



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 27th September 2024

Dear Parents,

It has been a delightfully busy week at SCS. As ever the children and the staff have been completely 'on it' and doing the wonderful things that they do, but I think one or two of them will look forward to a slightly later start on Saturday morning this weekend!

Highlights of the week include some very successful sports fixtures where our footballers garnished themselves with some great success on the pitch. We have also hosted a very successful MacMillan's Coffee Morning in the Arts Hall despite every attempt by the weather to put people off!

On a personal note, I have continued to visit and meet with Heads of Senior Schools as we head into the 11+ season. So far this term I have been able to get out to City, Mill Hill and Belmont, and Francis Holland, but have also met colleagues at various Head events. It is always very nice to hear such positive things about our leavers, many of whom are tasked to give me a tour of their new school, which of course means that we are able to get their take on where they are as opposed to just listening to the Head.

It remains a busy time across the sector with the impending changes that the Government have been speaking about, and it's at times like this that all those friendships and connections that we build up in our professional lives come into their own. I can say that we have some wonderful advocates for our sector both within Headship and within the organisations and associations that support independent schools, who continue to work very hard on our behalf. This week, I also note, that a couple of Labour MPs (York and Norwich) have broken ranks with Government messaging to express their concerns with current policy. Whilst I am confident that healthy messaging and pressure continues to be placed on the Government on this matter, my own instinct is that I don't think they are listening. I think they are determined to do what they say they want to do and that they may be inclined to do it even though HMRC and the Treasury will not be ready and are prepared to accept that the roll-out may be a disaster. That said, some of those involved directly hold onto some hope that a few concessions may still be made (e.g. consider a slightly delayed start, consider a few exemptions re SEND, military families etc) but we won't know until the statement at the end of October.

It is easy to feel a little disappointed with the current state of things: it's never nice to feel as if you are being singled out and deprecated despite your very best endeavours. But we musn't own this. As parents and professionals, I know that we will continue to believe in our children and their future. I have worked in six schools during my career, and two as the Head and it will be Saint Christina's that I will remember most fondly. The outstanding professionals and the amazing, adaptable and responsive growth mindset that they have and pass on to the children they teach is just one of the things that makes working in our community so fulfilling. And your children thrive. It is written across every happy face that comes in and leaves school. It's seen on every page of every exercise book and in every conversation and interaction. It's seen in the people that they become, the secondary school success that they achieve and the kindness and love that they are will pass on to their own children in due course ... and we see that when our alumni come back on behalf of their own children.

We are looking forward to next week's coffee morning, which is for our Reception families. This is a chance for Reception parents to catch up on some of the things that the children have been doing – and don't forget that Reception parents have parent / teacher meetings in the week before Half Term too.

Just a reminder that all parents are welcome to come to Mass on Friday afternoons. It really is a lovely thing to experience, whatever your tradition, and will set you up nicely for the weekend.

Thank you once again, for all your support and kind words over the past week. It really is a privilege to lead such a wonderful community.

Yours sincerely,



Alastair Gloag
Headteacher

Year 5 Mass



Well done, Year 5, on a fantastic Mass! The children led Friday's service with such confidence, focusing on the theme of peace. Their readings, prayers, and reflections were really inspiring and touched everyone who attended. It was even more special since it tied in perfectly with the International Day of Peace on the 21st of September. A big thank you to everyone involved for making it such a memorable and meaningful celebration!

Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Teacher and Head of RE

Fire Safety Workshop

On Tuesday 24th September Year 2 and Year 5 were delighted to be joined by Rouchelle from the London Fire Brigade who delivered wonderful workshops to both classes.

In Year 2, we learned that fire is dangerous, and can hurt people. We learned about common fire hazards, and to never play with matches and lighters. We also talked about smoke alarms and how they keep homes safe from fire, what to do in an emergency if there is a fire, and how to call 999.



In Year 5, Rouchelle explained that fire kills, destroys homes and spreads quickly. She educated us that smoke can be as dangerous as fire, how smoke alarms work, and how to make sure they are working properly. We also talked about how to make fire escape plans from homes (including tower blocks), what to do if there is a fire, and how to call 999.

It was an interesting and informative time with Rouchelle and we thank her for her time with us.

Mr Burke and Ms O'Leary – Year 2 & Year 5 Class Teachers

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you so much to all of you who joined us for the MacMillan Coffee Morning this morning in the Arts Hall.

A special thank you to the parents who generously baked and brought in delicious cakes to share. Your homemade treats added a delightful touch to our gathering and created a lovely atmosphere.

We are thrilled to announce that together, we raised over £1000 for MacMillan Cancer Support. Your generosity will directly impact the lives of those affected by cancer, providing vital support and care during their journey.

If you missed the event but still wish to contribute, the donation link is still available below:

<https://superkind.org/campaign/saint-christinas-macmillan-coffee-morning-2024>

**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



Every donation, no matter the size, makes a difference, and your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Once again, thank you for being an integral part of our school community and for helping us make a positive impact on such a vital cause. Together, we show that when we unite, we can achieve remarkable things.

Ms Overing, Mr Burke, Edda and Aoife and the Year 5 Caritas Ambassadors

Reception 3D Modelling Club

In the first two weeks of our 3D modelling club, the Reception students explored the world of shapes using their imaginations to create with the shapes we see in our day to day, recyclable materials or as like to call it 'junk modelling'.

Inspired by the story *"This is Not a Box,"* the children were challenged to think outside the box or egg carton for that matter! Children created mermaids, boats, crocodiles and more. This week, after reading *"My Dream Playground,"* children transformed flat, 2D pieces of paper into their own imaginative 3D playgrounds as we explored different ways to manipulate paper. Stay tuned as we continue to build and create with new materials each week!

Ms Nunes – Reception AN Class Teacher



Year 1 Primrose Hill

Year 1 enjoyed combining our learning with a walk-through Primrose Hill. In Geography, we have been learning about Our Local area and types of housing, we enjoyed looking at the map of Primrose Hill and the surrounding area. In Science, we have been learning about signs of autumn. We spotted leaves changing colour and collected lots of fallen conkers.



Year 1 Art

Year 1 is full of talented artists! We have been exploring different materials and ways we can join them. This week, we created some 3D abstract bridges and islands.



KS1 Story Club

We enjoyed another week in story club. Here is another recommendation from one of our members:

Seven Sisters by Ayisha Malik: This is a special book because it has my name (Ayla) and my sister's name (Amelia). It's a great story! I like it because it teaches us to solve problems because at the start of the story the girls are all fighting and arguing. - Ayla Year 2

Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher

PE Update

It has been a very busy week of sport with three football fixtures against Trevor Roberts, Kerem and The Gower School. The children have represented the school so well and played some fantastic football during these games. On Monday, we played three matches against Trevor Roberts with two strong victories and one defeat.

In the first match, the children played fantastically as a team winning 4-0 with some great passing and moving and excellent goals from Harry and Alexander. Alex was awarded star player for some brilliant awareness and excellent passes to assist several goals.

The second match was much tougher with a very strong opposition the children did not give up and kept trying right until the end but struggled to defend resulting in a 5-0 loss. Milana was awarded star player for stopping several attacks. In the final game Star player, Harry continued his great scoring afternoon with another 2 goals in an encouraging 2-0 victory with some good defending.



On Wednesday we had another match against Kerem with some more very entertaining matches. The girls won both of their matches with two strong victories 7-0 and 2-0 with seven goals for star player Alice B and two goals for Edda. We won the first game with an excellent 3-2 victory with goals from Alice, Harry and Alexander. Sebastian was awarded star player for his excellent performance in goal.

We then suffered a narrow defeat in the next game losing 4-2 despite some great defending from star player Arlo and two good goals from Harry and Alex.

It has been so lovely to have so many parents, staff and of course Sister Eileen and Sister Noella coming out to support the children. Your support is hugely appreciated.



During PE lessons this week, KS2 children have enjoyed lots of match play in both football and netball trying to develop the passing, moving and marking which were introduced to them last week.

Year 5 really impressed me with how they are developing their understanding of netball and Year 3 have been working very hard on their passing in football and netball.



Years 1 and 2 have continued to develop their spatial awareness, passing and moving skills through football and netball this week. The Year 1 class particularly enjoyed the game of minefield, which worked on the accuracy of their rolling and throwing.

The Reception classes continue to impress during PE and this week were exploring bouncing, rolling and throwing balls, which they greatly enjoyed. As well as this, the Reception classes and Nursery group have continued to work on their ability to follow instructions quickly through a variety of games.



The Year 3 and 4 football teams have their first match on Monday, which they are very excited about. We start our netball fixtures next week with the Y 5 and 6 girls taking part in a netball competition hosted by North London Collegiate School. I will update you with how we got on in next week's bulletin.

It is always lovely to hear about the children's sporting successes outside of school so please do continue to update me (jraveney@saintchristinas.org.uk) of any sporting achievements or successes for their clubs outside of school.

Upcoming fixtures

Date	Against	Yr/Team	Venue	Time
Monday 30th September	Trevor Roberts	Yr3/4 Mixed Football	Home	16.00-17.00
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

Music Update

Choirs – there are still a few spaces in KS2 Choir and Little Voices for this term. Next week will be the last week for children to start this term, so if they would like to take part in the choir Christmas performances, please discuss it with them before signing them up on SchoolBase.



All children will be involved in singing as part of the nativity performance (KS1) and carol service (KS2), but the choirs will have additional performance opportunities.

Instrument Taster Lessons – It is still possible to sign up for free 10-minute taster lessons on flute, violin or guitar, via this link: <https://forms.gle/5PgR8yWCmyNEGk7J6> (you may need a Google account to use the form).

Orchestra – if your child plays the violin, cello or another orchestral instrument to around grade 2 standard or above, and would like to be part of our orchestra on Thursdays after school (until 4.30), please do get in touch.



Guitar Club – this meets on a Thursday lunch time (12.30). This is not for complete beginners, but all other ability levels are welcome. Please contact me if your child is interested.

Singing Lessons – we currently have spaces for individual singing lessons. Please get in touch if you are interested in these for your child.

Bare Feet!

All children's Music lessons up to and including year 3 are now taking place with the children in bare feet. This is due to an approach based on the work of Dalcroze and other music practitioners, where the body is our main musical instrument and the floor is a second. Working in bare feet allows optimal balance, grace and sensitivity, and enables the children to engage their whole bodies in the embodiment of musical concepts, with the feet an essential part of the approach; as children are learning to sing and move musically through space, their contact with the ground needs to be nuanced in a way that wearing shoes does not allow. It is a beautiful and holistic approach which, as well as helping to develop an instinctive sense of musicality, can help children to improve their overall coordination and balance.

Our Music classroom is lovely and warm throughout the year and the floor is always kept clean. Girls wearing tights have so far been able to change without much difficulty, but please avoid tights under PE trousers or shorts as this causes problems. Younger children especially EYFS will be supported in changing in and out of their shoes, but any practice they can do at home is very helpful.

It has been a lovely start to the term and great to see children singing so enthusiastically in assembly, Mass, choirs and in lessons.

As always, if you have any questions about Music please do not hesitate to contact me (ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk).

Mrs Bryant - Director of Music

Caritas Ambassadors

This week a group of Year 5 pupils took part in their first session as Caritas ambassadors.

Caritas exists all over the world as part of the Catholic Church helping those in need.

Caritas Westminster works across London and Hertfordshire to help parishes and schools help those in need.

They do this by working with people with disabilities, people who are poor, people who can't find work and anyone who has been left out of society.

Caritas' aim is to get a few more people involved in this wherever they can, bringing local communities together to support those in need.

They believe everyone has a part to play in God's plan for our world and that isn't just what we do on Sundays, it involves every aspect of our lives from the things we pray about, to how we live day to day.

Initially as ambassadors we will look at each theme of Catholic Social Teaching. After we have thought about all these themes, we will start to think about what our group can do to help our local community. We will plan a project we want to do and think about how we can put it into action so that we are living out our faith and sharing God's love with those in need. The Caritas Ambassadors work is to lead this project and to share with the school about the important ways we can help those in need.

Thank you to all of the Year 5 children who wrote a letter of application.

I look forward to working with you.

Mr Burke – Head of KS1



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



St Francis House Mass

In celebration of our St Francis House Mass, we would like to invite all children to bring a small cuddly animal toy into school next Friday 4th October. This will be a special way for them to participate in honouring St Francis, the patron saint of animals. We look forward to a lovely celebration with the children.



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!

Parents' Link

REMINDERS

Please ensure that children are wearing their winter uniform from Monday 30th September.

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 8.00am and under no circumstances left unattended.**

Safety around retrieving forgotten items

For health & safety reasons, children should not 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. Any belongings left in classrooms can be collected the next day during regular school hours.

Chicken Pox

There has been a confirmed case of chicken pox in the Year 1 Class. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the procedure for when to keep your child at home and when it is appropriate to send them back to school, should your child develop the symptoms.

Chicken pox is a mild and common childhood illness caused by a virus called varicella zoster. It is most common in children under the age of 10 and is contagious. The person is contagious from 1 to 2 days before the spots appear until the spots have crusted over (usually 5-6 days after the spots appear). Groups of people that are most at risk of serious problems if they catch chicken pox are new born babies, pregnant women and those with a weakened immune system. Therefore, it is important, if your child has chicken pox, to keep them at home while they are contagious. If we suspect a child has chicken pox at school, parents will be contacted and asked to collect them. All children should remain at home until all chicken pox spots have crusted over to avoid further spread of the illness.

Please see further advice on link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>

Dates for your diary

W/C Monday 30 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual 11+ Meetings for Year 6 parents
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)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition talks by Holroyd Howe Nutritionist for Years 1-6
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 Harvest Mass
W/C Monday 14 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Teacher Meetings – All week
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 7 th 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/>