



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 1st December 2023

Dear Parents,

This has been another really busy week. There have been a huge number of fixtures across the different year groups and whilst it is not all about winning, a really healthy set of results too. All the more encouraging as we are expanding our fixture repertoire into new sporting areas.

On Thursday the children enjoyed a visit by some travelling performers who delivered a really creative and enjoyable version of the Wind in the Willows. It was nice to see the involvement of the children in their attention, response and singing.

You will note that there are a number of big initiatives, charity-wise, that are headlined through this bulletin, as we head into Advent. Year 4 Chaplaincy team have created an Advent calendar to support Fr Terry's foodbank, whilst the Charity Prefects have been promoting a number of things to support a charity called Crisis. This fits neatly with our current emphasis on poverty and discussions about what we can do to support those less fortunate than ourselves. In all such matters, there is no obligation to give but everything you do give will be distributed quickly. Indeed, I know that Mr Burke is planning a visit with some of the pupils, to see Fr Terry's food bank.

On this note, and as we wend our way towards the end of a busy term, I would like to publicly thank the Sisters and Fr Terry for the care and support that they give to everyone in our community. This sort of support is often unseen, but involvement in the Chaplaincy, running little workshops, listening to teachers, offering counsel and wise-words are invaluable... Thank you!

I hope that you enjoy looking through the bulletin and seeing what the children have been doing. I would particularly draw your attention to the outstanding results in the Bebras Coding competition and hope you will join me in congratulating the encouraging number of children who have made it through to the high-performance round run by Oxford University.

As mentioned last week, the 11+ is creeping up on us and will land in School on Monday. Many children have already taken assessments for secondary settings already, but Monday sees the Consortium exam where just about everyone is involved. Other assessments will continue throughout the week with the Independent Schools Examing Boards exam on Tuesday, Latymer Upper on Wednesday and North London Collegiate School on Thursday – so do spare a thought and prayer for all of the Year 6 pupils as we hit the business end of the 11+ experience.

I do hope that you have an enjoyable weekend and that you manage to stay warm and wrap up well. I would be encouraged to see more children in coats and hats and scarves as it gets colder for no other reason that they make me feel cold looking at them!

Alastair Gloag

Headteacher

Year 3 - Verulamium Museum

Last week Year 3 went on a very exciting trip to the Verulamium Museum in St Albans to learn more about the Romans. They all got to dress up as the Roman citizens of Verulamium and enjoyed going around the market, finding the Roman objects on their shopping lists. They explored all the many galleries in the museum and saw some wonderful mosaics. A fun day was had by all!

Ms Sephton – Year 3 Teacher



Year 5 DT

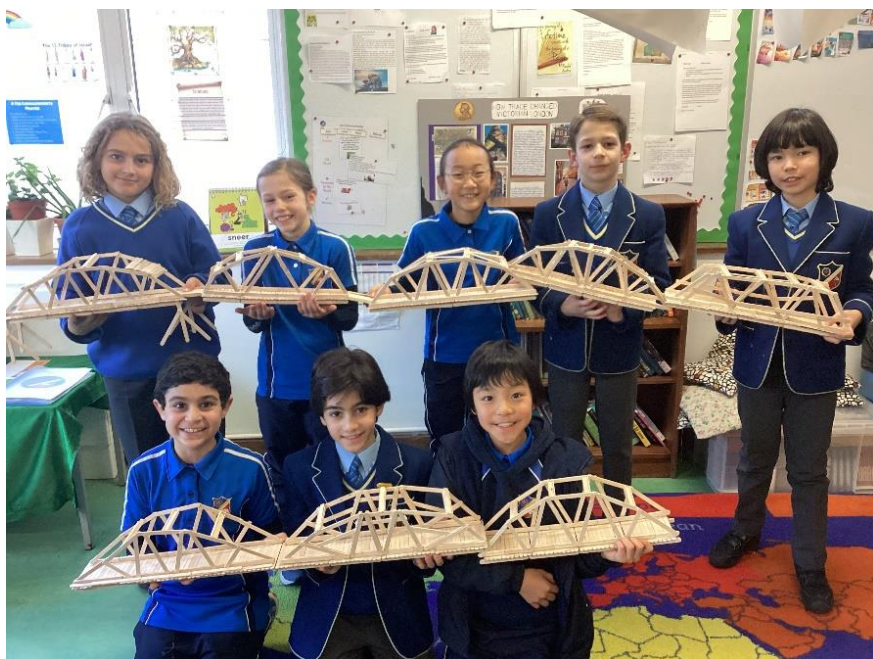
Year 5 have been busy working on their DT projects. As our class topic is the Victorians, the children had the option of designing and making a Victorian hat or looking at the design and construction of Brunel bridges.

Both projects have required patience and precision as the children have had to measure, cut, pin and line up materials correctly. The children were taught how to use glue guns safely in order to complete their projects.

I have been very impressed with the teamwork that the children have displayed as they have not only focused on their own project but offered a helping hand to those around them.

The end results are fabulous and are proudly displayed in our classroom.

Mrs Ellisdon - Y5 Class Teacher



Primary Mathematics Challenge 2023 – results

Now that all of this year's scripts have been marked at Saint Christina's, I can give you more information about our overall performance. We had four children awarded Gold, eight awarded Silver and fourteen awarded Bronze. Our Gold prize winners are shown here, and once we have heard from the Mathematics Association (which will probably be in mid-December) we shall let you know who (if anyone) has got through to the Bonus Round.



Fr Rudolf - Mathematics Co-ordinator

Politics hits Year Six!

Over the past week, we were learning about the politics of Ancient Greece. Some of us were a bit surprised to discover that different city states had entirely different forms of government! In any event, we learnt the basic differences between democracy, oligarchy, tyranny and monarchy. Some of the class went further to compare the government in Ancient Sparta to that of modern-day Iran. There were plenty of other comparisons, and it shows that politics can certainly be learnt and understood at primary school. Others wrote interesting commentaries on Athenian democracy some 2000 years ago, noticing pitfalls with what appeared to be a fine system at first glance.

Our current History topic consists of studying the differences between the Spartans and the Athenians. It will be interesting to see what links Year Six make when they start discussing this topic and analysing their findings.

Fr Rudolf - Y6 teacher

PE Update

What a busy week it has been in PE. We have had fixtures on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and a football tournament on Thursday as well as all the PE lessons. The EYFS classes have continued to work hard during their football sessions and this week they have been playing some small 1 v 1 and 2 v 2 games which they have really enjoyed. Year 1 and 2 classes have also spent time continuing to develop their understanding of small sided football matches putting into practice the shooting, dribbling and passing skills we have been working on.



Most of our Key Stage 2 lessons this week have been spent working on match play in preparation for the fixtures that we have played this week. On Monday, the Year 5 netball team continued their great start to the season with an excellent performance. The A team played some fantastic netball defending well and the Alice and Beatrix shot with great accuracy resulting in an 8-1 victory. The B team were narrowly beaten 4-2 but their efforts and teamwork were impressive. Well done to all the children who participated. It was so lovely to have so many parents cheering on their children your support is greatly appreciated.



Last week the Year 6 netball team were beaten by a strong Sarum Hall but they bounced back on Tuesday with an excellent team performance against SHHS. The children played some fantastic netball despite the tricky cold conditions. The A team passed and moved the ball so well around the court and ending up winning 4-3 thanks to a last second goal from Allegra from the final shot of the game. The B team worked hard against some very tall opponents and did not give up throughout their defeat well done to Amara and Allegra who were nominated star players.

On Wednesday, we welcomed Sarum Hall to play a football match against our Year 3 children. For many of the class this was their first experience of playing a match against another school and the children did really well. The children played brilliantly and showed great sportsmanship and team work.



Year 3 football match v Sarum Hall

On Wednesday 29th November, Year 3 had a football match against Sarum Hall. Year 3 really enjoyed it. We played 4 matches and won the first match and the third match and Sarum Hall won the other 2 games so it ended up being a draw with 2 wins for each team. In total we scored 12 goals and they scored 4. Medals were awarded to Oliver, Amelia, Isabella and Jun for being nominated star players from the 4 matches. Thank you to Mr Artur for refereeing.

By Arya Year 3



Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Against	Team/Yr	Venue	Time
Monday 4th December	St Christopher's	Year 4A and 5A Netball	Away	16.00-17.00
Monday 22nd January	St Mary's	Year 5A and 4A Netball	Away	16.00-17.00
Tuesday 23rd January	SHSS	Year 5A and 4A Netball	Away	16.00-17.00
Monday 29th January	St Anthony's	Year 5 and 6 Netball	Home	15.45-16.45
Wednesday 31st January	Sarum Hall	Year 3 Netball	Away	11.00-12.00

House competition Final reminder

Thank you to those children who have already brought in their House decorations for the Inter House Christmas competition. There have been some fantastic entries already. The deadline for the competition is **Wednesday 6th December**. The Year 6 House captains will continue to come around to classes to collect the decorations during morning registration time. I look forward to sharing the results with you next week.

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport

The results are in for Bebras 2023!

The children in year 3-6 received their certificates today. We had amazing results this year with 8 children from year 6 invited to participate in the FIRST round of the 2024 Oxford University Computing Challenge in January.

This competition is aimed at raising awareness of Computer Science in a fun and rewarding way. The competition involves solving problems using computational thinking skills.



Computational thinking involves using a set of problem-solving skills and techniques that software engineers use to write programs and apps. Examples of these techniques would include the ability to break down complex tasks into simpler components, algorithm design, pattern recognition, pattern generalisation and abstraction.

YEAR 3 (age 6-8)

1 BEST IN SCHOOL (TOP Marks)

6 DISTINCTION

5 MERIT

9 PARTICIPATION

YEAR 4 & 5 (age 8-10)

3 BEST IN SCHOOL YEAR 5 (TOP MARKS)

11 DISTINCTION

7 MERIT

18 PARTICIPATION

YEAR 6 (age10-12)

1 BEST IN SCHOOL (TOP MARKS)

4 DISTINCTION

3 MERIT

6 PARTICIPATION

Well done to all who participated this year, I am so proud of you all!

Thank you

Ms Overing – ICT Teacher

Children at Saint Christina's did exceptionally well this year, because in addition to the results above, many of the children performed far better than the national average in the rounds aimed at children in Years Four and Five. They also performed very well in the round for Y6 and Y7, but were held slightly back by the fact that there were many children participating in this round who were much older than they were. It is also very nice to know that eight of the Y6 girls have qualified for the next round, where they will be pitting their wits against able pupils from schools that include pupils who are 12 years old.

Fr Rudolf – Year 6 Teacher

Caritas Ambassadors Crisis at Christmas Appeal

I am pleased to provide an update on the commendable efforts of our Caritas Ambassadors club, which has been actively engaged in meaningful initiatives since the start of the school year.

In alignment with our exploration of Catholic Social Teaching principles, the Caritas Ambassadors have consciously chosen to channel their efforts towards addressing the pressing issue of homelessness in Westminster, where recent statistics indicate an estimated 3,307 individuals experienced homelessness in the past year alone.

On Thursday, December 7th, we invite our school community to participate in Christmas Jumper Day—a festive occasion where pupils are encouraged to wear their most cheerful jumpers. This event serves as a platform for us to direct our collective efforts toward raising awareness and funds for the local homeless population in Westminster.

For those inclined to contribute, we have established an avenue for optional donations to Crisis at Christmas through the provided link <https://superkind.org/campaign/crisis-at-christmas-appeal>. Your generosity will undoubtedly make a meaningful impact on those in need.



Furthermore, at the upcoming Christmas Carol concert, our ambassadors will showcase their artistic talents through the sale of carefully crafted artwork. Additionally, homemade mince pies, prepared by the children themselves, will be available after the concert in the school Hall for a small donation.

We appreciate your ongoing support and participation in these endeavours as we strive to instil a sense of social responsibility in our children and contribute positively to our community.

Mr Burke



Caritas Christmas Appeal

The Caritas
Ambassador
and charity
Prefects



Let's spread
kindness and
joy together!
Thank you for
being awesome.



On Thursday, December 7th,
It's Christmas Jumper day!
Wear your most festive sweater
and bring a smile to school.

At the carol
service we're
selling amaz-
ing artwork
and mince
pies



You can make an
optional donation
to crisis at Christmas
through this link
<https://superkind.org/campaign/crisis-at-christmas-appeal>



Boxes of Love Collection

We wanted to say a massive thank you for the generous Boxes of Love donations for St John's Hospice. You're all making a real difference, and it means a lot!

A quick reminder: please bring in your Boxes of Love by Monday, December 4th. We're aiming to provide a special something for all 54 patients, and every contribution counts.

Boxes of Love should be filled with gifts, toiletries, clothing items, and small treats like chocolates and biscuits. Let's make this holiday season brighter for those at St John's Hospice!

With gratitude,
Tilly-Rose and Kao - Year 6 Charity Prefects



Saint Christina's Twelve Days of Christmas

We are thrilled that today marks the beginning of the Saint Christina's Twelve Days of Christmas.

As previously mentioned, we would like to support Fr Terry's foodbank during Advent through an Advent giving calendar this year.

This calendar, which is displayed below, follows the concept of a 'reverse' Advent calendar and gives suggestions for items to collect each day to donate towards the collection.



Thank you to Arlo, Norah and Betsy for designing this year's Saint Christina's Advent Calendar.

The Saint Christina's 12 days of Christmas will run from today until Wednesday 13th December.



Our Advent giving calendar is a suggestion of items you may wish to donate. There is no expectation for families to donate at all or that you will donate each item every day, any contribution big or small will make a significant difference to those in need.

Thank you to all of our families at Saint Christina's for your continued thoughtfulness and generosity, supporting your children in putting their faith into action is truly appreciated.

Mr Burke, Ms O'Leary, Tilly-Rose and Kao (Year 6 Charity Prefects)

Buddies

Buddies from across year groups came together this week to celebrate 400 Years of Shakespeare's First Folio.

The buddies sessions included a range of diverse activities. Year 2 and Year 5 took part in a poster design competition for Shakespeare Week. Year 4 shared their fantastic researched projects with their Year 1 buddies.

Children were even challenged to memorise Shakespeare's Sonnet 18!

It was lovely to see children of all ages actively connecting with Shakespeare's legacy.

Mr Burke



Pen Pals from the USA

Year Two were delighted to receive heart-warming letters from their pen pals at our sister school, Ancillae Assumpta Academy in Pennsylvania this week.

It was fantastic to see the faces of the children as they read and responded to their letters.

We will be writing our friends in the USA Christmas Cards next week while the Caritas Ambassadors are exploring forging their own links with some of the older children at the Academy to work on a charity project both sides of the pond.

Mr Burke



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY – EXTENDED DISCOUNT!

Pret-a-Portrait's discount for the recent photos is due to expire today. They have extended this until Friday 12th August so you can take advantage of the discount for longer! Head to their website www.pret-a-portrait.net and enter your sitting ID, the discount will automatically be applied. If you've misplaced your sitting ID, please contact Pret-a-Portrait directly on 0800 021 7626 or customerservice@pret-a-portrait.net

YOUR SCHOOL PHOTOS make great Christmas Gifts

Please be sure to place your order before our **Christmas Order Deadlines.**

Framed Prints, Canvases & Acrylics

Last order date Thursday 7th December

Unframed Prints

Last order date Sunday 17th December

Digital Downloads

Custom retouch - 22nd December (Available by 24th December)

Fast Track Digital Download - 24th December (Available in minutes)

Full details of products, prices and order deadlines available on our website.

www.pret-a-portrait.net

customerservice@pret-a-portrait.net

prêt-a-portrait

REMINDERS / HEALTH & SAFETY

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.

EPIPENS/INHALERS

If your child needs an EPIPEN/INHALER in school, please ensure that one is given to your child's Class Teacher and a spare is given to the School Office. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that EPIPENS are regularly updated and ready to use in case of an emergency.

ILLNESS

Please keep your child at home if they are unwell, or not fully recovered from a period of illness. If a child is sent to school unwell, it causes unnecessary distress to the child and they may pass infection on to their peers and staff. We would like to kindly remind parents that pupils with vomiting and/or diarrhoea should not return to School until **48 hours after the last episode**. Thank you for your co-operation.

Break Snacks

Please remember to give your child a healthy snack for the morning break: fresh or dried fruit or vegetables only please (no yoghurt drinks, cheese dips or manufactured fruit snacks). The school does not provide fruit for the morning break. If your child has a club, please also give them a healthy snack to have before their club.

Late collection of children

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.

Extra-Curricular Morning Clubs

Please ensure that your child arrives on time for the extra-curricular morning clubs. Teachers await their arrival at the Main School Entrance and children arriving late delays the start of the club. Thank you for your co-operation.

Absences

If your child is absent from school due to illness, please ensure that you email your child's Class Teacher or email/telephone the School Office before 8.30am. If your child is absent from school and we have not been contacted by a parent by 9.15am, the school will contact you to find out the reason for the absence.

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 TA's 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.

School uniform

Children's clothing should be clearly labelled. We have found numerous items in the school with no name and cannot return these to their rightful owner. **All non-named items will be donated to the second-hand uniform sale.**

Dates for your diary

Monday 4 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 4A and 5A Netball Fixture
Tuesday 5 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 1 and 2 trip to meet Santa

Wednesday 6 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYFS Trip to the Theatre
Thursday 7 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Monday 11 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO CLUBS THIS WEEK WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BREAKFAST AND HOMEWORK CLUBS • EYFS Nativity
Tuesday 12 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS1 Nativity • KS2 Carol Service
Wednesday 13 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCHOOL CLOSSES AT MIDDAY FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Friday 5 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff INSET
Monday 8 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHILDREN RETURN • Clubs begin
Friday 12 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass led by Year 5
Friday 19 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass led by Year 4
W/C Monday 22 nd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Week

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/>