



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 20th June 2025



CURIOSITY CHARACTER COMMUNITY



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Dear Parents,

One of the great privileges of being an independent school is that we are not bound by the National Curriculum. In practice, most independent schools, including ours, use it as a starting point, especially in core subjects. This foundation is valuable, but the real strength lies in the freedom we have to shape and personalise learning in ways that work best for our children, but also trust the collective wisdom and creativity of colleagues.

"The future belongs to the curious, the ones who are not afraid to try it, explore it, poke at it, question it, and turn it inside out."

-John C. Maxwell

There has been a great deal of national discussion in recent months about the future of education: what we teach, how we teach it, and how we assess what children know and can do. The [interim report](#) from the Department for Education's Curriculum and Assessment Review is now published, and while the final recommendations are due later this year, initial findings confirm what many teachers and parents have long understood. The current National Curriculum sets high standards in many areas, but it does not serve all pupils equally. In trying to cover too much, it risks losing the depth, connection, and space children need to build secure understanding. The report also recognises the need to prepare children for the world they are growing up in, one that demands digital awareness, ethical judgement, adaptability, and crucially, a strong sense of self.

I am very much in agreement, and you'd be hard pressed to find an educator who isn't roughly singing from that hymn sheet. Our *Approaching 2030* plan is built on four key pillars, and two of them are especially relevant here: knowledge and skills. We want our pupils to leave us with a strong command of subject knowledge, but we also want them to be curious, reflective, and resilient learners. We want them to listen well, speak clearly, ask thoughtful questions, and offer their own ideas. These are the qualities that will shape their futures, and they are as important as anything they will ever be tested on.

To support this, we will formally launch the 6Cs in September. These are the six core skills that we believe every child should have the opportunity to develop throughout their time at school: **Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Curiosity, Creativity, and Commitment**. These skills have always been part of how we teach and how children learn here; and based on my own experience in other settings, I think we do it incredibly well. Still, there is real value in naming them and giving them the same focus and attention we give to other areas of the curriculum. They are not only vital for learning, but they also strengthen the habits and mindset that help children approach challenges like the 11+ with confidence, independence, and perspective.

Communication: expressing ideas clearly and listening well

Collaboration: working effectively with others

Critical Thinking: questioning, reasoning, analysing

Curiosity: asking questions and wanting to learn more

Creativity: using imagination and trying new ways

Commitment: sticking with challenges and showing determination



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As ever, the most important thing is how all of this lands with the children. Our job is to create an environment that nurtures critical thinking and curiosity as much as knowledge and recall. We want our children to know things, of course; but just as importantly, we want them to make connections, ask questions, reflect, imagine, and express themselves with growing confidence. That kind of learning takes courage and character, and that is what you see every day in a Saint Christina's child: they give things a go, roll up their sleeves, and stay open to challenge. They also care - deeply.

I've been doing my best to avoid doomscrolling lately, with mixed success. But after another week where the news feels like an increasing assault on the senses, and makes you want to lie down in a dark room, I've found myself thinking with real optimism about the kind of children who pass through our doors each day.

The world is going to need them; kind children, grounded children, thoughtful children. Young people who are brave enough to keep showing up and keep trying, even when things feel uncertain. These are not soft extras; they are the qualities that help children to build relationships, to navigate change, and to live with purpose. Our job is to guide that energy, shape it with intention; and keep reminding them that who they are becoming matters just as much as what they know.



Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

Damien Walshe
Headteacher



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Saint Christina's Receives Social Impact Schools Award

We're very proud to share that Saint Christina's has received the SuperKind Social Impact Schools Award!

This recognition celebrates the incredible social action our children have taken throughout the year – from food bank collections and charity fundraising to our Caritas work and community outreach. It's a real testament to the compassion and commitment our children show in making a difference both locally and globally.

A huge well done to everyone involved – we're already looking forward to building on this next year!

Mr Burke



Parent Talk: Interactive Session on Mental Health, Wellbeing and Resilience for Parents

We're delighted to invite all parents to a special interactive session led by Andrew Bull, Director of Education and Schools at andResilience – a national charity that supports schools, families, and educators in promoting resilience, emotional literacy, and positive mental health.

Date: Monday 7th July

Time: 9:00–10:00am

Location: School Hall

andResilience
Building Strategies for Coping with Life

Andrew will explore how we can support children in developing resilience – the ability to adapt positively to challenges, manage emotions, and build healthy coping strategies. The session will be practical and interactive, with time for discussion and questions.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available – donations towards andResilience are welcome.

To confirm your attendance, please email Michelle at:

headteacherspa@saintchristinas.org.uk

We hope you'll be able to join us for this valuable and engaging session.

Mr Burke



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Junior Kangaroo Competition 2025

This year, some of the highest scoring children who participated in the Junior Mathematics Challenge in early May were invited to take part in the National Junior Kangaroo Competition. This was an admittedly challenging paper, and our two participants agreed that some of the questions that they had been asked were indeed quite difficult.

For example:

Question 7: 2025 is a square. How many distinct primes divide exactly into 2025?

Question 25: Two three-digit integers have all six of their digits distinct. The first digit of the second integer is twice the last digit of the first integer. What is the smallest possible sum of two such integers?

Our two participants did well to score as they did (narrowly missing the threshold for Bronze), and our congratulations go to both Giulio and Ehwan for giving the competition their full participation and efforts. Given that they will each have two or three more years in which they can participate in the Junior Mathematics Challenge as well as in the Junior Kangaroo, their scores this year bode well for the future!

Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Enrichment

A Visit from Caritas

On Wednesday, we were very pleased to welcome Sr Silvana from Caritas back to Saint Christina's. She led a whole school assembly focused on the values of Catholic Social Teaching and the work that Caritas does to support people around the world.

Sr Silvana helped the children reflect on what it means to live out values like justice, solidarity, and care for creation. She also brought along her trusty sidekick, Nigel the penguin, who was once again a favourite with the children!

It was a proud moment for our Caritas Ambassadors, who were recognised by Sr Silvana for all the work they've done this year.

We're very grateful to Sr Silvana for her visit and look forward to continuing our partnership with Caritas next year.

Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors





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A fantastic effort from Early Years on a hot day!

Early Years had such a brilliant time at Sports Day on Friday! After weeks of practising running, jumping and balancing in their PE lessons, the big day finally arrived and everyone was full of excitement!

We've been talking lots about how Sports Day is about trying your best, having fun, and cheering on your friends, not just about winning. In Liturgy, the Year 4 girls even shared a lovely story from their own Sports Day to remind us of this.

It was a very hot day, but the children didn't let that stop them and there was a well-earned ice pop waiting for them when they got back to school. It a fantastic way to celebrate all of their hard work, and for many their first ever Sports Day!

Ms Randle - Nursery Class Teacher





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Reception

The time has come for our butterflies to be released! Over the past few weeks, the children in Reception have been closely observing the incredible transformation of caterpillars into chrysalises. After patiently waiting, they were thrilled to see the butterflies begin to emerge — some children were even lucky enough to witness this moment in real time, while others watched it up close on video. The children were amazed to see the butterflies' wings slowly stretch out as they came out of their chrysalises.

We also noticed a red liquid during the process, called meconium, which is the leftover waste from the caterpillar's transformation. On Thursday and Friday, we took the butterflies out to the eco wall to release them. The children cheered as they flew into the sky — one even fluttered all the way over Saint Christina's! It has been a magical experience watching the life cycle unfold and has truly brought our Talk for Writing text, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, to life.



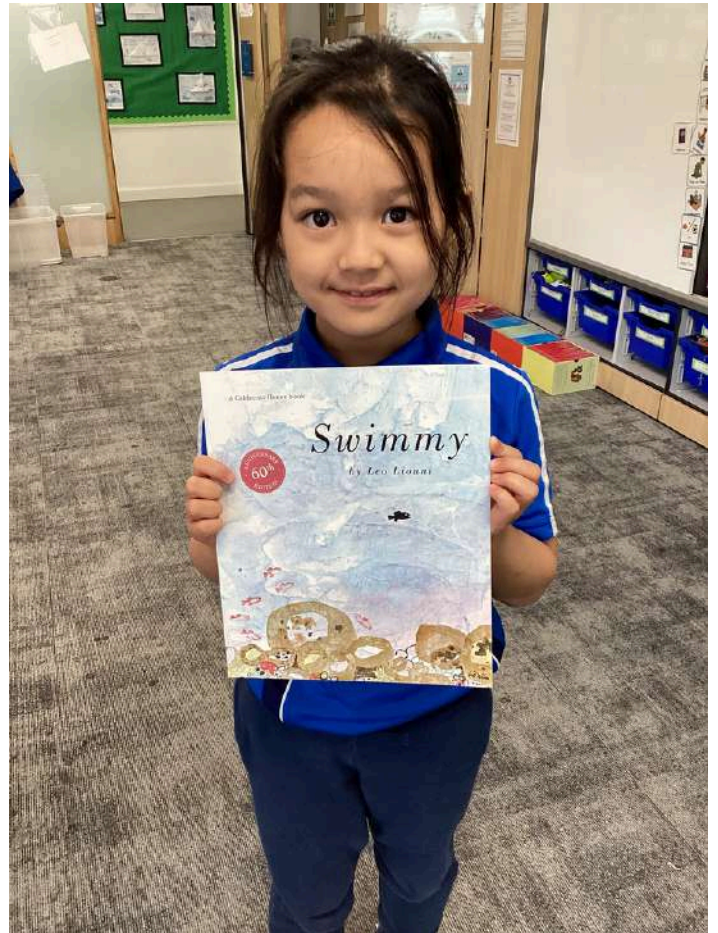
Ms Williams – Reception Class Teacher



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KS1 Story Club

Swimmy by Leo: I like this book because it is funny but interesting. My favourite part is fish is little but everyone stuck together and won. - ***Child in Year 1***



Year 1

This week in Year 1, we've been creative writers and curious historians!

In English, we continued writing our own stories using the Talk for Writing approach, inspired by Jack and the Beanstalk. We've been working hard to build exciting story beginnings, introduce interesting characters, and develop magical settings. We can't wait to share our finished stories soon!

In History, we explored the different jobs in a castle and what each role involved. We learned about the responsibilities of a watchman, marshal, messenger, carpenter, herald and cook. After learning about each job, we thought carefully about which one we would like to do and wrote our own application letters explaining why we'd be perfect for the role. Year 1 showed great imagination and persuasive writing. I know our castle would be in very safe hands!

Ms Higgins - Year 1 Class Teacher



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Year 2 Trip to the Museum of Brands

On Tuesday, Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Museum of Brands. As part of our learning on changes within living memory, the children explored how branding, packaging, and advertising have developed over time.

They took part in a hands-on workshop where they designed their own chocolate bar brand, thinking carefully about logos, colour choices, and slogans. It was a great way to apply their learning and get creative at the same time.

The children asked thoughtful questions, showed great curiosity, and represented the school brilliantly throughout the day.

Mr Burke - Year 2 Class Teacher



Year 3 Fieldwork in St John's Wood High Street

Year 3 embarked on an exciting fieldwork adventure to St John's Wood High Street as part of our Geography topic on the local area. The children observed the land use and the variety of shops and services. They also carried out surveys, politely questioning members of the public to gather data on how people use the High Street and their views on the one-way system. It was a fantastic opportunity for our young geographers to put their skills into action, and they thoroughly enjoyed applying what they've learned in the classroom to the real world.



Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher



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Year 4

Year 4 has been busy this week coming up with our own ideas for play scripts in creative writing. We chose between rewriting one of our favourite fairy tales into a play, or imagining we are heading off an exciting expedition somewhere. We are very excited to continue working on these next week, and hopefully turn them into performances before the end of the school year! We learned about compass directions in Geography, and how we can use the sun to help us figure out which direction north is. We practiced using compass directions to navigate simple maps. In Art we continued to work on our model Viking longships. We finished designing our templates for the hull of our ships, and traced and cut these out of cardboard.



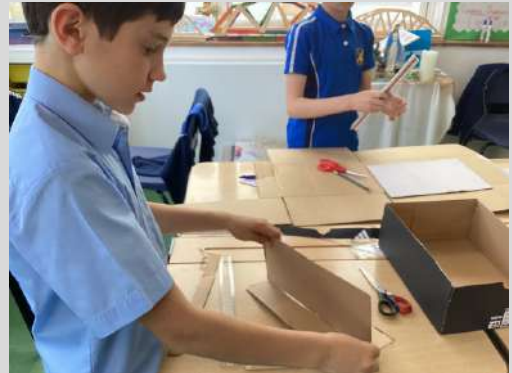
Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher



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Year 5 Get Creative with Ancient Greece

This week, Year 5 have been diving into the world of Ancient Greece through an exciting cross-curricular Art and Design & Technology project. As part of their history learning, the children explored Greek architecture and pottery, before bringing their ideas to life through two impressive hands-on creations. In Art, pupils designed and sculpted Greek vases using clay, carefully shaping traditional forms.



They practised techniques such as coiling, smoothing, and etching to give their pots an authentic finish. Meanwhile in D&T, they have started to build 3D models of Greek temples using recycled cardboard. The classroom has been transformed into a mini museum, and we've been so impressed by the creativity, teamwork, and craftsmanship on display. Well done, Year 5!



Miss O'Leary - Year 5 Class Teacher



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Year 6

This week, Year 6 have completed their final round of termly assessments at Saint Christina's, and I'm so proud of the progress that they have made throughout the year. What's been particularly impressive is their continued dedication to learning, even after completing their 11+ exams earlier in the year.

Beyond the classroom, it's been a fun and active week. The children enjoyed taking part in their House Cricket tournament, and a true highlight was seeing them lead the Sports Day activities for Early Years and Key Stage 1. They demonstrated real care and leadership, making the event a joyful and supportive experience for our youngest children.

The Legacy Projects are nearing completion—now we're just waiting for the delivery of the football socks, which have been delayed by a week. We're hoping they'll arrive on Thursday so that we can begin selling them on Friday.

Finally, rehearsals for The Wizard of Oz have been going brilliantly. The excitement is building, and we can't wait to see their hard work come to life on stage!



Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Class Teacher



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PE

It's been another action-packed and exciting week in PE across the school! On Monday, our Year 4, 5 and 6 Cricket teams delivered outstanding performances in their matches against Sarum Hall. We were delighted to come away with two fantastic victories, and one narrow loss showcasing some excellent batting, bowling and fielding skills. A huge well done to all those who took part and represented the school so well.

Looking ahead, Year 2 are very much looking forward to their class Football match on Monday against Ivy House. We can't wait to see their energy and enthusiasm in our final fixture of the year.

Today we held a wonderful Sports Day for our EYFS and Key Stage 1 children. There was a fantastic atmosphere throughout the morning, with lots of cheering, smiling, and brilliant effort from all the children. More details and photos will be shared in next week's newsletter.

Last Friday saw our KS2 Sports Day, which was a huge success. Despite the warm weather, the children gave it their all, showing determination, resilience and fantastic team spirit throughout the event. I was blown away by the incredible support from parents and spectators thank you so much for your continued encouragement at this and so many sporting events throughout the year. The competition was excellent, with some incredibly close finishes and many new school records being set — these are listed below. It was brilliant to see so many children representing their houses with enthusiasm and positivity, encouraging one another and showing great sporting spirit. A massive congratulations to St Francis, who were crowned the overall winning house!

We have been celebrating their achievements and the record-breaking results during their PE lessons this week and next Friday's assembly we will present certificates to the winners of each event.

Year 3	Shot Put	Rounder's Ball Throw	Long Jump	80m Sprint
1	Octavia	Lucas	Angelo	Emily
2	Noah	Conor	Emily	Angelo
3	Emily	Emily	Lucas	Angelos
4	Matthew	Theodor	Octavia	Noah
5	Angelos	Noah	Mani	Giselle



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Year 4	Shot Put	Rounder'sBall Throw	Long Jump	80m Sprint
1	Ava	Imad	Ava	Ava
2	Alejandro	Oliver	Farah	Alejandro
3	Ari	Ari	Oliver	Farah
4	Oliver	Alejandro	Alejandro	Oliver
5	Hunter	Ava	Isabella	Camilla

Year 5	Shot Put	Rounder'sBall Throw	Long Jump	80m Sprint
1	Alice M	Alice M	Arlo	Alice M
2	Beatrix	Harry	Alice M	Harry
3	Arlo	Beatrix	Beatrix	Philippe
4	Harry	Arlo	Fabio	Beatrix
5	Fabio	Fabio	Betsy	Juliana

Year 6	Shot Put	Rounder'sBall Throw	Long Jump	80m Sprint
1	Hugo	Alex	Alice B	Alice B
2	Alex	Alexander	Hugo	Edda
3	Nuriddin	Sebastian	Edda	Sebastian
4	Apolline	Alice B	Isabella	Alex
5	Alice B	Hugo	Yumi	Hugo



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Overall Totals

Class	St Francis	St Joan of Arc	St Cecilia
Year 3	233	252	179
Year 4	174	266	212
Year 5	365	175	156
Year 6	304	188	254
Total	1076	881	801
	St Francis	St John of Arc	St Ceilia
Position	1st	2nd	3rd

New Sports Day Record 2025

Year/Event	Shot Put	Rounder's Ball Throw	Long Jump	80m Sprint
3	- -	Lucas -	- -	Emily Conor
4	- -	-	-	- Alejandro
5	Alice M -	- -	- Arlo	- -
6	- Hugo	Alice B Alex	- Hugo	- Sebastian



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Mr Raveney - Director of Sport



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Music Update

We are getting excited about our upcoming production of "The Wizard of Oz" the week after next, with a busy week of rehearsals planned next week. Please check the email or letter you should have received about costumes, and ensure your child brings their costume in to school in a named bag no later than **Thursday 26th June**. If you have difficulty getting costume items please email me (ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk).



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). Mrs Bryant - Director of Music

Mrs Bryant - Director of Music



MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

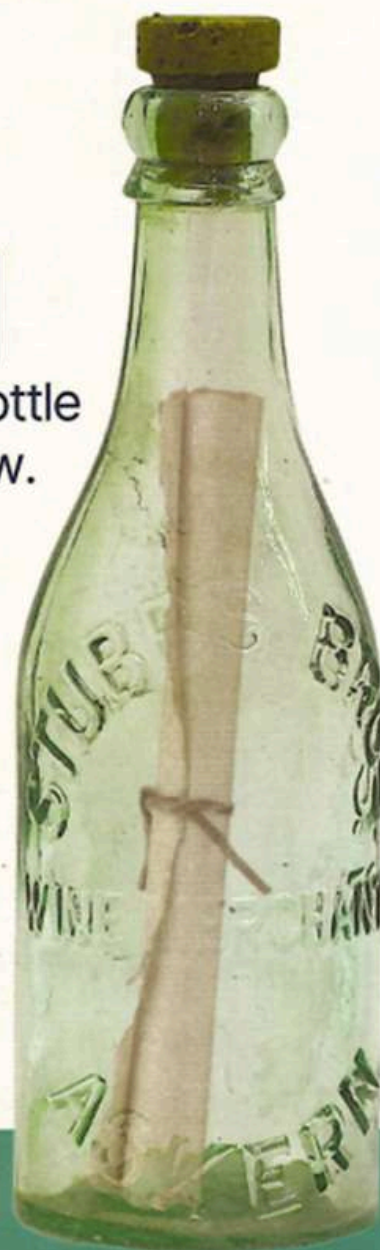
WRITING COMPETITION

Imagine your message in a glass bottle was discovered 100 years from now. What message would you write to inspire a greener future?

WIN

2 X MUSEUM TICKETS AND
AN ORIGINAL HANNAH
GIBSON GLASS FIGURINE

**MUSEUM *of*
BRANDS**



Share your vision in 50 words or less
Post your message on Instagram or
Facebook, tag @museumofbrands, and use
the hashtag #MessageInAGlassBottle to
enter

DEADLINE:
30 JUNE 2025



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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 4th July.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

Saint Christina's Food Collection



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 and the Caritas Ambassadors



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NOTICES and REMINDERS

Parking and Engine Idling

We kindly ask all parents to please avoid stopping or parking on the school's zigzag lines at drop-off and pick-up times. These markings are there to keep our children safe and ensure clear visibility. Please also remember to switch off your engine when stationary to reduce air pollution around the school.

Thank you for helping to keep our school environment safe and considerate for everyone.

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.

Sunday Mass

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

Last Day Collection Schedule

EYFS - **12.00**

Year 1,2 and 3 - **12.10**

Years 4,5 and 6 - **12.15**



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Dates for your diary

Monday 2nd June CHILDREN RETURN

Monday 23 rd June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y2 Mixed Football (Home)• Last Week of Clubs (With the exception of Breakfast and After School Provision Clubs)
Tuesday 24 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Photographs
Wednesday 25 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nursery Stay and Play (9.00 - 10.00)
Friday 27 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reception MK Stay and Play (9.00 - 9.45)
Saturday 28 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer Fair (12.00 - 16.00)



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Monday 30th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 Production Dress Rehearsal• Reception Parent Teacher Meetings (W/C 30th June)
Wednesday 2nd July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 Production (Y3 and 4 Parents)
Thursday 3rd July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 Production (Y5 and 6 Parents)
Friday 4th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nursery Trip• Whole School Mass (Buddies)• Reception and Y1 Picnic
Monday 7th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent And Resilience Workshop (9.00)• Class Change Over Day• Y6 Leavers' Party
Tuesday 8th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leavers Breakfast (Nur - Y5)• KS2 Prize Giving (13.45 - 15.15)
Wednesday 9th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y6 Leavers Mass (11.00)• EYFS - 12.00• Year 1,2 and 3 - 12.10• Years 4,5 and 6 - 12.15



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Wednesday 9th July
SCHOOL CLOSSES AT MIDDAY FOR THE END OF TERM

Wednesday 3rd 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/](https://www.saintchristinas.org.uk/our-school/policies/)