



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 6th December 2024

Dear Parents,

This has been one of the busiest weeks of the term so far, and we haven't even got to the carol Service and the Nativity Plays next week! The staff and children remain stunning and continue to raise their game as they polish and perfect the very many wonderful things that they are engaged in. This really is the very best community!

During the week we have had trips for Reception, Years 1 and 2 to the zoo alongside the very many rehearsals for the big events next. Year 4 had a fantastic time at the museum too, with the excitement of travelling there and back on the underground! Lots of excitement and fun in itself.

Year 6 remained, and in the case of a few, remain busy with the 11+ process. I'm delighted to say that the bulk of the first-round assessments are completed and we are beginning to hear from one or two processes regarding individuals being offered interviews etc. Much of this information will come back to us in the New Year, so we are still heavily ensconced within the whole process, however, I am very proud of how well all the children (and parents!) have managed the process so far. You may be interested to know that in preparation for the interview phase in the New Year, we have been delighted to welcome my successor, Damien Walshe into School to give the children some coaching and experience of this aspect of the process.

Amidst all the other things that have been going on, we were very grateful to Little Voices for giving such a wonderful concert on Thursday morning. We were blown away by the energy, the beautiful smiles, evident joy and technical skills in the form of some lovely part singing, that were on display. I am grateful to Mrs Bryant who encourages and coaches the children so passionately. It really is amazing the levels that the children are able to achieve in the right hands.

Today, I am enjoying sharing my role with Alex who is Head for the Day. You will know that every year our wonderful PL auction the chance to be Head for the Day as part of the many of the things they do to raise funds for the projects that we are working on. I will leave Alex to speak for himself in his own Head's message, but I have very much appreciated his support in assembly and enjoyed our strategic development meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who have been involved in planning such a wonderful evening on Thursday. I will be honest, nothing like this has ever happened to me before! I was deeply touched by your kindness and all the very many kind words that you shared with both myself and Rachel, my wife. My time at Saint Christina's has been the very best season, made all the better because this community is the real deal: the staff are amazing, the children are delightful, the Sisters and the Governors omnipresent and so supportive, and you, the parent body are kind, considerate and utterly invested. Thank you for a very special evening that I will not forget, and for the lovely gifts I received. I am looking forward to enjoying a fantastic final week with you all and will hopefully see many of you on the gate or at the Carols and Nativities that we are all looking forward to.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Alastair Gloag
Headteacher

Head for the day

This morning Mr Gloag and I welcomed all the children into school. After that, it was time for assembly. We had lots

of Bebras and other certificates to give out to all the children. There were so many that we weren't even able to give them to everyone in assembly! So, I had to hand them out afterwards. Mr Gloag helped me put all the spots on the board. It was quite a challenge!

I talked with Mr Gloag about school development at Saint Christina's. Some ideas I had was to look at buying a 3D printer for the Science room and also trying to convince more children to be able to master the rubix cube. Mr Hirst and I then started researching 3D printers to see which had the best customer reviews.

Miss Georgia and I then did a health and safety check all around the school to keep the whole school safe. I then I assisted Mr Raveney in the PE lesson with Year 1.

It has convinced me more to be a Headteacher when I grow up.

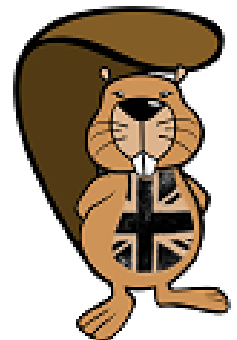
It was quite an experience!



The results are in for Bebras 2024!

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)

8 GOLD

4 DISTINCTION

5 MERIT

10 PARTICIPATION

YEAR 4 & 5 (age 8-10)

1 BEST IN SCHOOL YEAR 5 (TOP MARKS)

16 GOLD

13 DISTINCTION

8 MERIT

15 GOLD

19 PARTICIPATION

YEAR 6 (age10-12)

1 BEST IN SCHOOL (TOP MARKS)

6 GOLD

4 DISTINCTION

3 MERIT

6 PARTICIPATION

These results represent the strongest showing of children from Saint Christina's in the Bebras competition. Well done to all who participated this year, we are so proud of you all!

Thank you

Ms Overing – Head of ICT

Advent Giving Calendar for Fr Terry's Foodbank

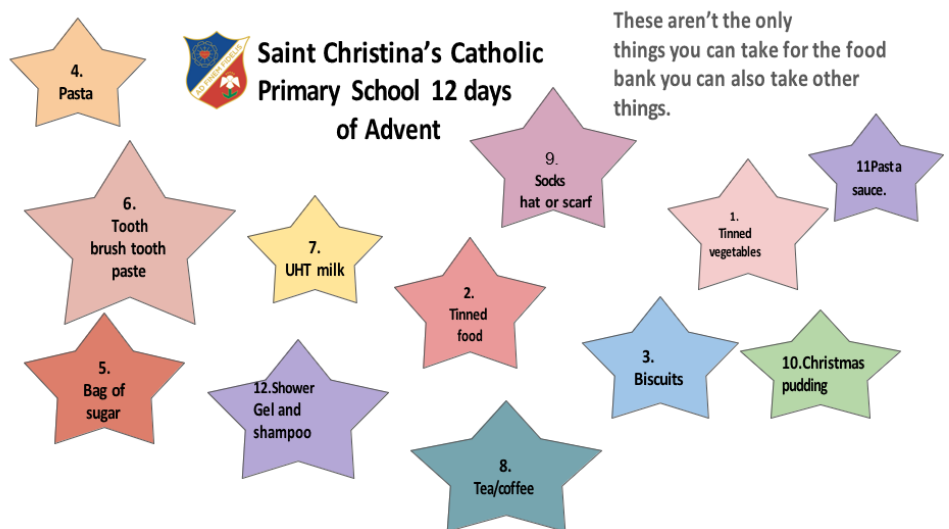
Advent is a special season in the Church's year when we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ. However, for many people facing food poverty, Christmas can be a difficult time. In the UK, more than 13 million people are living in poverty – including almost 4 million children.

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.

The Saint Christina's 12 days of Christmas will run until our final day of school, Friday 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 and then distributed to families in need.

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.



Caritas ambassadors and Children's Chaplaincy Team

Enrolment Mass

Last Friday, Year 3 celebrated a very special Mass as ten children were enrolled into this year's Holy Communion programme. Fr. Tom introduced the children and their parents to the community of Saint Christina's, to be supported with their prayers and good wishes. Their spiritual journey has now begun and they are eagerly looking forward to this special time of preparation to receive Jesus into their hearts.

This week in RE lessons have been learning more about the Hail Mary prayer and how this relates to the stories from the gospel Luke of the Annunciation and the Visitation. We also discussed the mystery of the Incarnation and used some given sources from the Bible which showed Jesus' humanity and divinity.



In Design Technology, the children finished making their Roman sandals and in History they have been finding out about Hadrian's Wall, a former defensive fortification of the Roman province of Britannia.

Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher

Eco Committee

Our newly elected Eco Team met last week to discuss their ideas and brainstorm. They shared their visions and their mandates on which their respective classes elected them. We went through the Eco Schools website to see the journey which we will be taking this year as we strive towards obtaining the Eco School Award. The first job that the team have started is the environmental review – this is an audit of the school to see how eco-friendly we are currently and identify areas where we can improve. The team are excited about making real change and have lots of great green ideas already!



Saint Christina's Eco Committee – Agenda and Minutes

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------|----------|
| Name of meeting | ECO Committee | Date | 28/11/24 |
| Location | Science Room | Time | 12:30pm |
| To do before meeting | Speak to children in each class | | |
| Role | Name | | |
| Chair | Mr. Hirst | | |
| Teachers / visitor | Mr Hirst / Ms Sephton | | |

| Item | Person | Discussion |
|------------------------------------|----------|---|
| Agenda Items / Ideas | | |
| • Opening prayer led by Mr. Hirst | SH | |
| • Introductions | | |
| • Eco - Flag 7 Steps | SH | site manager (Steve) will help |
| 1. - Eco Committee | | |
| 2. Environmental review | SH | AL - Bike bus SP - nature / planting trees - ask permission of behaviour city council |
| 3. actions plan or Curriculum link | | |
| 4. Informing and Inspiring | | |
| 5. monitoring and evaluation | | |
| 6. eco week | | |
| • Our ideas | Speaches | MG - expand Eco garden - more plants AC - Save electricity - put solar panels J.M. - Competition eg letter picking local (environmental) area |

Mr Hirst and Ms Sephton

KS1 Story Club

We look forward to sharing more stories in Story Club over the next term!

The Snowman and The Snowdog by Raymond Briggs: *I like this story because at the start the boy really wants a dog. Father Christmas gives him a collar and then the magic makes it a dog.*
– Pupil in Year 1



Year 1 and 2 London Zoo Trip

Year 1 and 2 had wonderful trips to London Zoo this week.

Year 1 visited on Tuesday, starting the day exploring the zoo. Highlights included our visit to the giraffes and spotting a sloth right above our heads in the 'rainforest'. We then saw the camels, which reminded us of our upcoming Nativity. An exciting visit to see Father Christmas followed, where we helped him identify animals living in the North Pole, the South Pole, and hot climates. We especially loved pretending to be penguins eating fish! Lunch by the penguins was a treat, as we watched them leaping out of the water while they swam. We ended the day with a magical visit to the butterfly house.



Year 2 visited on Wednesday and had an equally exciting day. They explored the zoo, visiting highlights like the giraffes and the lions. They also saw the camels and enjoyed a visit to Father Christmas, identifying animals from different climates and pretending to be penguins.



Both year groups had an amazing, fun-filled time at the zoo!

Miss Higgins and Mr Burke

KS1 STEM Club: Exploring Colours with Skittles and Markers!

This week, our KS1 STEM club had a colourful and exciting time experimenting with the science of colour and water! The children investigated how different colours move and mix by using Skittles and markers to create stunning tie-dye effects. They watched in awe as the Skittles dissolved and the vibrant colours spread across the paper, while the markers worked their magic to create swirling patterns. This hands-on experiment was a fun way to explore the properties of colour and water, sparking curiosity and creativity in our young scientists!



Ms O'Leary - Year 5 Teacher

Year 4 History Trip to the British Museum



Year 4 had a wonderful adventure to the British Museum on Wednesday. Did you know that the British Museum has the largest collection of Ancient Egyptian artefacts outside of Egypt?! We really enjoyed seeing so many real artefacts from our studies in History. Highlights included the Rosetta Stone, a mummified cat and crocodile, and lots of mummies too of course – even the mummy of Cleopatra! We completed a scavenger hunt to find key items in the collection, and some of us challenged ourselves by attempting to read the hieroglyphics on some of the artefacts. We managed to remember quite a few letters, which was very impressive! We saw some real canopic jars, which has given us some inspiration to finish our art projects next week.

Ms Farquhar – Year 4 Teacher

Year 5 History and Computing

In their recent ICT lessons, Year 5 students have been busy researching the fascinating traditions of a Victorian Christmas. Using word processing tools, they have created detailed fact files on various aspects of the festive season during the Victorian era. Topics explored include the history of the Christmas tree, popular Christmas carols, and many other intriguing customs from the past. It's been a fun and educational way for students to enhance their research skills while learning about how Christmas was celebrated in the 19th century! Check out an example of the student's work below!



VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Christmas tree

In the Victorian era, it became very fashionable to have a Christmas tree at their house. Prince Albert was the first to use a fir tree for their Christmas tree. Sadly, only the rich could afford this as a Christmas tree would have lots of colorful ornaments and everyone wanted it.



Christmas Cracker

The Christmas cracker was invented by Tom



Smith, mainly for a new way to sell sweets. It was favoured and was popular as a Christmas tradition. But soon, it was replaced for a paper crown and a small toy.

Christmas Carol

Christmas carols played a major part in the Christmas Tradition. Some examples are, Silent Night, Jingles Bells, and We Three Kings of Orient Are.



Christmas Dinner

Many rich people had a Christmas feast, which included roasted turkey. Unfortunately, Roasted turkey was expensive and the poor would eat roasted hare.



By Sakura Y5

Victorian Christmas

The Christmas Tree

The first Christmas tree was brought to UK by Queen Charlotte she decorated a Yule tree but after Prince Alfred Queen Victoria's husband used a fir tree. After everybody wanted one and it became very popular.

The Christmas Cracker

Tom Smith invented his first cracker in 1847 and perfected it in the 1860s. It used two narrow strips of paper on top of each other, with silver fulminate painted on one side on the other abrasive. When rubbed together it created friction and cause a BANG!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Christmas Dinner

The Victorians for dinner ate a turkey with mince pies and wassail punch as pudding the turkey was crisp and roasted and only the rich could afford this. The desert also included gingerbread, Figgy pudding, sugar plums and Nesselrode pudding.



By Beatrix

Year 6

It's been a big week for the children in Year 6 as they've tackled even more exams! By the end of Saturday, they will have completed all assessments before Christmas. After the break, some children will have a couple more exams, and then it's onto the interview process.

In class, the children have been busy solving challenging KenKen puzzles and learning about the vital role women played during WWII. They've also been working hard to perfect the carols for next week's carol service.

Alexander and Yumi delivered their persuasive debates to the class. Alexander chose the question, 'should taxes be raised to pay for the effects of Climate change?' and Yumi chose the question, 'should violent video games be banned.' Both debates sparked huge discussion amongst the class and critical thinking skills were developed throughout the lesson.

The highlight of the week, however, was the festive activities they enjoyed with their nursery buddies. The children in Year 6 helped their buddies to decorate some stockings, decorate gingerbread men, stick the nose on Rudolph and write letters to Father Christmas. A perfect end to a productive and exciting week!



Mrs Ellison - Year 6 Teacher

Year 6 Science

Last Friday, we completed the long-awaited eyeball dissection to complete our science topic. As part of our learning, the children observed an eyeball dissection, where they had the opportunity to see and identify the different parts of the eye. We also compared the similarities and differences between a sheep's eye and a cow's eye, both of which share many properties with human eyes. The children thoroughly enjoyed this hands-on, memorable experience, which allowed them to deepen their understanding and bring their learning to life and it was impressive to see how much they can recall about the different parts of the eye and their functions.



PE Update

On Thursday the Year 5 girls' football team took part in a tournament hosted by Devonshire House along with 15 other schools. The children put in a fantastic effort throughout the afternoon and did amazingly well with 4 wins, 1 draw and a single loss. The team played so well together and Mr Artur and I could not be prouder of their performances. In the first round of games, we drew 0-0 with Cavendish and had 2 great victories over Radnor House and St Marys which put us in second place in our League. In the second round of games, we had 2 more excellent victories against Ivy House and Southbank and suffered a narrow defeat against Pembridge Hall. The children gave their everything and did not stop running throughout the event. Well done to Alice who was awarded star player for her efforts scoring 3 goals during the afternoon and also making several tackles. Akari and Betsy should also be praised for their goals and Beatrix made lots of fantastic saves in goal. Sakura, Isabella, Farah and Ava put in some tremendous performances.



On Monday our Year 4 netball team have their first match of the year against Sarum Hall, which I know they are very much looking forward to. It has been so lovely to have so many fixtures this term and the children have made some fantastic progress. I would like to thank all of the children for their efforts in sport this year and a huge thank you to all the parents, the Sisters and staff who have come along to support the teams during fixtures. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Next term we have many more events planned as well as some more Inter House football and netball competitions. Year 4 will complete their intensive swimming courses and will spend time covering a variety of different sports including football, netball, tag rugby, gymnastics and cross country.

Upcoming fixtures

| Date | Opposition | Team | Time |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Monday 9th December | Sarum Hall Home | Yr4A and B Netball Girls | 16.00-17.00 |
| Monday 20th January | St Marys Away | Yr5A and B Netball Girls | 16.00-17.00 |
| Wednesday 22nd January | Sarum Hall Away | Yr3 Netball whole class | 11.00-12.00 |
| Wednesday 22nd January | Sarum Hall Away | Yr5A and B Girls Netball | 16.00-17.00 |
| Monday 27th January | Ivy House Home | Yr3 and 4 Netball Mixed | 15.30-16.30 |
| Monday 3rd February | Village Prep Away | Yr5 and 6 team Netball | 16.00-17.00 |
| Wednesday 5th February | St Margarets Away | Yr6 A and Year 5 A Girls Netball | 15.15-16.15 |
| Monday 10th February | Ivy House Home | Yr5 and 6 Football Mixed | 15.30-16.30 |

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport

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 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 • Christmas Jumper Day and class parties |
| FRIDAY 13th DECEMBER | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCHOOL CLOSSES AT MIDDAY FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY • 12:00pm - EYFS • 12:10pm - YEARS 1,2 & 3 • 12:15pm - YEAR 4,5 & 6 |
| 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/>