



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 11th October 2024

Dear Parents,

This week has been characterised by the dash between the downpours, but damp though it has been, it has not dampened the enthusiasm of the children within School. Much learning and activity has continued, some of which you can see within this bulletin.

You might remember that one of our pupils achieved bronze in the Society of Head's 500 words competition last year, so I am very pleased to tell you that this year's competition has been announced. I do hope that the children will use the Half term break to have a go. We are also marking Black History Month by inviting children in Key Stages 1 and 2 to find out about an inspirational black man or woman and create a project that demonstrates the contribution they made to our country. All the details for these projects are to be found within the bulletin below.

Next week will be as busy as ever with parent – teacher meetings amongst other things. In addition to this, on Wednesday we will be opening our doors to prospective parents and their children for our Open Morning. May I take this opportunity to thank the very many of you who have shared information about the event with friends and colleagues. We are very grateful to you, for your support.

I do not know if you follow the School on Instagram or Facebook – you might not even have Instagram or Facebook! However, if you do have either of these platforms, do please join the conversation and enjoy seeing some of the fantastic things that the children do every week.

I will leave you with details of the Open Morning should there be someone you might still like to pass details onto, and wish you all a very pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Alastair Gloag
Headteacher

'A great life...a great beginning'

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OPEN MORNING
Wednesday 16th October 2024
9.30 to 11.15 am

An outstanding Co-educational School located in St John's Wood

Support Alice and Edda in the Great Ormond Street Hospital RBC Race for the Kids 2024

We are incredibly proud to announce that two members of our school are taking part in the Great Ormond Street Hospital RBC Race for the Kids 2024.

Alice and Edda from Year 6 have embarked on an inspiring journey to make a difference for the second year in a row!

If you would like to join us in supporting this incredible cause, please click the link below to donate:

<https://www.gosh.org/donate/>

Thank you for your generosity and support.

Mr Burke



Judo British National Championships.

Over the weekend, both Alice and Seb were nothing short of amazing. Alice stormed through her first two fights to reach the finals, where she showed absolute dominance, relentlessly pressing her opponent from start to finish. Her final match was against a girl who has won nearly every tournament and hadn't faced Alice before due to her time off for a foot injury. In the final, Alice was sensational—her only flaw being that she was so determined to win that she almost overwhelmed her opponent. And with this stunning performance, Alice is now the British National Champion! Truly remarkable!

Sebastian, on the other hand, faces a different challenge. Being of average weight for his age, he always finds himself in the largest group, which usually attracts the toughest competitors. This weekend was no different. He had the biggest group of the tournament, with three top contenders all going for gold—and he was right in the mix! Although he narrowly missed out on the semi-finals, meaning the gold slipped out of reach, he showed immense character by picking himself up to fight for the bronze. In that match, he delivered the biggest throw of the tournament—so big that I couldn't help but scream, and get told off by the head referee. The fact that he's already competing at this level after only a year of judo is incredible.



And it's all thanks to the school for allowing me to teach there. I've come across some very special children. So, thank you!

Ramon – Mikes Judo Club



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

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

All the stories **must**:

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

Stories **must not**:

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

All stories will be judged on the following criteria:

- Characterisation
- Plot
- Originality
- Language
- Enjoyment

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

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

Happy writing!

Mrs Ellisdon - Head of English



History Research: Black History Month 2024

Black History Month is an important opportunity to recognise and celebrate the contributions of black people across History, and this year, our focus is on the contribution that black people have made within British society.

Black people have often been at the forefront of history through social justice movements, through fighting against oppression and paving the way for change. This has not always been recognised or included in the narrative of the story of our nation.

This year we would like to invite Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children to find out about an inspirational black man or woman and create a project that demonstrates the contribution they made to our country.

The children can display their information in whatever form they like – they could make a poster, a PowerPoint presentation, a poem or even record a video of themselves presenting their research. It's their chance to be as creative as they like and a really good opportunity to participate in your child's learning, if you wish.

We encourage your child to bring in their information by **Thursday 17th October** where they will share what they have learnt with their peers. Each entry will receive 3 house points.

Thank you all so much for your fantastic support.

Ms Sephton and Mr Burke

Online Safety – Parent Talk and Workshop for KS2

Last Friday, we were pleased to welcome Mary Rebelo into school to talk to parents and run online safety workshops for children in KS2. Mary is an Online Safety Ambassador for CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency) as well as an Online Safety Officer for the London Borough of Camden.

In the parent talk, Mary discussed with parents what their primary concerns were when their children were online. She explained the rules and legislation by which companies are bound and the differences between games which are 8 plus, 13 plus and 16 plus.

Her approach was that we need to be open and honest with our children about the risks of the online world (without being alarmist). At the same time, she also emphasised the positive side of the internet.

The workshop also provided a good opportunity for parents to discuss with each other and there was an open forum for questions.

In the link below, from Mary, you will find information including:

- 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

As the event received such positive feedback, we will be looking to book Mary in again next year.



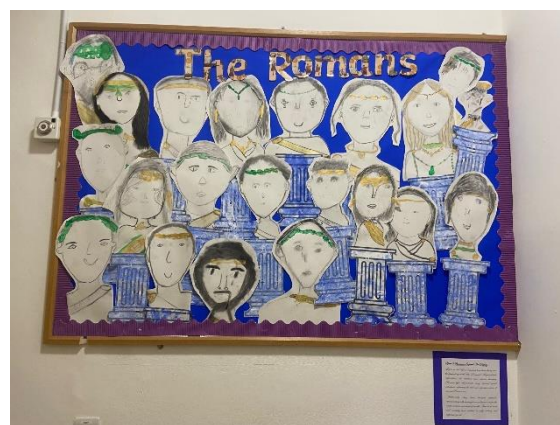
Mr Hirst and Ms Overing

Art and D&T Projects Update

We've had an exciting start to the year in Art and Design & Technology! The children have been working hard exploring a range of creative topics across the different year groups.

- **Year 2** students are learning about the **Great Fire of London** and are meticulously crafting **Tudor houses**, which will be part of a recreation of the historical event.
- **Year 3** students have been transported back to **Ancient Rome**, where they've been learning about Roman portraiture, exploring techniques to create their own striking pieces.
- **Year 6** students have been studying **World War II** and the impact of **propaganda posters**. They've created their own posters, which will be proudly displayed soon for everyone to admire.

We can't wait to share these wonderful projects with you, so keep an eye out for our upcoming displays!



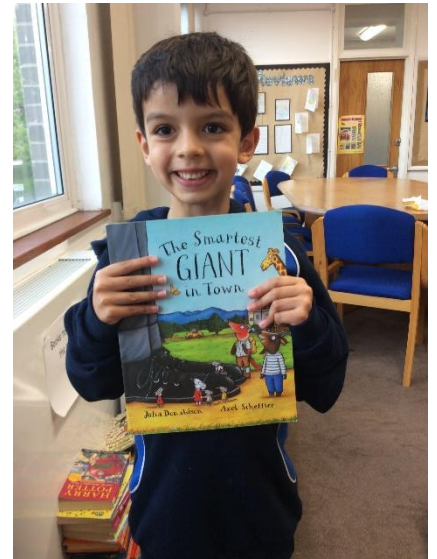
Ms Bretones – Art and Spanish Teacher

KS1 Story Club

It has been another great week in story club! We enjoyed learning about how books are sorted and categorised in the library as we explored new stories.

The Smartest Giant in Town by Julia Donaldson: *I love this book! At the end they all give a present to the giant and he has a crown because he is the Kindest Giant in Town. It is good to be kind. There are some very funny bits in the story too!*

Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher



Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about measuring length this week. We started by ordering items and sorting them according to their length. We started by measuring classroom objects and rooms using non-standard units, our strides and hands. We then measured different classroom items, using cubes as standard units. Did you know a Year 1 desk is 32 cubes tall? In the afternoon, a group of Year 1's took on the challenge of measuring our classroom using cubes.



Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher

Mathematics at Saint Christina's

One of the important aspects of learning in Mathematics at Saint Christina's is the study of Geometry. Fairly early on we learn about the names of different shapes, both 2D and 3D.

And although we can all recognise and use such shapes (e.g., a Toblerone packet is actually a triangular prism!), we need to know and understand about their properties in greater depth. One way of doing this is to look at how many faces, edges and vertices (corners) each shape has. Year Three has recently been doing some interesting work on this, by discovering or making up their own theories about the properties of such shapes.



But back to business! You will see from the pictures of shapes above, that we would really welcome it if you had any spare empty packets or containers that you could give us, so that children will be handling and investigating such shapes to greater effect.

Should you have any such shapes – the more unusual the better, of course! – then do please put them in a bag with my name on it. I will then see to it that these shapes get shared out among the classes at the appropriate time!

Thanking you for your co-operation,

Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

PS A quick question to spark your children's interest: The truncated icosahedron is best recognised in everyday life as what???

PE Update

Year 5 have really enjoyed their first week of the intensive swimming sessions. The children have been fantastic and the swimming teachers have been impressed by their efforts and attitude during the sessions. They have spent time developing their swimming techniques across a range of strokes and towards the end of the week have had a focus on developing their dolphin kicks. They will continue their intensive course next week/ Year 4 and 3 will get their chance to complete their intensive swimming courses later on in the year.



On Wednesday year 5 and 6 took part in their inter house netball competition. The house captain selected the teams and allocated the positions. There was some excellent netball on display and some very close and exciting matches. Well done to Saint Francis who were the overall winners. Congratulations to. Alice B and Norah who scored the most goals during the afternoon with some fantastic shooting during the afternoon. Well done to Milana, Alexander, Hugo, Betsy and Alice M Who were awarded the star players from their teams for their performances.

The results can be seen below. Thank you to the House captains for their help organising the event and also to Isabella for her score keeping during the afternoon.



	A Team	B Team	Total	Position
St Cecilia	3	10	13	3 rd
St Francis	21	8	29	1 st
St Joan of Arc	10	16	26	2 nd

On Monday the year 6 netball team put in a fantastic performance against Devonshire house. The A team suffered a narrow 3-1 defeat with some great defending from Milana and some great shooting from Alice B. The B team won 3-0 with an amazing team performance with some great shooting from Alexander and a strong all-round performance from Sebastian who was the star player.



Next week year 6 play against St Christopher’s and there is a year 5 and 6 football match v Southbank.

Upcoming fixtures

Date	Against	Yr/Team	Venue	Time
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

Caritas Ambassadors

In an effort to promote our Catholic Social Teaching theme of "Care for Creation," the Year 5 Caritas Ambassadors took the initiative to write letters to our local MP, Rachel Blake. In their letters, they suggested placing more litter pickers around Westminster to encourage community members to keep our streets and parks tidy. This proactive approach reflects their understanding of the importance of caring for our environment and fostering a cleaner, greener community.

Additionally, the ambassadors proposed organising a Community Clean-Up Day, inviting everyone in Westminster to come together to care for our surroundings.

The thoughtful actions of our Year 5 Caritas Ambassadors demonstrate their commitment to making a positive impact in their community and protecting our planet for future generations.

We look forward to the reply!



Mr Burke

REMINDERS

NUT FREE SCHOOL

We have a number of pupils and staff in the school who have serious nut allergies. Please will you ensure that you do not give your child any nuts or nut products (e.g., Nutella) to bring into school.

MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

Please do not send your child into school with any medication on their person. Medication can only be administered by qualified personnel. The only medication that we can administer, therefore, is prescribed medication e.g., Antibiotics, Inhalers, EpiPen's. Children should not be sent into school with any other type of medication e.g., Cold and Flu medicines / Calpol / Lozenges etc. If your child is unwell and in need of medication, they should remain at home until they feel better.

If your child does have any medication, please contact Miss Georgia, and she will ask you to fill in the relevant forms and keep the medication safely in the School Office. Thank you for your co-operation.

Late collection of children

Please be aware that if you enrol one child into a club and need to put another in Homework club, there is a charge of £15 for the session. This is necessary to cover the costs of staffing the provision. Additionally, children who are collected late at the end of the school day or after a club will be sent to Homework Club and parents will be charged accordingly. Homework Club runs from Monday to Thursday from 3.30-5.00pm and costs £15 per session. A late fee of £50 is charged if children are collected after 5.00pm which is when the school officially closes for the end of the day.

Parking

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

Items left in the front office

Please ensure that your child has everything they need for the school day before they arrive in the morning: e.g., snacks / PE Kit. Items are regularly being left in the office by parents and carers throughout the day and, whilst they will do everything, they can to help you, this causes disruption not only to the office staff but also to the children, Class Teachers and TAs who have to come to the office to collect the items. Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Sunday Mass

Just a reminder to everyone, you are all invited to join Sunday Mass, which is held in the Chapel at 10.00am

Safety around drop-off

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

Retrieving forgotten items

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

Dates for your diary

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 • Parents' Link Monster Mash Disco – (EYFS & Y1 – 5:30PM Y2 – 6 6:30PM)
HALF-TERM HOLIDAY – MONDAY 21st OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER (INCLUSIVE)	
Monday 4th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children & Staff return• Year 5A & B Girls Netball Fixture (Away)
Tuesday 5 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual Photographs – children to wear full winter uniform
Wednesday 6 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 6 Mixed Football Fixture (Home)
Friday 8 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remembrance Mass led by Year 2 – 2.45pm
W/C Monday 11 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 11 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 5 and 6 Mixed Netball Fixture (Home)

Tuesday 12 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery Parents Coffee Morning - 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – 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 voluntary donation to Kidscape Anti-Bullying Charity – details of how to donate to follow Mass led by Year 6 – 2.45pm
Tuesday 19 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Art trip
Wednesday 20 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1 Parents Coffee Morning - 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – details to follow
Friday 22 nd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Fixture (Away) St Cecilia House Mass – 2.45pm
Tuesday 26 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 History trip
Wednesday 27 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 2 Parents Coffee Morning - 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – details to follow Year 3 Class Football Fixture (Home)
Thursday 28 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visiting Pantomime (The Selfish Giant) for Nursery to Year 6
Friday 29 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 First Holy Communion Enrolment Mass – 2.45pm
Tuesday 3 rd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Consortium Exams in school
Thursday 5 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Girls Football Tournament (Away)
Friday 6 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Mass – 2.45pm
Monday 9 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 4 A and B Mixed Netball Fixture
Tuesday 10 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EYFS Nativity – 9.30am (refreshments from 9.00am)
Wednesday 11 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KS1 Nativity – 9.30am (refreshments from 9.00am)
Thursday 12 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KS2 Carol Service - PM
FRIDAY 13th DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCHOOL CLOSSES AT MIDDAY FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – MONDAY 16th DECEMBER 2024 TO MONDAY 6th JANUARY 2025 (INCLUSIVE)	
Monday 6 th January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff INSET
Tuesday 7th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children return
Thursday 9 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Netball fixture (Away)
Friday 10 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mass led by Staff – 2.45pm
Monday 13 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5/6 Mixed Football Fixture (Home)
Tuesday 14 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutritionist Workshop
Friday 17 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 4 Mass – 2.45pm
Monday 20 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5A & B Girls Netball Fixture (Away)

Wednesday 22 nd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5A & B Girls Netball Fixture (Away)
Friday 24 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Mass led by Year 2– 2.45pm
W/C Monday 27 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 4 Swimming (for 2 weeks)
Friday 31 st January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6 Mass – 2.45pm
Monday 3 rd February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 & 6 Netball Fixture (Away)

ABOVE TIMES/DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please note: Policies can be found on the School Website – please click link below:

<https://www.saintchristinas.org.uk/our-school/policies/>