



Saint Christina's Bulletin

Friday 22nd September 2023

Dear Parents,

This week, the children have continued to work really hard, and I have been pleased to see some of the things that they have been achieving.

One aspect of the school that you as parents may not see so easily is our 'spotted' programme. It's something that I was keen to set up when I first came to SCS and which has really taken a hold amongst the children. It's very simple: if a child is spotted doing something that is worthy of recognition or note, then any member of staff can write a citation onto a coloured spot, that is then read out in assembly and displayed within the School. I mention this, because I have been very impressed with the number of spots that I have been able to read out this term – and especially pleased that there has been a very strong recognition of good work rate and kindness. The children will not know that they have been spotted, often, so hearing their citation often brings a broad smile in assembly.

Within assembly, and as part of our emphasis on the world around us, we have been considering the idea of stewardship. We have been asking the question, "How can we be good stewards of the world where we live?" You may know that at the same time the emphasis this year through Laudato Si, is water and that we have also been considering how fortunate we are to have clean water on tap in our homes. You may know that I have challenged every class to see if they can think of a way to raise £60 (from the whole class) so that we can support Tearfund's Toilet twinning Programme. The vision is that we might pair every toilet in the School with a toilet elsewhere in the world. But we wanted to encourage the children to earn the funds and do something to achieve the funds so that they can learn that this is actually the way the world works. I am conscious that Year 4 are well down the road with a superb helping around the home initiative, and that there are plans from other classes to do a number of different things, but the aim is to encourage the children to not just raid the bank of Mum and Dad, but maybe get friends or other relatives to sponsor them.

On the theme of looking after the world where we are, can I thank you for your ongoing support for Fr Terry's Foodbank. This is an opportunity for the children to understand that poverty is always with us and that any single donation we make is not a magic wand that solves the problem. Thank you!

During the week I have had the pleasure of being invited to More House, over in Knightsbridge, and Mulberry House which is an age 2-7 setting over in Kilburn. Both visits were very informative and I am pleased that I have been able to add to the very positive links that we have with the Heads there.

I do hope that you enjoy reading through this bulletin and that you have a relaxing weekend.

Alastair Gloag
Headteacher

Open Morning

We would be most grateful if you would pass on the details of our upcoming Open Morning to anyone that you think may be interested. Do please share our digital posts that are on Instagram, Facebook and X – the artist formerly known as Twitter!



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

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

OPEN MORNING
Wednesday 11th October 2023
9.15 to 11.00 am




Book now to reserve your place
Call 020 7722 8784 or scan the QR Code
or email: headteacherspa@saintchristinas.org.uk
saintchristinas.org.uk






Headteacher's Rubik Cube Challenge

The challenge is back! I am encouraging the children to pick up the Cube and have a crack at learning how to solve it. This is mainly aimed at Key Stage 2 but it would be wonderful to see Key stage 1 having a crack if they feel like it! There is a very nice handmade badge that is awarded to those who manage to complete it in under a minute that can be worn on their blazer.

Why the Rubik Cube? The Rubik Cube is a really good bit of mental gym. It helps with focus, algorithmic thinking and, helps develop better spatial understanding – being able to see an object in our mind's eye and mentally manipulate it to understand how things work and fit together. Engineers and architects are examples of people who tend to have high levels of spatial thinking ability. In addition, the Cube has been touted by research as actually surpassing Chess in terms of spatial and strategic thinking. So, it's good, and if not just something that should be done for fun, it's incredibly cool to be able to whizz the cube in front of your friends and family ... and if this is still not enough, it's really helpful for children preparing for the 11+! So the challenge is there. I am asking the office to attach the Cube solution as a PDF with the bulletin this week. The version I have is accessible to most of the older children and would certainly be accessible if a member of the household took up the challenge with them. Some great techniques were developed by parents last year in helping children develop systems – and to see that the creation of systems is a good thing to aid learning - around remembering sequences etc. Game On!

Challenge	What does it look like	Tick when you can do it
Beginner: Can form the basic cross on one side		
Can complete a side in one colour		
More Advanced: Can do one colour and build up to the middle of 4 other sides (green on the base is complete and red and yellow are two of the four bands).		

Mastering the cube: Can complete the cube		
Dominating the cube: Can complete the cube in under 2 minutes		
Extreme domination: Can complete the cube one handed		

Reception

During last Summer term Nursery (this year's Reception), planted seeds of various vegetables in preparation for Autumn.



Last week, Reception were particularly thrilled to see their tiny carrot seeds had grown into carrots! They harvested them, chopped them and tested them out. We all agreed; they were delicious!



In our first cooking session of the year, children enjoyed grating their carrots to make carrot cupcakes! These made for a very tasty end of day treat and the children were in absolute awe being able to experience the full lifecycle of a carrot.

Miss Nunes – Reception Teacher

Year 2 English

In A recent Year 2 English lesson, we embarked on an exciting journey inspired by our current text, "Toby and the Great Fire of London."

With a passion for storytelling, our young learners rose to the challenge of crafting Haiku poems. In just three lines, they beautifully captured the essence of this historical tale, allowing us to glimpse into the past through their words.

This creative exercise not only deepened their understanding of the Great Fire but also honed their literary skills, showcasing their growth as budding poets.

Mr Burke – Year 2 Class Teacher

Learning Objective	Date:	Independent
I am learning to write a Haiku poem.	Monday 18th September 2023	
	Work in the pairs/trios or small groups you were in previously to create a range of Haiku poems based on the Great Fire of London from Toby's point of view.	Teacher Assisted
		TA Assisted
		Peer Work

The hot fire flashes.
Flames spread and houses
burn down. London is
burning. Th

The hot fire whispers.
Flames spread and houses
explode. London is on fire.

Year 4 and Year 1 Buddies – Care for Creation



Genesis 1:26-27 "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."



Today we created posters with our buddies to show all the things we are grateful and thankful for in our world. In our Catholic Social Teaching lessons, we are focusing on:

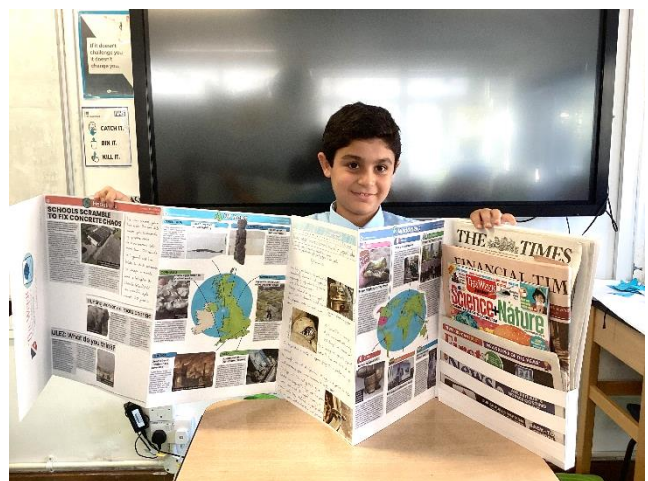
'Care for Creation'

Year 1 were experts because they are learning about the Creation story in their religion lessons. Year 4 were experts at telling Year 1 where in the Bible that story is found.

Miss O'Leary – Year 4 Class Teacher

Current Affairs in Year 5

In preparation for their 11+ the children in Year 5 have a Current Affairs session every week. It is important for children to become aware of some of the events happening in the world around them, for their own learning and development as citizens in our society. In our weekly sessions, the children learn about the world around them and this can help them to form their own opinions and ideas. They can present their chosen news story of that week in whatever format they choose. I am always very impressed by the confidence and presentation skills which the children develop throughout the year.



Mrs Ellidson - Year 5 Class Teacher

Curiosity Club

Some of the children in Year 5 enjoyed the first curiosity club of the year. This week the children had the opportunity to try a variety of different logic and problem-solving puzzles. Some of the chosen puzzles included '30 Cubed' which is based on mathematical principles. The set contains 30 different cubes and each cube features the same six base colours. The order of these colours varies from cube to cube. Every side on every cube features part of a "line". The lines appear in ten different colours. The puzzles all require the lines and/or base colours to be connected in different ways, following increasingly complex rules

Another chosen activity was the classic game of 'Mastermind'. This is a deduction game where each player takes turn making a limited number of guesses, using logic to deduce what pegs the opponent has hidden.

'Head Spin' was also chosen which requires quick thinking and fast fingers. Some of the boys chose to build a F1 car using a new construction kit.

All of the puzzles are also very useful in developing different critical thinking and problem-solving skills, useful for the 11+ preparation.

Mrs Ellisdon - Head of KS2



KS2 House Poetry Competition

The children are working in their houses to participate in the annual House poetry competition.

The theme this year is 'Refuge and each house will perform 'On the Move Again' as a whole house. Children from each year group (year 3-6), in each house, will then perform a poem of their choice (or self-written). This can be any poem of their choice and they are encouraged to base this poem on the Season of Creation. House Captains will make the children aware of who is to learn what lines of the main house poem and whether they are performing for their year group in the second half of the competition. The competition will take place on Friday 13th October.

The children have been given the poem. Please remind your child to practise their parts for the poem so that they know their lines off by heart.

Mrs Ellisdon - Head of KS2

Buddies – Care of Creation - September 20th and September 27th



In a heart-warming collaboration between year groups, our Saint Christina's School "Buddies" system came together to embrace our Catholic Social Teaching theme for this term, "Care For Creation." This lovely initiative brought children from across the school work hand in hand on different projects.

One highlight was a collage created by our Year 2 and Year 5 buddies – something that not only showcased their artistic talents but also symbolised their dedication to our environment.

Among the other highlights were the posters created by Year 1 and Year 4 showing all the things that we are grateful and thankful for in our world, and the wonderful discussion of how to look after the world between Reception and Year 3.

Our buddies will continue to make a positive impact and strengthen the bonds of friendship throughout the school year.

Mr Burke – Year 2 Class Teacher



Year 5 met the PAT Dog

The children in Year 5 had the opportunity to all meet the PAT Dog (Casper) this week. They learnt about why he comes to school and what a positive impact he can have on educational, social and emotion welfare of others. The children had a chance to interact with Casper by walking him, throwing a ball for him and by giving him commands.

Mrs Ellisdon - Year 5 Class Teacher



Mathematics at Saint Christina's

One of the parts of Mathematics that I find endlessly fascinating is the study of prime numbers. Children learn from early on that there are certain special numbers that can only be divided by one and themselves... We started by revising prime numbers via using the Sieve of Eratosthenes, which helped us to identify the prime numbers under one hundred (QUICK QUESTION: How many prime numbers under 100 are there?), and have since gone on to investigate other properties of primes.

For your own amusement, I shall set you some of the investigations that we are trying in class:

1. *Can you find pairs of prime numbers that sum to (a) an even number? (b) an odd number? (c) a square number?*
2. *Can you find two square numbers that sum to (a) a prime number? (b) a cubic number?*
3. *Do you notice any patterns in your results?*

Plenty of ideas to be getting on with...

Fr Rudolf – Teacher in charge of Mathematics

What have Year 6 been doing this week?

In Geography, we have been studying the map of North America, labelling it with states, settlements, rivers and mountains...It was refreshing to see how well Year Six settled down to doing this work.

In History we have been examining the myth of Theseus and the Minotaur. In addition to remembering the story and reflecting on it (QUICK QUESTION: Just why is it called the Aegean Sea?) we have gone on to examine various sources of information, all of which led to an interesting debate as to how much of the myth really happened, and what is just fiction.

Those are just two of the many activities we have been investigating in Year 6, although some of the class are now beginning to investigate logic puzzles to see how much they can solve!

Fr Rudolf - Year 6 Class Teacher

PE Update

The EYFS classes have continued to enjoy the start to their PE lessons. This week we have enjoyed using the playground for some of their lessons. It has been lovely getting to know the children and playing some games, involving following simple instructions and navigating space safely. We have also spent time on developing their hand eye coordination exploring a variety of pieces of equipment including balls, beanbags, hoops and hurdles, which the children have greatly enjoyed.



In Key Stage 1 this week the children have spent time developing simple generic skills like throwing, catching, jumping, aiming, kicking and rolling through football and netball. The children worked through a carousel of activities and we spent time talking through the key teaching points.



The Key Stage 2 classes have continued to impress with their efforts and improvements this week. In the football sessions, the children spent time this week working on passing the ball using different parts of their feet and passing over both short and long distances. We then tried to link this to the passing sessions from the previous week before enjoying some small-sided games. In netball, we recapped the key ideas introduced in our passing sessions and spent time looking at ways to get free and lose your marker. All classes also took part in full-sided netball matches with Year 3 and 4 beginning to get a better understanding of the game and the different positions.



It is encouraging to see so many children taking part in the sports after school clubs. It was lovely to see the children working hard during their fencing sessions with Lucy on Wednesday. The football club enjoyed using the new football goals in their session and the larger space has made it possible to play 5 a side matches on our playground which is a huge benefit to the children. In November, we have been able to book in a couple of fixtures during the school day for Year 2 and 3, which will be fantastic.

Date	Against	Team/YR	Venue
Monday 2 nd October	Trevor Roberts	Year 6A and Year 5 boys' Netball	Home
Wednesday 4 th October	Cavendish	Year 6A and 5A Netball	Away
Monday 9 th October	Village Prep	Year 5A and 6A Netball	Away
Wednesday 11 th October	St Margaret's	Year 6A and 5A Netball	Away
Thursday 12 th October	Devonshire House	Year 6A and B Netball	Away

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport

KS2 Drama and Film Making Club

Mr Duncan still has a few spaces available in the above clubs. Please contact him if your child may be interested in joining – drama@saintchristinas.org.uk

Preparing for Bebras



Calling all parents and pupils from Years 3-6!

The UK Bebras Challenge is here again and helps pupils to a new way of thinking. You can get a feel for the style of the problems by viewing last year's challenge 2022, which we will be practising in Computing lessons over the next few weeks. The Challenge will begin after October half term, the week beginning 6th November during Computing lessons.

Please go to www.bebas.uk and click past *Challenges*, select your age group and try out some questions. You will be told straight away whether you are correct and an explanation is given.

Learn about computational thinking skills with BBC bitesize

The BBC have produced some excellent resources for pupils wishing to learn about computational thinking.

This one is for parents!

Lila's Guessing Game

Lila and her friends are playing a guessing game.

To start the game, Lila puts a marble in bag A, a gem in bag B, and a piece of paper in bag C.

Then, while her friends' eyes are closed, Lila moves the items in the bags.

First, she switches the items in bags A and B,

Then, she switches the items in bags A and C,

Lastly, she switches the items in bags B and C.

Question:

Which bag is the gem in now?

Bag A

Bag B

Bag C

Good Luck and many thanks

Ms Overing - ICT Teacher



MacMillan Coffee Morning

Dear Parents/Carers,

We warmly invite you to our MacMillan Coffee Morning on **Friday 29th September 2023** from 9:00 – 10:00am in the Arts Hall.

The first ever Coffee Morning happened way back in 1990. It was a rather small affair with a simple idea: guests would gather over coffee and donate the cost of their cuppa to Macmillan in the process. It was so effective, we did it again the next year – only this time nationally. Since then, Coffee Morning has raised over £200 million for MacMillan.

The school is supporting this fantastic annual event by holding its own coffee morning next week. In addition to this, children are invited to wear their own clothes on this day. We will be doing this in memory of Ms Overing's sister, who over the course of her life held many of these events and raised thousands of pounds to support this wonderful charity.

To support this event, we kindly encourage you to make a donation in advance of Friday 29th September 2023 at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/saintchristina>

All proceeds will be sent to the MacMillan Cancer Trust in support of their ongoing work. The event is an opportunity for us all to come together as a school community and share time over a coffee and cake knowing that we are supporting an excellent charity. Last year, £1332 was raised by Saint Christina's for MacMillan Cancer Support.

If you would like to make or provide a cake or pastries for the coffee morning, please bring them with you on the day. As you are aware, the School is a strict **nut free** zone. Although this is an adult-only event and the children will not be involved, we still need to maintain the highest possible allergen awareness standards because the area we will use for the event is used by the children at a later time. There will also be adults who have particular needs – gluten free etc. Therefore, if you are able to make or provide a cake, we would be grateful if you would ensure it is **nut free** and accompanied by a comprehensive list of ingredients so that participants can avoid anything that they should not come into contact with. Thank you so much for your support with this.

So that are able to gauge the number of adults that will be attending this event, we warmly encourage you to RSVP to office@saintchristinas.org.uk.

We look forward to receiving your donations and to welcoming you into school.

Kind regards,

Mr Burke and Ms Overing

Fr Terry's Food Bank

We believe, at Saint Christina's, that we are called to serve those around us throughout the year.

We were so touched by your generosity towards Fr Terry's Food Bank last year and we are continuing to collect non-perishable food this half term.

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

If you would like to donate any non-perishable goods to this cause, please ask your child to leave their donation on the designated tables underneath the stairs next to the Arts Hall. We kindly ask that all donations for this half term are brought into school by Friday 13th October.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

Mr Burke, Kao and Tilly-Rose (Year 6 Charity Prefects)

Saint Christina's Food Collection



Caritas Ambassadors

This week Year 5 have been invited to become Caritas ambassadors.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

I look forward to working with you.

Mr Burke – Head of KS1

Save the date for



Monster Mash DISCO

FRIDAY



NOV 3RD

Parents Link invite you to get your little ghouls and goblins ready for the party of the year - more details in coming weeks

New Year, New Team!

A huge thank you to our amazing parents/carers who found the time to come to the AGM last Wednesday. Your support is always greatly appreciated.

We are happy to welcome new class reps for 2023/2024. Thank you to those who volunteered to help their class. It's an essential role and we can't wait to work together this year.

Your new Parents' Link Committee for the year is:

Chair - Masiel Sanchez (Year 5 + Year 1) and Shakira Watts (Year 3)

Secretary - Capucine Loriferne (Year 5 + Year 1) and Siobhan Fitzgerald (Year 5 + Year 1)

Treasury - Tiphaine Cabaud (Nursery + Year 1) and Yulia Hutton (Nursery)

We can't wait to start planning and organising, it is going to be a great year!

First on the list is the **Nearly New Uniform sales taking place on Tuesday 26th September 3.30pm-4.30pm in the arts hall.**

The planning for our world-famous **Monster Mash** is already under way.

Please save the date!

Friday 3rd November 2023

Class reps will be in contact to organise volunteers. We can't run it without you!

Thank you very much,

The Parents' Link Team.

REMINDERS / HEALTH & SAFETY

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.

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.

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 9.30am, 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.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 26 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearly New Uniform Sale
Friday 29 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MacMillan Coffee Morning – 9.00am in the Arts Hall St Francis Mass – 2.30pm Children may bring in a cuddly toy and wear their own clothes this day.
Monday 2 nd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children to wear winter uniform from today Year 5 Swimming starts Year 6 & Year 5 boys Netball Fixture – home game
Wednesday 4 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reception Parent Coffee Morning – 9.00-10.00am – details to follow Year 6A & Year 5A Netball Fixture – away game
Friday 6 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 4 Our Lady of the Rosary Mass – 2.30pm
Monday 9 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/Teacher Meetings via ZOOM Year 5 & Year 6A Netball Fixture – away game
Tuesday 10 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional Nasal Flu Vaccinations – details to follow
Wednesday 11 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Morning for Prospective Parents Year 6A & B and Year 5 Netball Fixtures – away
Thursday 12 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6A & B Netball Fixture – away game
Friday 13 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunchtime Cauliflower taster session NO MASS SCHOOL CLOSSES AT USUAL TIME FOR THE HALF-TERM HOLIDAY
HALF-TERM HOLIDAY MONDAY 16th TO FRIDAY 27th OCTOBER (INCLUSIVE)	
Monday 30 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHILDREN AND STAFF RETURN

ABOVE TIMES/DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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

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