



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 24th January 2025

Dear Parents,

This week saw the annual and much-anticipated International & Heritage Week, and what a wonderful week it has been! I had the privilege of observing some excellent oracy, the culmination of some impressive research skills, as children shared elements of their cultures and backgrounds with pride and confidence. One of the things I love most about Saint Christina's is the richness of its diversity and the unity that flows from it. Watching the children celebrate their heritage while appreciating and embracing those of their classmates brought to mind the words of Michael Novak, the American philosopher and theologian: "*Unity in diversity is the highest possible attainment of a civilization, a testimony to the most noble possibilities of the human race.*" Our children embody this beautifully, showing us how much the wider world could learn from their example. In class, the children have also been doing a deep dive into different countries – more about each class's focus will follow in this bulletin. It has been such an enriching week.

This theme of unity and hope is something we will reflect on in next week's Mass. Pope Francis has encouraged us to be *pilgrims of hope* - people who look to the future with courage, faith, and love. These reflections align perfectly with our ongoing discussions about values. At Saint Christina's, we are inspired by the *Fruits of the Spirit*: kindness, humility, forgiveness, and service, among others, but we are also asking what these values mean in a 21st-century context and most importantly, to our children.

How do we nurture resilience, leadership, and courage? What does it mean to live with compassion, justice, and gratitude in a world where we are told they are in deficit? These are the qualities we hope to instill in our children, equipping them not just for academic success but for lives of purpose and integrity. These conversations are at the heart of shaping who we are as a school community.

Looking ahead, next week is *Teaching Week*, a fantastic opportunity for colleagues to observe each other's lessons and celebrate the art of teaching. Teaching is a deeply personal and human endeavour, where each teacher brings their own style and personality to the classroom. It's not just about delivering knowledge but about sharing something of themselves. This week serves as a reminder of the richness within our teaching community and how much we can learn from one another.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to those of you who have completed the parent questionnaires. Your feedback has been invaluable in helping us reflect on what we do and how we can continue to grow. If you haven't yet had the chance, there's still time to share your thoughts.

Have a good weekend when it comes.
Best,

Damien Walshe
Headteacher

Writing Competition

The children in Key Stage 2 are invited to participate in the IAPS Creative Writing Competition, with the theme of 'Light.'

The story must be an original piece of fiction written by an individual, and it should not exceed the word limit: Year 3 & 4 can submit stories up to 500 words, while Year 5 & 6 may submit up to 650 words.

Entries must be written and no additional content, such as drawings or diagrams, may be included. Stories should not include any personal details about the writer or others, and they should not depict real events or living people. Prizes are awarded for each category, and the deadline for submission is **Friday, 31st January**.

Please email your entry to Mrs Ellisdon jellisdon@saintchristinas.org.uk by **4pm on Friday**.



Mrs Ellisdon - Head of English

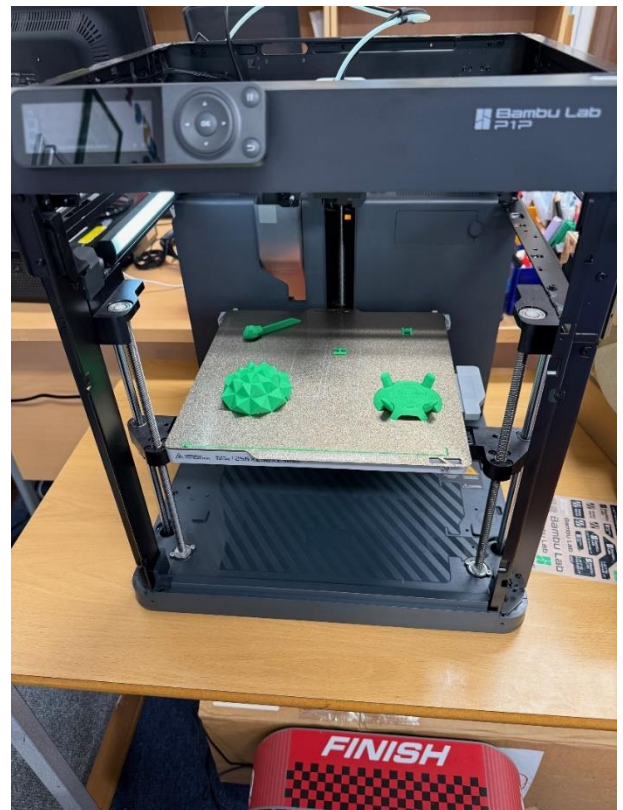
Exciting News: Our New 3D Printer!

We are thrilled to announce that our Science Department has a brand-new **3D printer**—an exciting addition to our STEM learning! What makes this even more special is that the idea came from **our very own pupils**, who suggested it as a fantastic tool to enhance their Science education and Alex helped choose the model when he was Headteacher for the Day.

We have already put the printer to good use, creating a **squishy turtle** as one of our first projects. We have been impressed with the quality of the final product. The possibilities are great, and we can't wait to explore how 3D printing can bring Science and Technology to life. From designing models to solving real-world problems, this new resource will be an important addition to our STEM curriculum.

Stay tuned for more creative projects—we're just getting started!

Mr Hirst – Science Teacher



Early Years' Weekly Shopping Challenge

This term, we introduced our Weekly Shopping Challenge, and it has quickly become a highlight for the children! Over the past two weeks, children in the Early Years have been taking turns using a shopping basket, purse with small change, and a shopping list to purchase items needed for snack time, cooking, and other activities.

The children have fully embraced this real-world experience, developing skills in handling money, following a shopping list, and taking responsibility. This activity has sparked wonderful conversations about the transaction

process and financial responsibility, both with parents and at School. In fact, it has been so popular that we were asked to set up a green grocer's role-play area in our outdoor space this week!

We look forward to seeing the rest of the children take part as the term continues!



Ms Randle – Head of EYFS and Nursery Class Teacher

Make and Create Club

The children had lots of fun threading coloured pasta rainbow necklaces and getting to wear their masterpiece or give it to someone special. Through this activity they have fostered independence, improved their fine motor skills and hand eye coordination. In the second week we continued to create small baskets from paper cups where the children had the opportunity to promote their creativity, concentration skills and also learnt how to use what we already have in the environment or eco-friendly .



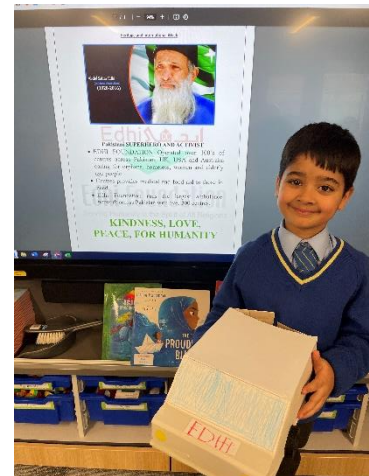
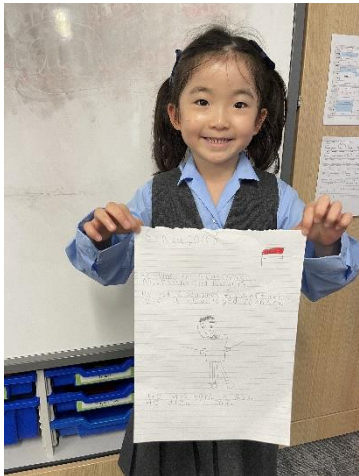


Ms Edina – Reception Class TA

Year 1

Year 1 have been enjoying International Heritage Week. We have been learning about Ireland, where Ms Higgins is from. We can now count to 10 in Irish and sing some Irish songs. We have learned about Ireland's national foods and sports, as well as finding Ireland on the map. We have loved listening to and acting out different Irish legends, like the 'Salmon of Knowledge' and 'Oisín in Tír na nÓg'. We enjoyed teaching everyone in the School about Ireland during assembly today.

We listened to the story 'Georgia's Far Away Family' by Marie Robert and thought about our family trees and where our families are from. We have seen some wonderful projects and presentations about different countries and significant people. We have loved learning from our friends! We made lots of flags representing our heritage during art and proudly waved them during assembly.



Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher

Story Club

We have kicked off our first week of recommendations from our Spring term KS1 story club. We love borrowing books from the library, reading with friends and listening to stories.

Georgia's Far Away Family: I like this story is because Georgia is like me. I have family that is far away in different places like Venezuela. My favourite page is the page with the family tree because I like all of the different flags that are there.

Pupil in Year 1



Bluey Unicorn: I like this story because it is really fun. It is a very funny story. My favourite characters are bluey and unicorn. *Pupil in Year 1*

Look out for more upcoming recommendations!

Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher

Year 1 and Year 4 Buddies

Year 1 and Year 4 got together this week to share their learning from International Heritage Week. Year 1 had the chance to teach our buddies about Ireland and Year 4 taught their buddies all about New Zealand. We found lots of similarities and differences between Ireland and New Zealand, even though they are opposite sides of the world. We then put our knowledge to the test in a buddy quiz!

Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher

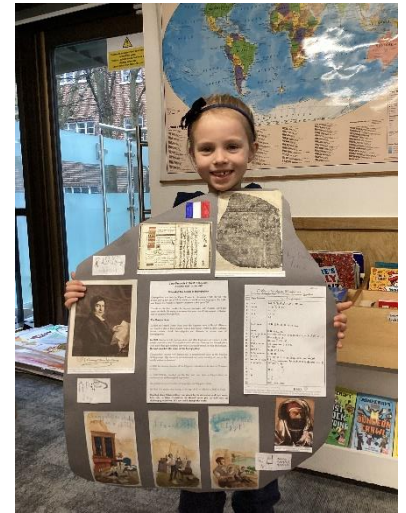


International Week and Heritage Week in Year 2

This week, Year 2 have been busy celebrating International Week and Heritage Week, with a special focus on the United States of America. The children explored all 50 states, learning how to use compass directions to locate them, and discovered famous American landmarks like the Statue of Liberty and the Grand Canyon. In PE, they learned the rules of Baseball and are excited to play their first game!



As part of Heritage Week, the children worked on fascinating projects, researching historical figures such as Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Hannibal, and Jean-François Champollion, whose achievements inspired us all. The week ended with excitement as the children prepared to write to their pen pals in the USA, sharing everything they've learned about American culture, food, and geography.



A highlight of the week was sharing everything we'd learned with our Year 5 buddies, not to mention the American candy we shared...

Mr Burke – Head of KS1 and Year 2 Class Teacher

Year 3 Explores Italy and Celebrates Heritage Week with Delicious Homemade Pizzas!

This week, Year 3 children have been diving into the fascinating world of Italy as part of their learning journey. To celebrate Heritage Week, we decided to make authentic pizzas from scratch—and what a fantastic experience it was!

The children enthusiastically embraced the challenge, carefully considering hygiene and safety as they worked. They also put their analytical skills to the test by planning how they wanted their pizzas to look and taste. The result? Absolutely delicious pizzas that they proudly took home to share with their families!

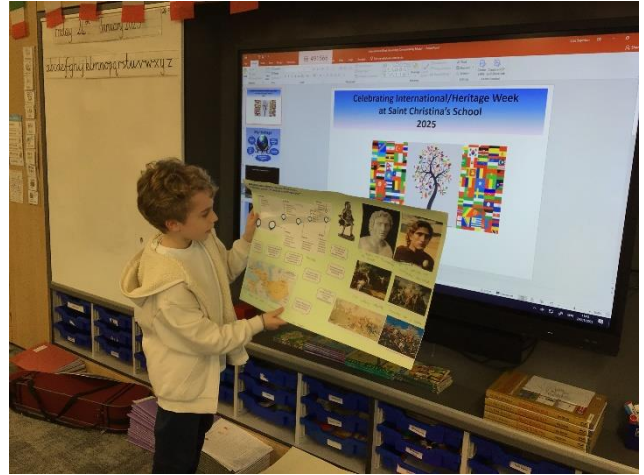
One child was even overheard saying, "This was the best lesson ever!" It's safe to say that Year 3 has truly mastered the art of pizza-making. Bravo to our young chefs!



Miss Bretones – Art Teacher

Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic time celebrating International/Heritage Week. Everyone really enjoyed presenting their fantastic heritage projects to the class and we have found out about some legendary people from History from Cyrus the Great, who started the Persian Empire, to Otto von Bismarck, the first German first Chancellor of the German Empire. We chose to focus on Italy and began by locating Italy on a globe and maps of various scales. We then went on to investigate the physical and human features of Italy and wrote a report in our English lessons. We were lucky to have Angelo's mum to visit the class on Thursday and she shared interesting facts about visiting Mount Etna and lots about Italian culture. We also had fun learning about the importance of hand gestures and how to speak a few words in Italian. We enjoyed a wonderful sharing session with our Reception buddies making flags together. The most exciting part of the week was when we designed and made our own pizzas. They were delicious!



L. Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher

Year 4

Year 4 has had an exciting week learning all about New Zealand, where Miss Farquhar is from. We learned about the Treaty of Waitangi, which was the agreement between the British and Māori people when British settlers started moving to New Zealand in 1840. We found key locations in New Zealand using a map, and practiced using compass directions. We were fascinated by some Māori legends, such as Māui and the Giant Ika which is the story of how Māui caught a giant fish, which turned into the North Island of New Zealand! We did our own research to create leaflets on New Zealand, and created artwork inspired by New Zealand native birds using collage and leaf printing.





Ms Farquhar – Year 4 Class Teacher

Year 6 Creates Stunning Aboriginal-Inspired Art in Just Over an Hour!

During Heritage Week, Year 6 took a trip to Australia—without leaving the classroom! We introduced the students to NAIDOC Week and the beauty of Aboriginal artwork. Then, in just 1 hour and 15 minutes, they blew us away by creating some truly amazing collaborative art pieces.

The way they worked together and brought their ideas to life was incredible to see. The results? Absolutely stunning! It's hard to believe they achieved so much in such a short time.

Fantastic job, Year 6—you've done yourselves proud!





Miss Bretones – Art Teacher

Year 6

This week, Year 6 has been busy learning all about Australia as part of our International Week celebrations. The class explored Australia's vast size, discovering that it is the 6th largest country in the world and that the whole of Europe could fit inside it! They learned about Australia's unique landmarks, animals, landscapes, and the fascinating history of its indigenous people. The children also explored Australia's time zones, currency, government, and food. We were so fortunate to have Sophie's parents come into School during the week to tell us even more about Australia from the first human settlements to James Cook's exploration, The Gold Rush, The first country in the world to give all men the vote and later the first in the world to give women the vote. Sophie's parents held a fun game for the class to guess whether you could eat the animals displayed. These included: kangaroos, koalas, wombats, crocodiles, Tasmanian devils, emus, snakes, platypus and witchetty grubs. The children were then delighted to be able to try some vegemite and TimTams! Thank you so much to Sophie's parents for coming in and giving us all a very memorable morning, we are so grateful!

Year 6 also enjoyed a creative session with their nursery buddies. Together, they made Australian and Japanese flags, linking their study of Australia with the Nursery's focus on Japan. It has been an exciting everyone!





Mrs Ellison – Head of KS2 and Y6 Class Teacher

PE Update

It's been another exciting week of sport, with the children continuing to work with enthusiasm during their lessons and enjoying several matches against other schools. The children have continued to participate in a variety of sports this week including Netball, Tag Rugby, ball skills Football and Gymnastics.



The younger classes have been exploring strength and balance through various Gymnastics activities and have really impressed with their attitudes and efforts during the lessons. In Gymnastics Nursery and Reception have enjoyed exploring different pieces of apparatus focusing on balance, jumping and developing their strength. The older classes have continued with their topics which have focussed on travelling, symmetry, bridges, counterbalance, and counter-tension sequences. Each week the children add an additional element which will be required in their end of term paired sequence.



On Wednesday, the Year 3 class played their first Netball match against Sarum Hall. Year 3 been working hard in their Netball lessons developing their understanding of the game and it was a fantastic opportunity for them to play their first competitive game against another school. They put in an excellent effort during the 3 matches and should be proud of their performances. Well, done to Angelo, Sadra and Ancey who were nominated as the star players from their matches. It was lovely to see so many parents coming along to support and cheer on the children.



The Year 5 A and B teams continued their league matches this week with 2 matches against Sarum Hall and St Marys. The A team worked so hard and did not give up but struggled to get the ball forward to the shooters despite the best efforts from the defensive players we were heavily beaten. The B team continued their great run with a 6-1 victory in a fantastic team performance with some excellent shooting and some brilliant long passes and defence from B Beatrix, Juliana and Pia were awarded star players for some brilliant shooting and strong defence. On Wednesday the Year 5 teams travelled to Sarum Hall for 2 more excellent games, the A team once again were beaten despite their huge efforts and the B team worked hard to record a fantastic 5-2 victory with some brilliant shooting from Pia and Beatrix.



Last Friday the Year 5 and 6 Football team participated in a tournament hosted by Queens Park Rangers. The standard of competition was extremely high, providing a fantastic experience for everyone involved. The children gave their best efforts, and the day was made even more special with a visit to QPR Stadium. Seb made some fantastic saves in goal. The team played very well as a team and showed great determination and effort all day. Philippe, Milana and Harry made some great tackles and passed the ball well and there were some excellent goals during the tournament from Alex, Alexander and Alice. Well done to all the children involved!

Sport report from our Sports Captain Alex

On Friday, we participated in a very special football tournament. We had several games, and we played with a lot of enthusiasm and motivation, but we faced a very strong opposition and unfortunately, we did not win the tournament. Despite the results, it was a nice experience for all of us and we learned a lot from it. We hope to have the chance to participate again next year.



Next week, the Year 4 class begin their 2-week intensive swimming course which aims to develop a variety of water safety skills and their swimming techniques. On Monday we welcome Ivy House School for Year 3 and Year 4 mixed Netball matches and our House events continue with the Year 5 and 6 children participating in their House Football competition next Thursday. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging the children to take part in these wonderful sporting opportunities

Upcoming fixtures

Date	Opposition	Team	Time
Monday 27th January	Ivy House Home	Yr3 and 4 Netball Mixed	15.30-16.30
Monday 3rd February	Village Prep Away	Yr5 and 6 team Girls Netball	16.00-17.00
Wednesday 5th February	St Margaret's Away	Yr6 A and Year 5 A Girls Netball	15.15-16.15
Monday 10th February	Ivy House Home	Yr5 and 6 Football Mixed	15.30-16.30

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport

Mathematics at Lunchtime:

Now that all of the clubs have resumed, the Mathematics at lunchtime sessions have also started again!

This week I am going to focus on a simple problem that some of Year 3 were trying out with money:

If I have one each of all of the coins in circulation in the UK (i.e. 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1, £2) and can use as many coins as I want

- (a) What is the biggest sum of money I can make?
- (b) What are some of the different sums of money I can make?
- (c) What are the smallest amounts of money that I CANNOT make?

Several of the children in Year 3 were able to work out what the smallest sum of money it is not possible to make was; but can you?

And can you, like others in Year 3, work out some of the other impossible amounts and then see a pattern in the answers that you get?

What was so encouraging about how Year 3 set about this problem was to see how methodically many of them were working.

NB: One member of Year Three was wondering how many possible different sums of money it was possible to make...can you find a way?

Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

KS2 film club blurb for bulletin

KS2 film club hard at work learning about what goes on on a film set.

Here we have a child in Yr 6 taking on the role of 2nd Assistant Camera-person with the clapperboard while another child in Yr 5, who taken on the role of 1st Assistant Director readies the actors to shoot scene from our detective noir thriller 'The Case Of The Missing Trophy'.



Mr Duncan – Drama Teacher



New – Brass Lessons available!

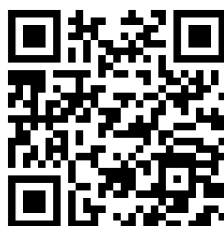
We have a new Brass teacher starting at Saint Christina's after half term, who will be able to give lessons to pupils in KS2 on trumpet, trombone and other brass instruments. There will be a demonstration for KS2 pupils in an assembly next Wednesday, when Mr Thomas will show the children the instruments and hopefully inspire them with his fantastic playing.

New Singing Teacher!

We have a new Singing teacher in school, Miss Hannah Baker, who is wonderful with children and has already made a good impression on those pupils having lessons. Singing is fantastic for children, and while we do plenty of singing in class and as a whole school, individual lessons can help develop technique and confidence.

To find out more about instrumental/singing lessons at Saint Christina's or to sign your child up for lessons, please visit the application form via the link or QR code, where you can find all the details.

<https://forms.gle/zjKAAFGyYa1EeAj9>



Mrs Bryant – Director of Music

NOTICES and REMINDERS

PARENT PARKING AT COLLECTION and DROP OFF: The School has received a number of complaints from residents about their driveways and gates being blocked by members of our community. In our mind we might think that we will only be a few minutes, but the reality is, residents should be able to expect access to and from their properties whenever they need it. In one instance, someone who has had medical need has been delayed by a car that has been parked inconsiderately.

Please be aware that enforcement on the Terrace is increasingly vigilant and please park safely and with consideration for our neighbours within areas where stopping is permitted.

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, EpiPens. 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.

Online Safety - Reminder

Please see below the padlet link from Mary Rebelo, our online safety adviser. The link includes:

- Useful information about children's apps
- Activities and websites recommended by young people
- News articles and background
- Safe settings
- Reporting routes
- The presentation used in the talk

https://padlet.com/m_rebelo/parents-online-safety-oct-2024-saint-christinas-3rnqu3noo9e4ra23

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

W/C Monday 27 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 4 Swimming (for 2 weeks) • Year 3 and 4 Mix Netball Fixture (Home)
Wednesday 29 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 and 6 Parent Coffee Morning with Mr Walshe and Mrs Ellisdon – 9.00-9.45am in the Arts Hall • KS2 Brass Demonstration
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"> • P4C (Philosophy for Children) workshops (Rec to Y6) • Year 5 and 6 Netball Fixture (Away) • Individual 11+ Meetings for Year 5 Parents
Wednesday 5 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Child Learning Reviews – Reception to Year 6 • Individual 11+ Meetings for Year 5 Parents • Year 6 A and Yar 5 A Girls Netball Fixture (Away)
Thursday 6 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Child Learning Reviews – Reception to Year 6
Friday 7 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Mass (House Competition)

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/>