



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 28th March 2025

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of term, I want to thank you for the many ways you have supported the School, my colleagues and me personally over these past months. I am also indebted to our community of Sisters next door for their continued guidance and generosity of spirit. It has been a rich term, with plenty to celebrate, and lots to reflect on. From the children's achievements in lessons to the way they have thrown themselves into performances, sports, trips and daily school life, our comprehensive teaching and learning review, all culminating in a very timely inspection from ISI where we got to showcase the very best of who we are. From this point on and for the next six weeks or so there are a series of processes to go through and therefore I am not in a position to provide any further details on the final outcome just yet, but you will be the first to know when I can share information with you.

January feels like a lifetime ago but this term I have been struck time and again by the way the children rise to meet the opportunities placed before them. Whether in the classroom, on the stage, the sports field or in quiet acts of kindness, they remind us daily of what really matters. Everything we do is in service of them and it is both a joy and a privilege to walk alongside them in these formative years. One moment that particularly stood out this week was the Year 6 Passion Play. It was an excellent and moving retelling of the Easter Story, performed with such sincerity, understanding and care. Their work brought home the heart of this season: sorrow and sacrifice, yes, but also the hope and promise that Easter holds.

About 25 years ago I was introduced to the theologian Marcus Borg and have devoured everything he has written ever since. His reflections on Easter are ones that make the most sense to me because of their simplicity. He described the resurrection as God's 'yes' to Jesus. I like the simple notion of this idea because what I think he meant by this was that Easter is God's way of affirming or saying 'yes' to all that Jesus stood for in his life and ministry - compassion, justice, forgiveness and love. The Easter Story is an assurance that, in the end, these things are not defeated by pain, failure or even death. For us as a School community, that message speaks powerfully into our shared life. It reminds us that the values we strive to encourage in our children - kindness, courage, empathy and truth are not only worthwhile but also have the power to be transformative. Whatever our belief, background or story in this diverse community, the Easter message is a timeless one and I believe that it transcends religious boundaries because it invites us to live with greater courage, deeper compassion and a renewed sense of hope - not in perfection, but in the possibility of growth and new beginnings.

At Saint Christina's I am constantly reminded of how fortunate we are to work with such thoughtful, curious and generous-hearted children. I am also incredibly grateful to my colleagues for the care and commitment they bring every day. It is their work, much of it unseen, that allows the School to flourish in the way that it does. In helping children grow, we also must remember that they are still 'becoming'. Sometimes we place adult brains on our young people and expect responses that do not yet match their age or stage, and this is a mistake. Children are not mini grown-ups. They are still learning, still forming. None of us are the finished article and the work of a school is not about demanding perfection, but about creating the space to grow, to make mistakes, to reflect and to begin again. Context matters. So does patience, and for me, this is where our values should take centre stage. None of us has a monopoly on truth, nor do we always get everything right, but our values give us something to reach for. They help shape our choices, especially when things feel uncertain or difficult.

This too is part of the Easter message because it is a reminder that renewal is always possible. God's 'yes' to Jesus is also a 'yes' to the way of love and forgiveness, even when it is hard. That message speaks directly into the work of any School and any community. We fall short, we begin again, and we try to walk more closely in the light of what we believe to be good and true.

This term has also been one of transition and quiet determination for our Year 6 children, with our boys making history by becoming our first 11 plus cohort. Collectively, Year 6 gained offers to a list of impressive and highly selective senior schools. Their outcomes were excellent, and they achieved them without fuss or drama: quietly, confidently and together. We are incredibly proud of how they approached this time in their journey, not just for the academic results, but for the way they carried themselves along the way. It would also be remiss of me to not offer thanks to the countless colleagues who helped them on this journey. They all have my sincere gratitude and admiration because this was a team effort.

Looking ahead, we begin next term with training on metacognition and self-regulated learning, part of a two-year journey we are undertaking together. This work will support children to understand how they learn, how to reflect on their thinking and how to take increasing ownership of their growth. It will help us as teachers too, as we guide them not just to know more, but to think well and live wisely.

I hope the break gives you a moment to pause, to rest and to enjoy time together. Thank you again for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you in April for the start of the Summer Term.

With every good wish for a peaceful and joyful Easter.

Best,



Damien Walshe
Headteacher

Library Refurbishments

PL met the incoming Head on 21st January to discuss various items including the library. We met again on the 30th January to discuss the budget, the details of the proposals and the timeline for the library. Mr Walshe drew up a number of documents seeking detailed thoughts from the teachers on how they would like the room to be used. The feedback sought included how best to optimise children's learning, questions to consider, how best to promote literacy and learning, health and safety and other considerations.

Mr Walshe also sought suggestions for books to support children at every stage under 22 separate categories including but not limited to core curriculum support, Religious Education, Fantasy and Adventure, Neurodiversity and Inclusion, Emotional Wellbeing, STEM, Sports and Physical Education etc, etc.

In addition, the class teachers reached out to parents and the children throughout the school asking for suggestions of books they would like to see added to the library. Fr Rudolf and a member of PL have been working with the library prefects to draw up a list of books from every class. The list stands at over 100 books, but we hope to receive more suggestions from you all!

The feedback received directly impacted the proposed design. More specific zoning is required to enable quiet reading, group collaboration and relaxation i.e. creating spaces where children feel comfortable doing any of these things. Additional data points are needed as tablets, eBooks and interactive screens will be used in this room. The

incorporation of an interactive whiteboard will enable incoming authors to present their work, staff to hold staff meetings and give teachers an additional tool to work with.

This reinforces the feedback received from the teachers responsible for running the library in November last year. They highlighted the need for nooks/cosy spots for independent learning and reading, swapping the display shelves in the EYFS area to enable little people to access the books more easily and reducing the number of desks in the study area to create more flexibility.

We met again on the 13th February to discuss all of the above. We agreed not to make any amendments to the design until we had secured Board approval. We continued to seek feedback while doing additional research in how to support SEN in the learning environment. A presentation was made to the Board of Governors on behalf of Parents' Link on the 12th March and they gave us full approval to proceed.

We met the Site Manager Steve on the 18th March to secure his feedback re-maintenance issues of the proposed works and how best to future proof the lighting and electrical layout. A reflected ceiling plan was issued to the School for comment 20th March. Steve, a member of PL and the School's electrician met Thursday 27th March to discuss the proposed layout. Some small amendments have been made, and they will be incorporated into the latest drawing. The drawings have also been issued to the schools IT support to secure their input. It is important to finalise the electrical and lighting layout before we install any joinery as we want the cost and potential damage of fitting new points after installation.

The ceiling lighting was updated last year. It is quite a sophisticated system that automatically turns on/off depending on the existing light in the room so there are no plans to amend it. We have added lights to the reading nooks though.

Ms Geary gave detailed feedback on the proposed materials and colours for the library to ensure that we create an environment that is hospitable and comfortable for all children including those with additional needs. The material choices have changed as a result of her advice, and we will present a new selection of materials at quiz night. Ms Geary has also supported the addition of smaller spaces that children can retreat to within the larger space.

The amended designs attached show the creation of four distinct zones i.e.. EYFS, a breakout area in front of the whiteboard, a study/homework club area and the librarian's area. Three small reading nooks have been created in the shelving and a floor to ceiling bookcase has been added between the EYFS and librarian's zone. The creation of more seating gives us the opportunity to use softer colour whilst also reducing ambient noise as the upholstery will absorb ambient sound. This will create a calmer space for all and be particularly helpful for our neurodiverse children.

The designs were finalised last week. They were issued to last year's winning contractor on the 24th March but unfortunately, he is no longer available to complete the work. We have agreed to complete this project as a phased development as we are all keen to get started asap. We approached ten builders to tender for the works last summer. After extensive and protracted hassling of same, two contractors priced for the works. We will now need to start the tender process again. If anyone has any contractors that they could recommend we would really like to hear from you.

We have raised approximately £16,000 so far. This is approximately half of the anticipated overall budget. We have allocated £14,000 to spend on the joinery in the first phase and reserved £1,000 for upholstery. We are hoping to spend about £1,000 on books. This will use up all the funds we have raised to date for the library, but we hope to deliver as much of the project as we can before we attempt the next phase of fundraising!

Thank you for your patience and generosity with this project. It simply would not be possible without your support and thank you for bearing with us while it all slowly comes together!

Ms William's Charity Swim

On Saturday, March 29th, Ms. Williams will be participating in the nationwide swimming event, Swimathon, which encourages people of all ages and abilities to take on a challenge in the pool while raising money for charity. Swimathon is the world's largest annual fundraising swimming event, taking place across the UK. Ms. Williams will be completing the 5K swim in memory of her grandma and is collecting donations for Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie. Please donate here

<https://www.givengain.com/project/emily-williams-raising-funds-for-cancer-research-uk-marie-curie-swimathon-foundation>



Ms Williams

Year 6 – Passion Play

Last night, our Year 6 children delivered a moving performance of the Passion Play to their parents, bringing the story of Jesus' final days to life with sincerity and emotion. Through powerful narration, expressive acting, and heartfelt reflections, they captivated the audience, demonstrating both their deep understanding of the Easter story and their commitment to their roles. The performance was a poignant reminder of the themes of sacrifice, love, and redemption. The children acted and sang and most importantly shared this message brilliantly.

I'm so proud of how hard they worked together to bring it to life. What made it even more special was that so much of it came from them—From scripting to stage positioning, they took ownership of every element, demonstrating creativity, teamwork, and maturity.

Their talent, teamwork and enthusiasm was amazing!

Well done, Year 6!



Mrs Ellison Year 6 class teacher

KS2 Collective Worship

Year 6 led the Collective Worship this week which was inspired by Jesus' healing of the man born blind. This Celebration of the Word assembly invited the children in Year 3 to 6 to consider Jesus as the source of their joy during this Jubilee Year ahead of Laetare Sunday (Mothering Sunday).

The Year 6 children shared:

- The Year of Jubilee is an opportunity to share our joy and grow our friendship with God.
- During Lent, God calls us to draw closer to Him by reaching out to others.
- We can be 'Pilgrims of Hope' by working together for a fairer world.

He said, "Lord, I believe", and he worshipped Him.

John 9:38



Mrs Ellisdon - Head of KS2

KS1 Assembly

This week, Mr Burke lead us in a lovely assembly, focusing on school's golden thread 'Love your neighbour as yourself' and linking this to our learning last week for Neurodiversity Week. We listened to the story of Leo and the Octopus and thought about the different challenges that Leo faced in the story. We thought about the different ways that Maya was a good friend to Leo, even though they couldn't speak to each other. We ended our assembly by thinking of ways we could be like Maya and make everyone feel celebrated and welcome.

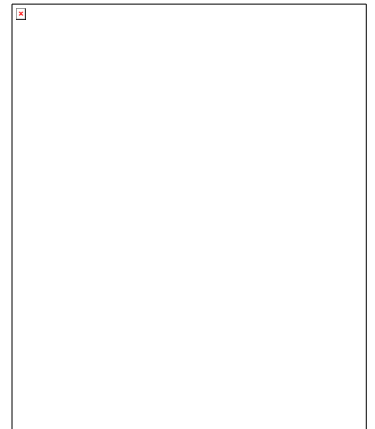


Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher

Reception

Reception children from across the UK took part in the *Me and My Family* competition, where they were invited to draw a picture of themselves or their loved ones. With thousands of entries submitted, an incredible 24 children from Saint Christina's were selected to be featured in the final book. A special congratulations goes to a child in reception class, whose artwork, *Everyone Became a Mermaid*, was chosen as the front cover—earning her a well-deserved prize!

Ms Williams – Reception Class Teacher



KS1 Story Club

It has been another wonderful term in our KS1 Story Club! We have shared our love for reading and books with each other. We meet in the library to choose a book to bring home and love making recommendations to friends. Each week, a child brings in a book to share that we read together. We have listened to lots of great stories this term and can't wait for more recommendations over the summer term.

Hotel Flamingo: The Fabulous Feast by Alex Milway: I like this story because I like competing chapter books. My daddy loves this story too. We read about a cooking competition with some funny foods. You need to read the book to find out who wins. –
Child in Year 1



Miss Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher

Year 1 Planting

Year 1 have loved learning about plants this half term! We have enjoyed getting our hands dirty, weeding our flower beds and planting bulbs earlier in the term. We have been identifying and sketching different plants and fruits, naming and comparing parts of the plants and identifying common garden plants, wild plants and trees. To finish off our topic, we have written instructions on how to plant and care for a seed, using our knowledge of plants to help us. We have each planted a sunflower seeds to care for over the Easter break. Hopefully you will see some beautiful flowers in our outdoor learning space in the next couple of months!



Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher

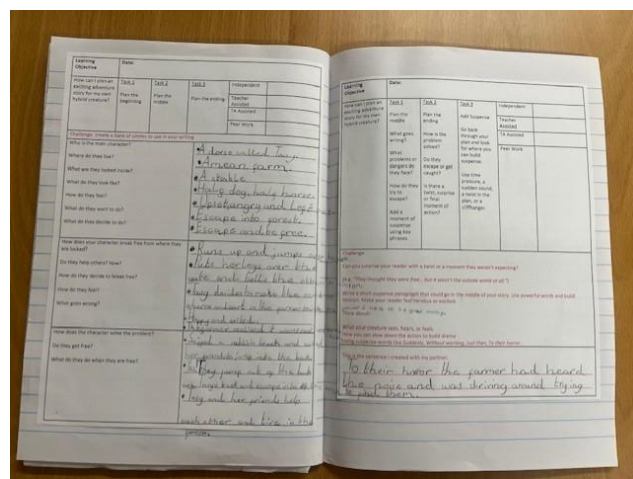
Year 2

This week, Year 2 have been busy planning their own adventure stories, inspired by *The Barnabus Project* by The Fan Brothers. Using the hybrid creatures they designed last week, the children have been mapping out thrilling storylines where their characters attempt daring escapes from a secret lab!

A special focus was placed on building suspense – the children thought carefully about how to hook their reader, create cliff-hangers, and build tension as their creatures faced unexpected twists and tricky obstacles. Their ideas were full of creativity, drama, and imagination.

A big well done to Year 2 for their excellent effort and for keeping us all on the edge of our seats!

Mr Burke – Head of KS1 and Year 2 Class Teacher



Reconciliation Mass

Nine children in Year 3 received the sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday 21st March in the school chapel along with Fr Tom, their parents, classmates and children in

Key Stage 2. The sacrament of Reconciliation is a very special time in our lives when we are given an opportunity to say sorry to Jesus for all the things, we have done wrong. The whole class beautifully dramatized the story of 'The Lost Sheep' giving us the message that Jesus loves us no matter what we do. Soon after, hesitatingly, we approached Fr Tom and confessed all that we were sorry for. It was truly surprising how light we felt when we returned to our seats.

Here are some of the thoughts of the children who received the sacrament of Reconciliation:

Conor: I was basically nervous at first but then it got better. Now I believe in Jesus even more.

Matthew: I felt a little worried at first doing my very first confession. However, I felt better after confessing my sins to the priest.

Lucas: I was trembling before, but I felt I like I was flying afterwards when I went back to my seat.

Annabelle: At first, I felt heavy but afterwards I felt light. Now I feel completely different, as if my heart has been cleared.

Serina: There were butterflies in my tummy because I was excited and nervous, but later I just felt very happy.

Ms Sephton and Ms Fernandes



Year 4

Over the last two weeks, Year 4 have been creating rainforest dioramas in Art/DT to celebrate our learning about the rainforest in Geography. We painted our shoeboxes green and added a forest background. We learned how to make trees, plants and shrubs using tissue paper and card, and tried to create layers in our dioramas so they looked 3D and realistic. We had so much fun creating them, don't they look amazing!

Ms Farquhar – Year 4 Class Teacher



Year 5's Stunning Monet-Inspired Sewing Creations!

Year 5 children have been busy stitching up a masterpiece! Inspired by the beauty of Monet's artwork, they have created stunning textile pieces, showcasing their creativity and newfound sewing skills. A heartfelt thank you to Sister Noella and Mrs Fernandes for their guidance and patience in bringing these wonderful creations to life!



Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Class Teacher

Year 5 – Eco Warriors in Action!

This week, Year 5 became eco warriors, investigating air quality using special instruments kindly loaned by Arlo's mum, an air pollution scientist. Our findings were eye-opening! We discovered that air quality was poorer at the end of the playground, closer to the road, where carbon emissions are higher. This has sparked great discussions on how we can help improve the air we breathe. A big thank you to Arlo's mum for her support and expertise!





Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Class Teacher

Year 6

On Wednesday, Year 6 had the privilege of welcoming a Transport for London (TfL) representative and a TfL Police Officer as part of their transition programme. This engaging session equipped the children with essential life skills for safe and independent travel.

The workshop covered journey planning, active travel, and responsible behaviour on public transport. The children learned about the ZIP card scheme, including its benefits, the application process, and the importance of meeting behaviour expectations. They also explored key safety practices, such as waiting



safely at bus stops and underground stations, using escalators correctly, and understanding the dangers of underground tracks.

Beyond practical safety, the session encouraged thought-provoking discussions on respect, citizenship, and making responsible choices when faced with peer pressure, uncomfortable situations, or suspicious packages. The children also learned about the impact of vandalism and the legal consequences of breaking the law, including how criminal charges from as young as ten years old can have lasting effects on future opportunities.

This invaluable workshop helped the children develop the confidence to navigate the transport network independently, while reinforcing respect, responsibility, and good decision-making—skills that will benefit them as they transition to secondary school and beyond.

Mrs Ellisdon – Head of KS2 and Year 6 Class Teacher

Caritas Bake Sale – Thank You!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Caritas Bake Sale in aid of The Passage. With your generosity, we raised an incredible £381 to support people experiencing homelessness.

The cakes were a huge hit and it was lovely to see so many children, parents, and staff coming together to support such an important cause. A special thank you to our Caritas Ambassadors and Charity Prefects, who helped bake, set up, and run the sale with enthusiasm and care.

We are so proud of the compassion and commitment our children continue to show through their charity work.

Mr Burke

PE Update

It's been another wonderful week of Sport here at School, with lots of exciting events and achievements across all year groups.

In the younger classes, our EYFS children have been developing their Football skills, working on controlling the ball close to their feet. It's been great to see their confidence grow as they continue to develop their techniques. Year 2 have been working on their Tag Rugby skills, learning how to take on and beat opponents.

Our final Year 5 Netball tournament took place this week, and the girls put on an outstanding performance despite facing some very challenging opposition. They worked tirelessly throughout the afternoon, and although they narrowly lost several matches, their sportsmanship remained unwavering. A special shout-out goes to Juliana, who never stopped pushing throughout the entire afternoon, making crucial interceptions and delivering great passes in every game.



This week, Key Stage 2 had their highly anticipated House Cross Country event, and what a fantastic series of races it was! The children worked incredibly hard, not only to earn points for their houses but also to improve their times from last week. It was brilliant to see such determination on the course, with each participant showing tremendous effort. Well, done to all the runners, and special congratulations go to Saint Joan of Arc House, who emerged as the overall winners of the cross-country competition this year. Please see the full results and winners of the competition below.

Inter House Cross Country Totals 2025

Year/House	St Francis	St Cecilia	St Joan of Arc
Year 6	71	97	80
Year 3	102	83	148
Year 4	81	70	129
Year 5	141	107	55
	St Francis	St Cecilia	St Joan of Arc
Totals	395	357	412
	2nd	3rd	1st

Year	Winning Boy	Winning Girl	Most improved time
3	Octavia	Alejandro	Octavia
4	Camilla	Alejandro	Misha
5	Pia	Harry	Fabio
6	Alice	Seb	Alexander

In addition to the House Cross Country, we also held the annual Key Stage 2 House Quiz. This quiz covered a range of topics including General Knowledge, Geography, Sport, and Science, and it was heart-warming to see the children working together in their teams. After tallying up the results, congratulations are in order for Saint Cecilia, who came out on top as the overall winners, with a close second-place finish.

As we wrap up another exciting week of sports, I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable Easter break. I encourage you to stay active during the holidays, and we look forward to returning after the break with Year 3 taking part in an

intensive two-week swimming course. We'll also start preparations for our Sports Days, which are just around the corner. Along with that, we'll be focusing on cricket during the summer term—an exciting time ahead!

Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Team	Time	Home/Away
Wednesday 26 th March	SHHS Tournament	Year 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

PL Update

We are delighted to share that the KS1 and KS2 movie nights, along with the EYFS afternoon tea, have raised a fantastic total of £1,340 for the charity chosen by the Sisters. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and supported these events!

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

Friday 28th March
SCHOOL CLOSSES AT MIDDAY FOR THE END OF TERM

Wednesday 23rd April
CHILDREN RETURN WEARING SUMMER UNIFORM

Thursday 24 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y5 & 6 Residential Meeting for Parents
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 25 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff Mass
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

Wednesday 7 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y5 and 6 Boys Football Tournament (Away)
Monday 12 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y5 and 6 Residential Trip (5 Days)
Wednesday 14 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y5 Parent Coffee Morning
Friday 16 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y5 and 6 Return from their Residential Trip
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

Friday 23rd May
SCHOOL CLOSSES AT USUAL TIME FOR HALF TERM

Monday 2nd 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/>