



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 20th September 2024

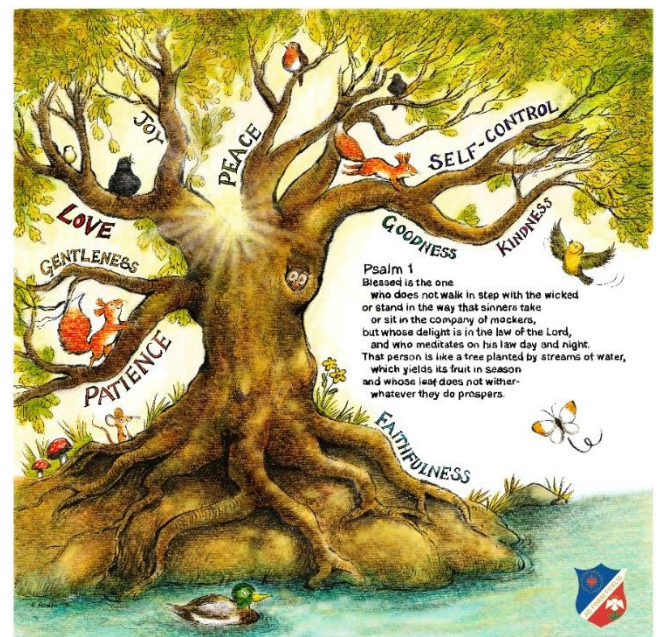
Dear Parents,

As we wend our way to the end of another week in School, I cannot express how pleased I am with the way that the children and staff have settled into this new term. It cannot be denied that as we grow, and we are 15 or so children bigger than we have been in recent years, that we need to be mindful of our core values of Love, Dignity and Respect. It is very easy, when people are 'doing well' to forget that everything around them is new. So we have been reflecting on those core values in School and we hope that we can extend the invitation to embrace our Golden Thread beyond the School Day. New is good. New is refreshing and exciting. But new also means we have to make adjustments. A parent speaking to me recently said that they were very impressed with the School and we seemed to have it 'nailed'. It was a very generous comment, but my response to this sentiment is that where communities of people are concerned, nothing is ever nailed. Communities are organic and ever-changing. Each year, for example, a cohort leaves and a fresh intake arrives, and we start over. Teachers change and everyone brings a new perspective. Parents who have contributed so much in the past, move on too, and others come to take their place with different ways of doing things. I think a good metaphor for a School community is that we are like the Forth Bridge: when they finish painting it, they have to immediately start over again. And this is what is exciting about a community like ours because that's what brings it life – so essential to any School particularly in these very uncertain times! That life is the bedrock of the joy, excitement and sense of belonging in a living community. Your children are a credit to you all and we delight in having the privilege of your company within our community.

Our Golden Thread: We have spent a lot of time over the last few years thinking about 'community' and what that means to us. One of the words that the children have thought a lot about over the years, is 'dignity', and how we need to afford everyone dignity. In assemblies, we have considered communities that are like a tub of marbles and communities that are more like a bunch of grapes. We can all see the individual marbles and when we are all in the tub, the marbles are close together, but they are not connected, and if the tub is emptied, the marbles tend to scatter, and many may be lost as they roll away from the epicentre of the tipping.

Not so with a bunch of grapes. Grapes are all held together by a common thread. If a grape is plucked from the bunch, there is a hole where the grape used to be. Grapes are juicy and can be bruised. They are soft and organic and can be enjoyed, and squashed. But they are all held together by a single organic thread and this thread connects to a greater branch and whole until, ultimately everything connects back to the root that feeds the vine.

We have thought a lot about the type of community that we are and want to be. We identify with the grapes. We are all connected by our common values of Love, Joy, Peace, Goodness, Kindness, Gentleness, Patience and Self-Control. We don't always get it right, but that is the community we seek to be and those are the characteristics we seek to cultivate as we grow.



We recognise that our community is made up of people from all around the world. We have a multitude of cultures, languages, faiths and ways of doing things represented within our community, but we are, nevertheless, one. Whilst we express our one-ness through the teachings of the Bible, the one-ness that we express transcends being a Catholic or Christian. *Our Golden Thread is that we love our neighbour – and our neighbour is not the person who lives next door, or our best buddy, but it is everyone.* And it's a tough love. How do you love the unlovely? Well we are asked to do so. So, we have reflected on what sort of community we are and want to continue to be.

We know we are setting the bar high, but we seek to be a community that keeps its roots in the cool waters of wisdom, that we as individuals become like a tree where all around us can thrive – we give, we love, we grow, we respect, we enable – and a community that seeks to take the tough road that is loving our neighbour as ourselves.

It was wonderful to be able to invite so many of our new parents into School on Thursday evening. Thank you for all your kind and supportive comments about our school and the warmth of our community. It means a great deal, and I do hope that you are all able to enjoy new friendships and opportunities as we all get to know each other.

And finally, I would like to thank Philippe for joining me as Headteacher for the Day today. We have had a fantastic morning and I have enjoyed having help in assembly and with my duties and been grateful for his contributions to our school strategy meeting. I am delighted that he has agreed to write for the bulletin this week to tell you a little more about his experience today.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Alastair Gloag
Headteacher

Head for the Day

It is because of Finn that I had the idea to be headteacher for the day.

First, I welcomed the children and parents into the school with Mr Gloag. It was fun shaking everyone's hand and welcoming them. Then I helped Mr Gloag in leading assembly and got to read the story of the lost shepherd as well as acting it out.

After that, I went around the school for a health and safety check with our Head Girl, Alice and Miss Georgia. We had to move a table and tuck in some chairs.

Then I went to playtime with Year 1 and Year 2. Next, I got to go to KS2 playtime and got to play handball with Fabio and Harry.

A little later I got to assist Mr Raveney doing PE with reception and got to help with the parachute game.

After that I had a meeting with Mr Gloag about the good things about the school and how to improve it. A good idea was how to improve the way we close the badges as they can sometimes fall off.

Then I gave ketchup for KS1 lunch and got to go out to KS2 lunchbreak. Half an hour later, I got to choose who I sit with for lunch so I chose Fabio and Harry. I really enjoyed being the headteacher for the day.



Philippe



Year 6 Mass



Year 6 led the Whole School Mass on Friday to celebrate education. The theme of the Mass was 'Learning together: education in our community'. They provided an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to everyone involved in making schools, particularly Saint Christina's, a place of care and enlightenment. The children reminded us of God's great powers and reminded us to 'be strong, do not fear!' Year 6 led the school in singing the responsorial psalm 'My God is so big' and created a wonderful atmosphere in the last song with the use of instruments.

Well done, Year 6.

Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Class Teacher

Year 1

It has been a lovely week in Year 1! We have enjoyed spending time in our outdoor learning area where we have been enjoying our snacks, listening to stories and choosing in the afternoons. We had our first phonics groups of the year and been learning about 2D shapes.





Ms Higgins – Year 1

Year 4 Science

Year 4 have enjoyed their topic of digestion and getting their hands messy recreating the digestive process in the Science room. The children used a banana and crackers and churned these up in a bag with water and orange juice to represent the stomach acid. They then squeezed out the nutrients through a pair of tights to mimic the process of the small intestine absorbing the nutrients and minerals. Finally, the children transferred the solid waste into a cup with a whole in it to recreate the end of the digestive process. A memorable afternoon was had by all and the children worked with enthusiasm. Well done, year 4!



Mr Hirst – Science Teacher

Exciting Progress in Spanish Lessons with Miss Bretones!

We are thrilled to share that the Spanish lessons with Miss Bretones are going wonderfully! The children are actively learning new vocabulary, expressions, and even some fun songs. Beyond language skills, they are also gaining an enriching understanding of Spanish culture and traditions, which is making the learning experience even more enjoyable. It's a pleasure to see their enthusiasm and progress each week!

Miss Bretones – Art and Spanish Teacher



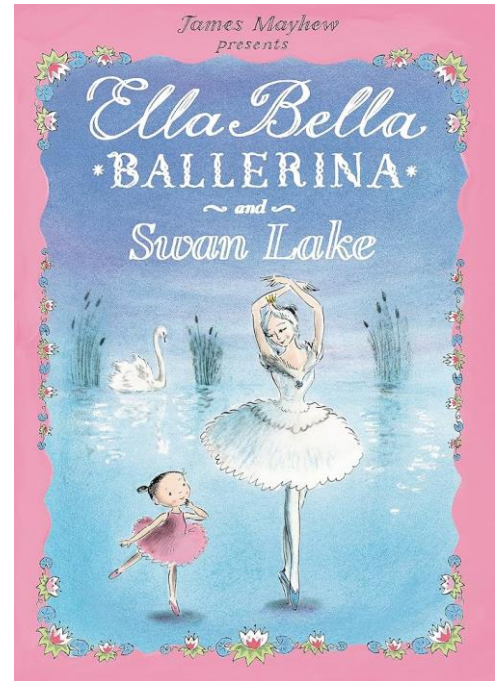
KS1 Story and Reading Club

Our story club has been off to a strong start! We are enjoying spending time in the library and borrowing books. This week we had our first recommendation for a story club member:

Ella Bella Ballerina and Swan Lake by James Matthew: I love this story because I like the girl Odette who is the white swan ballerina. She has to be careful and the story is a bit scary sometimes. There is also Odile. I give it 100 thumbs up! - Charlotte Year 1

Stay tuned for our weekly recommendations!

Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher



World Gratitude Day

This week, Year 2 looked ahead to World Gratitude Day which is celebrated on Saturday 21st September.

The children drew pictures and wrote down their ideas, showing appreciation for family, friends, school and nature.

We also spent time thinking about those less fortunate than ourselves and how we can help others.

The children shared their thoughtful ideas with the class, spreading kindness and positivity.

Well done Year 2.

Mr Burke – Year 2 Teacher



Yoga Club

The children in Reception yoga club have enjoyed learning new yoga poses to music and developed their balancing skills. They also enjoyed the game of 'toga' which is where they collect mini pompom balls with their toes!



Miss Edina – Yoga Teacher

KS1 STEM

'This week KS1 STEM club was brimming with incredible engineers! The children were actively working with bricks, Lego, Zoobles and using gears to create exciting projects! We even had a fully functioning slide as part of a water park which was constructed! Well, done everyone!'



Ms O'Leary – Year 4 Teacher

PE Update

The sun has returned this week and the children have had an excellent week in PE. The older classes have continued to work on their passing and moving in netball with a lot of focus on teaching through game play, which has helped to develop their understanding and tactics. The children have spent time working on different ways they can lose their marker in netball by changing speed and direction. In football, we have continued to look at keeping close control of the ball and finding ways to beat an opponent. The children have enjoyed some small-sided matches and conditioned games.



The younger classes have continued to develop their special awareness through running and chasing games. Reception have enjoyed throwing and catching different objects including balls and beanbags with a focus on developing their basic co-ordination. Year 1 and 2 have shown great enthusiasm during their football sessions finding different ways to dribble the ball.



Next week we begin our fixture program with football matches on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I look forward to updating you on how we get on.

Date	Against	Yr/Team	Venue	Time
Monday 23rd September	Trevor Roberts	Yr5/6 Mixed Football	Home	16.00-17.00
Wednesday 25th September	Kerem	Yr5/6 Mixed Football	Home	13.30-14.30
Friday 27th September	Gower School	Yr5/6 Boys Football	Away	14.00-15.00
Monday 30th September	Trevor Roberts	Yr3/4 Mixed Football	Home	16.00-17.01
Wednesday 2nd October	National Collegiate	Yr6 Girls Netball Tournament	Away	12.00-15.15
Monday 7th October	Devonshire House	Yr6 A and B Mixed Netball	Away	16.00-17.00
Thursday 10th October	SHHS	Yr5A and B Girls Netball	Away	16.00-16.30
Monday 14th October	St Christopher's	Yr6 A and B Mixed netball	Away	16.00-17.00
Tuesday 15th October	Southbank	Yr5/6 Mixed Football	Home	15.30-16.30

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport

Musical Instrument Taster Lessons

On Thursday morning the children were treated to performances on the flute, violin and guitar given by our visiting instrumental teachers. The teachers are now offering free 10-minute taster lessons so that children can try out the instrument. If you would like your child to have a taster lesson, please sign up using the link here:

[Instrument Taster Lessons sign-up](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly (ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk).

Liz Bryant - Director of Music

Guitar and Ukulele

If your child would like to have guitar and ukulele lessons, there are some spaces available. Please contact Keith Taylor at

- ktaylor@saintchristinas.org.uk
KS1 and KS2 only.

There are also spaces in the Ukulele club which takes place on a Thursday morning at 8am.

If your child is interested in joining the club, please contact Keith Taylor at

- ktaylor@saintchristinas.org.uk

Mr Taylor – Guitar and Ukulele Teacher

MacMillan Coffee Morning

There will be a Macmillan Coffee Morning taking place in the Arts Hall on Friday of next week from 9:00am. To celebrate this, the children are invited to wear their own clothes on this day. An optional donation to Macmillan can be made here: <https://superkind.org/campaign/saint-christinas-macmillan-coffee-morning-2024>

Catholic Social Teaching at Saint Christina's

Catholic Social Teaching is an expression of the Catholic faith, which touches on many aspects of life. Writings by Popes and Catholic leaders show how the Catholic faith can guide our response to different issues.

There are 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we are called to uphold them.

- **Sharing God's world, protecting the poor** - How do pupils share at home and at school? What are the kinds of things that are shared? Should everyone get exactly the same? Should some people get more? Why? For example, families with more children might need more resources, or someone with a disability might need extra help.
- **Human Dignity** - 'What makes me special?' 'What makes people special?' 'How should we treat each other?'
- **Caring for Creation** - How do I show respect for Creation? The earth and all life on it are part of God's creation. We are called to respect this gift. We are responsible for taking care of the world we live in and for sharing all the wonders and resources the earth gives us.
- **The Common Good** - What is 'true community'? The common good is reached when we work together to improve the wellbeing of people in our society and the wider world.
- **Solidarity** - Who are our leaders? How do we stand with others? How did Jesus show service and justice?
- **Family, community and participation** - This means all people have the right to participate in society and to seek the common good, which means the good for all.
- **Dignity in work** - All people work in some way because work is more than making a living, it's participating. Therefore, jobs and pay should be fair for everyone.



We will be looking at each of these principals throughout the academic year. The principal we will be focussing on this half term is Caring for Creation.

The earth and all it contains has been created by God. It is a gift, given to all for the good of all. The resources of the earth are not infinite. They have been given to us and to future generations. How we have treated and continue to treat the earth has profound impacts on people now and in the future. Too often we have destroyed elements of the earth for a quick gain. At a General Audience in May 2014, Pope Francis described our destruction of creation as 'like saying to God, 'I don't like it' ... Care for creation is care for God's gift to us, and it means saying to God, 'thank you, I am the custodian of creation, but to enable it to progress, never to destroy your gift''. As stewards, or custodians, of creation we have a special role to play. How we care for the earth is another sign of how we are Christians, how we show God's love in the world and put our love into action.

As well as introducing to the children to the concept of caring for creation, will be looking at what it means to be a 'good steward' and how they could look after our world. It is important that the children understand that the way we treat our common home affects everyone, in every country, now and in the future.

Fr Terry's Food Bank

We believe, at Saint 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 year and we are continuing to collect non-perishable food this half term.

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 Friday 11th October.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

Mr Burke and the Charity Prefects

Saint Christina's
Food Collection



Parents Link Committee Updates

First Event of the year - Monster Mash!

Yes, the Mash is back, a school disco so loved, even other schools talk about it. Sold out for the past two years running, our annual school disco returns, and is a special opportunity for parents, students and staff to come together for an epic evening of fun for all. No one's left out, with special early start time for EYFS and Yr1 families, before doors open to all at 6.30pm. Get ready to start brainstorming your costume ideas! We're bringing back prizes this year for the best individual and family group outfits, so get creative. Dust off those dance moves and mark your calendar—don't miss out! Join us on Friday, October 18th, for a night of fun as we do the Monster Mash!

Monster Mash Volunteers - we need you 📣

We have a theme for this year's Mash but we need your hands to make it happen. If you'd like to help make this year's decorations ahead of the event, please join us in the Arts Hall on either or both of the following dates; Friday Oct 4th 10-11.45am Friday Oct 11th 09.00-11.00 am If you don't have time/don't like painting/can't wield a glue gun, but still want to help, please save your large cardboard boxes for us! We will also be seeking volunteers to help run stands and stalls on the night too, so there will be a chance for everyone to contribute in some way. Watch this space!

Parent Link

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

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.

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 8am and under no circumstances left unattended.**

Dates for your diary

Monday 23 rd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 5/6 Mixed Football Fixture (Home)
Tuesday 24 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">London Fire Brigade Visiting – Year 2 & Year 5
Wednesday 25 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Fixture (Home)
Friday 27 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Macmillan Coffee Morning 9:00-10:00 in the Arts Hall

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Fixture (Away) • Y4 Mass • NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALE 3PM
W/C Monday 30 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual 11+ Meetings for Year 6 parents – details to follow
Tuesday 1 st October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition talks by Holroyd Howe Nutritionist for Years 1-6
Wednesday 2 nd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception Parents Coffee Morning 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – details to follow • Year 6 Girls Netball Tournament (Away)
Friday 4 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Safety Workshop for parents 09.00-10.00 • Online Safety talk for Years 3-6 • KS2/ST Francis House Mass
W/C Monday 7 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 swimming lessons begin (2-week course)
Monday 7 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6A & B Mixed Netball Fixture (Away)
Thursday 10 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6A and Year 5A and B Girls Netball
Friday 11 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y3 Mass
W/C Monday 14 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Teacher Meetings – details to follow
Monday 14 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6A & B Mixed Netball Fixture (Away)
Tuesday 15 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional Nasal Flu Immunisations – details to follow • Year 5 and 6 Boys Football Fixture (Home)
Wednesday 16 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Morning for Prospective Parents – 09.15-11.30
Friday 18th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO MASS • SCHOOL CLOSSES AT USUAL TIME FOR THE HALF-TERM HOLIDAY
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
Wednesday 6 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery Parents Coffee Morning - 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – details to follow • Year 6 Mixed Football Fixture (Home)
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)
Wednesday 13 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 15 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendship Friday – children may wear their own clothes to school and make a donation to Kidscape Anti-Bullying Charity – details to follow
Tuesday 19 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 Art trip

Friday 22 nd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Fixture (Away)
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
Thursday 5 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Girls Football Tournament (Away)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff INSET
Tuesday 7th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children return

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/>