



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 12th June 2026



Where Kindness Meets Ambition



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Dear Parents,

Many of you will have heard of or perhaps read, Pope Leo's recent encyclical looking at the human person in the age of artificial intelligence. A summary can be found [here](#). One newspaper editorial described the encyclical as "a humanity first message", which feels like a helpful way of understanding the work ahead for schools. There is a phrase from the encyclical that feels closely aligned with conversations we are having at Saint Christina's about digital wellbeing: *"Schools are not called to follow the pace of the digital world, but to offer that which the digital sphere by itself cannot provide, namely a shared time for learning and developing trustworthy relationships."*

You will be aware that we have been working in the background on our digital strategy. In an earlier bulletin, I said I would update parents once we had moved this work on, and a group of governors and colleagues met this week for our final meeting of the year to look at what shape this might take from September. Having reflected on the encyclical, I am increasingly convinced that the word 'strategy' does not quite capture what we are trying to do. A strategy covers devices, platforms, systems, and policies, and while all of those are necessary, they are only a part of the picture.

The better phrase for our purposes is **Digital Formation**. Formation is closer to education because it is concerned with habits, judgement, attention, truth, relationships, and human dignity. It also sits naturally alongside our Handmaids heritage and Ignatian spirituality, in that formation asks what kind of lives we are helping children to build.

From September, we are looking at three strands: **digital literacy**, helping children understand technology, media, information and AI; **digital wellbeing**, helping children manage attention, behaviour, relationships and online pressure; and **digital discernment**, helping children make wise choices, seek truth and protect human dignity.

It would be unrealistic and unhelpful to turn children away from technology and pretend it doesn't exist; that is not what we are trying to do. We want children to understand it, question it and learn how to use it well, but we also want them to know when to put it down. There is a responsibility here for us as adults too, because children notice how we use phones, how we give attention, how we listen, and how much space we leave for proper conversation. We will share more throughout the next academic year as this work takes shape.

In a related development, some of you may already be familiar with [Tooled Up Education](#), an online platform used by a growing number of independent schools. From September, we will be investing in Tooled Up so that parents and colleagues have access to a wide range of practical, evidence-based resources on childhood, parenting, wellbeing, and education. The platform includes articles, webinars, videos, podcasts and practical tips, including support with digital habits, online behaviour, attention, AI and the wider pressures children face as they grow up in a digital age.



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I hope it will also give us a helpful starting point for rich conversations between home and school, and within the parent community. Children benefit most when the adults around them are thinking carefully together, and I am confident Tooled Up will prove to be an excellent resource for all of us at Saint Christina's.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

Damien Walshe
Headteacher

YEAR 6 TEAMS FOR MISSION ZERO - Mission Zero offers young people the chance to have their code run in space!

Dear parents,

Earlier this year Year 6 wrote a program to take a reading from the colour and luminosity sensor on an Astro-Pi computer on board the International Station, and used it to set the background colour in a personalised image of Nature on Earth for the astronauts to see as they go about their daily tasks on the ISS.

They had a hard task but worked exceptionally well and conquered the coding difficulties. They were awarded certificates showing the exact time and location the program ran in space.

Well done to all of Year 6 for doing such a great job!

We are so proud of their achievement!

Thank you.

Ms Overing - Head of Computing





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Spanish in Year 3

Year 3 have been exceptional in their Spanish lessons this term while studying the topic Mi Casa (My House). The children have learned the names of different parts of the house in Spanish and have enjoyed creating a lovely house craft to consolidate their learning.

We were particularly impressed with their dictionary skills. In a world of instant online translations, it was wonderful to see the children confidently using paper dictionaries to find and check new vocabulary. Sometimes it is good to go back to basics, and the children demonstrated great perseverance and enthusiasm throughout the topic.

¡Muy bien, Year 3!

Ms Bretones - Head of Spanish





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Bird Watching Adventures

With the sunshine finally making an appearance, Nursery enjoyed a wonderful bird watching session this week at Forest School. We spotted more birds than ever before, including wood pigeons, blackbirds, parakeets and a particularly pesky crow! One of the highlights was watching a pair of long tailed tits performing what looked like a mating dance. The children were fascinated and were incredibly careful not to disturb the birds, even crawling on their tummies to get a closer look. It was great fun and a fantastic opportunity to observe wildlife up close.

Ms Randle - Head of EYFS and Nursery Class Teacher





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Exploring the Ocean in Reception

This term, we have started to learn about the signs of summer and the changes we notice as the weather becomes warmer. As part of this learning, we began by exploring the beach and seaside, which quickly led into one of the children's biggest interests at the moment, the ocean. We have enjoyed reading both fiction and non-fiction books, including *A Commotion in the Ocean* and *My First Seas and Oceans Book*, which have helped us learn about the many animals and habitats found beneath the waves. Outside, the children explored ocean animals in the water trays, and during choosing they created whales, turtles and fish with moving tails and fins using split pins, bringing their ocean creatures to life. Our learning linked perfectly to World Ocean Day, which encourages people around the world to think about how we can care for and protect our oceans. To celebrate, we watched a short clip about Boyan Slat, an inventor who created a way to help remove rubbish from the ocean. Inspired by his ideas, the children designed their own boats and ships in their journals, many with special features to clean the ocean and help protect the animals that live there. We are looking forward to learning more about the ocean next week.

Ms Williams - Reception Class Teacher





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Year 1 Maths - Money

This week in Maths, Year 1 began an exciting new unit on money! We explored how different values can be represented using counters before linking these to real coins and notes. We developed our understanding of unitising, learning that one object can represent a value greater than one. We used this knowledge to find totals, make different amounts and solve practical shop challenges.

Later in the week, we investigated a range of British coins and notes, learning to recognise them by their appearance, value and name. We enjoyed sorting, ordering and comparing different coins and notes, as well as explaining our mathematical thinking using the language of greater than, less than and equal to. It was wonderful to see so much confidence when discussing which amounts were worth more and justifying our answers!

Ms Higgins and Ms Khalique - Year 1 Class Teachers





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Year 2

On Wednesday morning, Year 2 finally got to complete one of the most exciting parts of our Great Fire of London learning. Back in the Autumn Term, the children designed and built their own Tudor houses as part of our History topic. Since then, they have been patiently waiting to find out what would happen when we put them to the ultimate test! With the help of Mr Steve, we took the houses out to the playground and carefully burned them, watching how quickly the fire spread from house to house. It was a fantastic way to bring our learning to life and helped the children gain a real understanding of why the Great Fire spread so rapidly through London in 1666.

The children were fascinated by what they saw and made some excellent observations. We even sang some of our Great Fire of London songs as the houses burned, which made for a memorable end to a topic that Year 2 has thoroughly enjoyed.

A huge thank you to Mr Steve for helping us organise and safely supervise the activity, and to Ms Bretones, who worked with the children to design and build the Tudor houses back in the Autumn Term.

Mr Burke - Year 2 Class Teacher





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Full STEM ahead!

There has been a range of STEM learning taking place in Science this half term with our first set of completed projects ready for use.

Our Year 2 children wanted to use the litter pickers so we have created a unit of STEM work embracing this. The children created surveys to ask about litter in our local area and they surveyed a cross section of the school community to gather their results. They concluded that they could help to improve the litter in the area by creating posters and by having more bins. This week the children have made some beautiful posters and we will make bin signs to alert people to bins that are nearby.

Despite the current weather, Year 3 have designed summer hats and have cut out a pattern and fabric to sew them. In some cases, the children have brought some fabric from home, usually in the form of clothes they have outgrown, to upcycle and repurpose to keep the STEM work sustainable and responsible. We hope to share some photos of the finished hats very soon.

Year 5 have been learning about lifecycles and to support our local wildlife, the children made and decorated some beautiful birdhouses. We considered things like the entrance to the house being large enough for a bird but small enough to keep predators out. The Year 5 children have taken their birdhouses home and it would be wonderful if parents could send a photograph of the birdhouse in use please! (schand@saintchristinas.org.uk) Thank you so much in advance for supporting this project.

Miss Chand - Head of Science

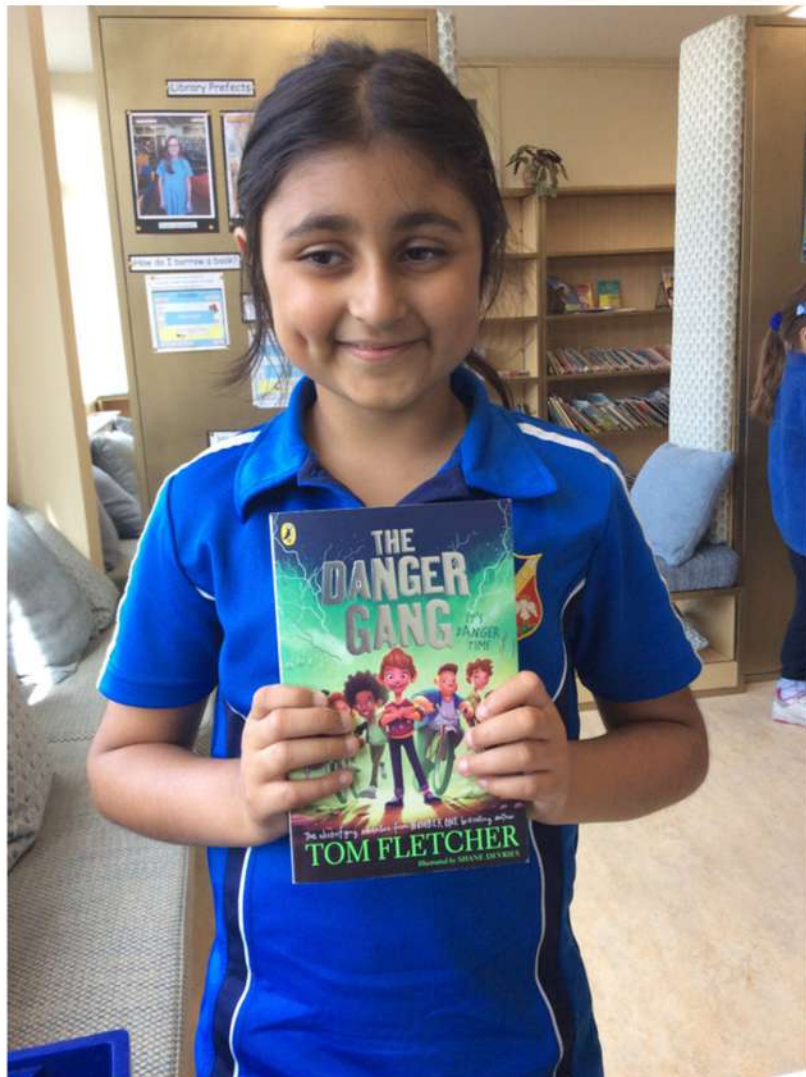




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KS1 Story and Reading Club

The Danger Gang: I like it because it is funny! It is very interesting. You should read it to find out more! - **Child in Year 2**





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Year 3

This week in Maths, Year 3 have been learning about different types of lines within shapes. The children have been identifying and recognising horizontal, vertical, parallel and perpendicular lines and applying this knowledge when exploring a variety of 2D shapes.

In English, they have been studying the text Charlie's Magic Chalk. The children enjoyed exploring the story and discussing its exciting adventures. They then used the text as inspiration to plan and begin writing their own imaginative adventure stories, focusing on creative ideas and story structure.

In Geography, they started our new topic on the Local Area. Using Google Earth and Digimaps, the children investigated St John's Wood, identifying key landmarks and exploring how maps can help us understand the features of our local area.

Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher





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Year 4

This week in Year 4, we learned about St Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus in RE, identifying and ordering the key events of this important story. In Geography, we celebrated World Ocean Day by exploring "blue jobs" that help protect the ocean and even inventing our own dream ocean careers, as well as taking part in a live WWF lesson with Steve Backshall about marine life and ocean conservation. In Maths, we completed our topic on position and direction by translating shapes and points on a grid, revised written division methods, and proudly took part in the First Mathematics Challenge. In English, we enjoyed our first Wacky Wednesday of the term, rotating through activities focused on grammar, punctuation, spelling and comprehension, alongside a playscript comprehension, proofreading practice and a PIRA revision test. In Art, we began designing and constructing our model Viking longships, and on Friday we had a fantastic time at the KS2 Sports Day in Regent's Park, where the children showed brilliant teamwork, positivity and determination throughout.

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher





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Year 5

Year 5 have been bringing their History learning to life through Art, creating Greek vases inspired by artefacts they have studied. After examining real examples of pottery, the children in Year 5 practised shaping clay, focusing on forming a strong, steady base before building their vessels.

They explored indenting patterns to recreate decorative styles seen on authentic pieces. We are proud of their creativity, craftsmanship, and the way they have linked their historical learning with their artistic skills.

Ms O'Leary - Year 5 Class Teacher





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Year 6

This week, Year 6 completed the Young Entrepreneur Academy's online course, gaining an exciting introduction to the fundamentals of business. Throughout the programme, they heard the inside scoop from some of the UK's most inspiring entrepreneurs and developed a solid understanding of how businesses work in the real world. They explored what it means to be an entrepreneur, investigated different types of businesses and learned how to generate and adapt ideas through innovation and pivoting.

As the course progressed, the children developed a wide range of practical business skills. They learned how to write a business plan, identify customers and sales channels, set prices, and use marketing strategies to attract and retain customers. They explored supply chains, budgeting, cash flow and break-even, and gained an understanding of financial statements. They also considered what makes a successful business, including the importance of customer service, quality control, effective leadership and strong management teams. In addition, they examined franchising, raising capital, measuring performance, setting objectives, the impact of external factors on businesses, and the importance of regulation, ethics and intellectual property.

Every child in the class completed the end of course test and I am delighted that they all passed with flying colours. In recognition of their achievement, they have each received a Certificate of Accreditation from UCL. I am very proud of the confidence, resilience and initiative they have shown throughout the programme, and I look forward to seeing how they continue to apply these valuable skills and experiences in the future.

Mrs Ellidon - Assistant Head (Academic) & Year 6 Class Teacher



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Sport Update

Today, we held our KS2 Sports Day. It was a wonderful event, and a full report will be included in next week's bulletin.

Last Friday, our Year 5/6 Girls' Cricket Team took part in the St Mary's Cricket Tournament alongside seven other schools. It was an excellent day of cricket, and the girls demonstrated fantastic effort, teamwork, and determination throughout the event. We finished the tournament as champions, winning all three of our matches. The team secured victories against St Mary's B and Sarum Hall before overcoming St Christopher's in the final. The girls should be incredibly proud of both this achievement and the progress they have made throughout the year.

A special congratulations goes to Alice, who was awarded Star Player for her outstanding batting, scoring an impressive 52 runs across her innings. Special recognition must also go to Amelia, whose tight and accurate bowling throughout all three matches played a key role in the team's success.



Looking ahead, next Friday our Year 6 children will be helping to run the EYFS and KS1 Sports Day. The event will begin at 9:45am. We would love to see as many parents and family members there as possible to support the children. They have been working incredibly hard during their PE lessons and have thoroughly enjoyed learning and practising the various events.



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Date	Against	Team/Yr	Venue	Time
Monday 15 th June	Trevor Roberts	Y5/6 Cricket (Mixed)	Home	15.30 - 16.30

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport

Music Update

Composer of the month

Our composer for this month is Franz Liszt. Children can find out more about him and his music at the links below. They can explore some of the recommended listening, then fill in a "I listened to.." slip saying what they thought of the music. They can collect a slip from the wallet on the board, print it out from Google Classroom, or ask me for one. Once they've filled it in, they should bring it to me or one of the Music Prefects (Akari and Finn) to add it to the board and earn a house point.

Some of the pieces of music are quite long and of course you do not need to listen to all of them.

[A short biography of Franz Liszt](#)

[Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2](#)

Listen for fast finger work, sudden changes in speed and exciting melodies.

[Liebestraum No. 3](#)

This means "Dream of Love". Listen for beautiful, flowing melodies and gentle, expressive playing.

[La Campanella](#)

Listen for bell-like sounds ("campanella" means bell) and sparkling high notes.

[Les Préludes](#)

Listen for dramatic brass instruments and changing moods.



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Music Assembly

On Tuesday we had a wonderful music assembly with over 30 children performing. There was a lovely mix of piano, guitar, violin, flute and singing, with children playing to a packed audience with standing room only! Well done to everyone who took part.



School Production - "A-la-la-la-laddin"

Rehearsals for this year's summer production are in full swing! All the material needed for practising songs is available on Google Classroom, and there are also sing-along versions of the songs available on YouTube, if you search for the name of the show.

Costume letters went home this week, so please check you have received this. Costumes need to be in school by Monday 22nd June, and class reps will help with any questions about these.

The dates for the production are **Wednesday 1st July** (for parents of Years 3 and 4) and **Thursday 2nd July** for parents of Years 5 and 6), both at 6.00pm. Final details and tickets will be sent out soon.

Music Lessons

If you are interested in lessons for your child for the next academic year, you can find information and the application form [here](#). If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk

Mrs Bryant - Director of Music



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Enrichment News

Back in the second week of term, twenty of our children sat the Junior Mathematics Challenge and did well on it since eleven of the children gained awards. Three of the children who had been awarded Gold were invited to take part in the Junior Kangaroo Round (which is the first of the follow up rounds) - this round took place today. A paper of twenty five multiple choice questions was sat and our competitors thought it was not as hard as it had been rumoured to be! Ehwan, Sofi and Philippe did however notice that the questions got harder later on in the paper.

Once the paper had been completed, the answer sheets were scanned and submitted to the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust, which runs many of the national mathematics competitions sat by children up and down the country.

The closing date for submitting entries is before the end of this week, and once all the entries have been received, the organisers will be in a position to decide boundaries for awards. We should therefore know if any of our children have gained awards some time within the next two weeks.

So that you can get a flavour of the standard of questions in the paper, here is one of the earlier questions that was attempted today:

Question 5: The mean of a set of five different positive integers is 4. What is the largest integer that could be in the set?

You will of course be kept posted as soon as we have received the results of this competition!

Fr Rudolf Loewenstein - Teacher in Charge of Enrichment



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DINY'S SENSORY AND MESSY PLAY (FROM 10 MONTHS -TO 36 MONTHS)



SENSORY AND MESSY PLAY GIVES BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN THE FREEDOM TO EXPLORE THE WORLD THROUGH THEIR SENSES-TOUCH,SIGHT,SOUND,SMELL AND MOVEMENT. THROUGH ACTIVITIES AND EXPLORING DIFFERENT TEXTURES,CHILDREN BUILD CONFIDENCE, CURIOSITY, AND ESSENTIAL EARLY SKILLS.

OUR NEXT SESSIONS WILL EXPLORE SUMMER THEME ACTIVITIES SUCH AS ICE CREAM PLAYDOUGH STATION UNDER THE SEA AND DEAR ZOO TUFF TRAYS.

LED BY EDINA, A QUALIFIED EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR WITH 10+ YEARS EXPERIENCE INCLUDING ROLES AS BABY ROOM LEADER AND DEPUTY MANAGER.

VENUE:THE ART'S HALL. SAINT CHRISTINA'S SCHOOL,

25 ST EDMUND'S TERRACE
NW8 7PY

6TH AND 27TH OF JUNE

SATURDAY

TIME: 10:30AM - 11:30AM

PRICE: £10 PER CHILD - CASH ONLY

PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE PRESENT WITH YOUR CHILD FOR THE DURATION OF THE SESSION



PLEASE BOOK YOUR SPACE VIA THE EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW:

RETESIE@GMAIL.COM FIND US ON HAPPITY TOO



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NOTICES and REMINDERS

Nut Free School

We have a number of children 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.

Greener Approach to School Reports

This summer, school reports will be going paperless. Rather than receiving a printed copy, reports will be emailed to parents at the end of the final day of the Summer Term.

This small change will help reduce our paper consumption and environmental impact while still ensuring reports are delivered safely and securely.

If you would prefer a paper copy, please email your child's class teacher.

Thank you for supporting us as we continue to make Saint Christina's a greener and more sustainable school.



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Dates for your Diary

Monday 15 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 5/6 Cricket (Home)
Wednesday 17 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nursery Forest School
Thursday 18 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 6 Ice Cream Sale (15.00)
Friday 19 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EYFS & KS1 Sports Day• Year 5 Mass
Monday 22 nd June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last Week of Clubs
Tuesday 23 rd June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Photos
Wednesday 24 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nursery Forest School• Reception Trip
Friday 26 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nursery Trip
Tuesday 30 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 Production Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 1 st July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nursery Forest School• KS2 Production - Year 3 & 4 Parents (Details to Follow)



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Thursday 2 nd July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 Production - Year 5 & 6 Parents (Details to Follow)
Friday 3 rd July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buddies Mass
Saturday 4 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer Fair (12.00 - 16.00)
Monday 6 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Change Over & New Starters from Reception to Year 6 visiting
Tuesday 7 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 Prize Giving (Details to Follow)
Wednesday 8 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 6 Leavers' Mass (11.00)

Wednesday 8th July
SCHOOL CLOSSES AT MIDDAY FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Thursday 3rd September
CHILDREN RETURN



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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/>