



# Saint Christina's

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

## Bulletin

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Dear Parents,

This has been another very busy week in School. Year 5 enjoyed a trip to the Ragged School and Year 3 took a coach up to St Albans to visit the Roman Museum. Whilst I am sure most children will vote for holiday rather than School, I do think that having visited the Ragged School, most of Year 5 would vote for anything other than a Victorian education. A very interesting peek into the ways in which it was believed children should be treated and educated! The Year 3 really appreciated the opportunity to get their hands on some real History as they visited Verulanium.

On top of these trips, we have had the younger children out on Forest School, alongside a great set of sporting fixtures including the annual Inter-House Netball Tournament, that was frankly fantastic to watch. Such good sportsmanship on show and some really impressive displays of skill. If you follow the School on Instagram you will know this already, but one of the reasons why I love netball, though it is an odd game in that I think it is the only game where you have to stop when you are in possession of the ball, is because it teaches the children about strategy and position. They have to really use their brains in order to do well, and they have to think about how they position themselves on the pitch, in order to get the advantage – a really important cross - discipline skill for sports such as football, rugby and hockey.

Aside from all this activity, we have been really busy preparing for the Advent period – yes, it's only a week away! The young ones are working really hard on their Nativity Plays and the older children on the Carol Service that we will be able to enjoy right at the end of term. You will remember that Paul Russell announced that he would be leaving at the end of this term, so the Carol Service will be his swansong. We are deeply grateful for all that Paul has done to develop music within the School as we emerged from Covid and the impact of lockdowns and the challenge of virtual instrumental teaching etc. Under his leadership we have seen a really impressive development of our Peripatetic provision, in particular, and for this we are very grateful. He will be missed but we will say more in due course. Mrs Elizabeth Bryant will replace Paul Russell within the role of Director of Music.

Spare a thought and a prayer for our Year 6 pupils over the next week or two. They are already disappearing from time to time to visit senior schools that they have applied to. We will be running a number of assessments for many of the senior schools in the week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> December and thus it will be a testing time for all involved.

Despite the high-octane life that we have enjoyed this week, things will only get busier and more exciting as we head into next week. I do hope that you are able to enjoy a relaxing weekend and that the children will be recharged on Monday for the next stretch of the race.

Please don't forget that we are putting in a special effort collecting for Fr Terry's food bank as we approach Christmas – please see the Charity Prefect's Advent Calendar below to support them in their mission!

Alastair Gloag  
**Headteacher**

## Enrolment Mass

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, Year 3 celebrated a very special Mass as eight children, including one child from Year 4 and one child from Year 6, were enrolled into the First Holy Communion programme.

Fr. Terry did a wonderful job of introducing the children and their parents to the community of Saint Christina's, to be supported with their prayers and good wishes. The children read and sang the Responsorial Psalm beautifully.

Their spiritual journey has now begun and we are eagerly looking forward to this preparation time of receiving Jesus in our hearts.

**Ms Sephton and Ms Fernandes**





## Year 5 trip to the Ragged School

This week the children in Year 5 travelled back to 1893 to the Ragged School in East London which was set up by Dr Barnardo. During this time good posture was key, children were seen but not heard and were expected to be silent at all times in school. We met Miss Perkins, the teacher for the day who was very strict! She inspected the children's hands, expected them to sit up straight with their hands in their laps as she paced up and down the schoolroom as she taught the lessons. The children were brilliant and very engaged. It was wonderful for them to experience what life might have been like during that time. They experienced the rote learning as well as tried their hand at the expectations for handwriting. They also did lots of arithmetic and learnt how complicated the money system was!

At the end of the lesson Miss Perkins left the room and came back as Lizzie – not in character anymore and gave the children a chance to ask questions. The children were dying to find out more about the punishments. She then asked for some volunteers to show what the punishments would be. Punishments included the back straightener, used for anyone who was slouching; the dunce's hat, used for anyone who was not keeping up in class and the finger traps, used for anyone fiddling with something.

After the schoolroom experience we had a workshop all about the living conditions. The children learnt about washing clothes in a large tub and using a washing dolly. They had a smell of the carbolic soap which would have been used and then some of the children tried their hand at plunging the washing. The washing dolly not only had to be plunged up and down, but also twisted from side to side and then some children had a go at scrubbing the clothes using the washboard. They watched as the clothes would have been dried through the mangle. What surprised them was having to remove all the buttons on a piece of clothing if it was going to be dried through the mangle and then they would have to sew them all back on again!

It was a fabulous day out!

**Mrs Ellison - Year 5 Class Teacher**









## PE Update

We have had another busy week of sport this week with a football fixture and a netball match as well as the annual Year 5 and 6 Inter House netball competition. Year 3 continued their preparations for their football match against Sarum Hall next Wednesday, which I know the children are very much looking forward to.

On Monday some children from Years 3, 4 and 5 played a very competitive football match against Southbank. For most of the children, it was their first football match for the school team and they were all very excited. It was a very competitive match with some great football on show. We were a little more clinical with our shooting and our goalkeepers made some impressive saves to prevent Southbank from scoring. The children played very well as a team and showed great sportsmanship throughout the game. There were some fantastic goals from Alex, Kodai, Betsy and Ari. Sebastian and Alexander made some excellent saves in goal to prevent Southbank from scoring.

A special well done must go to Alex and Ari who were awarded star players for their excellent performances during the game but the whole team should be credited for their efforts. The children are all already very much looking forward to their next football matches.



On Tuesday, the Year 5 and 6 classes competed in an exciting Inter House Competition, which was convincingly won by Saint Francis. The house captains split each house into two teams and each team played 2 matches against the other houses. 3 points were awarded for winning, 2 points for drawing and 1 point for a loss. There were also bonus points awarded for each goal scored.

The children displayed all they have learnt during the netball sessions this term with some excellent matches and great team work on display. It was so lovely to see the children playing competitively and trying their best for their houses. The standard of netball on show was very high and everyone should be proud of their efforts.





1st  
Place



Special congratulations must go to the leading scorers Alice B and Allegra who both scored an impressive 12 goals.



Thank you to Mr Artur for umpiring the matches and the House captains for assisting with the organising of the event.

On Wednesday, Lucy from Little Musketeers came in to run a fencing taster session for Year 4. She introduced the group to fencing and the children spent time playing some games and learning some of the techniques before taking part in some matches. Fencing has proved to be a popular club and the children have been making great progress and really enjoying the sessions. We plan to run some more taster sessions for different classes over the next few weeks. If you would like more information about the after school fencing club please click on the link <https://musketeerseducation.com/extra-curricular>.



### Upcoming fixtures

<b>Date</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Team/Yr</b>	<b>Time</b>
Monday 27th November	Cavendish	Year 5 Netball	4pm-5pm
Tuesday 28th November	SHSS	Year 6A and 6B Netball	16.00-17.00
Wednesday 29th November	Sarum Hall	Year3	11.15-12.00
Thursday 30th November	Devonshire House	Year 5 football tournament	13.00-15.30
Monday 4th December	St Christopher's	Yr 4A and 5A Netball	16.00-17.00

### **House Decoration reminder**

Thank you to those children who have already brought in their House decorations for the Inter House Christmas competition. The deadline for the competition is **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December**. Children are asked to create a small Christmas decoration and bring it into school, every entry will score points for their houses.

**Mr Raveny – Director of Sport**

## **Advent Giving Calendar for Fr Terry's Foodbank**

Advent is a special season in the Church's year when we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ. However, for many people facing food poverty, Christmas can be a difficult time. In the UK, more than 13 million people are living in poverty – including almost 4 million children.

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 of the children's chaplaincy team, for designing this year's Saint Christina's Advent Calendar.

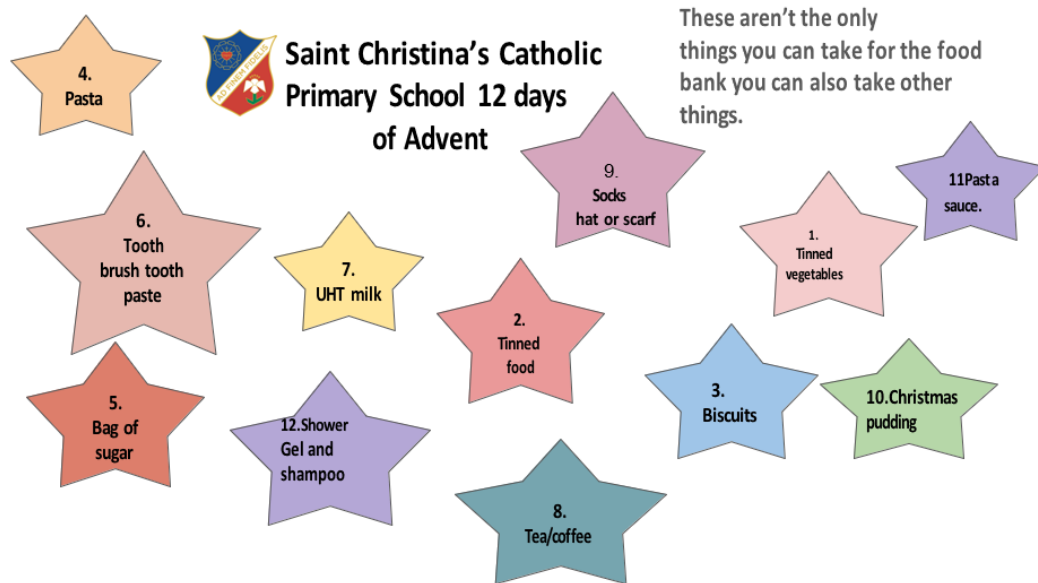
The Saint Christina's 12 days of Christmas will run from Friday 1st December until Wednesday 13th December.

Our Saint Christina's Advent calendar shows items which you can donate to our collection which will be taken to the Fr Terry's food bank, who will then distribute these items to families in need. We kindly ask you to collect your items at home in a bag or box and then bring them to school by Wednesday 15th 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

## Parents' Link - Christmas Jumper drive

We all love the excitement of the festive season, and Christmas Jumpers are a fun part, and a lovely school tradition. What is not fun is the year in scramble to get yet another Christmas jumper that will be worn once or twice before being outgrown. In an effort to role model a more economical and sustainable approach ahead of Christmas Jumper Day this year; PL will be holding a Christmas Jumper stall.



We are inviting everyone to donate their child's outgrown Christmas Jumper/s from years past. If it's in good condition, please bring your laundered donation in next week, and leave in the PL uniform donation box. Donations will then be sorted ready for a sale at the school ahead of Jumper Day. As in years past Jumper Day funds raised will be donated to charity.

## 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 27 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 and 6A Netball Fixture</li> </ul>
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parsnip Tasting</li> <li>Year 6A and B Netball Fixture</li> </ul>
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 3 Football Fixture</li> </ul>
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 Football Tournament</li> <li>Image Theatre Panto</li> </ul>
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 4 Advent Mass</li> </ul>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 4A and 5A Netball Fixture</li> </ul>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 1 and 2 trip to meet Santa</li> </ul>
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EYFS Trip to the Theatre</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>CHRISTMAS LUNCH</b></li> </ul>
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>NO CLUBS THIS WEEK WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BREAKFAST AND HOMEWORK CLUBS</b></li> <li>EYFS Nativity</li> </ul>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KS1 Nativity</li> <li>KS2 Carol Service</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SCHOOL CLOSSES AT MIDDAY FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b></li> </ul>
<b>SPRING TERM BEGINS MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024</b>	

**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/>