



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 18th October 2024

Dear Parents,

This has been a fantastic half term. I am so impressed with the attitude that the children have brought into Saint Christina's every day. It really is a very wonderful place for your children to be growing and learning during this phase of their lives.

There is much excitement about the Monster Mash disco tonight! The children are really looking forward to the event and have produced a wonderful array of pumpkins to add to the decorations for the event. I will let slip that one in particular has caught the eye of our site manager who is also a massive Arsenal fan! I would like to extend a big thank you to all the members of staff who will be coming to support the event, but may I extend a HUGE vote of thanks to your PL committee and all those who have offered help planning the event. Invisibly, and without fanfare, the committee and volunteers have spent days in school producing props and decorations and all the things that make an event like this special. Thank you all so much for your kindness and support for the School and for the children.



Aside from the excitement of the disco, our Year 5 class has been enjoying their very last swimming session today. Children in Years 3-5 have the opportunity to attend intensive swimming coaching sessions for two weeks each, within the academic year. Our buddies have been out and about too! You might know that as part of our programme to give children the opportunity to lead, decision make and think strategically, our Year 6 Buddy prefect works closely with staff to organise our buddying programme across the School. I am delighted to see the great things that are already coming out of this year's programme – new friendships and lots of creativity.

Today, Mr Burke and the Charity Prefects and Caritas Ambassadors have been on a little mission to Quex Road in Kilburn, to deliver the contributions that our community has made to Fr Terry's Food Bank. Whilst they are there, they will have the opportunity to see how the Food Bank works as well as meet Fr Tom and some of the volunteers who run it. You will know that our work to support the Food Bank is not just something that we do around Harvest. It is an ongoing mission that aims to show children that need in our community never goes away; that we are very fortunate and it is within our gift to help those who are not.

This bulletin is packed with information about all the things that the staff and children have been doing this week. I hope that you will be as impressed as I am by the number of things that the children are engaged in both within and beyond the curriculum. It's so lovely to be involved in a School where there are so many projects, puzzles, challenges, debates, charity initiatives and that's just some of things that you are able to read about today. Our community is such a vibrant tapestry of opportunity and interest – we are so blessed to have such amazing folk within our community.

Finally, I am pleased to tell you that our open Morning went very well on Wednesday. Our choir sang two wonderful songs for our visitors, and following my address, our head boy and head girl made speeches that shone a little light on their time at Saint Christina's. Their speeches were really well crafted and delivered, and our visitors full of compliments for the children, staff and the parents who supported the event. I think they liked the new classrooms and the playground too! If you do have friends who are interested in Saint Christina's, particularly for entry into our Early Years, please encourage them to be in contact as soon as possible as places are filling up very quickly.

Over the Half Term, The Chancellor will be making her long-awaited budget announcement. This will include her plans for independent schools and VAT. The smart money says that she will push ahead with her plans for the tax from January, with very little mitigation or nuance. The hope is, that even now, she might consider delaying implementation until later in the year because both HMRC and the Treasury are saying that they are not ready or able to meet the deadline adequately. Reading the runes, this policy is ideologically important to the Government, so I think that they will be happy to live with a horror show of an initial implementation in January, because they will then say that they are a Government that delivers on its promises. The Governors continue to monitor the situation and will be meeting early in the second half of term to finalise their strategy around the announcement. We will, of course, be in contact once this is all finalised.

Thank you so much for all your support over the first half of this term. It is a real privilege to be able to be the Headteacher of such a wonderful community of pupils, sisters, staff and parents. I hope that you all have a wonderful break for Half term, and look forward to seeing you all again, on 4th November.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alastair Gloag', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alastair Gloag
Headteacher

Headteacher's Half Term Curious Question Challenge

You will know that I generally have a 'Curious Question' on the go in School. These are often the sorts of questions that will help the children think outside of the box ... or just think about things that they take for granted. My challenge for the Half Term and the first couple of weeks when we come back, aims to get children who are interested, to engage in something a little more technical. For this, they may benefit from a little help because ideally, they will be able to do a little research and capture some helpful bits and pieces from books or from open-source information on the topic and this needs to be done safely. Good luck!

Curious Question

Your answer won't fit on a post-it note this time! You'll need to explain things in a bit of detail and if you find some good diagrams and pictures to show how it works, all the better!!

An adult male elephant weighs up to 7 tons – that's very heavy!

This aeroplane weighs 191 tonnes – that is REALLY heavy!

If I was to ask you if an elephant can fly you would say, "Don't be silly, they are too heavy!"

BUT, the plane is a lot heavier and it can fly?

You might say that it's got wings, so that's why it can fly, but if I attached wings to an elephant, I still don't think it would be able to fly!

So, why is a big heavy plane, that weighs 191 tonnes, able to fly?

This is a different sort of challenge! You will need to do some 'finding out' from books or with your parents

I hope that you have a lot of fun finding out!

Lots of House Points for those who have a proper go!

Nursery

This week in Nursery, the children have embraced new activities with growing confidence. They've loved learning how to make playdough throughout the week and baking bread during cooking sessions, inspired by their excitement for starting 'dough disco.' Alongside this, we've been learning maths songs as part of our pre-math activities and exploring colour mixing, with the children discovering how to make purple. We also wrapped up our half-term creative focus on 'glue,' where the children explored how to use it and its many purposes. It's been a week full of fun to wrap up the first half term!

Ms Randle – Nursery Teacher and Head of EYFS

Reception Class

Our Reception classes have had an exciting and engaging start to the year! The children have loved attending their specialist classes, including computing, music, Spanish, and PE. We've explored many exciting topics, including the arrival of Autumn. The children went on a nature walk to Primrose Hill, looking for signs of the changing season. Our inquiry into trains sparked curiosity, leading to lots of questions and discoveries. We also talked about caring for our world, and as part of a mini-project, the children made compost using their orange and banana peels from snack time. Another highlight has been learning about animals, including which ones are nocturnal.

The children enjoyed making animal masks as part of this fun exploration. Our cooking sessions have been a hit too, with delicious creations like carrot cake, toast, and roasted pumpkin seeds. As part of our Black History Month celebrations, we've learned about some famous artists including Alma Thomas and Jean-Michel Basquiat. Reception has also spent time thinking about what makes each of us special and what our superpowers are. Journaling, writing stories, making new friends, and diving into all things Reception has made this term truly unforgettable. We're excited for the adventures ahead!



Ms Williams – Reception Class Teacher

Year 1 and Year 4 buddies

There has been great excitement as Year 1 and Year 4 have spent time as buddies for the first time this year! We got to know each other and worked together to create posters linked to our current CST theme 'Care for Creation'. We reflected on God's wonderful world and what we love about it. We thought about the different ways we can care for God's world. We created a variety of posters, including posters sharing information about some of our favourite animals and posters encouraging others to take care of God's world by doing this such as recycling and turning of lights when we aren't in the room. We are excited to spend more time together throughout the rest of the year.



Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher

Year 1

Year 1 have been made a great start to the year this half term! In English, we have been listening to the story or Paddington Bear by Michael Bond and completing a variety of writing activities based on the story. We have written captions for illustrations, descriptions of Paddington, lists of things he could pack for a trip to Buckingham Palace. We also enjoyed writing instructions to make a marmalade sandwich and making our own sandwiches this week! In RE, we have been learning about God's wonderful world and how we can care for Creation. In Geography, we have been learning about Our Local Area and the countries in the UK. We have enjoyed exploring our local area, comparing the country and the city and developing our knowledge of maps by exploring our atlases. In Science, we have been learning about Seasonal Change, we have been identifying sign of autumn, recording the weather, thinking about the changes us around us and how different animals adapt for winter.

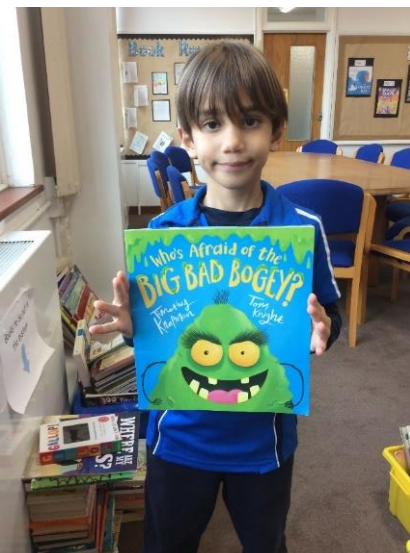


Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher

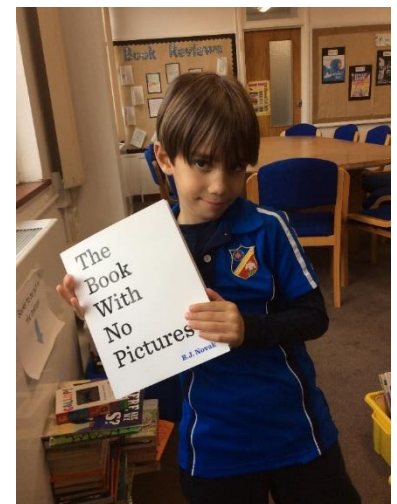
KS1 Story Club

It has been a lovely start to story club this half term! We have really enjoyed listening to stories recommended by our friends and we hope you have too!

The Book with No Pictures by B.J. Novak: *This is a great book. It is funny and fun to read! Get your grown up to read it because there is a funny and silly page for adults to read and that is my favourite part.* - Raphael Year 2



Who's Afraid of the Big Bag Bogey? by Timonhy Knapman and Tom Knight: *In this story it's a bogey who is funny and silly. I like the Bogey song and the stories that are in it he visits. The bogey squashed the wolf in one!* - Raphael Year 2



Ms Orla Higgins - Year 1 Teacher

KS1 STEM Club

Our Key Stage 1 STEM Club had a blast this week creating their very own lava lamps! Using just oil, water, food colouring, and a fizzy tablet, the children explored how liquids with different densities can mix (and not mix!) to create a mesmerizing, bubbly effect. It was a fantastic hands-on experiment that sparked curiosity and a love for science. Well done, everyone! Keep an eye out for more exciting STEM adventures ahead.



Ms O’Leary – KS1 STEM Teacher

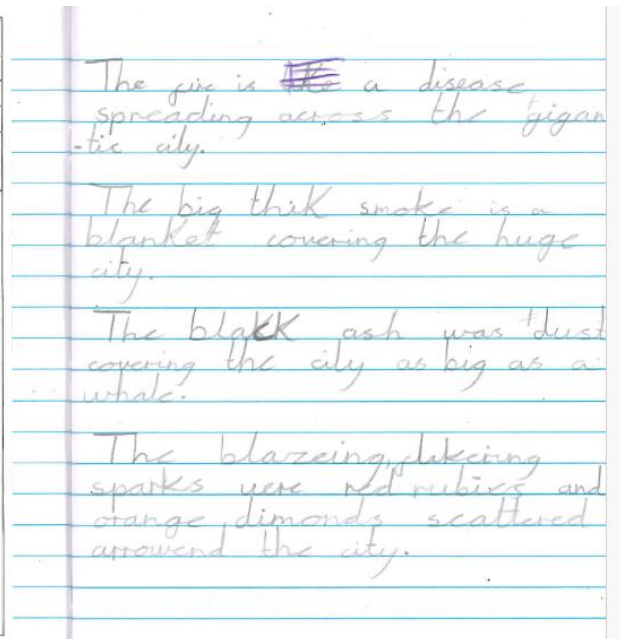
Year 2

This week in Year 2, we’ve been focusing on poetry, using the Great Fire of London as our inspiration. In English, the children have learned how to use similes, metaphors, and personification to make their writing more vivid and expressive. They’ve explored how language can bring their ideas to life and help paint a picture for the reader.

The creativity they’ve shown has been fantastic, with lines like “the fire is a disease spreading across the gigantic city” and “the blazing flickering sparks were red rubies scattered around the city.” It’s been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they use these techniques to create their own poems.

Mr Burke – Year 2 Teacher

Learning Objective	Date: Thursday 11 th October 2024															
To create effective metaphors.	Must	Should	Could	Independent												
	Complete each of the sentence starters provided to create metaphors to describe the fire.	Use the 'Metaphor Help Sheet' to assist you in writing metaphors to describe the fire.	Create a range of metaphors to describe the fire.	Teacher Assisted TA Assisted Peer Work												
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a noun to describe. Choose something to compare it to. Use the words 'is' and 'are' to compare the two things. Complete the sentence to explain what the thing is doing. <p>You could compare the fire to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a disease a virus the plague a blanket a carpet a war an attack a rumour gossip <p>Some vocabulary you might use:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>spark</td> <td>smoke</td> <td>ember</td> </tr> <tr> <td>blaze</td> <td>ash</td> <td>dust</td> </tr> <tr> <td>flicker</td> <td>fume</td> <td>amber</td> </tr> <tr> <td>flare</td> <td>cinder</td> <td>inferno</td> </tr> </table>					spark	smoke	ember	blaze	ash	dust	flicker	fume	amber	flare	cinder	inferno
spark	smoke	ember														
blaze	ash	dust														
flicker	fume	amber														
flare	cinder	inferno														



Year 3 Harvest Mass

Last Friday, Year 3 led the School Mass on the theme of Harvest where we thanked God for his many gifts at this time of the year. We also thought of those in our local area and in the world, who are less fortunate than us. Remembering that if we have got more than we need, then we should always share what we have with others.

The children read their parts beautifully and everyone sung their hearts out in the responsorial psalm, 'Thank you Lord for the Harvest' and the Harvest Samba. We all left the chapel feeling uplifted! Well done Year 3, for leading such a lovely Mass.



Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher

Year 5 Art

Year 5 have been getting creative with printmaking, drawing inspiration from the beautiful nature-inspired designs of William Morris. Using Styrofoam to carve intricate patterns, the students created their own prints, experimenting with texture, symmetry, and colour. The results were stunning, capturing the essence of Morris's love for the natural world. It was a fantastic way to connect art and history, and the class did an amazing job bringing their designs to life! Well done, Year 5!



Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Teacher

Year 5 History

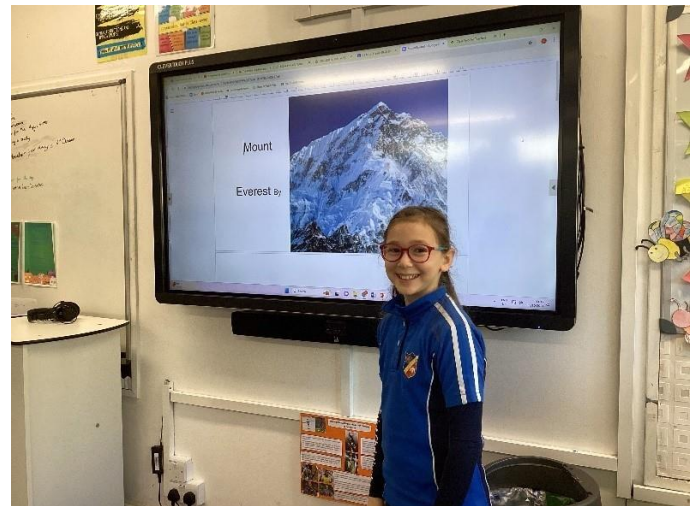
Year 5 have been stepping back in time to the Victorian era and exploring some of the most ground breaking inventions that changed the world! From the telephone to the flushing toilet, the class worked hard researching and presenting their findings on these incredible innovations. Their presentations were full of fascinating facts and creativity, showcasing just how much the Victorian era shaped the modern world. Well done to all our budding historians for their hard work and enthusiasm!

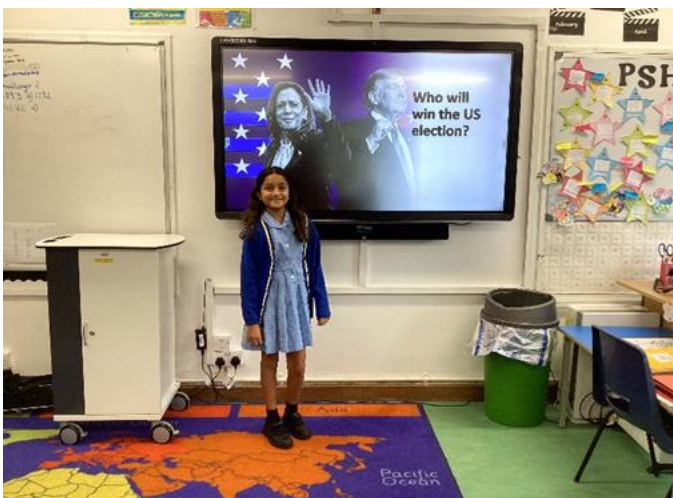


Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Teacher

Year 5 Current Affairs

Year 5 have been diving into the world of current affairs, presenting on a wide range of exciting and important topics! From the recent discovery of a new moon in our solar system to the upcoming US elections, the students showcased their research and critical thinking skills. They also explored the impact of weather patterns around the globe and even shared eco-friendly chocolate-making tips, combining science and sustainability. Their presentations were informative, engaging, and thought-provoking—well done, Year 5!





Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Teacher

Year 6

The children in Year 6 working hard in preparation for their upcoming 11+ exams. They have been busy completing past papers and revising the 11+ syllabus in Maths and English. They have a critical thinking session every week and this consists of Current Affairs and a persuasive argument. The children take it in turns to either present a current news story to the class or select a topic to debate. In their speech they must introduce the topic and explain both sides of the argument in detail. At the end they provide their opinion and then open it up to the class for a discussion. It has been wonderful to see the children so engaged in these sessions and really beginning to think critically. They have been using great persuasive language in their speeches. These skills will all stand them in good stead for their 11+ and life beyond Saint Christina's. Topics which have been discussed so far are: *Should food companies donate food to help homeless and poor people?; Should people be fined for dropping litter?; Should the Government help people who are homeless?; Should children have a time limit when using the internet?; Should children wear a uniform?; Should children be allowed to choose where they sit in school?; Should schools have a zero-tolerance policy for bullying?; Should food companies donate food to help homeless and poor people?*

In addition to all of the 11+ preparation, the children have been enjoying the topic of WWII. They all love the topic and can't wait for the History lessons each week! So far we have covered: *what events led to the outbreak of WWII?; What was 'appeasement'?; Who was Winston Churchill; and why do we remember him?; What happened at Dunkirk?; What was the Battle of Britain?; What was most significant during the Battle of Britain; the skills pilots, the planes or radar technology?* During their Art lessons the children have been looking at the impact of propaganda posters and have created their own.

In RE the children have completed a unit on the Kingdom of God, where they learnt about the virtues (referred to as the 'values'), parables linked to the Kingdom of God, the relevance of the Invitation to the Kingdom of God, how we are prompted to act and people who exemplified those who live according to the values of the Kingdom of God (in this instance, St Therese of Lisieux and Blessed Carlo Acutis).

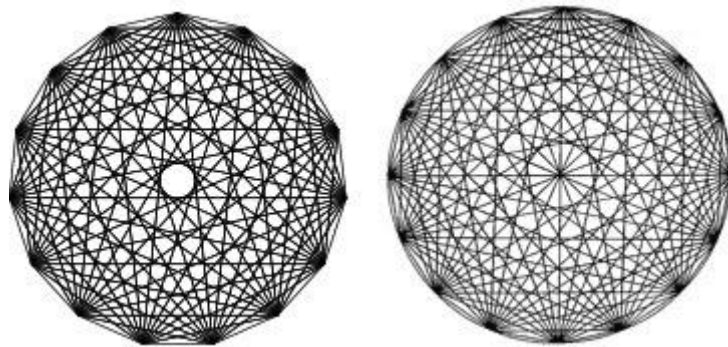
In their music lessons the children have been exploring the "four chord trick" – a chord sequence that forms the basis of a large number of popular songs. They made an a cappella recording of a mixture of these, first creating their own vocal backing track, and they are about to start a small group project using what they have learnt to put together their own versions.

It's been a wonderful half term which has absolutely flown by! I am proud of the efforts of all of the children in the class.

Mrs Ellisdon – Year 6 Teacher

Mathematics and Art

This week, the Year Four children who came along to the mathematics club at lunchtime engaged in some mathematical Art. They took circles with points marked evenly along the circumference of the circle and joined these points using rulers. Some just joined certain lines, which resulted in patterns not unlike those that occur on the rims or borders of circles. Others were more ambitious and produced what is known as Mystic Roses:



The two examples above are more complicated than the ones we created, as we only had half an hour...but should you wish your children to produce mystic roses it would be easy enough to get instructions from the Internet – or, you could e-mail me at Saint Christina's of course!

And I am sure many of you will have seen such patterns like the ones above in art shows or in books.

But where else can you encounter mathematical patterns in real life? Look beneath your feet, and see how the paving stones fit together (usually the rectangles fitting together would be referred to as a tessellation). Look at different types of wallpaper patterns – can you see the repeating patterns there? Where else could you and your children see patterns and identify the shapes that they contain? One amazing place for this is the Zoo – look carefully at zebras, and see how the black and white parts of zebras' form patterns. Does this apply to any other animal?

Perhaps you might want to enter 'tessellations' into the search engine on your computer, and discuss what you see. Or maybe you might want to research some of the material that the artist Escher produced.

And for those of you who remember this toy, how about obtaining Spirograph equipment and seeing what patterns you can make? By varying where you put your pen on any of the Spirograph wheels you can create all sorts of patterns, such as the one below:



And then there are asteroids, not to mention curve stitching...the possibilities are endless.

I do hope this gives you some ideas that you can try out with your children...and remember, the more you discuss these patterns or the patterns you observe in real life, the more you are feeding your child's minds and providing them with material to create!

Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

Problem Solving at Saint Christina's

We have recently been having a drive at problem solving at Saint Christina's. Mrs Overing has been encouraging children to practise the problems from the BEBRAS site, as this competition (which encourages computational thinking) will run in early November. The problems are often outside the box in nature and in addition to having applications in ICT are an excellent source of the sort of problem solving that will occur in Mathematics and Science.

I have now been circulating problems to children in classes in KS2 for them to try. We have evolved the following mode of operations: I give out the problems to children who wish to take part, they solve the problems and then hand them in to me, I then mark them, displaying the best solutions on the noticeboard in the Mathematics Break Out Room. I also keep a record of the problems that have been set so that I know what problems to set later on!

So far, we have encountered problems taken from the Kangaroo competitions, as well as problems involving area, division, navigating the underground system in Yerevan and puzzling out the value of the Danegeld.

There will be plenty of more problems to follow, including a special set of Harry Potter problems!

The most successful problem solvers so far include Matthew, Diana, Philippe and Giulio.

Who else will succeed?

Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

Art and Black History Month

This year, to celebrate and learn about Black History Month, we have combined our Art and Spanish lessons in a unique and meaningful project. We have been learning about the influential artist Faith Ringgold, an African American painter, writer, and sculptor known for her story quilts that blend art and storytelling to explore themes of identity, race, and social justice. Her famous quilt, *Tar Beach*, has inspired our students to create their own beautiful artworks.

Drawing inspiration from Ringgold's techniques, students created drawings framed with collage, each showcasing their creativity and new Spanish vocabulary. Year 2 students focused on family members, Year 3 explored their favourite animals, and Year 6 expressed their hobbies. We congratulate all the children for their excellent drawings and for embracing this opportunity to learn and create in such a vibrant and inspiring way.



** Black History Month is a positive movement because it acknowledges and celebrates Black people's achievements, after many years of oppression and dismissal of some of their historical contributions. Black history is a part of world history and so shouldn't just be confined to October. This is something that should be considered all year round!*

Ms Bretones – Art and Spanish Teacher

PE Update

Year 5 completed their intensive swimming this week. They have been fantastic and the swimming teachers have all commented on their efforts and improvements they have made. This week they have continued to refine their swimming techniques and have spent some time working on some important water safety and lifesaving skills.

Last Thursday the Year 5A and B netball teams began their league fixtures with 2 great wins against SHHS. The A team won 6-5 with some great shooting from Norah and the B team won 1-0 despite playing with 6 players with some excellent defending from Altea.

The Year 6 netball teams both suffered defeats against St Christopher's on Monday but did not give up throughout the games. We struggled to mark the shooter and were not as accurate as usual with our shooting.

On Tuesday we welcomed Southbank to participate in some small sided football matches. There were some excellent performances throughout the afternoon and some fantastic saves and goals. The A Team were defeated 4-1 by a very strong opposition with an excellent goal from star player Alex. The B team played very well and won their game 2-0 with some great goals from Alexander and great tackling preventing several goals from star player Milana. The C team suffered a narrow 2-0 defeat despite playing some very good football they took a little too long on the ball and failed to get their shots away quickly. Alice M made some fantastic saves in goal and passed the ball very well to her teammates. Thank you to all the parents for your continued support at the sporting fixtures it is hugely appreciated.

Upcoming fixtures

Date	Opposition	Team	Time
Monday 4th November	St Christopher's Away	Yr 5A and B girls netball	16.00-17.00
Thursday 7 th November	Northbridge House (Regents Park)	Year 5 and 6 mixed football	14.00-15.00
Monday 11th November	Ivy House Home	Year 5 and 6 mixed netball	16.00-17.00
Friday 22nd November	Herward House Away	Year 5 and 6 boys football	12.30-13.30
Wednesday 27th November	Sarum Hall Home	Yr 3 football whole class	11.00-12.00
Thursday 5th December	Devonshire House Away	Year 5 girls football tournament	13.00-15.30
Monday 9th December	Sarum Hall Home	Year 4A and B mixed netball	16.00-17.00

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport

Music



This half term in music has been filled with growth and enthusiasm across the board. The choir has seen a significant increase in size and delivered a brilliant performance at the Open Morning, reflecting their dedication and passion for singing. There are still spaces for more choir members, so any KS2 children wanting to take part in the Christmas programme should come along to next rehearsal on Monday 7th November at 12.30. They can be added to the register from there, and must be committed to coming each week. The orchestra has also grown this term, welcoming a number of new members and building a fuller, more dynamic sound. Orchestra is open to all musicians who play the violin, cello, flute, or any other orchestral instrument, so if your child would like to take part please do get in touch.

Early Years children have settled into their music sessions wonderfully, enjoying learning some new songs and the range of fun movements we have explored to go with them. Years 1 to 3 have adapted enthusiastically to a new style of music lessons, where they explore musical concepts more deeply through activities conducted barefoot. This approach is helping them develop a heightened sense of rhythm and musical awareness. Year 4 have been delving into a project on West African music, learning about the rich cultural traditions and rhythms of the region, developing their drumming skills on djembes, and learning a traditional Ghanaian stick-passing song which required

lots of concentration! Year 5 have been having a great time learning to play the ukulele, particularly enjoying playing along to "Next to Me" by Emeli Sandé, and the challenge of singing and playing at the same time. Year 6 lessons have focussed on the famous "four chord trick" and they are about to begin a group project bringing together what they have learnt in a song medley of their own.

As we look ahead, we are excited to begin our preparations for Christmas, including the much-anticipated EYFS and KS1 Nativities and the KS2 Carol Service which will be held on Thursday, 12th December. All Key Stage 2 pupils will be taking part in this traditional festive event, and we are looking forward to a spectacular programme of seasonal music. It promises to be a wonderful celebration and a lovely way to end our term together.

Mrs Bryant - Director of Music

500 Words, the UK's most successful children's writing competition

It is that time of year again where I get excited to invite the children in Years 1 – 6 to enter the 500-word writing competition. All children, of all abilities, are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to write a story that they would love to read.

All the stories **must**:

- Be 500 words or less (title is not included in the number)
- Must be typed
- Be written by an individual and not a group
- Be a child's own original idea
- Be prose, not rap or poem

Stories **must not**:

- Give any personal details of the child, including their name
- Recount an historical event (but they can use a real person or historical character as a source of inspiration)

All stories will be judged on the following criteria:

- Characterisation
- Plot
- Originality
- Language
- Enjoyment

The deadline to submit entries is on 8th November so please email them to your class teach or directly to me by **Tuesday 5th November**. You can also enter your child's story in at home too (just let the class teacher know it has been entered).

It would be fantastic if we had more children short listed this year!

Happy writing!

Mrs Ellisdon - Head of English



Calling all parents and pupils from year 3-6!

The UK Bebras Challenge exposes pupils to a new way of thinking. You can get a feel for the style of the problems by viewing previous challenges. Please have a practise during the break, as the Challenge will be after half term, week commencing 4th November.

Please visit www.bebas.uk and hit *Challenges*, select your age group and try out some questions. You will be told straight away whether you are correct and an explanation to the answer is given.

Learn about computational thinking skills with BBC bitesize

The BBC have produced some excellent resources for pupils wishing to learn about computational thinking.

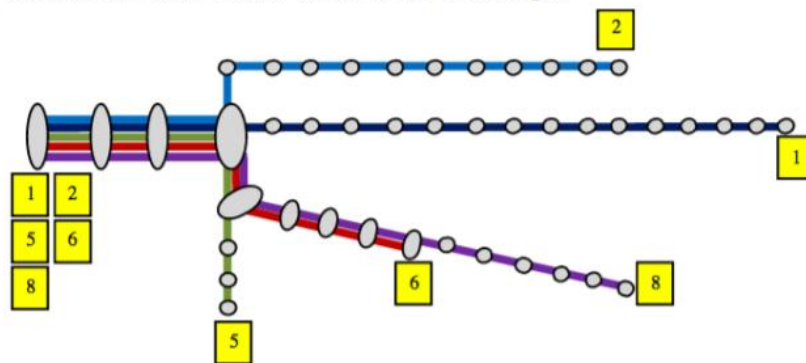
Please try this one at home! The train lines in Beaver City all have their own number. Unfortunately, the numbers are only shown on this map. When you are on a train you cannot see the line number anywhere! You get onto a train at the main station where all the lines begin. After three stations your train makes a turn. At the next station it makes another turn. Four stations later you have arrived at your destination.

The train lines in Beaver City all have their own number.

Unfortunately the numbers are only shown on this map.

When you are on a train you cannot see the line number anywhere!

You get onto a train at the main station where all the lines begin.



After three stations your train makes a turn.

At the next station it makes another turn.

Four stations later you have arrived at your destination.

Question: Which train line were you on? 1, 2, 5, 6 or 8

Many thanks

Ms Overing - ICT teacher

Eco Prefects

Last week, our Year 6 Eco Prefects led a whole-school assembly to promote ways we can make our school more eco-friendly. They shared ideas and tips with both the teachers and students, and also gathered feedback from the children. During the assembly, the students expressed interest in forming an eco-committee after half-term, with the goal of earning another Green Flag award for the school. Stay tuned for exciting updates!

Mr Hirst – Deputy Headteacher



Trip to Fr Terry's Food Bank

On Friday, we visited Fr Terry's Food Bank on Quex Road, Kilburn, where we dropped off the generous donations collected from our recent drive. Together, we sorted and organised the donations to help those in need.

We had the opportunity to speak with a range of volunteers and learn more about the essential work of the food bank. Thank you to everyone who donated this half term!

We're excited to return in the run up to Christmas to continue our support.

Thank you once again. Your contributions make a real difference in our community.



Caritas Ambassadors and Charity Prefects

REMINDERS

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

Please be aware that if you enrol one child into a club and need to put another in Homework club, there is a charge of £15 for the session. This is necessary to cover the costs of staffing the provision. 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 is charged if children are collected after 5.00pm which is when the school officially closes for the end of the day.

Parking

Whilst we are delighted to see that Westminster have finally awarded us a keep clear school zone at the front entrance, we note that the parking regime has been updated on the Camden side of the road to include more double yellow lines. Please be aware that we expect enforcement to be vigilant and encourage you to park safely and with consideration for our neighbours in areas where stopping is permitted.

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

Safety around drop-off

A polite reminder – if you are dropping your child off for breakfast club or a morning music lesson, **your child must be supervised until the doors open at 8.00am and under no circumstances left unattended.**

Retrieving forgotten items

For practical and safety reasons it is not always possible for children to return to school to retrieve forgotten items e.g., homework, snack boxes, coats etc. Once school has finished, the teachers either use their classroom for meetings or the classrooms may be empty with no one there to supervise your child whilst they are on the premises. It is rare that any oversight will be seminal and that there will be drastic repercussions should anything be temporarily irretrievable. Any belongings left in classrooms can be collected the next day during regular school hours.

Dates for your diary

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY – MONDAY 21st OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER (INCLUSIVE)	
Monday 4th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Staff return • Year 5A & B Girls Netball Fixture (Away)
Tuesday 5 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Photographs – children to wear full winter uniform
Thursday 7 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional Nasal Flu Immunisation
Friday 8 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remembrance Mass led by Year 2 – 2.45pm
W/C Monday 11 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 11 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 and 6 Mixed Netball Fixture (Home)
Tuesday 12 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery Parents Coffee Morning - 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall • First Holy Communion Meeting for Year 3 Parents – 4.00pm
Friday 15 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendship Friday – children may wear their own clothes to school and make a voluntary donation to Kidscape Anti-Bullying Charity – details of how to donate to follow • Mass led by Year 6 – 2.45pm
Tuesday 19 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 Art trip
Wednesday 20 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 Parents Coffee Morning - 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – details to follow
Friday 22 nd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Fixture (Away) • St Cecilia House Mass – 2.45pm
Tuesday 26 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 History trip
Wednesday 27 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 2 Parents Coffee Morning - 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – details to follow • Year 3 Class Football Fixture (Home)
Thursday 28 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting Pantomime (The Selfish Giant) for Nursery to Year 6
Friday 29 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 3 First Holy Communion Enrolment Mass – 2.45pm
Tuesday 3 rd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6 Consortium Exams in school
Thursday 5 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 Girls Football Tournament (Away)
Friday 6 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 Mass – 2.45pm
Monday 9 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 4 A and B Mixed Netball Fixture
Tuesday 10 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYFS Nativity – 9.30am (refreshments from 9.00am)
Wednesday 11 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS1 Nativity – 9.30am (refreshments from 9.00am)
Thursday 12 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS2 Carol Service - PM

FRIDAY 13th DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCHOOL CLOSSES AT MIDDAY FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – MONDAY 16th DECEMBER 2024 TO MONDAY 6th JANUARY 2025 (INCLUSIVE)	
Monday 6 th January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff INSET
Tuesday 7th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children return
Thursday 9 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6 Netball fixture (Away)
Friday 10 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass led by Staff – 2.45pm
Monday 13 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5/6 Mixed Football Fixture (Home)
Tuesday 14 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutritionist Workshop
Friday 17 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 4 Mass – 2.45pm
Monday 20 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5A & B Girls Netball Fixture (Away)
Wednesday 22 nd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5A & B Girls Netball Fixture (Away)
Friday 24 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Mass led by Year 2– 2.45pm
W/C Monday 27 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 4 Swimming (for 2 weeks)
Friday 31 st January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6 Mass – 2.45pm
Monday 3 rd February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 & 6 Netball Fixture (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/>