



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 14th March 2025

Dear Parents,

Maybe it is best that I don't apologise for the length of these letters from now on and just accept that because of the combined brilliance of your children and my colleagues, I am routinely left with a lot to say. It is a nice problem to have. For me personally, this week at Saint Christina's has been a reminder of the power of individuality, the strength of community, and the importance of making sure everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Our Open Morning was a wonderful moment to share what makes our School so special. Prospective parents were particularly struck by the Year 6 children who led the tours, remarking that they were not only confident but full of joy for the School. And they really, really were! The speeches given by our Head Girl and Head Boy went down a storm because they spoke from a place of truth - they meant what they said, and it showed. I want to thank all of Year 6, our parent volunteers, and all my colleagues for revealing the very best of who we are. It was a proud moment, and I am very grateful.

I also don't think we are vocal enough about who we are and what our children achieve. Many of our prospective parents commented on how they *felt* the Saint Christina's difference, and as I told them, that's exactly what makes our School stand out: you feel it. We also displayed a poster of children who were (ostensibly) in Reception but who are now in Year 6. Those same three children stood up with confidence and reeled off a list of impressive offers from top London day Schools, including three academic scholarships. Their journey through the School is a testament to what can be achieved when children are known, valued, and supported as individuals.

And we do all of this with minimal fuss. These are children who are not hot housed, yet they achieve highly. I spoke to prospective parents about the meaning behind the word education - to *draw out* potential. There is no single 'right' way to teach, just as there is no single 'right' way to learn. Teaching is an art, not a science. Everyone has a view on it because we have all spent time in School, and we remember those who were good and those perhaps who were not so good. But the ones who stay with us the most are the teachers who saw us. That, to me, has always been the essence of teaching, and it is why I continue to teach. It is a deeply human system and endeavour, and our prospective parents fed back that simply watching the interactions between teachers and children was enough for them to see an alternative to the stress and pressure that so often surrounds education. This idea of preserving childhood just a little longer, while still achieving excellence, is a recurring theme. This is what makes Saint Christina's special, and perhaps a little bit different from the competition.

Teaching & Learning Review: What Matters in Education?

Next week also marks the start of our Teaching & Learning Review, an important time to reflect on the excellence within our classrooms and the ways we continue to build on it. This is not just about looking at what we do well, but about ensuring that we never stand still. Teaching, at its best, is about relationships. It is about seeing the potential in every child and knowing how to draw it out. It is about cultivating intellectual curiosity and equipping children with the tools to think independently. It is about making learning stick, not through rote memorisation, but by helping children make connections, ask questions, and develop a love of learning for its own sake.

It is also about recognising that children are more than just data on a page. While academic outcomes matter, and we celebrate them, the true measure of success is a child who leaves Saint Christina's ready for the next stage of their education, confident in their abilities, and grounded in the values that will serve them well in life. This Teaching & Learning Review is a celebration of all that we do well, but also a challenge to ourselves: How can we keep making it better? We have a brilliant team of teachers, a wonderful community of families, and, most importantly, exceptional children who remind us every day why we do this work. I look forward to seeing where this process leads us.

The Gold Within Us

In assembly this week, we spoke about the gold within each of us, those things that make us unique, the gifts we bring to the world, and the Golden Thread of kindness that runs through our School. I asked the children to think about what makes them special, about the talents they have been given, and how they might use them to brighten someone else's day. We reflected on the fact that difference is not something to be feared or compared, but something to be celebrated. Some children shine brightly in obvious ways, while for others, their gold takes time to discover, but all of it is precious.

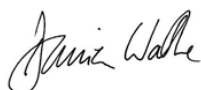
This idea leads us perfectly into **Neurodiversity Celebration Week**, which we will mark next week. Just as every child has their own unique strengths, every mind works differently. Some children process the world through patterns and logic, some through creativity and intuition. Some think deeply before they speak, while others have ideas that come tumbling out all at once. Some find comfort in structure, others prefer abstract. Over the years I have taught all these children. *There is no one 'right' way to learn, just as there is no one 'right' way to be.* The important thing is that every child, every person, is valued for who they are, and not for how well they fit into someone else's mould. I am reminded of the line "be yourself, everyone else is taken".

We also thought about what it means to truly *see* one another. The children were reminded of the Golden Rule: *Love your neighbour as yourself.* It's easy to be kind to our friends, to those who are like us, to those who fit neatly into our world. But the real challenge, the real gold, is in noticing the person who feels left out, the one who doesn't always get chosen, the one who might be struggling in ways we don't see. It's about recognising the gold in others, even when it's buried beneath the surface, and having the courage to draw it out. I asked the children "*Who needs you to see their gold today?*"

The truth is as adults, we know that the world isn't always fair, we know that context matters, and that things are rarely black and white. We know that kindness is sometimes overlooked in favour of ambition, and that difference is sometimes treated as a reason to exclude. But in this School, in this community, I hope we are teaching our children something different: that true greatness is found in lifting others up, that kindness is never wasted, and that their gold, who they are, just as they are, is enough.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,



Damien Walshe
Headteacher

Science Week: Change and Adapt!

This week, we have been exploring the theme of Change and Adaptability through a range of exciting activities across the School.

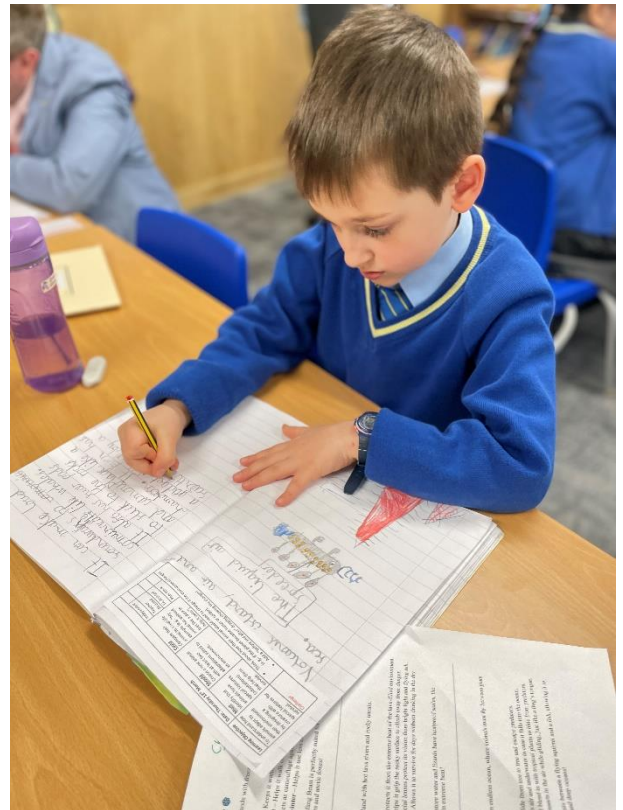
Year 2 have been designing super animals, imagining how creatures could adapt to survive in different worlds. They have thought carefully about the challenges of different environments—such as extreme heat, cold, or underwater habitats—and have created animals with special adaptations to help them thrive.

Year 4 have been investigating how we can reduce plastic pollution in the ocean. They have explored the impact of plastic waste on marine life and researched innovative ways to tackle the problem, from biodegradable alternatives to community action. This links perfectly with our whole-school Virtual Reality Ocean Experience on Monday, where children will take an immersive dive beneath the waves to explore marine life up close.

Year 5 have been studying the School floor plans and considering how we can change and adapt our School for the future. They have been researching the materials currently in use in the building and thinking creatively about high-tech or eco-friendly alternatives that could make the school more sustainable and efficient.

Throughout the week, the children have been developing their scientific thinking by questioning, investigating, and problem-solving real-world challenges. It has been fantastic to see their creativity and curiosity in action!

We can't wait for Monday's VR workshop to round off a fun Science Week!



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Mr Hirst – Head of Science

Empathy Week 2025

This week Saint Christina's has celebrated Empathy Week, encouraging children to reflect on the power of kindness, understanding, and supporting those around them.



Through engaging assemblies, the children explored how even the smallest acts of kindness can have a meaningful impact. They also learned about the challenges faced by children who may miss School and discussed ways to ensure absent friends still feel included.

Year 6 have taken this message to heart in a special way. Many have written letters to members of our community in need of some extra cheer, including children in our School who might be feeling down, loved ones who are unwell, and even figures of global significance - one child is writing to the Pope, another to President Zelensky!

We look forward to continuing to think carefully about empathy in the weeks ahead.

Mr Burke

The Gingerbread Man Caught on CCTV in Nursery!

On Monday, Nursery arrived to a surprising scene – the home corner oven was open, and crumbs were scattered all over the carpet! Thanks to Mr. Steve, who spotted something on the CCTV, we discovered it was none other than the Gingerbread Man causing the mess! The Nursery children (and soon the Reception children, once they heard the news) were absolutely thrilled. We've been busy ever since, making playdough and salt dough gingerbread men, and, of course, baking gingerbread in the kitchen too!



The excitement is contagious!

Ms Randle – Head of EYFS and Nursery Class Teacher

Make and Create Club

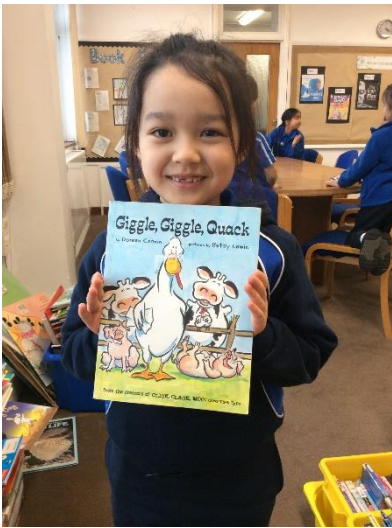
In the past few weeks, the children were increasing their imagination and creativity by wrapping yarn into a heart shape and forming candle holders from clay. They chose different colours and experiment with patterns, fostering their imagination. Wrapping yarn around a shape requires precision and coordination. This helped the children develop fine motor skills as they handle the yarn and manipulate it to create the heart shape.

Shaping and moulding clay helped the children develop fine motor skills as they use their hands to form and manipulate the material, which is important for hand-eye coordination. This material also provided a great sensory experience for the children and successfully captured their attention span.



KS1 Story Club

A Good Place by Lucy Cousins - I like this story because at the end the insects find a good place. I want to have a garden like this with lots of minibeasts inside. At the start they each want something and they find what they are looking for. - *Child in Year 1*.



Giggle, Giggle, Quack by Doreen Cronin - I like this story because Duck writes notes and he is playing tricks. It is a funny story. My favourite part is when Duck is not listening. I like Click, Clack, Moo, Cows That Type too. - *Child in Year 1*.

Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about time. We have enjoyed singing the days of the week song and sequencing events. We have loved using our small clocks to learn how to tell the times with o'clock and half past.



Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher

Year 2 Celebrate World Book Day and British Science Week with STEM Challenges!

Year 2 had a fantastic time combining their love of stories with Science as they marked both World Book Day and British Science Week with some exciting STEM challenges! Inspired by *Hansel and Gretel*, the children put their engineering skills to the test, constructing delicious biscuit houses using icing sugar, strawberry laces, and dolly mixtures. The challenge required careful planning, problem-solving, and plenty of teamwork to ensure their sweet structures stood strong!



The excitement continued as we explored forces and air resistance through *Blown Away* by Rob Biddulph. Inspired by the adventurous penguin, the children designed and

tested their own parachutes before dropping them from the roof to see how well they floated to the ground.

Well done Year 2!



Mr Burke – Head of KS1 and Year 2 Class Teacher

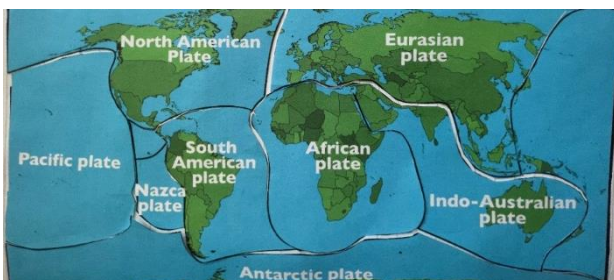
Year 3 Science

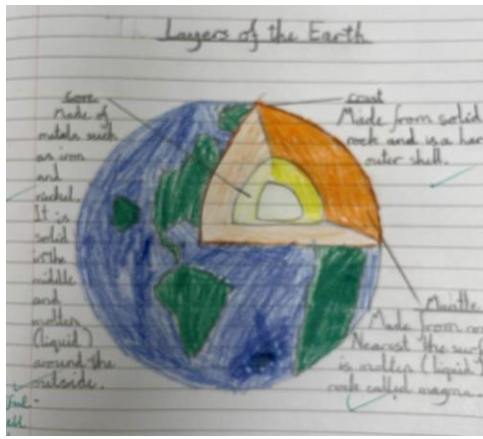
Year 3 have been busy in our Science lessons becoming petrologists! We found out that that scientist study rocks while geologists study the science of the Earth and its rocks. We have been devising our own fair tests for the hardness of rocks and putting rock samples such as marble, granite, slate, limestone, chalk and sandstone in rank order of hardness. We have also been devising our own fair tests for permeability of these rocks.



Linking with our learning in Science, we have been finding out about Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes in Geography this term. We have been learning about the structure of the Earth and the

three main layers: the core, mantle and crust. Conor made a fantastic model out of playdough to show the different layers. We found out all about plate tectonics and used a world map to locate the major tectonic plates and showed our learning by completing a jigsaw.





Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher

Year 4 Zoo Trip

On Thursday, Year 4 went on a class trip to the London Zoo as part of our learning about the Amazon Rainforest and South America in Geography. We saw many animals that we have learned about in our studies, including sloths, macaws and lots of monkeys! We took part in the Rainforest Explorer workshop, where we explored the rainforest habitat at the Zoo, identified animals and their adaptations, and took humidity readings to measure the climate. It was an amazing day and we loved seeing some of the animals we have been researching!



Ms Farquhar – Year 4 Class Teacher

KS1 STEM Club: Budding Green Fingers!

Our KS1 STEM Club has been busy exploring the wonderful world of plants! The children have been learning what plants need to survive—sunlight, water, air, and nutrients—through hands-on activities. They've also been getting their hands dirty, weeding and caring for our school plants. With their green fingers at work, our young scientists are growing both plants and knowledge!



Stay tuned for more exciting discoveries!

Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Class Teacher

Year 5 Careers Week - Inspiring Visit from Pia's Mum!

Year 5 had a fantastic opportunity to learn about the world of Medicine when Pia's mum visited to talk about her career as a doctor and surgeon! She shared fascinating insights into her work and brought along incredible models of medical equipment and tools used in training. The highlight was examining realistic eye models that surgeons use to study – a truly eye-opening experience!

A huge thank you to Pia's mum for inspiring our future doctors and scientists!





Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Class Teacher

Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy and productive week! They have shown great focus and determination while completing their PIRA, PUMA, and GAPS assessments.

In Computing, the children worked in pairs to create interactive maps of North America using Scratch. It has been fantastic to see their coding skills in action as their maps come to life with clickable features and engaging content.

In Writing, the children have been working on newspaper articles inspired by our class novel, *Kidnap on the California Comet*. They have demonstrated excellent journalistic skills, capturing key events with dramatic headlines and well-structured reports.

Rehearsals for the Passion Play are well underway, with the children working collaboratively to refine their performances. Their next challenge is organising costumes and props, and they are excited to take on this creative task.

This week also marked Empathy Week, and Year 6 have embraced the theme beautifully by writing heartfelt letters to members of the community. These letters, filled with kindness and encouragement, will hopefully bring joy to those who need it most.

A real highlight of the week was Open Day, where every Year 6 pupil played an important role in welcoming visitors to the school. They conducted tours with confidence and maturity, impressing everyone with their ability to speak eloquently with adults and share their experiences of school life. They were absolutely outstanding, and we are all so proud of them!

The children had a fantastic time celebrating Pi Day by reciting the digits of Pi. It was truly impressive to hear them recall so many digits! Many children memorised an impressive 50 digits, while Yumi wowed everyone by remembering 125 digits. However, the standout achievement came from Giulio, who memorised an astonishing 370 digits of Pi! This is a remarkable accomplishment and sets him as the school record holder for learning Pi to the greatest number of decimal places.

Well done, Year 6, for another fantastic week of learning, leadership, and teamwork!

Mrs Ellidson – Head of KS2 and Year 6 Class Teacher

Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual Book Fair. It was once again a huge success and a large percentage of what we sold will go to the School so we can buy new books for our classrooms and for the library. All of the books which were ordered at the Book Fair have been delivered to the children.

Mrs Ellisdon - Head of English

PE Update

We have had another fantastic week of Sport at Saint Christina's. Last Friday, our Year 5 and 6 Football team took part in a highly competitive tournament hosted by Regent's Park for local primary schools. Competing against ten other teams, we delivered some fantastic performances, finishing top of our group and securing a spot in the semi-finals. In a closely fought match, we put in a fabulous performance to beat Northbridge Prep 2-0 and advanced to the final. The final was an intense game, but we showed great determination in the second half with excellent passing and two fantastic goals from Alice B, leading us to victory! The girls put in an incredible effort throughout the tournament and should be extremely proud of their performances.

Beatrix played amazingly in goal, making several key saves and even assisting multiple goals. There was excellent, strong defending from Isabella C, Alice M, and Sophie, while Akari, Edda, and Isabella D worked tirelessly in midfield. Alice B was outstanding in attack, scoring an impressive seven goals throughout the afternoon.



On Monday, as our Year 5 Netball teams secured two convincing victories against Devonshire House, with the B team remaining unbeaten this year. With four excellent wins, they were crowned champions of the Year 5 South Hampstead Schools B League! Both teams worked together as a team brilliantly and took the opportunities to score which resulted in 3-1 and 5-2 victories. A huge well done to Beatrix and Ava, who were named star players for their outstanding performances.



On Tuesday, our Football Academy enjoyed a series of fixtures against Trevor Roberts, with three excellent victories. The progress our players have made this year has been remarkable, thanks to their hard work and commitment during Academy training. The first team won 2-0, with goals from Alex and Alice B, while the second team put in a brilliant performance, winning 4-0 with a hat-trick from Alejandro and a great finish from Alice M. Our third team also secured a strong 3-0 victory, with goals from Edda and Sebastian. Special congratulations must go to Philippe for his incredible defending preventing several goal scoring opportunities, as well as Alejandro and Edda, who were awarded star players for their great finishing in front of goal.

Mr Raveney – Director of Sport

Saint Christina's Partners With andResilience

Thank you to those who have already taken part in the andResilience Parent Survey. Your feedback is invaluable as we work to strengthen resilience within our school community.

If you haven't yet had a chance to complete the survey, we would love to hear from you! It's completely anonymous and takes just five minutes to complete. The insights gathered will help shape the support we offer to the children, staff, and parents alike.

Your voice matters, and we truly appreciate your time in helping us make the most of this partnership.

Click here to take the survey: [Parent Survey](#)

Thank you for your support!

Mr Burke – Head of Wellbeing

andResilience
Building Strategies for Coping with Life

Catholic Social Teaching at Saint Christina's

Catholic Social Teaching is an expression of the Catholic faith, which touches on many aspects of life. Writings by Popes and Catholic leaders show how the Catholic faith can guide our response to different issues.

There are 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we are called to uphold them.

- **Sharing God's world, protecting the poor** - How do the children share at home and at school? What are the kinds of things that are shared? Should everyone get exactly the same? Should some people get more? Why? For example, families with more children might need more resources, or someone with a disability might need extra help.
- **Human Dignity** - 'What makes me special?' 'What makes people special?' 'How should we treat each other?'
- **Caring for Creation** - How do I show respect for Creation? The earth and all life on it are part of God's creation. We are called to respect this gift. We are responsible for taking care of the world we live in and for sharing all the wonders and resources the earth gives us.
- **The Common Good** - What is 'true community'? The common good is reached when we work together to improve the wellbeing of people in our society and the wider world.
- **Solidarity** - Who are our leaders? How do we stand with others? How did Jesus show service and justice?
- **Family, community and participation** - This means all people have the right to participate in society and to seek the common good, which means the good for all.
- **Dignity in work** - All people work in some way because work is more than making a living, it's participating. Therefore, jobs and pay should be fair for everyone.



We will be looking at each of these principles throughout the academic year. The principle we will be focussing on this half term is Community and Participation.

As human beings, we are called to live in community, with others, growing together and flourishing as a result. We are called to be active members of society, our local and global community. Observing the reality of the world, remembering that first guideline of the dignity of all people, supporting one another and recognising how our gifts and talents could be used to the advantage of the wider community. We can't just sit back and bemoan what's happening, whether in our own parish and community, society, or the world. We are called to get our hands dirty, to get involved, to help build a better world. We're all called to put love into action. These lessons help children to understand the role we all must play in creating a fair society and strong communities.

Mr Burke

Fr Terry's Food Bank

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

We were so touched by your generosity towards Fr Terry's Food Bank last 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 21st March.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

Mr Burke, Caritas Ambassadors and Charity Prefect

Saint Christina's Food Collection



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.

Dates for your diary	
Monday 17 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VR Science Workshops• Y6 A and B Netball• Neurodiversity Celebration Week• Whole School Teaching and Learning Review (All Week)
Wednesday 19 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y3 Coffee Morning
Thursday 20 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y6 Girls Football Tournament
Friday 21 st March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• World Poetry Day• Y3 First Reconciliation• LFB Visiting EYFS• Nearly New Uniform Sale
Wednesday 26 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Westminster Junior Citizenship Scheme for Year 6
Thursday 27 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y5 and Y6 Cross Country
Friday 28 th March	

SCHOOL CLOSING AT MIDDAY FOR THE END OF TERM

Wednesday 23rd April

CHILDREN RETURN WEARING SUMMER UNIFORM

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/>