



# SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025



CURIOSITY CHARACTER COMMUNITY



# SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Dear Parents,

After last week's letter about hawks, trees, salmon and wolves, a number of you were kind enough to say how much the 'Be More' reflection had resonated. I am glad it struck a chord, particularly given that the letter started with something I nearly deleted. I am going to squeeze another letter out of this with a fifth addition to the list: Be More Mountain Goat.



This week, I was in Stratford upon Avon at the Society of Heads training for new headteachers. It was a thoughtful and energising few days, with input from David Woodgate, the CEO of the Independent Schools Bursars Association, Julie Robinson, the CEO of the Independent Schools Council, and my personal favourite, the founder of Octopus Energy, whose reflections on leadership were surprisingly relevant to our sector.

In David's talk, he put up a slide I had seen before, one I shared with colleagues at my first INSET with them in January. In the sector, there is a bit of informal shorthand. Some schools are described as lions, some of the larger groups of schools are described as sharks, but there is a name for schools like ours – we are called Mountain Goats.

There is something quietly powerful about that. Not glamorous, not headline grabbing, but sure footed and steady. It says something not just about how schools like Saint Christina's operate, but about why they matter. In a sector with louder voices and deeper pockets, Mountain Goat schools are the ones that keep climbing, that stay rooted in their purpose. They fiercely protect their charitable status, answer to Governors and Trustees not shareholders, and they are led by mission, not margins. It is a term that deserves to be claimed and worn with pride.

It also feels timely. The Independent Sector is navigating a period of profound challenge. Political pressure, shifting expectations, changing demographics, a falling birth rate, and wider financial realities mean all schools are having to think carefully and act wisely. Just today, the High Court handed down its verdict on the case concerning VAT on school fees. The sector lost. If you are interested, you can read the full judgment [here](#). Against this backdrop, what stood out most for me this week was a simple truth: the schools that hold steady are the ones that know who they are.

Saint Christina's is proudly one of them. Our independence, our genuine independence, has never mattered more. To be truly independent is not just to stand apart from the crowd but to stand *for* something. For us, it means putting children firmly at the centre of every decision. It means investing in people and culture. It means building a school where our values are not simply words on a wall but ideals to be lived out. It means educating the whole child and nurturing potential rather than preselecting it.





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Here is the thing: depth over display takes time, takes honesty, and takes trust; from us, from you, and from the children we serve. When that trust is there, something extraordinary happens: children grow confident, feel safe enough to take risks, brave enough to ask questions, and grounded enough to be themselves. That is what we want for every child here. That is what makes this School what it is.

That Saint Christina's Spirit spirit came to life for me again this week through our Year 6 legacy project. It is basically a mini MBA, designed to grow skills like creativity, communication, critical thinking and entrepreneurship, but more than that, it asks the children to think about the footprint they want to leave behind. After much discussion, they decided, entirely of their own accord, to donate the money they raised through their own products to help fund the refurbishment of our School Library. That is the legacy they collectively chose to leave; a gift to the whole School, to future pupils they will never meet. It brought a smile (and I will admit, maybe a tear or two) to my face, and I suspect it might to yours too. It tells us something about the kind of children we are growing here. Thoughtful. Kind. Big hearted. Rooted in values. **That** is the Saint Christina's difference.



The latter part of the week brought me home; starting the races at Sports Day, stepping into classrooms, and seeing again the calm energy and quiet brilliance of my colleagues and the children. That is what matters. That is our culture. That is our strength.

So, if last week was Be More Tree, Be More Salmon, Be More Wolf, and Be More Hawk, then this week, perhaps, it is this: Be More Mountain Goat, and Be More Saint Christina's.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

**Damien Walshe**  
Headteacher



# SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

## Nursery needs Work!

Nursery have been learning all about money and, crucially, that it does not grow on trees! Following on from our weekly shopping challenge and carpet sessions about saving money, not spending it all at once, and how adults go to work to earn it, the children had the idea to make their own money boxes. They spent a long time creating clay lids for jars, carefully moulding and painting them. The next challenge was finding some jobs. We let the rest of the School know that Nursery were looking for work, and the children have been very busy sorting pencils, testing felt tips, cleaning KS1 whiteboards, and helping Ms Georgia with the recycling. They have already earned a few pennies for their jars, and next week we have another list of jobs ready to help them earn some more!



Ms Randle - Nursery Class Teacher



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## Reception's Fairy Tale Castle Workshop

Reception had a truly magical day on Friday when they took part in a Fairy Tale Workshop hosted by the enchanting storyteller named John. The children were whisked away into a world of castles and royalty as they prepared for a grand banquet for the King and Queen. Throughout the morning, they visited a variety of creative stations where they made their own scented soap, personalised name paintings using paint they mixed themselves, candles from melted wax, and magical potions by combining fairy glitter with coloured liquids. They also sculpted clay gargoyles, decorated their own royal cakes, and took on important castle duties such as collecting firewood, cleaning the grand halls and tracking down mischievous rats hiding in the castle.

In the afternoon, the children learned medieval-style songs, dances and short skits, which they proudly performed during a splendid feast at a long banquet table. The day was filled with imagination, laughter and excitement, and offered the children a wonderful opportunity to bring their knowledge of fairy tales to life. This unforgettable experience tied in beautifully with our learning about traditional tales and storytelling this year – it truly felt like stepping into a storybook!

Ms Williams – Reception Class Teacher







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## KS1 Story Club

Fantastic Mr Fox: I like reading about the animals and chapter twelve is my favourite part. - *Child in Year 1*

## Year 1

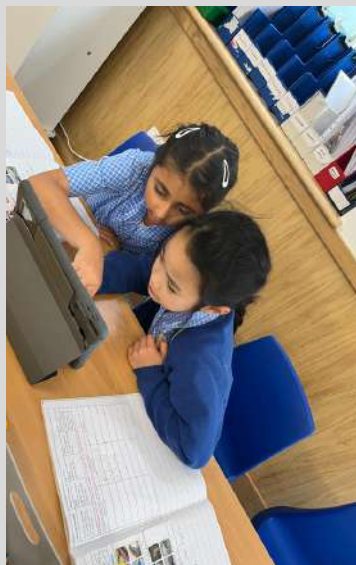
This week in Year 1, we've been busy becoming confident problem-solvers, thoughtful researchers, and creative storytellers!

In Maths, we've been exploring addition and subtraction, learning how they are connected through fact families. We used number bonds to help us write four related number sentences for each set of numbers. This helped us understand how knowing one fact can help us solve others.



In English and Science, we used iPads to research animals with our partners. We looked into their diets, habitats, and interesting behaviours, then created colourful and informative animal fact files to share with the class. We loved adding in our own fun facts!

In RE, we reflected on two important Bible stories: Jesus healing the paralysed man and Jesus calming the storm. These stories helped us think about kindness, faith, and staying calm even when things feel a bit stormy.



Ms Higgins - Year 1 Class Teacher



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## Year 2

This week in English, Year 2 have been delving deeper into vocabulary and language choices using *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl. Focusing on Chapter 15, the children explored how Dahl uses groups of similar words, or synonyms, to build excitement and drama.

They began by matching synonym pairs and discussing how these words can often be used in similar, but not identical, ways. Using this as inspiration, they investigated powerful words from the story such as terrified and revolting, building their own synonym chains with the help of thesauruses.

Each child then used their vocabulary to write descriptive paragraphs about the Oompa-Loompas' life before arriving at the Chocolate Factory, highlighting just how grim their days were before Willy Wonka rescued them! The children worked very hard to vary their word choices and show how language can bring writing to life.

Well done Year 2!



**Mr Burke - Year 2 Class Teacher**

## Year 3

Year 3 have had another busy and enjoyable week of learning. In Science, they have been thinking about what plants need to grow strong and healthy and setting up their own experiments to test their theories. One group is testing the importance of water, another group is testing the importance of light and the third group is testing the importance of warmth. Over the next few weeks they will record their observations and take careful measurements of the growth.

**Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher**



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Year 4

Two children in Year 4 have been chosen to be published as part of the Young Writer's Magic Map creative writing competition this year! Alice L and Isabella C both wrote beautiful mini sagas (a story up to 100 words) about any place or time they wished. They will be published in a book called The Magic Map – Enchanting Stories, which will remain in the National Archives of the British Library forever. Well done Alice and Isabella, we are so proud of you!

## Selkie

Exploring the cold, rocky beach, I am surprised by a splash nearby. I look out into the glistening sea and a graceful seal head pops out of the water. Startled still, I freeze on the spot. I don't want to scare it away. Into the shallows, the seal swims; it hasn't seen me. Slowly, a woman emerges, with long matted hair, she's wrapped in a seal skin. Scared dark eyes scan the beach. She spots me, and a hoarse, high-pitched howl echoes around the rocks. She disappears into the foam and is gone. I run.

Alice L

## The Ravishing Riddle

Ellie ran into the woods, searching for Alexander's wandering football. A gust of powerful wind blew, and from under a pile of leaves emerged a ripped and weathered map. When she touched it, the map illuminated, and a riddle appeared: 'I'm leaning over though I won't fall. I'm white and tall with windows galore. I'm steady though I may not seem it, touch the map and you won't believe it...'  
The friends were intrigued, reading the riddle aloud. Nothing happened, leaving them crestfallen, but then they felt a vortex forcefully transporting them. The next minute, they were in Italy!

Isabella C

For PSHE this week, Year 4 learned about sportsmanship ahead of our Sports Day. We discussed good sportsmanship and bad sportsmanship, and came up with examples of each both in sports and on the playground. Children then came up with short skits in small groups displaying an example of good and bad sportsmanship which they performed to the class.



Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher





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## Year 5

This week, Year 5 have been on an exciting quest to discover the 12 Olympian Gods of Ancient Greece. As part of their history learning, the children explored who these powerful gods were, all said to live high above the clouds on Mount Olympus. Using real historical sources such as images of vases and ancient artefacts, they matched symbols and clues to each god's unique identity. From Poseidon's trident to Athena's owl, the class worked like young archaeologists, using evidence to understand more about Ancient Greek beliefs and daily life. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that brought the ancient world to life!



Miss O'Leary - Year 5 Class Teacher



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## Year 6

Since completing their 11+ process, the children in Year 6 have been working in teams on two exciting collaborative projects. In the Spring Term, they designed and built F1 cars, which they raced at the F1 in Schools Competition. As part of the event, they also presented their designs and ideas to experts in the field.

In the Summer Term, the children have continued working in their teams of four to develop their own mini businesses. The aim of this project has been to equip them with key financial and organisational skills — including budgeting, marketing a product, communicating effectively, and meeting deadlines. The ultimate goal has been to raise money for a chosen charity and leave a meaningful legacy at Saint Christina's. This initiative has become known as the Legacy Project, and each team has come up with an innovative way to meet the brief.

### **The teams:**

Racing Minions: create a whole school self-portrait tea towel

Wings of Speed: create keyrings for each year group

Lightning Bolts: design and make Saint Christina's football socks

Chasing Cheetahs: design frames with a whole school photograph

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the Year 6s this week! The Minions were thrilled to share their beautifully designed tea towels as part of their Legacy Project, and we hope you enjoy them.

Our other Year 6 teams have also been hard at work. Wings of Speed have almost completed crafting their key rings for each year group, Team Cheetahs organised a fantastic whole school photograph which was taken at the beginning of the week and they have finished creating their handmade frames, and Team Lightning Bolts are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their football socks next week.

You are invited to join us next Friday at 3:30pm in the school hall, when the children will be setting up stalls to showcase and sell their final products. Come along to see the key rings, framed school photo, and football socks and any tea towels which are left.

Throughout this enterprise journey, the children have shown incredible dedication — learning about budgeting, marketing, taking loans, calculating profits, and working as effective teams. Each team was given the opportunity to decide where their profits would go, and in a wonderful show of unity, this week the class collectively decided to pool all of their profits and donate all proceeds to help renovate our School Library.

**Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Class Teacher**





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## PE

Last Friday, we took part in a Cricket tournament hosted by St Mary's. The Year 5 and 6 team began strongly, putting in an excellent performance in their first game and securing a win against Channing with some outstanding bowling and batting displays. In the semi-final, we faced a very strong St Mary's team and were unfortunately heavily beaten. This placed us in the third and fourth place play-off, where we played a close match but were narrowly beaten by St Christopher's.

Despite the results, the girls put in an excellent overall performance, showing great teamwork and determination throughout the tournament. A special congratulations to Alice B, who was awarded Star Player of the event.



On Monday, Years 4, 5, and 6 played Cricket matches against St Christopher's in what was a fun and exciting afternoon for all involved. The Year 6 team put in an excellent performance, winning their match by 7 runs. The Year 4 and 5 teams played very closely contested games, narrowly losing by small margins.







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Next week Year 5 and 6 take part in their Inter House Cricket competition on Thursday afternoon and we have our EYFS and Key Stage 1 Sports Day. Our EYFS and KS1 Sports Day will take place on Friday, 20th June. We warmly welcome all parents to come along and support. The first events will begin at 9:45am, and the day is scheduled to finish at 11:45am.

Please ensure that children come to school in their **full PE kit** and bring a **hat, water bottle** and **suncream** with them

The children have been practising hard during their PE lessons and are very excited for what promises to be a fantastic morning of sport and fun.



## Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Team	Time
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Sarum Hall	Y4/5/6 Mixed Cricket	16.00 - 17.00
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Ivy House	Y2 Mixed Football	15.30 - 16.30

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport



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## Music stands!

This week we have been very excited to receive our brand new music stands! We have all been very impressed with how light, sturdy, adjustable and stackable they are. The stands made their debut at Orchestra on Thursday evening and we laughed at how quickly we were able to set up and pack away.



Even the youngest children in the group are able to lift, adjust and stack them meaning more rehearsal time can be spent playing, and while we await the storage trolley the children also discovered a way of stacking them that takes up even less space than I had realised!

Thank you so much to everyone who donated at our fundraising concert in May. It was a wonderful evening and the 70 children who took part performed brilliantly. I know they feel proud to have been part of the music stands project and it is wonderful for them to have some ownership of this investment in the Music department. A huge thank you also to Parents' Link for their invaluable support of the event.







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## Music lessons

Applications are now open for lessons for September 2025. Fees are frozen for 2025-2026 at £280 per term of 10 lessons, and the instruments available have expanded this year – lessons are now available on piano, guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, violin, viola, cello, flute, trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba and singing.

Learning an instrument is an excellent experience for children and as well as being enjoyable, rewarding and enriching in itself, research shows a wide range of benefits including improved memory, enhanced cognitive skills, increased discipline, and boosted self-esteem which can all contribute positively to academic performance as well as overall wellbeing. Music is also great fun!

All the information and the application can be found [here](#) – if you have any questions please feel free to contact me ([ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk](mailto:ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk)).

Mrs Byrant - Director of Music



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## Caritas Ambassadors

Last Friday, our Caritas Ambassadors led a powerful assembly to launch the Canal Keepers project to the whole school. They spoke passionately about the importance of caring for Regent's Canal, which runs alongside our local community, and shared their vision for how we can all play a part in protecting God's creation. Their message was clear: we must look after the world around us - starting right here on our doorstep.

This week, the Ambassadors followed up with an awareness campaign around school. They created colourful, informative "Look After the Canal" posters, which are now displayed within the School. They also wrote a letter to the Canal & River Trust, explaining our project and asking how we might work together to keep the canal clean and safe for wildlife and people.

**Mr Burke**

## Fr Terry's Food Bank

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

We were so touched by your generosity towards Fr Terry's Food Bank last half term and we will continue to collect non-perishable food to celebrate his legacy.

We were so touched by your generosity towards Fr Terry's Food Bank last half term and we will continue to collect non-perishable food to celebrate his legacy.

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 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

## Saint Christina's Food Collection



**Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors**





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## Catholic Social Teaching at Saint Christina's

Catholic Social Teaching is an expression of our faith that guides us in how to act justly and live responsibly in today's world. It is built upon seven key principles, which we explore with the children throughout the year.

This half term, our focus is on the principle of Dignity.

The dignity of every human person, whoever they are, is the foundation of all Catholic Social Teaching. We teach our pupils that every person is made lovingly in God's image and likeness. This means that we are all beautiful, valuable, and worthy of respect – not because of what we do or have, but simply because of who we are.

Understanding this starts with recognising our own worth and then seeing that same dignity in others – whether they are friends, family, classmates, or people we've never met. This core belief challenges us to treat everyone fairly, stand up against injustice, and live out the Gospel values in our daily lives.

We look forward to deepening the children's understanding of this principle through discussion, reflection, and action.



Mr Burke Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors



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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.

### 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 / musical instruments. 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

You are warmly invited to join Sunday Mass, which is held in the Chapel at 10:00am.





# SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

## Dates for your diary

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June CHILDREN RETURN

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y4,5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Home)</li></ul>
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y2 Art Trip</li></ul>
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y5 Parent Coffee Morning</li><li>• Y5 and 6 Inter House Cricket</li></ul>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EYFS and KS1 Sports Day (am)</li><li>• Y5 Mass</li></ul>
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y2 Mixed Football (Home)</li></ul>
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Class Photographs</li></ul>



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Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nursery Stay and Play (9.00 - 10.00)</li></ul>
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reception EW Stay and Play (9.00 - 9.45)</li></ul>
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summer Fair</li></ul>
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KS2 Production Dress Rehearsal</li></ul>
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KS2 Production (Y3 and 4 Parents)</li></ul>
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KS2 Production (Y5 and 6 Parents)</li></ul>
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nursery Trip</li><li>• Whole School Mass (Buddies)</li></ul>
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parent And Resilience Workshop (9.00)</li><li>• Class Change Over Day</li><li>• Y6 Leavers' Party</li></ul>





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Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July

- Leavers Breakfast (Nur - Y5)
- KS2 Prize Giving

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July

- Y6 Leavers Mass (11.00)

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**  
**SCHOOL CLOSSES AT MIDDAY FOR THE END OF TERM**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**  
**CHILDREN 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/>