



Saint Christina's School Bulletin

Friday 28th June 2019

Saint Christina's Space Mission and Space Day

The Plan

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of Saint Christina's School, 1949 – 2019, we wanted to do something really special that all the children would remember for a very long time. We also wanted a project that would inspire the children to marvel at the wonder and power of science as well as understand the value of perseverance and team work.



We decided that sending a package containing important items for our school into space and taking a photo of a special Saint Christina's image against the backdrop of the curvature of the earth would fit this bill nicely.

The Year 6 girls went to work learning all about high altitude ballooning; figuring out how it was possible to fill a latex balloon with helium or hydrogen, carry a polystyrene payload containing cameras and GPS tracking equipment to an altitude of 30,000 metres (after checking it was OK



by the CAA) where it would eventually explode due to the decrease in pressure and then and fall back down to earth on a parachute and hopefully be retrieved!

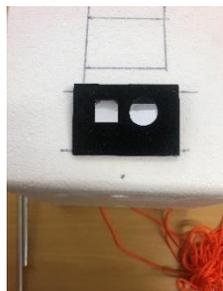
We got in touch with a team of experts in Sheffield, who liked the sound of our mission and were excited to help us achieve our goal.

The Image

Year 6 created lots of Saint Christina's anniversary images which we could send up, with the image opposite created by Tansy being the image finally chosen.

Building the Payload

Next we had to make the payload for our items to go up in. Here we are cutting the holes for the cameras with a hot knife.



We also had to insulate the payload, the altitude we were hoping to achieve would be -60 degrees Celsius so the electronics needed to be protected from that. We also added the image stand.

Astronauts and Special Items

For our special items, we contacted the Sisters, who provided us with a Saint Raphaela Maria pendant and a special crucifix with 'Jesus and Mary pray for us' engraved on it. *What space mission would be complete without some astronauts?* So it was then over to Mr Gloag to pick names out of the payload in a raffle to be our astronauts and tie representative. Gina's name was picked for the tie and then we had our astronauts below.



The Complete Package

After becoming well acquainted with Mr Steve's ridiculously strong tile glue, our astronauts were in place and secure. We were now ready with what we wanted to launch into space and were raring to go!

The Launch Site

We initially planned to launch our balloon from Newbury, but this plan was twice foiled; firstly with weather forecasts predicting us to land in the Bristol Channel and secondly with a CAA ruling that there was a potential national security threat resulting in a restriction on balloon launches for 10 weeks (although nothing to worry about). After consulting with our Sent into Space experts, we arrived at a new plan which involved getting a train to Sheffield as we were OK to launch from there and the forecast was looking promising.

The Day Before

Before the launch, Alex from 'Sent into Space' came down to visit us. He gave an excellent assembly going through exactly what would happen the next day and the science behind the balloon launch. He taught the girls about the different areas of the atmosphere and where our balloon would be going. He was able to answer lots of questions allowing the excitement to really build.

Space Day – By Sophie, Miriam and Imogen (Year 6)

On Friday 21st June, Year 6 were fortunate enough to celebrate St Christina's 70th anniversary by going to Sheffield to witness a balloon launch into space. It is an event that will go down in Saint Christina's history.

The day before, Alex Keen came to school to tell us all about what was going to happen and about the payload. We learnt it was going to go in the stratosphere, just above the troposphere where we live and breathe.

Early in the morning, we met Mr Hirst and Miss Fernandez at King's Cross St Pancras to get on the train to head up to Sheffield. The train was buzzing with excitement and enthusiasm; you could hear it from miles away!

After two hours on the train we finally arrived and were met by Alex and hopped onto what we called the "Party Bus" where we sang songs, played games and looked at the beautiful country view.

Next we arrived and had to climb a colossal hill to get to the place we were going to send up the balloon carrying with it...

A polystyrene box to keep our payload, the image, our lego astronauts, a school tie belonging to Gina in Year 1 and a camera to watch the beautiful landscape!



We met the "Sent into Space" team and had a chance to ask lots of questions while the team filled up the balloon and added the tracker, camera and parachute for the technical end. The whole thing was streamed live back to school!



We counted down 5,4,3,2,1.... And then we saw the balloon go up and up into space!

On the way back to London, we received updates from the tracking team and finally received the image we had been waiting for...

We are so privileged to be able to witness such an exciting trip, which we will remember forever!



Thank you to Mr Hirst for organising this monumental event in Saint Christina's history, "Sent into Space" and Alex Keen for making this dream a reality and Ms Fernandes for accompanying us.

Space Day

Meanwhile, back at school everyone else was having a great time celebrating **Space Day** – no sooner had Early Years and KS1 finished their Sports Day they were straight into watching a live feed of the space launch from their classrooms.

The children were able to send questions through to the launch site for Alex to answer. Questions included:

How long will it take to get into space?

How long does it take to get to its largest size?

Will it reach the international space station?

Is there any chance it could get knocked by a space rock?

After watching the balloon ascend into the clouds accompanied by 'Chariots of Fire' the rest of the afternoon was dedicated to enjoyment, learning about space. Here are some of the great things the children did with their teachers in school:

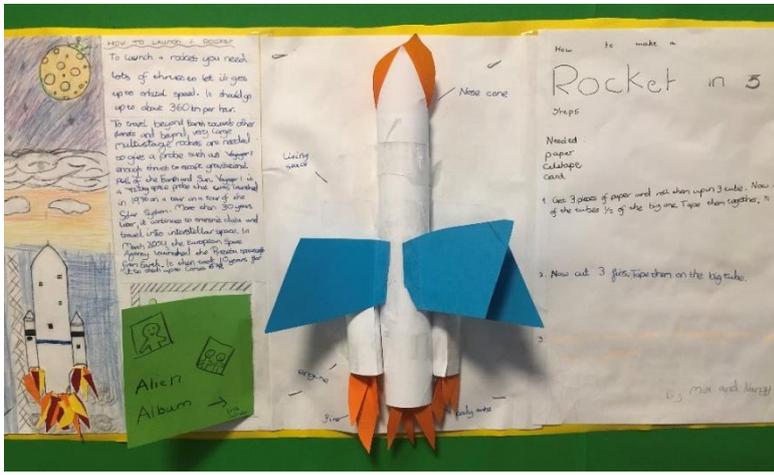
Space Day in Years 2 and 5 by Anna, Kitty and Clarissa from Year 5

We celebrated Space Day by doing a science experiment with Year 2. We brought in small items and created a box to put the items in!

Afterwards, when all the boxes were crafted, Year 5 and Year 2 went outside into the playground together to attach the boxes with the items inside to a kite, and then flew the kites! We also attached balloons so that the boxes would at least fly up a bit!

After that first experiment, we made parachutes to go with the boxes. We used paper for the boxes, and paper towels for the parachute, and when we created the parachutes and attached them to our boxes, we went to the top floor and let our boxes fly downstairs! We thought it was really fun and I enjoyed doing the experiment!







A huge thank you to everyone involved in making Saint Christina's Space Mission a success and a day that we will certainly all remember!

You can watch a video of the flight here, taking in the incredible journey of our space flight and its eventual recovery near Scunthorpe:

https://youtu.be/T_vD0LnK6nU

Mr Hirst – Deputy Head

Congratulations

Congratulations to Aoife from Reception, who completed a 2K run last Sunday to raise money for her friends' school. She only found out about the event the day before and decided to give it a go. Aoife completed the course in less than 25 minutes!

Well done, Aoife! We are all very proud of your achievement!



Cricket Fixture vs Saint Christopher's

On 24th June, Saint Christina's participated in two cricket fixtures against St. Christopher's School. The matches were played on the same afternoon as the KS2 Sports Day, so there were some tired girls, but this didn't stop the determination of both teams during the fixtures.

The first match saw the Year 4 and 5 girls battle against a very strong Year 5 team from St Christopher's. The girls showed some great teamwork in the field, with some excellent saves and throws which gave them every chance to chase down their total. When the girls went out to bat, they started very strongly and there was some good running between wickets. It was a close finish, but in the end the girls went down 136-169. Pippa in Year 5 was elected player of the match. Well done to all girls who participated, especially those who were playing their first ever cricket fixture!

Next up was the Year 6 team. It was a hugely competitive match right from start to finish. Some accurate bowling from Neha and some good batting shots from Miriam helped set the girls up for a close finish. The match went down to wire with the final score being 172-169, resulting in a 3 run victory to Saint Christina's. Well done to Florence who was elected player of the match for a good all round performance, and to all of the girls who helped achieve the victory.

Miss Vettese & Mr King – Sports Team

Key Stage 2 Sports Day

This week, we held the annual KS2 Sports Day which was a fantastic morning. How lucky we were with the weather too!

The girls in KS2 were able to compete with great skill and determination in field events ranging from long jump to javelin, and in track events including the space hopper and relay race. All of the girls tried their hardest and there were some outstanding performances within all of the year groups. It was lovely to see the children being competitive and determined, but also showing great encouragement and sportsmanship towards each other throughout the morning.



I would like to congratulate all of the girls for participating in what was I hope a very enjoyable morning. There will also be awards in each year for 1st 2nd and 3rd positions within each of the events, as well as top points scorers overall; these will be awarded in the Sports Day assembly next week.

Early Years and KS1 Sports Day



The sun shone down on the children from Nursery, Reception, and Years 1 & 2 last Friday as they took part in the annual Sports Day.

They had a wonderful time participating in all the races, and all of the staff were very proud of their achievements. We were especially grateful to see so many parents attending the event and supporting their children throughout the morning.

A big thank you to all parents who came to show their support, and to all of the teachers who helped out with the event.

Miss Vettese & Mr King – Sports Team

Mathematics Challenge

The First Mathematics Challenge is a new Mathematics Challenge organised by the Mathematical Association of Great Britain.

It is aimed at children in Years 3 and 4 and consists of twenty short questions to be answered in 45 minutes.

All of our children in Years 3 and 4 sat this challenge last week. Certificates were awarded to all participants; we were delighted to have eleven girls awarded gold certificates. Of the other children, ten were awarded silver certificates and sixteen were awarded bronze certificates.

We look forward to seeing how everyone fares next year; but it certainly bodes well for other future mathematical competitions.

Fr Rudolf Loewenstein – Year 6 Class Teacher / Post holder for Mathematics

Instrumental Exam Pupils' Concert

On Wednesday morning, children, staff and parents were treated to an instrumental and vocal concert given by pupils who will be taking music examinations in the next couple of weeks. This event provides those pupils with an opportunity to perform one of their exam pieces to an audience and to share their hard work and musical progress which they have made during the year.



I was incredibly proud of each pupil for performing with confidence and enthusiasm – it is clear that they had all prepared well for this event! We enjoyed performances of songs, piano, guitar and violin pieces by children from a range of year groups. Thank you, as ever, to our wonderful peripatetic team of teachers for supporting the children's progress, and for preparing them so well for both the concert this morning and for the upcoming exams. We wish all the children the very best of luck!

Mr Rhodes – Director of Music

Visit from Author, Julia Golding

The children in Reception, KS1 and KS2 were fortunate to be visited by a leading author, Julia Golding, on Tuesday afternoon.

With the summer holiday just around the corner, Julia encouraged all the children to read as much as they can and not to forget to take a book with them on holiday!



Julia was engaging as she shared her passion for writing. She discussed how she comes up with her ideas and encouraged the children to use their imagination to come up with their own stories. She explained that she had great pleasure working on her books with two helpers: Andrew Briggs, a professor at Oxford University, looking at the very small things (nano materials) and Richard Wager, an artist who paints inspiring pictures, including angels and power stations! As curiosity is a big subject, they put their heads together to come up with a history of it in six books. The children enjoyed 'time travelling' as they listened to Julia read a couple of extracts from her 'Curious Science Quest' books.

Many of the children bought copies of Julia's books and they had the opportunity to have their books signed by Julia and to ask her plenty of questions.

Visits from published authors give the children at Saint Christina's something real to aspire to. It was wonderful to see that by the end of the session with Julia, all the children were inspired to become authors.

Mrs Ellisdon – English Coordinator





On Tuesday 25th June 2019, Mrs Julia Golding, a children’s author, visited Saint Christina’s to talk about her profession, book writing.

We all enjoyed her quizzes and hearing about what inspired her and how she gets her ideas. It was very inspirational and gave us all an important message to remember “Read, Read, Read, it is extremely important in life!”



We all appreciated her visiting us greatly and had a wonderful time. Thank you to Julia Golding who visited our school, and to all of the teachers who organised her visit.

Anna – Year 6

SUMMER FAIR – HEALTH AND SAFETY

Due to hot weather forecast tomorrow, please ensure your children are wearing sunscreen & hats and are kept well-hydrated. We also want to encourage people to bring refillable water bottles. There will be plenty of water available.

Dates for your diary

Please note that dates/timings are subject to change and additions

Date	Event
Saturday 29 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer Fair & Saint Christina’s 70th Birthday Celebration – 12.00-3.30pm
Monday 1 st July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO CLUBS THIS WEEK (with the exception of Irish Dance, Ballet, Morning & Homework Clubs) Last Ballet Class

Tuesday 2 nd July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery Class Assembly – 9.30am • Last Irish Dance Class
Wednesday 3 rd July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO BALLET • KS2 Summer Production – Details to follow
Thursday 4 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late registration for KS2 children and siblings – 10.00am • KS2 Summer Production – Details to follow
Friday 5 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late registration for KS2 children and siblings – 10.00am • Mass led by Reception & Year 6 – 2.15pm • Year 4 Charity Ice Cream Sale after school
Monday 8 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Change Over afternoon – Information to follow
Tuesday 9 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS2 Prize Giving
Wednesday 10 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6 Leavers' Mass – timings TBC • SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 12 NOON FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS
AUTUMN TERM 2019	
Monday 2 nd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff INSET
Tuesday 3 rd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff INSET • Parents/Teacher Meetings (AM) regarding routines and systems – Details to follow
Wednesday 4 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHILDREN RETURN