



# Saint Christina's

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

## Bulletin

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents,

I remember reading a study some years ago suggesting that alongside 1500-3000 decisions, the average teacher asks around 400 questions a day. For a Philosophy teacher, I'm going to hazard a completely unscientific guess and posit that this number might be even higher: then again, I would say that, but I think my Year 5 and 6 classes would probably agree! Yet over the past two weeks, I have been reflecting on my sticky question, which has been living rent-free in my head. It is simply this: **What is our community's "why"?**

If you haven't already done so, I invite you to take a look at the [Headteacher's Welcome](#) on the website, where I have endeavoured to articulate who we are as a school, which of course comes with a disclaimer: who we are as individuals and as a collective is not fixed, and I've only been here for 10 days. A School community is always growing, adapting, and evolving; there are external forces at work that will decide elements of that evolution for us, not least of all the Industrial Revolution of our times, AI. Over the past fortnight, I've been speaking a lot about potential with my colleagues and the children; there are chapters of Saint Christina's story that are yet to be written.

This week has provided plenty of opportunities to see that potential in action. For example, the return of our extracurricular clubs has been a joy to witness. It has been wonderful to see a new club added to our offering, 'Make and Create' as well as the return of the much-loved Drama and Film clubs with Mr. Duncan. These clubs are so much more than activities, they are opportunities for children to explore interests, build confidence, and develop important life skills like teamwork, perseverance, and creativity. They reflect our commitment to a well-rounded education that nurtures the whole child while maintaining academic ambition and rigour. It was also lovely to have the opportunity to meet with many of the Nursery and Reception parents this week and I look forward to meeting more of you in the weeks to come.

The importance of unlocking potential humbled me a few times this week. I've been struck by the initiative our children have shown when their curiosity has been sparked, and I want to share three examples from across the School with you. One pupil created a stunning poster exploring different branches of Philosophy after a weekend of independent research. Another designed a presentation about creating a friendship circle to promote kindness, a core value for us all. Finally, a pupil came to me with a heartfelt prayer (included in this newsletter) inspired by our Golden Thread of kindness. These moments remind us how much can be achieved when we give children the freedom to take ownership of their learning and explore their passions, and most importantly for me - when we take them seriously.

This reflection has also made me, and my colleagues, think about our community's purpose and direction. What defines Saint Christina's? What sets us apart? I've been reflecting on some important questions:

- How are our children learning?
- How do we prepare them for the next stage of their academic and personal journey?
- Are the skills they are developing encouraging them to take greater ownership of their learning?
- How are we cultivating character, resilience, and creativity, while driving a culture of academic excellence and high aspiration?
- How do we inspire deep thinking, unlock meaningful insights, and ensure children develop a strong sense of self?

These questions will guide our next steps as we revisit and refine our "why." To help shape this process, an external partner joined Sister Eileen on a learning walk this week. She was genuinely impressed by the soul of the School and the enthusiasm of our pupils. She emailed me to say "All the children I met were wonderful. They are clearly proud of their school, love being there, and value kindness. Your colleagues are completely invested in the children they teach and there is a sense of optimism throughout the school". We have secured her services over the coming year to act as a critical friend to Saint Christina's, bringing fresh eyes and perspective as we shape a clear vision for the next chapter.

The information we are gathering, from all corners of the community will feed into our **transition plan**, which will set out strategic objectives for Saint Christina's as we approach 2030. Some objectives will focus on immediate priorities, while others will lay the foundation for our long-term vision. At the heart of this plan is our shared commitment to teaching and learning, character formation, and co-creating a School community where curiosity, resilience, and ambition thrive.

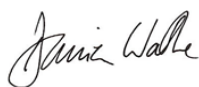
This community is rich with eager and curious children, with parents who have approached me to kindly offer their wisdom and expertise (they may regret offering!), invested colleagues who go above and beyond out of a deep and genuine love for your children, and the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart, our Sisters next door who keep us grounded in their vision. Together, these elements form the beating heart of Saint Christina's and ensure that we remain true to our mission.

Finally, I've been inspired by the discussions around our sticky questions this week. These conversations aren't just about the answers the children provide but the thought processes and reasoning behind them. If you have time, do ask your child about this week's sticky question: it's always enlightening to hear their perspective.

Thank you for your continued support and for being an integral part of this extraordinary community. Together, we can ensure that our "why" continues to evolve in meaningful and progressive ways.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

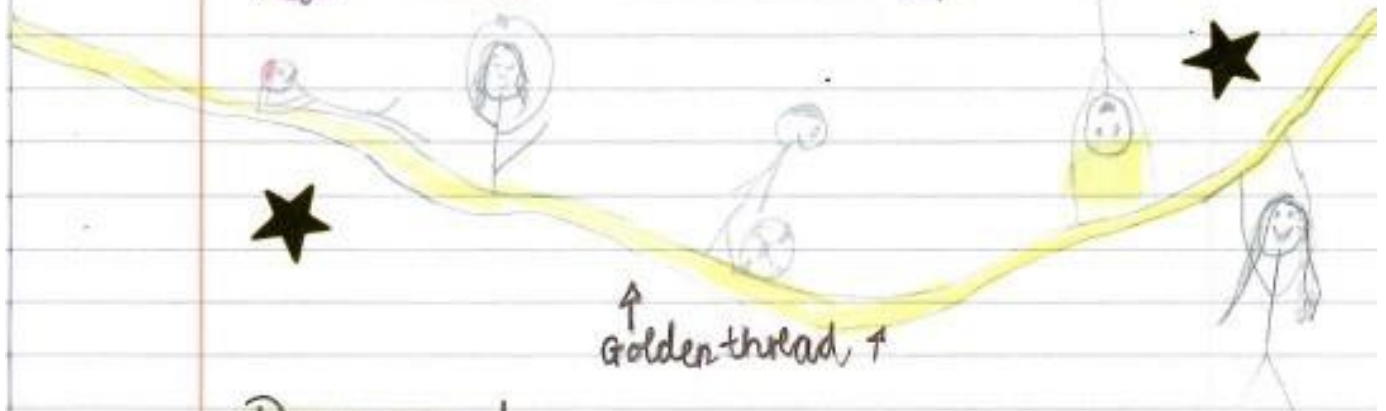
Best,



**Damien Walshe**  
Headteacher

By: Amelia

Y4 ★



Dear God,

We call upon your love weaving a golden thread through our hearts, keeping us together in unity and peace. May this thread shimmer with compassion, wrapping each of us in the warmth of love and the glow of everlasting peace. May the golden thread remind us of your light within.

Amen



## Heritage and International Week

We are excited to announce that next week we will be celebrating **Heritage and International Week** at Saint Christina's. This year's theme is "Activists, Heroes, and Legends."

We invite children to learn about someone from their heritage country who has made a big impact as an activist, hero, or legend. They can think about how this person's achievements link to our School values of love, joy, peace, kindness, and self-control.

Children can create a project about their chosen person to share with their class. This could be a poster, model, piece of artwork, or a digital presentation. For children in EYFS, we encourage them to explore their heritage country and make a simple display about its culture, traditions, or landmarks.



During the week, each class will also be learning about a different country to help everyone understand and appreciate the wonderful diversity in our school.

On Friday 24th January children are invited to wear their own clothes celebrating the colours or traditions of their heritage. We warmly encourage an optional donation to support the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Premadhar Creche and Nursery, one of our Sister Schools in Mumbai. Last year, your generous contributions helped fund essential maintenance work. This week, we received a letter from Sister Kochuithressia, which is shared below.

If you would like to contribute, the donation can be made through the link below:

<https://superkind.org/campaign/saint-christinas-premadhar-creche-and-nursery-mumbai-fundraiser-2025>

Your generosity will directly support children from families who have migrated to Mumbai in search of work and are from the lower socio-economic strata of society.

Thank you for helping us celebrate the heritage and achievements of our school community.

**Mr Burke**

## A Letter from Sister Kochuithressia, Premadhar Creche and Nursery

Dear Saint Christina's,

Greetings from India – Mumbai - Juhu Premadhar Creche and Nursery! We hope you are all in good health and in life giving Spirit.

I am grateful for your commitment for helping those in need.

There are no words enough to thank you, for your generosity, kindness and especially remembering us.

We received the money which you send through Sr. Noella. We were happy to listen to her as she shared about you all.



I appreciate and am grateful for all of your eagerness and effort to reach out to little ones who have less opportunity in their families and environment where they stay.

I am sending the some of the photos of repair and maintenance, Environment day –children are encouraging to plant, children are in the class and play ground. The girl child dressed up for the competition as a Rani of Jhansi who was a leading figure in India during 1857. This girl won the prize.

Repaired and maintenance work



*Before*



*After*

Best wishes and God's blessings upon all of you!

**Children of Premadhar Creche and Nursery**

**Sister Kochuithressia**

## Assembly on Fundamental British Values

On Friday, Mr Hirst led an assembly on Fundamental British Values. The children discussed key principles such as democracy, respect, tolerance, individual liberty, and the rule of law. Through examples (including a vote on the best day of the week..!), the children explored how these values are important in shaping our school and society, ensuring fairness and harmony.

The assembly encouraged the children to think about how they can live out these values in their daily lives, both in school and at home.



**Mr Burke – Year 2 Class**

## Year 1

In Maths, we have been learning all about money. We have been identifying and comparing different coins and finding combinations of coins that make the same value. We have loved setting up a toy shop and fruit shop in the classroom to practice giving change. In PSHE, we have been learning about keeping money safe.

In Art, we have started our project for this half term, as we work on a collage inspired by our topic story 'The Proudest Blue'. We have been learning about mixing different shades of blue and using watercolour paints to prepare our backgrounds.



**Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher**

## Geography in Year 2

This week in Year 2 we began exploring the United Kingdom, learning about its four countries and their capital cities. The children used maps to label England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, as well as their capitals—London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, and Belfast. They practiced using compass directions to describe the locations of the countries and capitals, such as *"Scotland is north of England."*

To deepen their understanding, we discussed the challenge question: *"Why do you think the UK has four different countries instead of just one?"* The children shared some brilliant ideas about history, traditions, and geography, showing great curiosity and critical thinking. It's been a wonderful start to this topic, with plenty more to come!

**Mr Burke – Year 2 Class Teacher**



## Year 3

Year 3 have had another wonderful week at School. We have been writing some very vivid descriptions of a forest setting for the stories we are writing, which is based on the traditional/folk tale of Little Red Riding Hood. A sample of which you can read below:

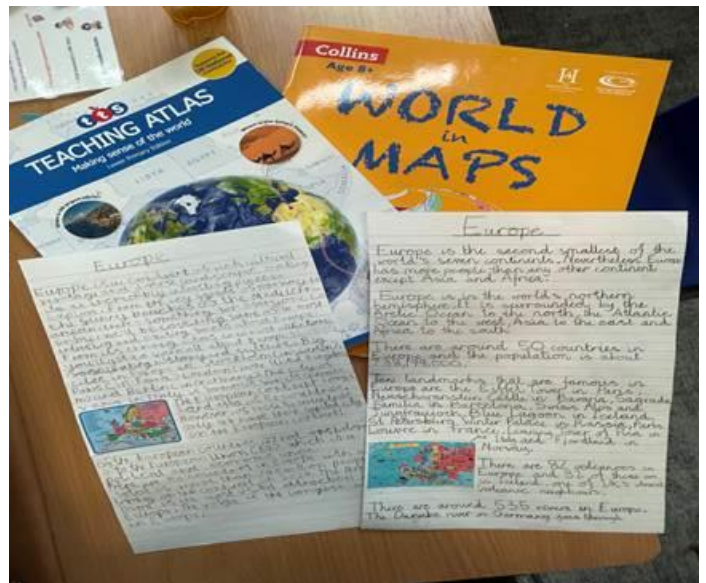
*Merrily, Little Red Riding Hood sauntered off through the misty, emerald green forest. She could see her watery reflection in the puddles on the path. (Advait)*

*Happily, Little Red Riding Hood strolled through the hot, sunny forest. The majestic trees stood tall and proud as she ambled past them. The tree tops were joined together like a crowd of vivid green umbrella. (Noah)*

*Joyfully, Little Red Riding Hood meandered off through the vivid green woods. The branches swayed to the rhythm of the wind and their leaves fluttered like graceful butterflies. (Celini)*

We have continued our learning in Geography this term by carrying out some research to find out all about Europe. We have used our Chrome books to look at many different child-friendly websites and also a range of atlases and non-fiction books to find out lots of information. Did you know the continent of Europe contains both the world's smallest and largest countries?

In Maths, we have been busy learning how to tell the time to the nearest minute on analogue clocks, including ones with Roman numerals.

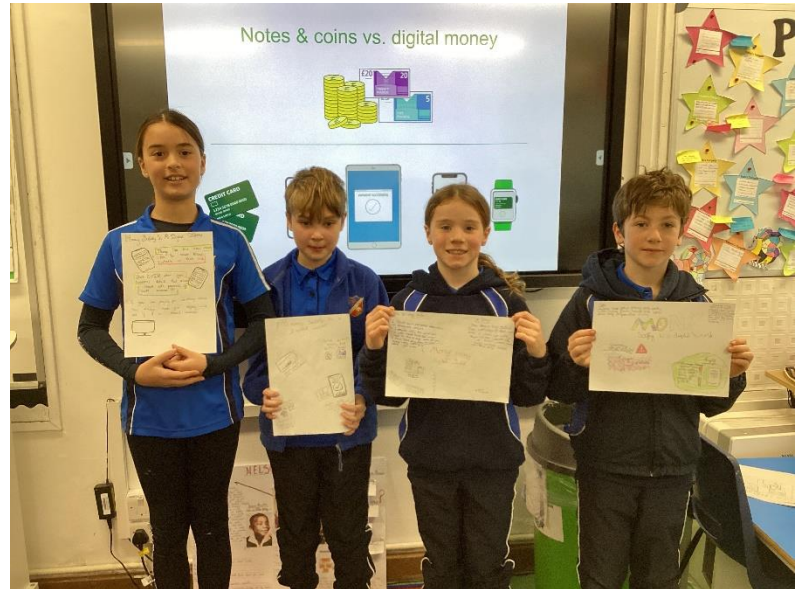


Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher

## Year 5 PSHE: Building Financial Skills

This week in PSHE, Year 5 students explored essential financial skills using *Lloyds Financial Skills* resources. They learned about ways of paying that don't involve cash, such as Apple Pay and other digital payment methods. The lesson also covered the risks associated with spending money online, including scams and phishing, as well as the emotional and financial consequences of falling victim to scams. Students gained valuable knowledge to help them make safe and responsible financial decisions in the digital age.

**Ms O'Leary – Year 5 ClassTeacher**



## Year 6

This week has been another action-packed week for Year 6! Some of the children led the KS2 Collective Worship, focusing on the Baptism of Jesus. They guided us in reflecting on the significance of this event and its meaning for all of us as we seek to enter the Kingdom of God. The children explored the symbols of Baptism and invited the Holy Spirit into their hearts, echoing the words from Luke 3:16: *"He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

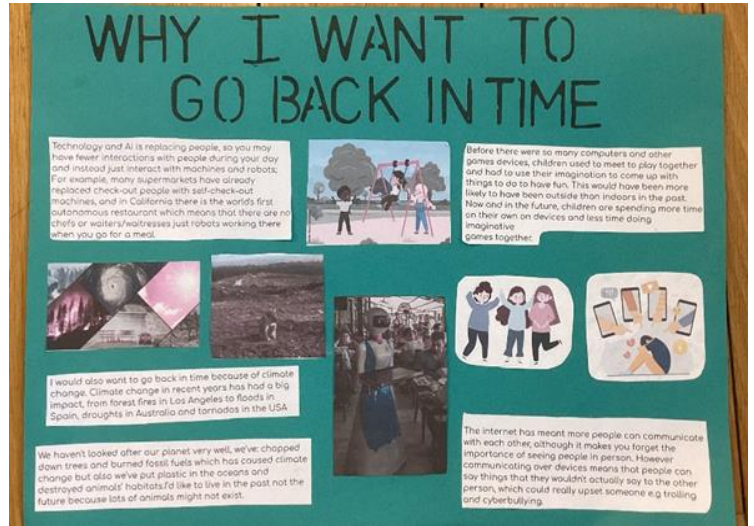
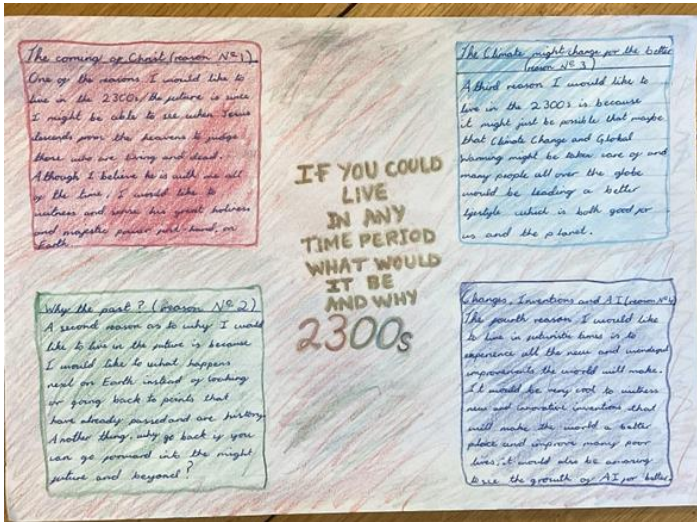
I was impressed by the responses to our Curious Question this week: *"If you could live in any time period, past or future, where would you live and why?"* The children thought critically and justified their reasoning beautifully. Some created posters, while others wrote reflective pieces, sparking a brilliant class discussion. Opinions were divided, with some preferring the past and others advocating for the future, each offering thoughtful arguments for their choice.

We were also very fortunate to welcome Ms Chand, a highly experienced educator who has worked with Mr Walshe in previous schools. With over 20 years of expertise in preparing children for the 11+ in London, she delivered an invaluable workshop for the class. The session provided practical tips and reminders to help the children excel in their interviews. It was both engaging and incredibly useful.

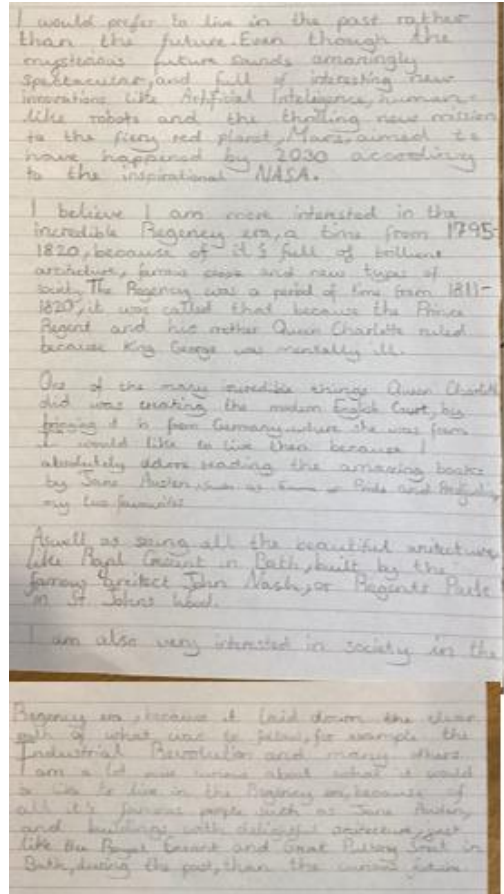
Once again, the F1 in Schools project session was enjoyed by all! The children are brimming with excitement and would happily work on it every day if they could. It has been wonderful to see the teams collaborating to design their cars and create their logos. In PSHE, we've been discussing digital money, its value, and the importance of online safety. Meanwhile, in Geography, Year 6 has begun exploring North America. They children have been completing map work and learning about the states, landmarks, and their human, physical, and cultural features. Some children are even working on independent projects, researching a chosen state's economy, history, wildlife, and more.



It has been a week full of learning, creativity, and discovery!



Mrs Ellidson - Y6 Class Teacher



## PE Update

It's been another action-packed week of sport here at School, with children across all year groups participating with enthusiasm and enjoying their PE lessons. It's fantastic to see so many children enjoying themselves and engaging in a variety of Sports clubs after school. There are still a few spaces available in the Netball club for Year 5 and 6 students, so please get in touch if you would like to sign your child up.

The younger classes have been continuing to develop their spatial awareness and coordination during their ball skills lessons. It has been wonderful to see them working individually and in small groups to explore themes like balance, symmetry, and creative ways of travelling and jumping during the Gymnastics sessions. Gymnastics provides the perfect opportunity for peer feedback, and it's great to see the children observing, supporting, and helping one another improve their skills

In Years 3, 4, 5, and 6, there has been fantastic progress in Football and Netball lessons. The Netball sessions have been focused on preparing for upcoming matches against other schools, while the Football lessons have had a focus on passing, movement, and quick transitions into space. These skills will surely be put to good use in the Year 5 and 6 football tournament happening this Friday.



We have a busy week ahead next week, with three netball matches lined up next week involving Year 3, 4 and 5 children. I will also provide an update in next week's bulletin on the results of the Year 5 and 6 football tournament taking place today.

On Monday, the Year 3 and 4 football team participated in three highly competitive games against Trevor Roberts. We were narrowly beaten in two matches but showed great improvements and played some excellent football. The effort and sportsmanship displayed by the players were excellent, with special congratulations to Alejandro, Oliver, and Ava, who were named star players for their excellent performances. A huge thank you to all the parents who came out to support the team and cheer them on—it makes such a difference to the players and is so lovely for you to see how the children are progressing. It was also lovely to have Sister Eileen who never misses a match. Your support is greatly appreciated.



#### Upcoming fixtures

Date	Opposition	Team	Time
Monday 20th January	St Mary's Away	Yr5 A 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	Yr5 A 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 Margaret's 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**

## Fr Terry's Food Bank

At Saint Christina's we believe 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 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 Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you for your support with this cause.

Mr Burke, Charity Prefects and Caritas Ambassadors

## Saint Christina's Food Collection



## NOTICES and REMINDERS

**PARENT PARKING AT COLLECTION 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.**

### Drop off and Collection Reminder

Please see the times below for the normal School Day:

Year Group	Drop off time	Collection time
Nursery	8.50 - 8.55am	3.25pm
Reception	8.50 - 8.55am	3.25 pm
Years 1 to 2	8.45 am	3.40 pm
Years 3 to 6	8.40 am	3.45 pm

Siblings – when dropping off siblings, the younger sibling may go in with the older child and will be supervised in the main hall until usual drop-off time.

Children attending Breakfast Club may be dropped at them main entrance from 8.00am.

EYFS siblings may be collected with the older sibling at their later pick up time.

Lates – when children arrive late, after the front gate has closed, they must be signed in by a parent.

### **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, EpiPens. 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.

### **Online Safety - Reminder**

Please see below the padlet link from Mary Rebelo, our online safety adviser. The link includes:

- Useful information about children's apps
- Activities and websites recommended by young people
- News articles and background
- Safe settings
- Reporting routes
- The presentation used in the talk

[https://padlet.com/m\\_rebelo/parents-online-safety-oct-2024-saint-christinas-3rnqu3noo9e4ra23](https://padlet.com/m_rebelo/parents-online-safety-oct-2024-saint-christinas-3rnqu3noo9e4ra23)

### **Sunday Mass**

Just a reminder to everyone, you are all invited to join Sunday Mass, which is held in the Chapel at 10.00am

### **Dates for your diary**

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heritage Week</li><li>• Year 5 A and B Girls Netball Fixture (Away)</li></ul>
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 1 and 2 Parent Coffee Morning with Mr Walshe and Mr Burke – 9.00-9.45am in the Arts Hall</li><li>• Year 3 Netball Fixture (Home)</li><li>• Year 5 A and B Girls Netball Fixture (Away)</li></ul>
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 3 and 4 Parent Coffee Morning with Mr Walshe and Mr Hirst – 9.00-9.45am in the Arts Hall</li><li>• International Mass led by Year 2 – 2.45pm</li></ul>
W/C Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 4 Swimming (for 2 weeks)</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 3 and 4 Mix Netball Fixture (Home)</li> </ul>
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 and 6 Parent Coffee Morning with Mr Walshe and Mrs Ellisdon – 9.00-9.45am in the Arts Hall</li> </ul>
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Mass – 2.45pm</li> </ul>
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P4C (Philosophy for Children) workshops (Rec to Y6)</li> <li>Year 5 and 6 Netball Fixture (Away)</li> <li>Individual 11+ Meetings for Year 5 Parents</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Parent/Child Learning Reviews – Reception to Year 6</b></li> <li>Individual 11+ Meetings for Year 5 Parents</li> <li>Year 6 A and Yar 5 A Girls Netball Fixture (Away)</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Parent/Child Learning Reviews – Reception to Year 6</b></li> </ul>
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Mass (House Competition)</li> </ul>

**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/>