



Saint Christina's
Pre-Prep and Prep School
for boys & girls aged 3-11

Bulletin

Friday 22nd November 2024

Dear Parents,

We have had a delightful week in School. The Autumn Term is not one that winds down to its conclusion. Quite the opposite! This is the one that really ramps up and that is what we are seeing at the moment. So, I have really enjoyed seeing some of the first entries into the various Christmas card competitions that run at this time of year, and have been blown away by some amazing singing as the children start prepping for the Carol Service. The joy and the texture that Year 3 put into their singing with Mrs Bryant this morning, for example, was really impressive. On top of this, we are excited by the preparations that are being made for the Nativity Plays, and the various trips that some of the children will be going on before the end of term – who knew that Santa actually based himself in London Zoo?

Alongside all of these lovely things, please spare a thought and a prayer for our wonderful Year 6 pupils. November and December represent the crunch moment for the 11+. A number of children have already visited secondary schools to sit for an assessment, but today saw our first internal assessment. There will be further tests next week with the Consortium exam the following week on 3rd December. A very testing time for the children, but we are, as ever, very proud of them.

I have enjoyed a number of visits to the School over the last few weeks, but found my meeting this week with Karin Thyselius from NW8 mums particularly interesting. Karin has been a good friend to Saint Christina's over the past six years and has given me a platform to talk about what we have been doing. However, to have her affirm the quality of the work that has been done and to speak about the regard with which our community is held, in the local area, was deeply edifying and affirming. I do hope that Magus Education / NW8 mums and dads will continue to work closely with our community in the future.

I wanted to use this bulletin to inform you that the Governors met this week, following a considerable amount of work and due diligence since the Chancellor's financial statement on 30th October, to confirm how they will respond to the changing operating climate that independent schools find themselves in, from 1st January 2025. A separate letter, detailing that decision will be sent to parents. Governors are aware that this is a very testing time for everyone. They want Saint Christina's, our values and the manner in which we pursue them to be as strong as they can be. They want the School you chose to remain the school you chose and not be seminally changed by external decision-makers. They want to ensure we are able to keep a great team of teachers and the wonderful space that your children have to grow within and they are absolutely clear that they do not want to lose any of the families who come together to form our broader community. It therefore follows that we would encourage, once you have seen the letter, any of you who are worried about fees or who will struggle with fees at this time, to contact Joanne Reilly by email at bursar@saintchristinas.org.uk if you have not already done so, in order to see how we might be able to support you and would ask you to do this by 10th December.

I do hope that you are able to enjoy a relaxing weekend together and look forward to seeing you all next week.

Yours sincerely,

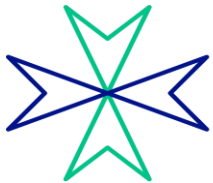
Alastair Gloag
Headteacher

Year 6 Carolling at St John's Wood Station

We are thrilled to announce that our Year 6 children will be spreading festive cheer at St John's Wood Station on **Thursday, 28th November 2024**, from **8:30 am to 9:00 am**.

The children will perform Christmas carols to support a fundraising collection for St John's Hospice, bringing joy to commuters while contributing to a wonderful cause.

We look forward to this exciting opportunity to showcase our talented singers and support such an important cause!



St John's Hospice
St John & St Elizabeth Hospital



Mr Burke, Ms Bryant & Mrs Ellidson

Saint Christina's Friendship Friday

As part of Anti-Bullying Week 2024, we celebrated Friendship Friday on 15th November. The day was a joyful event, with children wearing their own clothes and coming together in support of Kidscape, a charity dedicated to tackling bullying.

We are delighted to announce that we raised nearly £700 for this wonderful cause through your generous donations to the Saint Christina's Superkind page.

Kidscape works directly with children and families experiencing bullying across the UK, providing workshops, practical support, and professional training to challenge and prevent bullying. Your contributions will make a real difference in their efforts.

Thank you so much for your generosity and for making this event a success!

Mr. Burke, Aoife, Edda, Yumi, and the Caritas Ambassadors

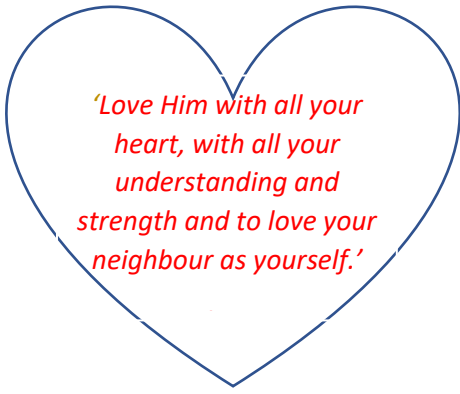


KS2 Collective Worship

This week, the Year 6's from St. Francis and St. Joan of Arc led a collective worship for the KS2 children in their Houses. The theme focused on Jesus' teachings: our first priority is to love God, and second, to love our neighbour. Through engaging activities, including a hot-seating discussion about the things we love, the children reflected on how they can show love for others this week.

Meanwhile, the children from St. Cecilia (Years 3-6) went to the chapel to practise for the upcoming House Mass. It was a week full of reflection, prayer, and growth in faith for all involved.





Mrs Ellisdon - Head of KS2

Design and Technology

Year 1 have been getting creative in Design and Technology this term! As part of our Explore project, we have been testing different methods to make moving parts. We experimented with various techniques and materials, learning how to create movement in our designs. Using what we discovered, we designed and made our own paper puppets with moving arms and legs, cleverly assembled with split pins. The children showed great imagination and problem-solving skills, and it was wonderful to see their creations come to life!

Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher

History

Year 1 have been exploring the fascinating world of toys through time! We began by examining our own toys and thinking about what makes them special. To learn about toys from the past, we interviewed our parents and grandparents about their favourite toys when they were our age. Comparing old and new toys helped us understand how materials, designs, and technology have changed over the years. A highlight of our learning was a visit from Ms. Sephton, who shared a very special teddy bear that is nearly 100 years old!



Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher

KS1 Story Club

Greg the Sausage Roll: Wish You Were Here by Mark Hoyle and Roxanne Hoyle: I like this story because it is funny. I liked the seagull taking him and when the sausage roll was covered ice cream. – Pupil in Year 2

Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher

Year 2

We have had a brilliant week in Year 2!

In English, we focused on non-fiction texts, particularly learning how to write clear and thoughtful letters. The highlight of the week was when the children wrote their own letters to Father Christmas. They were full of excitement and imagination as they practised writing for a real purpose, carefully thinking about their layout and language.

In Maths, we tackled the topic of fractions, learning how to find halves and quarters of shapes and amounts. The children worked hard to understand the concept of dividing things equally and used a range of practical methods to support their learning.



To spark intellectual curiosity, we used skittles left over from our Maths lesson and placed them on a plate and filled it with water, watching in amazement as the colours formed beautiful patterns. This led to discussions about why the colours spread and what might happen if we used different shapes or amounts of water.

In Religious Education, we explored the concept of Heaven. The children used their imaginations to describe what Heaven might be like and shared their ideas in thoughtful discussions. We also looked at different artistic interpretations of Heaven and reflected on each one.

Meanwhile, our Nativity preparations have continued brilliantly. The children are busy practising their songs and lines, showing real enthusiasm and determination to make the performance something special. They are already looking forward to sharing it with parents in December.



Well done Year 2!

Mr Burke – Year 2 Teacher

Chess Tournament

Last Friday four Year 3 girls took part in a Chess Tournament at South Hampstead Junior School, braving their chances against some very experienced players from three other schools; North London Collegiate Junior School, Sarum Hall and SHJS. Through some overly cautious but also some wildly bold moves, they scored some wins and some losses with grace and polite handshakes. Our girls were praised for having the fewest illegal moves in the whole tournament, which means they were thinking carefully before moving their pieces. The event was such great fun and we hope to return in the future.



A huge thank you must go to Ms. Derveni who kindly accompanied us to the tournament.

Ms Sephton - Year 3 Teacher

Year 4

Year 4 enjoyed getting stuck into our Design and Technology project this term, creating our own canopic jars inspired by our studies of Ancient Egypt! We used paper cups to make the base of our jars, measuring and cutting carefully to create a lid and base for our jar. We made sure we had the right shape for the heads which would go on the lids of our jars, including adding ears and noses where needed, then covered our jars in mod roc bandages (the same one's doctors use to make casts for our arms!) to make them look like clay. They are currently air drying, ready for us to come back and paint them next lesson. Stay tuned for the final result!



Ms Farquhar – Year 4 Teacher

Year 5 Trip to the William Morris Art Gallery



On Tuesday, Year 5 had an exciting trip to the William Morris Art Gallery in Walthamstow! The children explored the beautiful art and designs created by the famous artist and designer, William Morris. They learned about his role during the Victorian Era and industrial revolution.

One of the highlights of the day was the chance to try printing using a printing press. Students got hands-on with this historic technique, creating their own prints inspired by Morris's designs. Everyone had a great time, and their prints turned out beautifully! It was an unforgettable experience that brought art history to life.



Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Teacher

Year 6

It's been another busy and focused week for Year 6 as preparations for exams continue and exams are now in full swing. We are thinking of all the children and wishing them the best of luck over the next few weeks. The children in St. Joan of Arc and St. Francis had the opportunity to lead collective worship for their Houses, sharing reflections and prayers with their peers while St Cecelia practised for their House Mass. In addition to their academic work, the children have started preparing for their upcoming interviews, reviewing past questions and strategising their responses. Mock interviews are scheduled for next week, providing valuable practice as they take the next steps in their journey.

In our Critical Thinking lesson this week Sophie and Apolline delivered their Current Affairs presentations to the class. Sophie talked about how in Australia they have recently decided to ban children who are under sixteen from using social media. One girls' school in Sydney has been trialling gifting children a phone with limited age-appropriate features with access to different features changing each year and then once the child in Year 10 and above the families can take over managing the features. They say that the trial is going well. I wonder if we will have something similar put in place here.

Apolline gave her presentation about the recent opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum. The museum consists of 100,000 artefacts and it is the largest archaeological complex in the world.

Alice chose the topic 'should it be illegal for children to be left at home alone under the age of 12?' She gave a detailed balanced argument which sparked great discussion in the class afterwards.

Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Teacher

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.

- **Preferential Option for the Poor** - The option for the poor reminds us of God's preferential love for the poorest and most vulnerable people. God's love is universal; he does not side with oppressors, but loves the humble.
- **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 principals throughout the academic year. The principal we will be focussing on this half term is Preferential Option for the Poor.

The Church holds that we should all have a special focus on supporting, walking alongside, and sharing with people who are living in poverty. Pope Francis's much quoted phrase about wanting 'a poor church for the poor' holds the Catholic social teaching principle of the preferential option for the poor at its heart. Although it includes the charitable support of the Church, both the institution and individual members, for those living in poverty locally and globally, it is also wider than this. The option for the poor includes talking with, and listening to, those who are living in poverty. It is not just thinking that we know what people want or need, but listening to people, sharing in their suffering, being the 'voice for the voiceless' when it is not being heard, whilst enabling the voice, the experience, the needs of people to be heard by others in our communities, society, and the world.

Mr Burke

Fr Terry's Food Bank

We believe, at St 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 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 6th December.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

Mr Burke, Edda, Aoife, Yumi and the Caritas Ambassadors



Boxes of Love Collection

We are delighted to be supporting St John's Hospice through our Boxes of Love collection this term.

This collection will provide shoeboxes to patients at the hospice that will be greatly appreciated at Christmas.

To support this collection, we kindly ask that your child packs a shoebox with gifts, wraps the box in Christmas wrapping paper and bring it into school. The shoeboxes will then be delivered to St John's Hospice before the end of term.





Some gift ideas that would be greatly appreciated at Christmas by patients at the hospice would be:

- Toiletries and personal care items such as 'shower bags' containing sponges, nail files, combs etc., colourful hair ties/ hair scrunchies;
- Clothing items such as colourful socks, scarves, knitted items, gloves, winter hats;
- Small food items such as chocolates or biscuits.

We would love to be able to send as many boxes as possible from Saint Christina's pupils to St John's hospice.

We kindly ask that the Boxes of Love are brought into school by Friday 6th December. Please ask your child to leave their box on the Boxes of Love table in the Main Hall.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

Mr Burke, Edda, Aoife, Yumi and the Caritas Ambassador

NOTICES and REMINDERS

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

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

NUT FREE SCHOOL

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

MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

Please do not send your child into school with any medication on their person. Medication can only be administered by qualified personnel. The only medication that we can administer, therefore, is prescribed medication e.g., Antibiotics, Inhalers, 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.

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.**

Dates for your diary

Monday 25th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISEB Pre - Test Exam in school
Tuesday 26 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 History trip
Wednesday 27th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISEB Pre - Test Exam in school • 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 3rd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6 Consortium Exams in school
Wednesday 4 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 4 History Trip
Thursday 5 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 Girls Football Tournament (Away) • Little Voices Performance
Friday 6 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 Advent Mass – 2.45pm
Monday 9 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYFS Nativity – 9:30am (refreshments from 9.00am) • Year 4 A and B Mixed Netball Fixture (Home)
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"> • Christmas Lunch • KS2 Carol Service – 7 PM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Jumper day and class parties
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 A and B Mixed Netball fixture (Away)
Friday 10 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptism of the Lord Mass led by Staff – 2.45pm
Monday 13th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubs to start this week • Year 5 and 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"> • Heritage Week • Year 5 A and B Girls Netball Fixture (Away)
Wednesday 22 nd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 3 Netball Fixture (Home) • Year 5 A and 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) • Year 3 and 4 Mix Netball Fixture (Home)
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 and 6 Netball Fixture (Away)
Wednesday 5th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Child Learning Reviews – Reception to Year 6 • Year 6 A and Yar 5 A Girls Netball Fixture (Away)
Thursday 6th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Child Learning Reviews – Reception to Year 6
Friday 7 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Mass (House Competition)

ABOVE TIMES/DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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

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