



# Saint Christina's

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

## Bulletin

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents,

As we approach the final week of term, there's a shift in the air, the mornings are a little brighter, the evenings a little longer, and with them comes a sense of renewal, much like the hope and new beginnings that Easter brings. Thank you to everyone who completed our recent parent survey. With 91 responses covering 100 children, your feedback is invaluable in shaping our Five-Year Strategic Plan. It's particularly heartening to see that many families discovered Saint Christina's through word of mouth, reflecting the strong community we've built. The survey responses, from both new and long-standing families, will help us honour our traditions while continuing to grow and evolve. If you are interested in the headline findings, you can find them after this letter.

### **A Culture of Excellence in Teaching & Learning**

Alongside gathering parental feedback, this week we undertook an external Teaching & Learning Review with a specialist education partner. Their feedback was overwhelmingly positive, particularly in recognising the strong teaching throughout the School, how much the children enjoy their learning, and the exceptional behaviour of our children, all a result of the strong, positive relationships shared between children and their teachers. These relationships are at the heart of our School and are fundamental in ensuring that every child feels valued, motivated, and ready to embrace new challenges.

The review also provided us with valuable insights into how we can continue to develop teaching and learning, ensuring that we challenge, stretch, and inspire every child. Just as the parent survey helps us reflect on the wider School experience, this teaching review supports us in refining our approach in the classroom. Both will inform our Five-Year Strategic Plan, ensuring that Saint Christina's continues to provide an exceptional education for all children.

A phrase that resonates strongly with me is: *"When we are closed to ideas, what we hear is criticism. When we are open to criticism, what we get is advice."* This sentiment captures the spirit in which we aim to approach School improvement. A thriving School must be open to listening, to parents, children, teachers, and external specialists, so that we can continuously improve. Every voice matters in shaping the future of Saint Christina's, and we are grateful for the honest, constructive feedback that helps us move forward together.

### **Celebrating Neurodiversity Week**

This week, we marked Neurodiversity Week, a valuable opportunity to celebrate the unique ways in which children think, learn, and engage with the world. Understanding Neurodiversity not only helps us support all learners more effectively but also creates a culture of respect, empathy, and inclusion across the School. By embracing Neurodiversity, we recognise that every child's mind works in different ways, and these differences should be celebrated.

Throughout the week, children took part in a range of activities, discussions, and workshops, all designed to deepen their understanding of different learning styles and help them appreciate the individual strengths each of them

brings to our School community. They embraced the idea that learning is not one-size-fits-all and recognised that each child's unique approach is a valuable asset to the School.

The week culminated in an exceptional assembly delivered by our Wellbeing Ambassadors and our Inclusion Ambassador, with Mr. Burke and Ms. Geary. This presentation was a true celebration of everything that makes Saint Christina's special. We also welcomed a new team of Early Years Ambassadors to our growing list of child voices throughout the School. To my mind the assembly gave a human face to our Golden Thread, encouraging the children to embrace differences and appreciate the unique qualities of themselves and others.

One of the fun highlights of the assembly was the exploration of famous Neurodiverse figures. The children were introduced to images of figures like Captain Underpants, a beloved character they all knew, and Robbie Williams, who, it turns out, no one did. The contrast sparked some laughter from the adults in the room who almost certainly felt very old at that point, but more importantly, it helped the children realise that Neurodiversity can be found everywhere, even in the people they admire, whether they're comic book heroes or pop stars.

This week was a reminder that we must celebrate differences, not just acknowledge them. By cultivating an environment where every child feels recognised, valued, and understood, we continue to build a stronger, more inclusive School community. We are committed to ensuring that every child can embrace their unique strengths and contributions, knowing they are part of a diverse and wonderful family.

Thank you again for your continued support, for being part of this journey with us, and have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,



**Damien Walshe**  
**Headteacher**

## **Parent Survey – The Headlines**

### **High Levels of Overall Satisfaction**

86.9% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the School. The quality of teaching was rated as 'excellent' or 'good' by the vast majority, and 92.1% of parents feel that our pastoral care is strong. The fact that 93.4% of children are described as 'always or usually happy' at School is a testament to the positive and nurturing environment we strive to maintain.

### **Teaching & Learning – What's Going Well**

It is encouraging that so many of you feel positively about the quality of teaching and curriculum delivery. A common theme in the feedback was a desire for greater academic challenge, especially for our most able children. We also noted requests for more frequent Maths and Language lessons, increased opportunities for public speaking and performance, and a careful review of our curriculum to ensure continued engagement and variety.

## Supporting Every Child

We appreciate the comments regarding additional needs (SEND) and the support for more able children. Some parents suggested that routine screening for learning needs could be beneficial, alongside shorter waiting times for external support such as Speech therapy. For our most able children, some parents are keen to see more challenging work.

## Wellbeing & Safeguarding - A School Where Children Feel Safe

Safety and wellbeing remain at the heart of everything we do, and we are pleased that 95.6% of parents feel confident in the School's safeguarding measures. Similarly, 97.8% believe their child is 'usually or always safe' at School. However, we acknowledge concerns regarding playground supervision, particularly around football and behaviour management, and we will review this further.

## Catholic Ethos & School Life

It is wonderful to see that 85.2% of parents feel that our Catholic ethos is embedded in daily School life and that this plays a role in their child's moral and spiritual development. While some families feel that our Religious Education curriculum could include more on other faiths, others feel that too much time is spent on RE compared to exam preparation.

## Communication & Leadership

Strong communication is key to a well-functioning School, and 80.3% of parents rate School-Parent communication as good or excellent. While some parents would like more updates about the 11+ process, others feel that communication is sometimes too frequent. We will look carefully at how we can balance these needs. Leadership communication was rated positively by 79.2% of parents, though we noted feedback regarding providing more notice before key changes.

## Extracurricular Life & Sports

A vibrant extra-curricular programme is something we continue to develop, and 67% of parents are satisfied with the range of activities on offer. There were requests for more Sports options, particularly Swimming, Rugby, Cricket, Football, Tennis, and Basketball. Additionally, some parents feel that club spaces are limited or that the booking system could be improved.

## Facilities, Meals & Environment

We are pleased that 95.6% of parents are satisfied with our facilities, cleanliness, and playgrounds. School meals received mixed feedback, with some parents noting a lack of variety or concerns about sweet and salty foods.

## Next Steps - Areas for Development

Your feedback has given us clear areas to reflect on as we shape the strategic plan. Particularly the following:

- 11+ preparation, particularly for boys, ensuring clarity on the process and expectations.
- Extra-curricular opportunities, with a focus on additional Sports and Clubs.
- Academic challenge for all children, including for our most able.
- Refining communication, ensuring families receive key information in a timely and accessible way.
- Pastoral support, particularly in the areas of bullying awareness, Neurodiversity, and social development.

We would like to express our gratitude for your thoughtful and constructive feedback. The overwhelmingly positive responses reflect a community that values the School's ethos, teaching, and pastoral care while also striving for

continued growth. We are committed to working in partnership with you to ensure that Saint Christina's remains a place where children thrive, grow, and succeed.

## Neurodiversity Week

This week, we celebrated Neurodiversity Week across the School. Classes took part in a range of activities to learn about and celebrate the different ways we think, learn and experience the world. On Friday, our Wellbeing Ambassadors and Inclusion Ambassador led a whole School assembly, reminding us that everyone has their own unique strengths and that thinking differently is something to be proud of. The children learned about different types of Neurodivergence including ADHD, dyslexia, autism and more – and how we can all be kinder, more understanding, and more inclusive.

A big thank you to everyone who took part and made this such a positive and thoughtful week!

**Mr Burke – Wellbeing Lead**



## United Kingdom Linguistics Olympiad (UKLO) 2025

The United Kingdom Linguistics Olympiad is a competition that is run every year, and part of its aims are to foster a love of and interest in language learning. We have entered children from Saint Christina's for the past ten years, and over that time we have seen the total number of participants in the competition grow considerably. This year, for example, there were 1000 more competitors than last year – and this represented competitors who were entered for the Breakthrough (KS2) and Foundation (KS3) levels.

For the Breakthrough Round, the three languages represented were Hindi (with words written using the Devanagari script), Fur (from Dafur in the Sudan) and Saisiyat. Additional languages in the Foundation Round were Icelandic and Armenian.

The problems this year were more challenging than usual, although many of our children enjoyed transcribing the names of India's top ten cricket teams into English (from seeing the team names written in Devanagari script).

Ehwan did really well to be awarded Bronze at the Breakthrough level and was the highest scorer at Saint Christina's this year. Runners up included Emilia, Finn, Giulio, Nuriddin and Sophie. Special mentions also go to Giulio, Hugo and Seb for attempting and scoring respectably on problems in the Foundation Round; Apolline for a good performance in two of the languages, and the handful of brave participants in Year Four for their first foray into linguistics problems.

**Fr Rudolf Loewenstein - Mathematics Lead**

## Stay and Play in Nursery

This week, we welcomed parents into the Nursery for our Stay and Play session. It was lovely to see families exploring inside or outside, engaging in activities alongside their children. The children enjoyed sharing their learning, and it was a great opportunity for parents to experience a snapshot of Nursery life.



## Fire Brigade Visit!

Today was *blazing* with excitement in Early Years as we had a special visit from the **fire brigade!** The children had an unforgettable experience exploring the fire engine inside and out, trying on real helmets, listening to the siren, watching the flashing lights—and the ultimate highlight—**spraying the hose** like real firefighters!

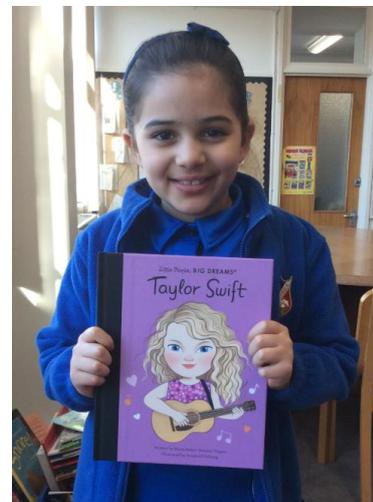
The joy and wonder on their faces said it all. A huge thank you to our local fire brigade for making this visit so special!



Ms Randle – Head of EYFS and Nursery Class Teacher

## KS1 Story Club

Little People, Big Dreams: Taylor Swift: I like this book because it's interesting and it's all about Taylor Swift. We learn about her life and her songs. It was not kind when she was at School and people made fun of her cowboy boots. It did not stop her making music. - **Student Year 2**



## Year 1 Mass

Last Friday, Year 1 led our whole School mass about St Patrick. We learned about how Patrick used a Shamrock to teach people in Ireland how God is three people, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We each made a Shamrock to represent our learning and used these to decorated the Chapel. Year 1 were superstars and all spoke beautifully and sang wonderfully!



Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher

## Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic week of learning!

In English, we've been diving into *The Barnabus Project* by The Fan Brothers – a beautifully illustrated story about courage, belonging, and celebrating differences. Inspired by the idea of “failed projects,” each child designed their own imaginative hybrid animal, including creations like the *Chamelion* – a bold blend of a chameleon and a lion!

We've been working hard to build descriptions, using a variety of adjectives and verbs to bring our creatures to life.

Next week, we're excited to begin writing our own stories based on these unique characters.

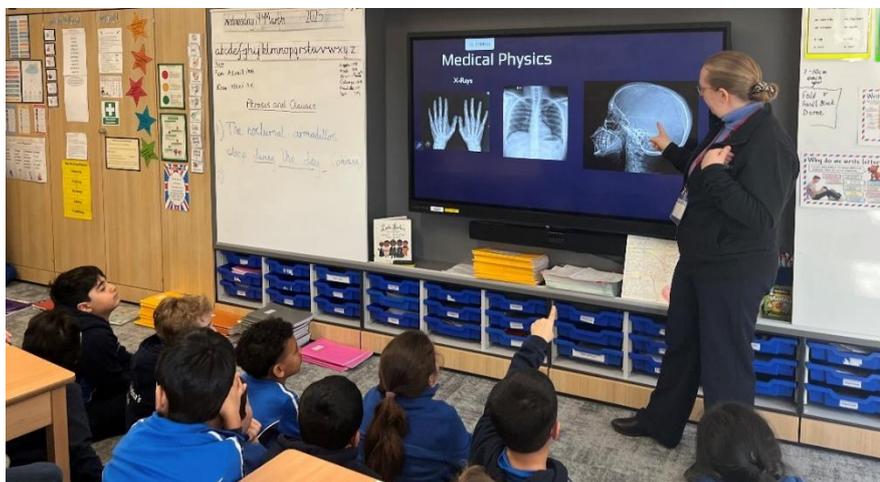
**Mr Burke - Year 2 Class Teacher**

Learning Objective	Date:			Independent	✓
How can I design my own failed character?	Task 1 Design Your Character ✓	Task 2 Write a range of adjectives and verbs around the ball jet to describe their creature and how it moves.	Task 3 Write sentences to explain why they have chosen this design.	Teacher Assisted TA Assisted Peer Work	
Challenge Question: If your character was in a story, how might it feel about being a failed project? What would it regret? (Write a short paragraph or speech from your character's point of view.)					
AYLA chamelion Lion carnoufiabie cute agile spicy Feice strong mighty scary					
Hybrid Name: <u>chamelion</u> ✓					
I have chosen this design because <u>it can camouflage like a camelion so it can't get caught by a predator and it was sharp</u>					

## Year 3

In our English lessons this week, Year 3 have learning about the layout and features of formal letters and we have been planning and starting to write our own formal letters. We are pretending to be the Big Bad Wolf and writing to Mrs Witch to ask for help with the problems we have been having with the pesky Three Little Pigs and the naughty Little Red Riding Hood!

To celebrate recent Science and Careers Weeks, we welcomed Conor's mum into class to tell us all about her job as a Medical Physicist. We found out that Medical Physics is used in hospitals to help people find out if they are sick and to help them get better. We learnt about different kinds of electromagnetic radiation, in particular x-rays, which are used to view the inside of our bodies, and gamma rays which are used in Medicine. We also did an experiment to show how x-rays work, using special paper and radiation from the Sun. Everyone was fascinated and loved sharing their own hospital experiences!



**Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher**

## Year 4

This week for Neurodiversity Celebration Week, Year 4 took part in an activity focusing on limitations and fairness. In groups, we all had to carry out the same task which was cutting out a circle, gluing this onto another piece of paper, writing a message and then sealing it in an envelope. The first team to complete this was the winner. However – there was a catch. One group had to complete their task with one hand behind their back. One group had to do it without talking. And one group had to do it blindfolded! This led to a really interesting discussion on fairness and equality, and how we all face different challenges everyday that aren't always obvious to others. We agreed that to love your neighbour we need to help each other and not judge others for finding things hard, as we all have different strengths and weaknesses.



## Year 5 Design & Technology Project



Year 5 children have been busy developing their sewing skills in Design and Technology! Under the guidance of Sister Noella and Ms Fernandes, they have been learning the basics of sewing, including:

- Cutting out patterns on fabric
- Threading a needle
- Mastering the running stitch

This hands-on project is helping children build patience, creativity, and fine motor skills. Keep up the great work, Year 5!

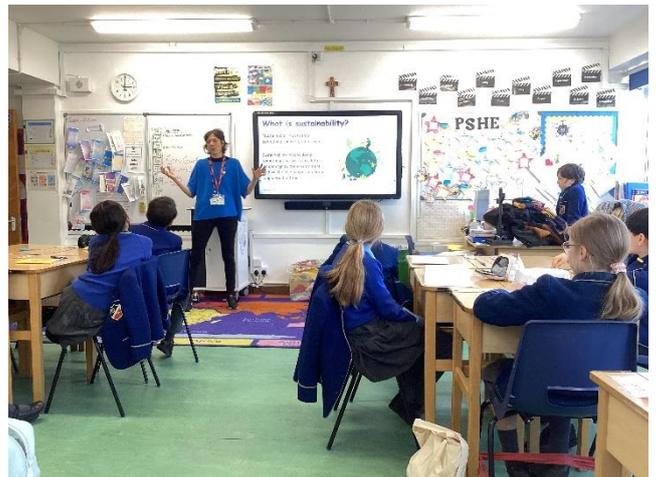
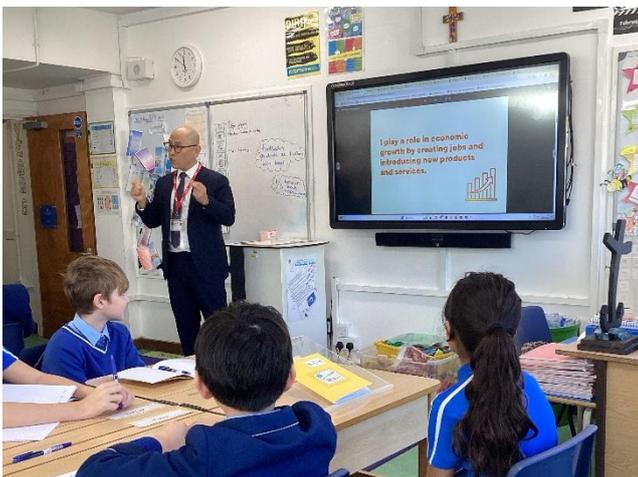
## Year 5 Careers Week

Year 5 had an inspiring Careers Week, learning about different professions and future opportunities!

Arlo's Mum, an air pollution scientist at Imperial College, visited us to talk about sustainability and the importance of clean air. We are especially excited to monitor air quality in our School using the fascinating instruments we have borrowed!

Mina's Dad, a successful entrepreneur, shared what inspires him to set up businesses and the responsibilities involved. He also spoke about his future plans and gave us valuable insights on how we can become entrepreneurs too! We even had a go at creating our own business plans!

A huge thank you to our special guests for sharing their knowledge and experiences with us!



Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Class Teacher

## Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy and engaging week filled with learning, discussion, and creativity.

Persuasive debates have sparked great discussions, with the class passionately arguing their viewpoints on a range of thought-provoking topics. These included: Should parents track their children with tracking devices? Should children get homework at primary School? And what is better—being taught by teachers or by the internet?

In Current Affairs, Year 6 marked 40 years of Comic Relief—thank you, Apolline, for bringing everyone in the class a red nose to celebrate! Another fascinating presentation focused on plans for a new stadium for Manchester United, sparking great interest and discussion among Football fans.



The class has been busy preparing for the upcoming Passion Play, bringing together drama and teamwork to create a meaningful performance, which they are looking forward to sharing with the School and their parents next week. A highlight of the week was an immersive VR workshop on the oceans, where they explored marine life and underwater ecosystems in a truly engaging way.

In Geography, the children have been learning about the three stages of a river and in Maths, they tackled increasing and decreasing percentages and took part in a Junior Maths Challenge practice ahead of the upcoming competition.

During their PSHE lesson, Year 6 focused on Neurodiversity Awareness, exploring different ways people think and learn. They created posters, comic strips, and presentations to celebrate and share their understanding. Another insightful moment came from Nuriddin, who delivered a presentation on Nowruz, explaining how this important celebration is widely observed in Kazakhstan, his home country.



**Mrs Ellidson – Head of KS2 and Year 6 Class Teacher**

## PE Update

On Monday, Year 6 played their final Netball match of the year with two strong performances against St Mary's. The team has made impressive progress this year, and it's wonderful to see how well the Year 5 and 6 students combine to play effectively as a team. The A team put in a spirited performance but were ultimately defeated by a very strong opposition despite their best efforts. Milana was exceptional in defence, making numerous interceptions and made many important rebounds. The B team, played brilliantly, with standout shooting from Alexander and Norah, leading to a narrow victory. Sophie was excellent as GoalKeeper, marking her player well and making some superb blocks when defending.

On Thursday, the Year 5 and 6 girls took part in a 7-a-side Football tournament hosted by Devonshire House, competing alongside 16 other teams. Following last week's success, the girls were full of confidence and played some fantastic Football.

During the group stages, we won all three of our matches against St Mary's, Cavendish, and The Gower B, placing us at the top of our group. We then played three more matches, beating Gower A, drawing with Southbank, and suffering a narrow defeat to St Mary's. After adding up all the points from the afternoon, our team was crowned the overall champions.



A huge congratulations to Edda and Alice M for their fantastic goals, and to Akari, Isabella C, Milana, and Sophie for their excellent performances in defence. Special mention goes to Beatrix, who only conceded one goal across all six games and made countless saves throughout the afternoon. Alice B was also a star player, scoring an impressive 10 goals. The girls played brilliantly as a team and should be incredibly proud of their achievement.

Both the boys' and girls' teams have one more Football tournament each to play after the Easter break.



This week, the Key Stage 2 classes began their Cross-Country lessons at Primrose Hill. The Year 3 and 4 children completed a 1.5km course, while the Year 5 and 6 children tackled a 2km course. We took time to discuss tactics with the children, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a steady pace throughout the race. Next week, the classes will compete in the Inter-House Cross-Country competition, which promises to be an exciting event.





A special well done to a child in Year 2. His football team were winners of the Under 7's Regents Park Youth Football League tournament involving 16 teams played at Regents Park on Saturday. He should be very proud of this achievement.

It is always lovely to hear about children's sporting success in sport outside of School and share these achievements with our School community. Please do continue to keep me updated of any exciting achievements.

### Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Team	Time	Home/Away
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	SHHS Tournament	Yr 5 Girls Netball	14.00-16.00	Away
Monday 28th April	Ivy House	Yr 2 Mixed Football	15.30-16.30	Home
Wednesday 30th April	Southbank Tournament	Yr 5 and 6 Girls Football	9.30-12.30	Away
Wednesday 7th May	Southbank Tournament	Yr 5 and 6 Boys Football	9.30-12.30	Away

**Mr Raveney - Director of Sport**

## Science Week Virtual Reality Workshop: Exploring the Oceans

As part of Science Week, all children across the School had the exciting opportunity to take part in a virtual reality workshop focused on ocean life. Using VR headsets, children were transported beneath the waves to explore vibrant coral reefs and encounter incredible sea creatures, including whale sharks, jellyfish, and dolphins. The experience sparked the children's curiosity, leading to thoughtful classroom discussions about how we can protect our oceans and the amazing wildlife that lives there. A fantastic way to inspire future marine scientists and eco-warriors!

**Mr Hirst – Science Lead**



## 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	
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Westminster Junior Citizenship Scheme for Year 6</li></ul>
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Y5 and Y6 Cross Country</li><li>KS2 House Quiz</li></ul>
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>SCHOOL CLOSSES AT MIDDAY FOR THE END OF TERM</b>	
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b> <b>CHILDREN RETURN WEARING SUMMER UNIFORM</b>	
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Y5 &amp; 6 Residential Meeting for Parents</li></ul>
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Clubs Start</li><li>Y3 Swimming Starts (2 Weeks)</li></ul>
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Y4 Parent Coffee Morning</li><li>Y5 and 6 Girls Football Tournament (Away)</li></ul>

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bank Holiday</li> </ul>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vision and Hearing Screening</li> </ul>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y5 and 6 Boys Football Tournament (Away)</li> </ul>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y5 and 6 Residential Trip (5 Days)</li> </ul>
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y5 Parent Coffee Morning</li> </ul>
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y5 and 6 Return from their Residential Trip</li> </ul>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music Concert Evening (More info to come)</li> </ul>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Away)</li> </ul>
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Holy Communion</li> </ul>

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
SCHOOL CLOSURES AT USUAL TIME FOR HALF TERM**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June  
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/>