



# Saint Christina's

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

## Bulletin

**Thursday 8th February 2024**

Dear Parents,

I hope that you enjoy looking through this, the last bulletin for the first half of the Spring Term. The dark mornings and nights are beginning to fade, and with the cold but crisp weather we have seen over the last few days (when it hasn't been raining), the scent of Spring is definitely in the air.

It was really good to welcome so many of you into school with your child over the past few mornings to see the work that they have been doing. I know that they have been looking forward to sharing everything with you, and that it means a great deal to them to be able to do so. Thank you for making the time and joining us.

This Friday (tomorrow), our Year 6 children will hear news of their 11+ assessment outcomes, so please spare a thought for them at this time. It is never pleasant waiting for news over such a long period of time, and it is the same for their parents. Be aware that not all results are released for Year 6 now. There are a number of schools that will only make offers in March, so I won't publish any detailed outcome data until I have heard from all the schools and I know that all the children are accounted for. I do thank you for your understanding.

Thank you too for the kind words and gestures that I have received over the past few days. I am very grateful to you. It is a blessing to be part of such a warm, generous, and thoughtful community.

I do hope that you have a relaxing half term break, and I look forward to seeing you back in School on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Alastair Gloag  
**Headteacher**

## KS2 Collective Worship

This week, the children in Year 6 led the Key Stage 2 Collective Worship.

Jesus' life was very busy, but He found peace by going to a quiet place to pray and be with His Father. We, too can find peace in the busyness of our daily lives.

*In the morning, long before dawn, He got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there.*

*Mark 1: 35*

The Key messages that Year 6 shared with the other children were:

- Jesus was busy but He prioritised prayer.
- Time away from busyness is important and it helps us to grow/recharge/gain strength.
- We too can find peace and strength when we spend time with God.

The Year 6's decided that we would all sing the School Song.

It was a great Collective Worship and made us stop and think about the importance of having some down time. As always, it was a great way to start our Tuesday.



## Nursery

This term in Nursery, has been exploring traditional tales. We have been learning how to retell classics like Goldilocks and the Three Bears as well as crafting characters for The Three Little Pigs. The children have been immersed in storytelling, and the introduction of Talk4Write has further enriched their vocabulary and storytelling abilities. Alongside these adventures, we've also delved into various aspects of Jesus' life, connecting his story to our own through pictures and stories, which we have also touched upon in our EYFS Liturgies. In Maths and Phonics, differentiated groups have started since January as the children work on their blending, handwriting, letter formation, and numeracy skills. Additionally, we've celebrated Heritage Week, in which we explored Ecuador and the Chinese New Year. During these topic weeks, we learnt about different cultures and participated in some unusual activities, such as weaving blankets for alpacas. Not to mention our two parent visitors who shared with the class information about their cultures and countries.

**Ms Randle – Head of EYFS**

## KS1 this half term

### Year 1

In RE, our topic has been families and celebrations. We have enjoyed thinking about what Jesus was like as a boy and hearing the stories of The Presentation and Jesus in the Temple. We have been learning about Baptisms and enjoyed looking at photos of friends in our class being Baptised. We enjoyed exploring the chapel as we learnt about our Church family, spotting lots of different things such as candles, the Bible, stained glass, the Stations of the Cross and the tabernacle. In maths, we have been developing our addition and subtraction skills, halves, and learning about money. We have enjoyed setting up our own shop within the classroom.

In English, our topic story was 'The Proudest Blue'. We enjoyed making predictions, writing captions for the story, and writing similes. We retold some traditional Irish tales, such as Oisín i dTír na nÓg, during international week. We also planned and wrote our own spring poems based on our senses. In science, we have continued to learn about everyday materials. We enjoyed testing if materials were waterproof or not and designed an umbrella to keep Teddy dry in the rain. In geography, we have enjoyed learning about Hot and Cold places. We also learned about Ireland during International Heritage Week. We baked soda bread, made flags, listened to Irish music, and tasted some Irish treats. We made wonderful presentations about our heritage and presented them to the class, teaching each other about the food, games, cultures, and languages of different countries.



**Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher**

## Year 2

In English this term, we have explored stories with a repeating pattern. This provided an opportunity for children to apply their understanding of capital letters, full stops, and the inclusion of vivid adjectives. The focus then shifted to information texts, differentiating between fiction and non-fiction, and grasping the distinct features that characterise information texts. Activities included organising facts into paragraphs, creating subheadings, deploying expanded noun phrases, and mastering the use of commas in lists.

Our mathematical focus has expanded to exploring fractions more comprehensively. This involved understanding equivalent fractions and mastering the skill of finding fractions of amounts. Children also developed their knowledge of addition and subtraction, solving intricate missing number problems.



Religious Education centred on the theme of the Good News. Children reflected on the poignant moment when Jesus was lost in the temple as a boy and contemplated the qualities required of disciples in contemporary times.

Continuing our scientific journey, we have delved into the captivating realm of seed dispersal this term. Children considered various mechanisms plants employ to spread their seeds, including designs that stick on animals and humans. Practical experiences extended to understanding the conditions necessary for healthy plant growth, culminating in a STEM lesson building pyramids and the hands-on activity of planting cress seeds.

In History, we have taken part in many engaging activities as children created timelines illustrating the pivotal events in Florence Nightingale's remarkable life.

In Geography, our exploration centred on the UK and its constituent countries. Utilising world maps, atlases, and globes, children identified key facts about each country, fostering a broader understanding of the geographical landscape.

Year 2 have enthusiastically embraced a spectrum of specialist subjects, including PE, Spanish, Art and Computing, finding joy in the diverse and engaging learning experiences each discipline offers.

**Mr Burke – Year 2 Teacher**

## KS2 this half term

It's been an incredibly busy and fun filled half term. The children in KS2 have all been working extremely hard in all areas of the curriculum. We have, of course, enjoyed several Key Stage 2 events together, including the Diversity Day and the House Quiz. It is always so wonderful to see how our children work so well together in mixed age groups.

## Year 3

The children in Year 3 have been learning about Europe in their Geography lessons and were excited to zoom in on Italy during International week. The highlight of the week was designing and making their own pizzas. The projects that the children created about their heritage were wonderful, and they presented them brilliantly to the class.

The children have been learning about traditional tales in their English lessons and have also been doing some report writing on Italy. In Science they have been learning about forces and magnets and have really enjoyed carrying out investigations about friction and magnetism. Holy Communion classes have commenced for some of the children in Year 3 who are having their First Holy Communion this year. Thank you to Ms. Fernandes for leading and preparing the children.

The children enjoyed participating in their first netball match against Saram Hall in one of their PE lessons.



## Year 4

The children in Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed reading their class text, 'Journey to the River Sea', which has great links to their geography topic of South America. In Maths they have been learning about the expanded method and partition method of multiplication with a two-digit and one-digit number, obtuse, acute, and right angles, subtraction, and addition chains to support mental arithmetic.

They have also learnt about regular and irregular polygons in geometry. The topic in Geography has been South America. As part of International and Heritage Week they learnt about Bolivia.

It was fantastic that they chose this country because of the sister schools of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that are found there. They learnt about the countries of South America, lines of longitude and latitude, climate zones, weather patterns, and biomes.



In art they have been looking at famous artwork by South American artists. They created colour wheels and learnt about primary, secondary, and tertiary colours. They have also created mosaic-style pieces of art inspired by South American artist Romero Britto.

Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed their class trip, to the Living Rainforest in Berkshire. During the trip the children attended a workshop based on animal and plant adaptations. The children saw a variety of animals native to South America and plants. This links to their learning in Geography, English, and Science.

The children have been busy creating research projects throughout the term, which have included the following topics: Kings and Queens, Ancient Gods, Famous Books and Africa.



## Year 5

The children have continued to work incredibly hard this term in preparation for their 11+. Current Affairs sessions and Reasoning continue to take place weekly within the time table and the children are utilising the Atom Learning online platform. A new session for the children this half term has been Critical Thinking. They have really enjoyed taking part in a number of different tasks, which have made them think 'outside of the box'. At the end of every Maths lessons, the children are now self-assessing themselves for 'Confidence, Speed and accuracy'. They are working on increasing (or decreasing) the speed at which they work and gain greater accuracy throughout.

The class topic this term is 'Our Living Planet' with the main focus on water. The children are enjoying their Geography lessons all about water, how and why we use water, the water cycle, the water treatment process, comparing water usage in Kenya and the UK, and how water can be used for power to contribute to a more sustainable future are just some of the things we have looked at so far. The cross curricular approach to the topic has seen the children get really stuck into their class novel 'Kensuke's Kingdom' and in art, the children have recreated the Monet Water Lilies painting and have also made some lilies using clay.



Our focus in class during International Week was on Kazakhstan, which was fantastic. The amount of learning that took place about the country was remarkable. To make our International Week even more impressive, it has been wonderful to see the huge efforts from the children as they have researched their family trees, and some even

traced their ancestors back several centuries! The children were so engaged and thoroughly enjoyed sharing their family's history!



## Year 6

Year 6 has conducted themselves brilliantly throughout the term, as they have visited many different schools for their interviews. It has been a really positive few weeks for the children, and they look forward to hearing from the Secondary Schools soon with regards to their applications. In RE, the children have had a chance to not only revise what happens at Mass and in what order, but have been able to deepen their knowledge and understanding of what happens. They even carried out interviews with members of their families to see what they all thought.

In English, they have started their new set book, 'Macbeth', and have used drama to gain a fuller understanding of the play. In class, they have also focused on the development of language, and in particular, how English has developed throughout the ages. Looking at linguistics puzzles has helped them to understand further how different languages operate and has certainly helped them to prepare for this year's Linguistics Olympiad.

In Maths they have been furthering their knowledge of geometry, dividing their time between calculating angles and also constructing a variety of different polygons. A few children managed to construct dodecagons and mystic roses! There has also been an emphasis on problem solving with fractions and number sequences.

The children have been revising their map reading skills with all the knowledge that accompanies this in their Geography lessons and will be applying these to study rivers. History has consisted of looking further into what the Ancient Greeks were like and what their interests and priorities were.

The highlight of the term has been DT. Just before the end of last term, the children were introduced to the F1 project by Mr. Hirst, and this continued apace with much enthusiasm. They have constructed cars, pit stops, and portfolios, as well as other associated items, and then got the chance to race their cars against those from other schools at the RAF base at Benson. The children learnt a lot from the whole project. One of teams' cars came in 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 14 cars in the primary race, as well as one of our teams winning first prize for the best-designed portfolio in the primary section of the competition.



Mrs Ellisdon - Head of KS2

## PE Update

Last week, the Year 3 and 4 children put in a fantastic effort during their Inter House netball competition. The children worked very well in their House teams and the standard of netball was impressive. Congratulations to Saint Francis, who emerged as the overall winners with some excellent victories for both the A and B teams. Special recognition goes to standout players Betsy, Aurora, Harry, Kanna, Kodai, and Alice who were awarded star player certificates. There was some excellent shooting during the afternoon, but the leading scorers from the event were Beatrix and Diyan, who both scored 5 goals. Thank you to Mr. Artur for umpiring and our Year 6 House captains for assisting with the event.



On Monday, some Year 3, 4, and 5 children participated in a football match against Trevor Roberts. The teams delivered an outstanding performance. The children demonstrated fantastic resilience and sportsmanship throughout the matches and played some excellent football. Well done to all the children for their efforts, and a special mention must go to the Star players Alex N, Alice B, and Ari.

#### **Match report from Alex Year 5**

On Monday, we had the chance to play a memorable football game against Trevor Roberts. It was 5 a side, and we played 3 games. Everyone was so motivated and so proud to represent the school. We won the first game, drew the second, and lost the final game. All of the teams were fantastic, and there was a real team spirit throughout the games. We were lucky to have parents cheering us on, which made it even more special. I hope that we will have many more games for Saint Christina's.





In our PE lessons this week, the Nursery and reception classes continued to work on their gymnastics. They spent time exploring the apparatus with a focus on climbing, jumping, and travelling. The Year 2 and 3 classes spent time preparing for their final routine, which they will be performing after half term. The older children continued to work on football, with a focus on quick passing and precise shooting.



The Year 6 football team displayed their skills at a tournament hosted by Cavendish on Wednesday along with 8 other schools. Despite facing tough competition, the girls displayed exceptional teamwork and determination, resulting in some very close matches and exciting football action. There were some strong defensive performances from Milana, Anna, and Sarah in goal.



### Upcoming Fixtures

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opposition</b>	<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Time</b>
Monday 26th February	Sarum Hall	5/6 Girls Football	15.45-5.00
Wednesday 28th February	SHHS	5 Netball tournaments	15.00-17.30
Monday 4th March	Devonshire House	Yr. 5A and 4A Netball	16.00-17.00
Wednesday 6th March	SHHS	6 Netball tournaments	15.00-17.30
Monday 11th March	St Mary's	Yr. 6A and B Netball	16.00-17.00

**Mr Raveney - Director of Sport**

## Music – A New Beginning!

It has been a privilege and a joy to begin 2024 at Saint Christina's, and I am very grateful to the staff, pupils, and the wider school community here for making me feel so welcome.

All the children have been learning some new hymns for Mass and assembly, and I have been delighted with their enthusiasm and readiness to learn new things, as well as teach me the songs they know well. Music in the classroom has also been flourishing, and here is a summary of some of what we have been up to.

### Nursery and Reception

We have been exploring sounds and rhythm using our voices and bodies through songs and rhymes, actions, marching, and finding creative ways to keep the pulse. A number of puppet friends have helped us, as has a giant scrunchie in "The Stretchy Band Song" (which, funnily enough, also proved very popular with year 5!).

### Years 1 and 2

In addition to the rhythm, and song work above, we have been learning some topic-related songs. Year 1 explored a range of instrumental sounds for the different creatures in the song "Down there under the sea", and Year 2 performed a fun song about Florence Nightingale complete with actions they helped to invent.

### Year 3

I have been impressed by Year 3's beautiful singing voices and would encourage as many as possible to join the Choir after half term! We have been working on musical questions and answers, copying patterns by ear, and will be moving on to some improvising and composing using tuned percussion.

### Year 4

With carnival season in Brazil at this time of year and their class topic on South America, it seemed like the perfect time for Year 4 to embark on a samba project. We looked at samba parades and bands and the range of percussion instruments involved, and we have begun learning a samba piece involving call and response and several layers of rhythms. It can naturally be a little noisy, but it is lots of fun.

### Year 5

We have examined what makes a good performance and are now working on improving our performance skills in some new areas. Chair drumming is a fantastic way to develop coordination, rhythm, and timing, and skills gained can be transferred to a real drum kit. We've been playing along to some well-known songs and having fun getting it wrong—including me!

### Year 6

Another class of beautiful singers, we have been examining a chord sequence known as "The Four Chord Trick" and finding out just how many songs make use of it. This will lead to some a cappella vocal work, but we will also be preparing songs for the Easter Play after half term.

## Music Ensembles

Making music with others is one of the best ways to make progress and learn valuable musical skills. All the ensembles have spaces for new members, so please get in touch if you would like your child to take part.

**Little Voices** (Mondays, 12.45-1.15pm)

**KS2 Choir** (Mondays, 3.45-4.30pm)

**Ukulele Club** (Thursdays, 8.15-8.45am)

**Theory Club** (Thursdays, 12.30-1.00pm)

**Guitar Club** (Thursdays, 1.00-1.30pm)

**Orchestra** (Thursdays, 3.45-4.30pm)

**String Ensemble** (Fridays, 12.30-1.00pm)

**Mrs Bryant – Director of Music**

## Art

After the half-term break, we have an exciting activity planned for you! We're inviting all Year 5 students to bring in an item to sew on. It could be a plain t-shirt, a cotton tote bag, or even a light-coloured pillowcase.

This activity will allow you to explore your creativity and learn basic sewing skills. Whether you're a beginner or have some experience, it's a fantastic opportunity to express yourselves and add your personal touch to your belongings.

Please remember to bring your chosen item to school after the half-term break. We can't wait to see what you'll create!

If you have any questions, feel free to ask me.



Get ready to sew and have fun!

**Miss Bretones – Art Teacher**



## Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February until Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Our annual **Book Fair** will be in school from **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February** until **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March** and promises to have many new and contemporary book titles on offer!

Your child will be allocated a time to browse the books at the Book Fair with their class. They will write down the titles that they would like to purchase on a form that they will bring home. You will then have the opportunity to discuss whether you would like to purchase any of the books that your child has selected. If you decide to make a purchase, you will be asked to scan the QR code on the form which will enable you to make a payment electronically (QR code also at the bottom here should you need it). Please list the books that you would like to purchase **clearly** alongside the total amount. When you have made your purchase, you will be given a reference number for your payment. Please write this clearly on the form.

*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.*

Once the form is complete and payment has been made, your child should bring the form back to school and return it to **Mrs Ellidson** by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at the latest**. Books will be delivered to your child as soon as the order form is in. If we run out of a certain book this will be ordered and delivered to your child the following week.

Please contact me if you have any queries regarding the details of this letter.

**Mrs Ellidson - Head of KS2 and English**

**SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS**

## My **BOOK FAIR** Wish List

IF YOU SPOT ANY BOOKS YOU LIKE AT THE BOOK FAIR, YOU CAN WRITE THEM DOWN ON YOUR WISH LIST BELOW.

<b>NAME:</b>	<b>CLASS:</b>
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Title	Price

**Information for Parents and Guardians**

If you'd like to purchase any of the books your child has listed and want to avoid sending cash into school, you can pay online at [www.travellingbooks.co.uk/pay](http://www.travellingbooks.co.uk/pay) or by purchasing Book Fair gift vouchers. You can find out more about the books available and confirm prices at [travellingbooks.co.uk/books](http://travellingbooks.co.uk/books)

**Pay Online: (this is a payment platform only, you do not enter your order)**  
Visit [travellingbooks.co.uk/pay](http://travellingbooks.co.uk/pay)

If you're at the Book Fair, or if your child has attended and chosen their books, you can now pay online using our secure parent payment system. Once payment is complete, to place your order return this wish list to your school so your child's books can be supplied from the book fair.

Reference number:	Total order value: £
Books Purchased:	

**Pay with Gift Vouchers:**  
Avoid handling cash with pre-paid gift vouchers. Visit [travellingbooks.co.uk/parents](http://travellingbooks.co.uk/parents) to purchase, available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25.

Gift Voucher code: <b>G000</b>	Total order value: £
Gift Voucher value: £	

Scan the QR code to pay online!



**Scan the QR code to pay for your books online or visit [travellingbooks.co.uk/pay](http://travellingbooks.co.uk/pay)**

## 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)**

## 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](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.

## Saint Christina's Food Collection



## Parents Link Updates & Events

### 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

SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF TERM	
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children return to school</li></ul>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 2 Coffee Morning</li><li>• Forest School</li></ul>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 6A and B Netball Fixture (Away)</li></ul>
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 5 Mass 2:45pm</li><li>• Parent Link EYFS Afternoon Tea</li></ul>
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Travelling Book Fair</li><li>• Year 5 and 6 Football Fixture (Away)</li></ul>
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forest School</li><li>• Year 5 Netball Tournament (Away)</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/>