisters for coming out to support the children, which meant a huge amount to the children.

On Wednesday, all of Year 3 travelled to Sarum Hall to take part in their first netball match. The children put in a fantastic effort and seemed to really enjoy the matches. We ended up winning two games and losing one. The children should be proud of their efforts, and I look forward to seeing them continue to develop in netball in the coming weeks. Special congratulations must go to Isabella, Oliver, and Diana, who were awarded the star place in the games. Thank you to Miss Sephton and Miss Yllka for coming to assist with this fixture.

It has been so lovely to see so many parents coming along to cheer on the children this week. It is hugely appreciated and lovely to have you there, supporting your children and seeing how they are progressing.



On Thursday, Year 3 and 4 enjoyed their inter-house netball competition, with some great netball on show. There will be a full report in next week's bulletin. On Monday, we look forward to hosting Trevor Roberts with some football matches for Years 4 and 5 and Year 6 will be participating in a football tourney on Wednesday.

Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Against	Team/Yr	Venue	Time
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

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)

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

Saint Christina's Food Collection



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

Movie Nights - that's a wrap

Our last PJ Movie night screening is tonight. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to chaperone these events, we hope all the kids have had a great time.

EYFS Goes Red and Blue - mini movie date

Our smallest pupils in EYFS can expect to have some movie fun of their own on Friday February 23rd, when they have their own special afternoon tea party and movie event. Tickets are £10 and go on sale on Monday 5th February at

<http://www.pta-events.co.uk/saint-christinas> If you'd like to volunteer to help with this event, please let your Class Rep know.

Dates for your diary

Disco Bingo Night March 15th - this one's just for parents and staff and will be a fundraising event aimed at raising funds to replace the keyboard in the Chapel in honour of Fr Terry.

The next nearly new uniform sale will be selling Summer uniforms on Friday March 22nd 3.30pm in the Arts Hall

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 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 5 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama 4 All Workshops EYFS & KS1 • Year 4 & Year 5 Football
Wednesday 7 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception - Year 6 Parent Child Learning Reviews (8.15-8.40am) • Year 5 Girls Football Tournament
Thursday 8 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception - Year 6 Parent Child Learning Reviews (8.15-8.40am) • School Closes for Half Term at usual time
SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF TERM	
Monday 19 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children return to school
Wednesday 21 st February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 2 Coffee Morning • Forest School
Thursday 22 nd February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6A and B Netball Fixture (Away)
Friday 23 rd February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 Mass 2:45pm • Parent Link EYFS Afternoon Tea
Monday 26 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travelling Book Fair • Year 5 and 6 Football Fixture (Away)
Wednesday 28 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest School • Year 5 Netball Tournament (Away)

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/>