



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 25th April 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the summer term. It is short, but always one of the busiest and most vibrant parts of the School year. There is much to look forward to, and the children have returned full of energy and enthusiasm.

On Tuesday, colleagues spent the day in training focused on Metacognition, along with wider discussions about Oracy and debating in the classroom. These areas are becoming increasingly central to how we think about learning at Saint Christina's. Metacognition, which means helping children to think about their own thinking, allows them to become more independent, thoughtful learners. Oracy equips them to speak with clarity, to listen with empathy, and to make their thinking visible. To my mind these are not just classroom skills, they are lifelong ones, essential for relationships, leadership and emotional intelligence. The training day has sparked rich conversations among colleagues and will lead to a broader curriculum review over the coming months. We want to ensure that Metacognition and Oracy are woven throughout our teaching, and we look forward to sharing more with you as this work develops.

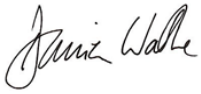
In the coming weeks, we will begin introducing the children to a framework called Thinking Moves: The A to Z of Metacognition, which explores a wide range of thinking skills. From evaluating and reasoning to noticing and connecting. One of the most engaging ways to explore these is through British Sign Language. A short video that introduces the signs is [linked here](#). There is also a poster [linked here](#) in case you would like to support your child at home or learn more yourself.

A date for your diary: on Saturday 18 May, Saint Christina's will be running a stall at the Primrose Hill Street Fair, selling cakes in support of St John's Hospice. This is a cause close to our hearts and provides a lovely opportunity to share our name with the wider community. Please do save the date, and if you are able to volunteer on the day, contribute something delicious, or just stop by to show your support, Ms Yllka would be very glad to hear from you. You can contact her via the school office at office@saintchristinas.org.uk.

We ended the week this afternoon with a Mass to honour the life and legacy of Pope Francis, whose death has touched so many, and not just those in the Catholic faith. His promotion of inter-faith dialogue will perhaps be one of his central legacies. A few years ago, he said, "What God wants is fraternity among us", which is why "we must not be frightened by difference". For me personally, this is how I shall remember him – a voice of reconciliation and sanity in a world where such things are often in short supply. I was educated by the Jesuits and shared with the children in Wednesday's assembly the Jesuit motto, "*men and women for others*." I have always found that phrase powerful. In our children, I see its meaning brought to life on a daily basis. They show us what it means to live generously and with purpose and they are a sincere source of optimism for the future. Their sense of compassion and moral awareness gives me great hope. Pope Francis believed deeply in the dignity of every person and the power of love in action. I see those beliefs lived out each day in our classrooms and playgrounds, and I know his legacy will continue to inspire us.

With every good wish for the term ahead,

Best,



Damien Walshe
Headteacher

Mr Burke is Running the Hackney Half!

On Sunday 18th May, I'll be running the Hackney Half Marathon to raise money for St John & St Elizabeth Hospital.

The hospital provides vital care to so many people in the local community, and I wanted to do something to give back and help support their work. All money raised will go directly towards patient care, facilities, and the brilliant team that make such a difference every day.

If you'd like to support, you can donate through my JustGiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/sjse>

Thanks so much for any support you can give – it really means a lot!

Mr Burke



Year 6 Bake Sale – Next Friday After School!

Year 6 are putting their entrepreneurial skills to the test with an exciting bake sale next Friday after school! Armed with just £10 to kick-start their mini businesses, they've been busy planning, baking, and branding their way to success. Every cake, biscuit, and drink sold helps them raise money for charity and brings them one step closer to launching their legacy to Saint Christina's. Please come along, treat yourself, and support the Year 6 children on their venture.

Mrs Ellisdon - Head of KS2



VE Day 80th Anniversary – 8th May

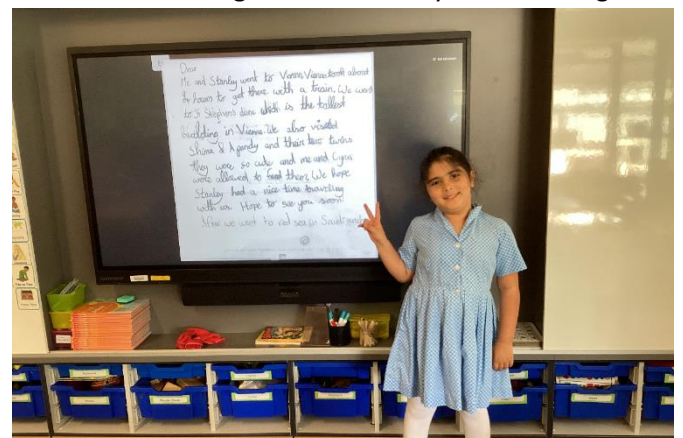
This year marks the 80th anniversary of VE Day, and we will be commemorating this historic event in School on Thursday 8th May. To mark the occasion, children are invited to come to school dressed in red, white and blue. Throughout the day, the children will take part in a range of activities to help them learn about and reflect on this significant moment in history. It promises to be a meaningful and memorable day for all.



Mrs Ellisdon - Head of KS2

Year 1 Flat Stanley

Last term, Year 1's topic book was *Flat Stanley*. We had a fantastic time decorating our own Stanleys and sending them off to friends and family around the world. This week, we have learned about Stanley's exciting adventures in Greece, Qatar, the Netherlands, Jordan, Oxfordshire, France, London and Austria. We thoroughly enjoyed reading the letters, exploring scrapbooks, and seeing photos of Stanley's travels. This activity not only sparked our creativity but also enhanced our understanding of different cultures and geography. We have been adding to our class map with the different places that Stanley has visited. We are eagerly looking forward to discovering more about Stanley's journeys and sharing these experiences. We can't wait to see where he goes next and continue learning about different places and cultures!





Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher

Year 2

It's been a brilliant first week back after the Easter holidays – Year 2 have returned with big smiles and lots of energy!



One of the highlights this week has been learning the *A-Z of Thinking Moves*. Each letter stands for a different way to think – from *A for Ahead* to *Z for Zoom In/Out* – and we've learnt an action to go with everyone. The children have loved acting them out, discussing what each move means, and spotting them in action during lessons. It's all about building strong thinking habits, and they've taken to it

brilliantly. Feel free to test them at home – they're quite the experts already!

We also had a lovely surprise this week – letters from our pen pals at Ancillea Academy in the USA! The class were so excited to read what their friends had



written. We spent time sharing the letters, talking about life in America, and then carefully planning and writing our replies. It was a fantastic chance to practise our writing for a real purpose, and the children showed great care and thought in their responses.

All in all, a fantastic start to the summer term – well done Year 2!

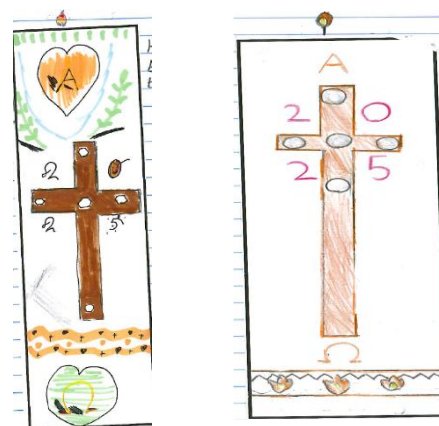
Mr Burke – Year 2 Class Teacher

Year 3

Year 3 have started a topic celebrating Easter and Pentecost. They have been learning about the Paschal candle which is lit at the Easter vigil and is used throughout the Easter season and then relit for baptisms and other special events including feast days in the year.

It is decorated with a cross, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega and five grains of incense to represent Jesus's wounds when he died on the cross.

They enjoyed designing their own Paschal candles and thought about what the different symbols mean.



Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher

Year 4

Year 4 has had a wonderful first week back after the Easter break. We are really excited for our new history topic, the Vikings. We explored what we already know about the Vikings, and learned how to draw a Viking longship in art. We also learned about our Catholic Social Teaching focus for this term, which is Dignity of Workers. It was really interesting to learn some history about the Dock Workers Strike in 1889, and about the Fairtrade Foundation.



Ms Farquhar – Year 4 Class Teacher

Year 5 – Following in the Footsteps of Pope Francis

This week, Year 5 have been reflecting on the life and legacy of Pope Francis, thinking carefully about the values he lived by and how we can honour his memory in our everyday lives.

Through their writing, the children shared heartfelt ideas about how they can follow in his footsteps:

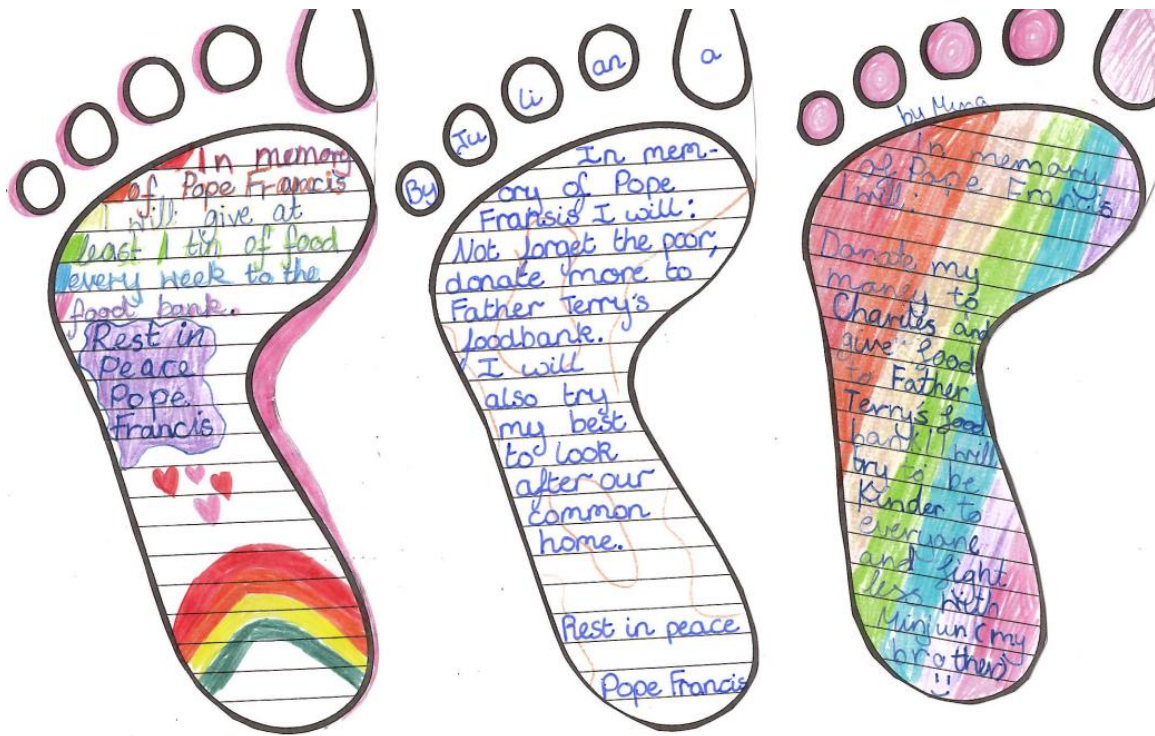
One pupil wrote about wanting to care for our planet by picking up litter in the park and making sure to recycle at home—just as Pope Francis encouraged us to look after God’s creation.

Other children expressed a deep interest in learning about different cultures, showing a desire to treat everyone with respect and kindness, no matter where they come from or what they believe.

The class also spoke about *standing up for fairness and equality*, making sure no one is left out and everyone feels welcome.

Several children wrote about caring for the poor, by planning to donate food to Fr Terry’s food bank, putting their faith into action by helping those most in need.

We are so proud of the thoughtfulness and compassion Year 5 have shown in their writing. Pope Francis’ message of love, care, and unity truly lives on in our young people.



Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Class Teacher

Year 6

It's been an exciting and jam-packed start to the summer term for Year 6! This week, the children found out that our summer production will be *The Wizard of Oz* and auditions have taken place and the buzz of excitement is already in the air.

The children have also been introduced to an exciting enterprise and legacy project. Working in teams of four, the children will be developing their own mini businesses with the dual goal of raising money for a chosen charity and leaving a meaningful legacy at Saint Christina's. They are in the early planning stages and we can't wait to see how their ideas develop.

To kick-start their ventures, each group will receive £10 next week and will be holding a **cake sale after school next Friday in the School Hall**. Please do come along and support them! In preparation, they'll be researching recipes, budgeting carefully, shopping for ingredients and baking in School—true young entrepreneurs in the making! Keep an eye out for posters, flyers, and enthusiastic conversations from our budding business minds.

On top of all this, the children continue their Leavers programme—preparing for life beyond Saint Christina's. They've already benefited from talks with former pupils, a workshop with TFL and the Police, and are looking forward to upcoming sessions including first aid with St John's Ambulance, road safety, self-defence, and practical skills like ironing and making a bed!

Finally, this week the children explored the fascinating world of Metacognition—learning about 26 different ways we think, one for each letter of the alphabet, complete with memorable actions. They've already begun applying these thinking strategies in lessons and are seeing how powerful they can be.

Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Class Teacher

Eco Committee Leads Inspiring Earth Day Assembly

This morning, our Eco Committee delivered an engaging and thought-provoking assembly to the whole school, explaining the importance of Earth Day and what it means to care for our planet. Using a clear and informative presentation, they highlighted key environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and the impact of fossil fuels.

The theme for Earth Day 2025, "*Our Power, Our Planet*," was explored, encouraging everyone to think about how we can work together to make more sustainable choices. The children confidently engaged the audience throughout, asking meaningful questions and encouraging everyone to reflect on how their actions—big or small—can help protect our environment.

Well done to all involved for delivering such a powerful message and inspiring us to make a difference!

Mr Hirst and Ms Sephton



Clubs

Film and Drama Club

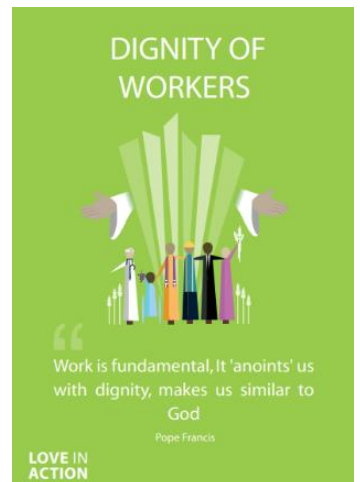
There are still places for Afterschool Film Making Club, commencing Monday 28th April and after school Drama Club, commencing Friday 2nd May. If you are interested in joining, please contact Mr Duncan via drama@saintchristinas.org.uk and if you would like to know more, please visit his website [here](#).

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 pupils 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 of Workers** - 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.



The principal we will be focussing on this half term is Dignity of the Worker.

The Church has long been a supporter of the right of people to work. Work is more than simply being able to earn money. It is about being able to support oneself, and one's family. It is about finding a role and place within society, finding fulfilment and a sense of purpose and worth. It is also about people being paid a just wage and having adequate facilities to do the work they are tasked with, which is why the Church supports both the Living Wage and Fair-Trade movements.

Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors*

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 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 in the locker underneath the stairs next to the Arts Hall. We kindly ask that all donations for this half term are brought into School by **Friday 16th May**.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors

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 28 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clubs Start• Y3 Swimming Starts (2 Weeks)
Wednesday 30 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y4 Parent Coffee Morning• Y5 and 6 Girls Football Tournament (Away)
Friday 2 nd May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y6 Mass• Cake Sale
Monday 5 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bank Holiday
Tuesday 6 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vision and Hearing Screening (Reception – Year 6)
Wednesday 7 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y5 and 6 Boys Football Tournament (Away)
Friday 9 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y5 Mass
Monday 12 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y5 and 6 Residential Trip (5 Days)
Friday 16 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y5 and 6 Return from their Residential Trip

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y4 Saint Raphaela Feast Day Mass
Wednesday 21 st May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music Concert Evening (More info to come)
Thursday 22 nd May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Away)
Friday 23 rd May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Holy Communion
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday 23rd May SCHOOL CLOSING AT USUAL TIME FOR HALF TERM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday 2nd June CHILDREN RETURN</p>	

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/>