



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 28th February 2025

Dear Parents,

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." - Dr Seuss

Having found out this morning that I am instructed to dress up for World Book Day next week (I have no idea what to wear), it got me thinking about some of the books I read as a child. I have particularly vivid memories of sitting cross-legged on the floor in a pair of spiderman pyjamas, peanut butter on toast in hand, completely lost in *The Enchanted Wood* by Enid Blyton. It was the book I read and re-read more times than I can count. I was completely transported, and climbed the Faraway Tree, discovering strange and wonderful lands at the top, imagining what it would be like to live in a world where anything was possible.

The late great educationalist, Sir Ken Robinson often spoke with immense passion about how creativity is just as important as literacy, and reading is the natural gateway to both. Books don't just improve vocabulary or comprehension; they open doors to new ideas, ignite that spark of curiosity, and encourage children to think in different ways. A child who reads widely builds not only knowledge but also the ability to dream, invent, and create.

The benefits of reading are well documented. Ample research consistently shows a strong link between reading for pleasure and academic success. A study by the OECD found that children who develop a love of reading perform better in literacy, numeracy, and even problem-solving, regardless of their background. The National Literacy Trust also highlights that reading for enjoyment improves vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills, all of which are key foundations for lifelong learning.

Next week's **Book Fair** is an opportunity for children to discover books that might become their own *Faraway Tree*, opening new worlds and inspiring lifelong passions. Whether it's an adventure story that sparks their imagination, a mystery that gets them thinking, or a non-fiction book that ignites a new interest, the joy of reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children.

Library Refurbishment Update

In related news I am pleased to share some updates on our progress with the library refurbishment. Over the past few weeks, I've met with Parents Link, who have been leading discussions with colleagues, including our librarians and teachers. Our Library Prefects, along with the Head Girl and Head Boy, have been gathering feedback from pupils on the kinds of books they want to see in a library fit for the 21st century. All of this will be presented to the Governors at the next Full Governing Body meeting as we shape the next steps.

A huge thank you for the generosity that is making this project possible. The library is such an important space in our school. It is not just a place to find books, but somewhere for children to explore ideas, research, reflect, and unwind. We want to create an environment that sparks curiosity, encourages creativity, and nurtures a love of reading. As we move forward with this project, our aim is to ensure that every child finds something in the library

that inspires them, whether it's discovering a new author, diving into a research topic, or simply enjoying a quiet moment with a good book. I look forward to sharing more updates on the library as things progress.

Finally, I know the 11+ process can sometimes feel a little mysterious, so it was fantastic to see so many parents at our recent Information Evening. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and to our expert panel from Francis Holland, Wetherby Senior, and Wetherby Pembridge for their invaluable insights. I hope attendees found the discussion helpful as you navigate the next steps. Our 11+ booklet has been emailed to parents of children in Years 3 to 5, but if you'd like a hard copy, just let the office know. We await further offers on our current 11+ cohort and once all offers are finalised, Mrs Ellisdon, Mr Hirst and I cannot wait to share the news with you!



Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

Handwritten signature of Damien Walshe

Damien Walshe
Headteacher



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day is on **Thursday 6th March** and we are very excited to celebrate! The children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character as it's an exciting way for children to get book recommendations from each other. The children are also encouraged to bring in a copy of their favourite book to show their class.

Throughout the day the children will be participating in a number of book related activities and spend time with their buddies.



The annual Book Fair will be in School next week and promises to have many new and contemporary book titles on offer!

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

This is a **cashless event** so all payments will need to be made through the QR code. Please list the books that you would like to purchase **clearly** alongside the total amount. When you have made your purchase you will be given a reference number for your payment. Please write this clearly on the form.

My BOOK FAIR Wish List

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

NAME: _____ CLASS: _____

Title	Price

Information for Parents and Guardians

If you'd like to purchase any of the books you wish to buy, please scan the QR code below and you will be taken to the online payment page. You can also visit www.trevelyanbooks.co.uk/qr if you prefer to pay for all purchases. You can also visit www.trevelyanbooks.co.uk/qr if you prefer to pay for all purchases.

Pay Online: (This is a payment platform only, you do not enter your order)

Visit www.trevelyanbooks.co.uk/qr

Pay with Gift Vouchers:

Gift Voucher: _____ Total: £ _____

Reference Number: _____

Please note that you can only order books which are at the Book Fair as not all books on the Scholastic website are available for schools at the Book Fair costs. Please see the list of books generated on your child's list.

 TRAVELLING BOOKS



Scan the QR code to pay for your books online or visit travellingbooks.co.uk/pay

Once the form is complete and payment has been made, your child should bring the form back to school and return it to **Mrs Ellisdon** by **9am Friday 7th March at the latest**. Books will be delivered to your child as soon as the order form is in. If we run out of a certain book this will be ordered and delivered to your child the following week.

Please contact me if you have any queries regarding any of the details mentioned here.

Mrs Ellisdon - Head of KS2 and English

Challenge in the Construction area!

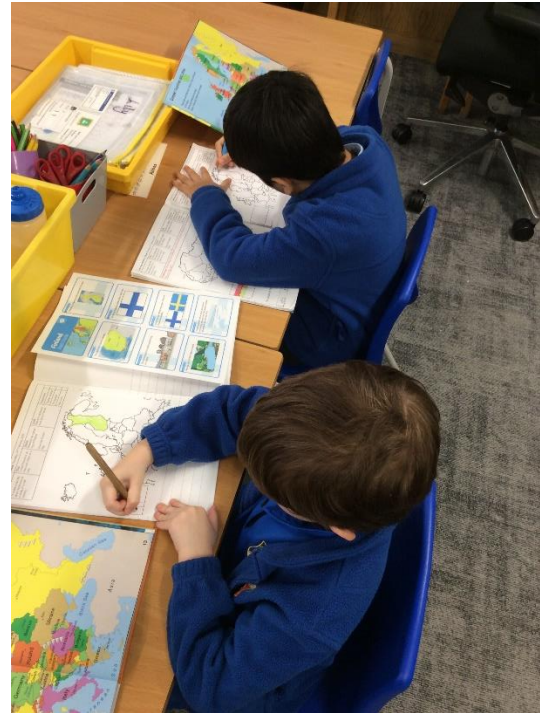
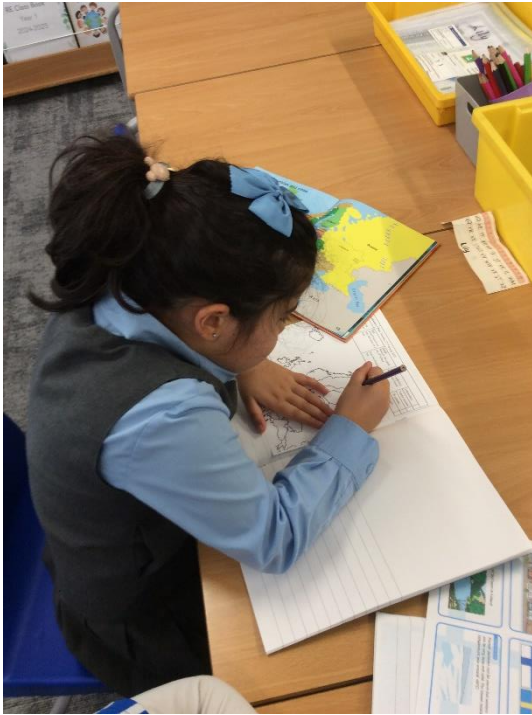
This week, we have updated our construction area to extend the children's skills. Since they are already confident with Mobilo, we have introduced a **daily challenge card** where they follow instructions to complete a task and earn a **challenge sticker**. We have also added a **design station**, encouraging children to draw their plans before building, helping them think about their ideas and reflect on their work. This links with Reception's new **design books**, supporting early problem-solving and planning skills.



Ms Randle – Head of EYFS and Nursery Class Teacher

Year 1

This week in English, Year 1 listened to the story of 'Flat Stanley' by Jeff Brown. We then created our own Flat Stanley characters in Art, which we will soon be posting around the world like Stanley in the story. This week in Geography, we have been working on a fact file about Finland and comparing it to Kenya.



Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher

KS1 Story Club

HarperCollins Stories for 6-Year-Olds: I like this book because it is full of lots of stories. My favourite story is 'It's a Dog's Life'. In this story, Russ is a doggy who lives on a farm. There is another good one when Paddington was a detective. - *Student in Year 1*



Geography in Year 2

This week, Year 2 have been diving into the Geography of the UK. They used atlases to explore and identify some of the country's famous hills and mountains, including landmarks such as Snowdon and Ben Nevis. The children enjoyed looking at the different regions and learning about the natural features that make up our landscape.

Alongside this, the class has been discussing human and physical features of the UK. They learned how physical features like mountains and rivers differ from human-made features such as cities and roads.

Mr Burke – Head of KS1 and Year 2 Class Teacher



Year 3 and 4

Year 3 and 4 had a special visit this week from Diyan and Mani's mother, Mrs Jiwnani, who came to teach us about the Ayyam-i-Ha festival. This is a festival celebrated in the Baha'i Faith and focuses on key virtues, like joy, hospitality, charity, service to our communities and having fun. We learned about kindness and carried out a fun experiment showing the effect of spreading kindness through our words and actions. Finally, we conducted our own acts of kindness by creating cards for people around school sharing why we appreciate them. Thank you Mrs Jiwnani for sharing this very special festival with us!



Ms Farquhar – Year 4 Class Teacher

Year 5 Bring Kensuke to Life with vivid character descriptions!

This week, Year 5 have been diving deep into *Kensuke's Kingdom*, crafting detailed character descriptions that truly bring Kensuke to life! Using **Descriptorus**, thesauruses, and their own vivid imaginations, the children have explored powerful vocabulary to paint a clear picture of Kensuke's personality, appearance, and emotions.

By carefully analysing the text, they have visualised their own unique interpretations of Kensuke, capturing his wisdom, resilience, and mystery. Their writing showcases rich language, thoughtful detail, and incredible creativity—demonstrating their growing skills as budding authors!

Well done Year 5, for your fantastic efforts in bringing literature to life!

Check out some of the excerpts below!

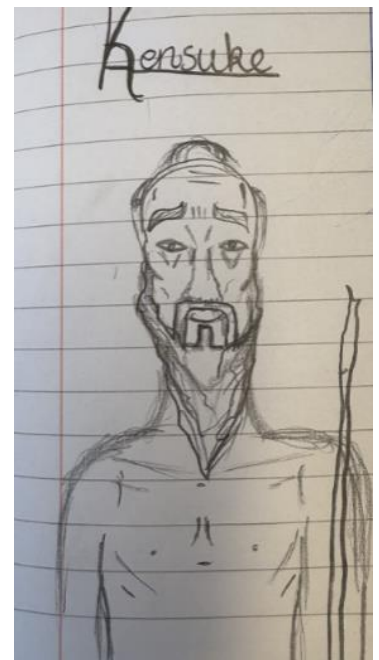
'Three days in my nightmare of a life on the island, I saw this creature putting out my fire. At first, I thought it must be an orangutan but then I saw a human like smoke of the stifled fire. The figure stumbled towards me with a broken stick as a staff to hold his weight. His teeth were as yellow as rotten bananas and he wore torn, shredded breeches. His skin was as wrinkled as a raisin. He had a very distinctive, white, wispy beard which flowed on the top of his head. He was about half my size, very diminutive in nature. He looked like a fragile man that if you would touch him, he would shatter into a million pieces. As he looked into my eyes, I could tell that he had been marooned on this island for years and years.'

By Beatrix

'I found a man. I found a man on this deserted island. I couldn't believe my eyes, when out from the forest emerged a figure. I was no longer alone on this treacherous island. He had a white wispy beard that almost touched the ground. The man had copper coloured skin and was covered in red rashes, that made it appear like his skin was ironed. He wore nothing but a pair of torn, tattered breeches, which hung loosely from his slender frame. His sharp beady eyes stared at me with pure animosity while he shouted at me, 'Dameda! Dameda!'

By Finn

Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Class Teacher



Year 6

Excitement has been building this week as Year 6 enters the final stages of preparation for the F1 in Schools competition next week! The teams have been working incredibly hard, fine-tuning every aspect of their entry. From designing their pit stop display to perfecting their portfolios and refining their verbal presentations, the attention to detail in logos, car designs, and displays has been outstanding.

To ensure their cars are competition-ready, the children have weighed them to make sure they meet the required weight of at least 40g and tested them to ensure they will travel smoothly. To top it off, they've presented their work to their classmates, gathering valuable feedback for those all-important final tweaks. With just days to go, the energy and enthusiasm are sky-high as they put the finishing touches on their projects.



The teamwork has been brilliant, and we can't wait to see how they do in the competition!

This week, Year 6 also had the privilege of leading the School Mass to celebrate St. David, the patron saint of Wales. They sang the "Pilgrims of Hope" theme song beautifully and shared a wonderful reflection, inspiring the whole school.



Meanwhile, work on the Easter Passion play has begun, with the children busy learning their lines and practicing songs.

Mrs Ellison – Head of KS2 Year 6 Teacher

PE Update

Year 3 and 4 greatly enjoyed their Inter-House Football competition on Wednesday, despite the miserable weather. There was some excellent Football on display and many competitive games. Well, done to Noah and Alejandro, who were joint top scorers. Congratulations to St. Francis, who were the overall winners of the competition, winning by just one point. A special mention must go to the star players of the competition: Reyaan, Nao, Isabella, Tomoki, Cellini, and Angelos.

The Key Stage 2 classes have continued to enjoy their Football and Tag Rugby sessions this week, with a focus on beating an opponent in Rugby and match play in Football. The EYFS and KS1 classes have worked hard during their Gymnastics lessons, with EYFS exploring the large apparatus to work on strength and balance, and Year 1 and 2 developing different rolling techniques.



I was extremely impressed by Years 3 and 5 this week, who performed their final pieces during their Gymnastics sessions. It has been so lovely to see them working together in planning, performing, and evaluating their routines. The children should be very proud of the work they have produced. Year 4 began their Gymnastics sessions this week with a theme of counterbalance and counter tension.



Next week is a busy week of fixtures, with a Football match on Monday and two Football tournaments for Years 5 and 6. Additionally, we have our Inter-House Pancake Challenge, which should be a fun event.

Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Team	Time
Monday 3 rd March	Ivy House	Yr3/4 Football	15.30-16.30
Wednesday 5th March	Cavendish Tournament	Yr5/6 Girls Football	10.00-13.30
Friday 7th March	Tournament	5/6 Girls Football	11.00-15.00
Monday 10th March	Devonshire House	Yr 5A and B Girls Netball	16.00-17.00
Tuesday 11th March	Trevor Roberts	Yr5/6 Mixed Football	16.00-17.01
Monday 17th March	St Mary's	Yr 6A and B Girls Netball	16.00-17.00
Thursday 20th March	Devonshire House	Year 6 Girls Football tournament	13.00-15.30

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport

National Mathematics Challenges

Two of the National Mathematics Challenges in which children from Saint Christina's have participated are the Primary Mathematics Challenge and the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge.

The Primary Mathematics Challenge

Forty-nine children participated in this challenge back in November. Three of the children did so well in this challenge that they were invited to participate in the National Primary Mathematics Bonus Round, which took place in late January, earlier on this term. We have just received the results electronically, and are delighted that Hugo and Seb were both awarded Silver, in addition to Edda being awarded Bronze. Congratulations go to these children for performing so well and for representing Saint Christina's in such a good way. Their performance places them within the top 1, 500 children in this country at primary school level.

The Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

This challenge is an interesting challenge with plenty of unusually demanding problems. Although it is principally aimed at children in Key Stage Four, we have always had some or all of the children in Year Six trying their hands at the challenge. To gain an award here means that a child will have to have performed within the top 50% of all participants in a competition dominated by children aged between 14 to 16 years old. We have always had one or more child gaining awards, but this year we had three children gaining Bronze awards, which is only the third time that we have had so many children getting awards since we started participating in this challenge in January 2017. Due to an administrative snarl up, we were unable to receive official awards this year, but we are delighted to say that Seb, Juliana and Edda all attained scores resulting in Bronze awards. This bodes really well for their mathematical futures, and congratulations go to them for bring honour to the school!

PS: The Junior Mathematics Challenge and The First Mathematics Challenge are due to take place next term, so we look forward to seeing how well our children will fare in these competitions...

Fr Rudolf Loewenstein - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

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 principles throughout the academic year. The principle we will be focussing on this half term is Community and Participation.

As human beings, we are called to live in community, with others, growing together and flourishing as a result. We are called to be active members of society, our local and global community. Observing the reality of the world, remembering that first guideline of the dignity of all people, supporting one another and recognising how our gifts and talents could be used to the advantage of the wider community. We can't just sit back and bemoan what's happening, whether in our own parish and community, society, or the world. We are called to get our hands dirty, to get involved, to help build a better world. We're all called to put love into action. These lessons help children to understand the role we all must play in creating a fair society and strong communities.

Mr Burke

Saint Christina's Partners With andResilience

Thank you to those who have already taken part in the andResilience Parent Survey. Your feedback is invaluable as we work to strengthen resilience within our school community.

If you haven't yet had a chance to complete the survey, we would love to hear from you! It's completely anonymous and takes just five minutes to complete. The insights gathered will help shape the support we offer to pupils, staff, and parents alike.

Your voice matters, and we truly appreciate your time in helping us make the most of this partnership.

Click here to take the survey: [Parent Survey](#)

Thank you for your support!

Mr Burke – Head of Wellbeing

andResilience
Building Strategies for Coping with Life

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 half term and we will continue to collect non-perishable food to celebrate his legacy.

All donations will be distributed to the homeless and local families in need. We would be delighted if you would support us with this initiative – even the smallest donation can make a big difference.

If you would like to donate any non-perishable goods to this cause, please ask your child to leave their donation on the designated tables underneath the stairs next to the Arts Hall. We kindly ask that all donations for this half term are brought into school by Friday 21st March.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

Mr Burke, Caritas Ambassadors and Charity Prefects

Music Update

We had a wonderful KS1 Music assembly this week, with 13 children from years 1 and 2 performing. Some have only been playing for a very short time and we are very proud of them for how beautifully they introduced themselves and performed their pieces.

If your child would be interested in learning an instrument, we do still have some spaces - especially on trumpet/trombone which is new this term (for KS2) and hopefully beginning next week. You can find information about lessons and the online application form [here](#).

Mrs Bryant – Director of Music

Saint Christina's Food Collection



NOTICES and REMINDERS

Nut Free School

We have a number of children 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.

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 / musical instruments. 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

You are warmly invited to join Sunday Mass, which is held in the Chapel at 10:00am.

Dates for your diary	
Monday 3 rd March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y3 and Y4 Mixed Football (Home)• Book Fair
Tuesday 4 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interhouse Pancake Challenge
Wednesday 5 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y5 Girls Football (Away)• Y6 F1 STEM Trip
Thursday 6 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• World Book Day• Y6 F1 STEM Trip
Friday 7 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y5 and 6 Girls Football• Y5 Lent Mass• International Women's Day
Monday 10 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y5 A and B Netball Fixture (Away)• Science week
Tuesday 11 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y5 and Y6 Mixed Football Fixture (Home)

Wednesday 12th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Morning for Prospective Parents
Friday 14 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y1 Saint Patrick Mass
Monday 17 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y6 A and B Netball
Wednesday 19 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y3 Coffee Morning
Thursday 20 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y6 Girls Football Tournament
Friday 21 st March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y3 First Reconciliation • Nearly New Uniform Sale
Wednesday 26 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westminster Junior Citizenship Scheme for Year 6
Thursday 27 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y5 and Y6 Cross Country
<p>Friday 28th March SCHOOL CLOSERS AT MIDDAY FOR THE END OF TERM</p> <p>Wednesday 23rd April CHILDREN RETURN</p>	

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/>