



Saint Christina's

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

Bulletin

Friday 4th October 2024

Dear Parents,

I really hope that you enjoy flicking through our bulletin this week. It's packed with wonderful things that have happened over the last week, and as ever, the amount that has been packed in once again defies the laws of physics in terms of the hours available to do them in!

Many thanks to all of you who attended the Macmillan coffee morning. With the takings from the non-uniform day, the total gift that has been sent to Macmillan is £1,487. This is a truly stunning figure if we consider that a) it's a cup of coffee, b) and a non-uniform day, and c) the weather on the day would not have looked out of place in the run up to Noah's adventures in his ark! It was very good to have the opportunity to speak to some of you on the morning, following my visit to Francis Holland School, and lovely to hear so many kind words about the staff here.

Thank you too, to all of you who were able to make the Parent Online Training session this morning. As ever, Mary led an interesting and highly informative session – we will share a little more about this next week.

You will notice that we are coming up to Harvest and as we do, we always collect non-perishable food for Fr Terry's Foodbank. For those of you who are new to the School, Fr Terry is our much-loved and missed priest. He was a beautiful person who had a heart for anyone who came into his orbit, but particularly for those who society can leave behind or forget. He set up the Kilburn food bank some years ago, and we, as a community, made the decision that we would not only support his work at Harvest, but all year. In so doing, we want the children to learn that poverty isn't cured with a can of beans, and that supporting others requires dedication and commitment. This said, as we approach Harvest, it was a real pleasure to see our wonderful charity team speak so confidently in assembly this morning, asking everyone to consider whether they might make a contribution to our collection over the next week or so. Thank you in anticipation.

There is so much to enjoy everyday as I move around the school. I may not have the privilege of being in the classroom all the time, but I do see, hear and am sometimes really lucky to be drawn into the activities that are going on. One of the things I have really enjoyed recently, has just been admiring some of the art that the children, particularly in Year 2, have created. I take it for granted that I see it every day, but it occurred to me that you don't and so I have asked that we share a little window into your child's awesome talents. I don't remember studying Picasso in Year 2 myself, but your children do – and their work is simply outstanding.

If you move further through the bulletin, you will notice that we have a couple of articles about Maths and Computing competitions that form part of our mission to stretch and challenge the children well beyond the curriculum. Last year some of our coders were included in the winners of a competition that led to their code being run in space on the international space station, for example. Others certificated in the UKMT Maths Intermediate Maths Challenge – which is aimed at children aged 14-16 years!! So, do have a good look at and support your child in these initiatives, because they represent so much more than just a couple of competitions.

Have a lovely weekend. We look forward to seeing you again on Monday.

Yours sincerely,

Alastair Gloag
Headteacher



Thank you for making our Coffee Morning special

Whether you joined us for the cause,
the chatter or the tasty treats,
your generosity helped raise a fabulous

£ 1487

to help support people living
with cancer.



Simply scan this QR code
with your phone
to donate to your host's
Coffee Morning.
It's easy, quick and secure.
Thank you.

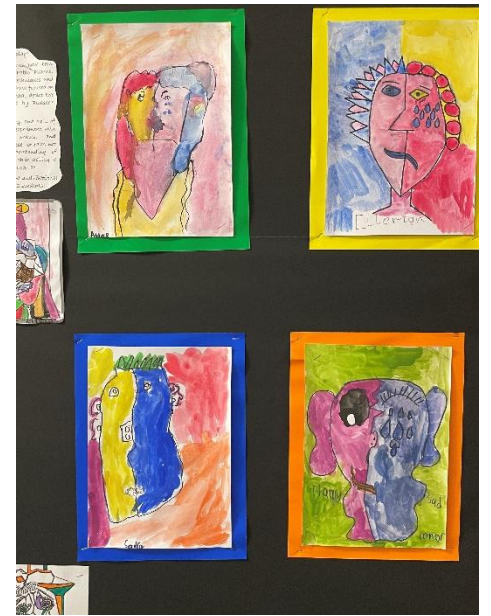
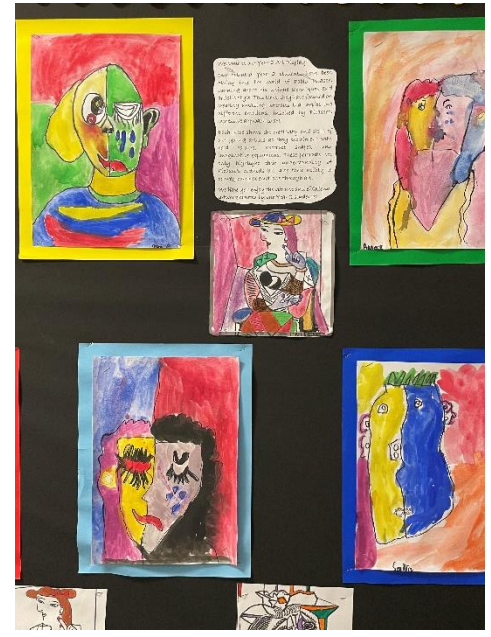
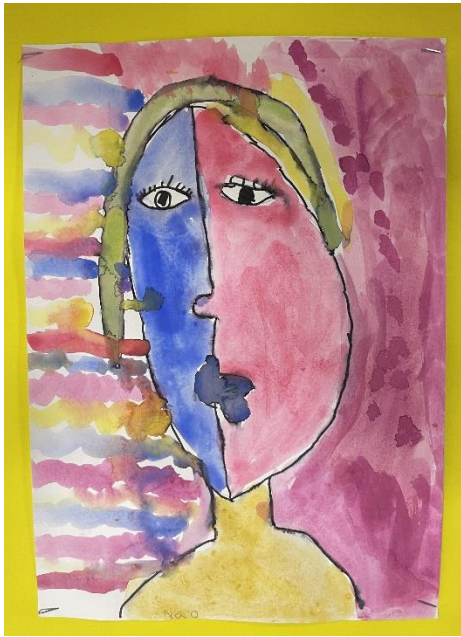


MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Exploring Picasso's Genius

Our talented students have been diving into the world of Pablo Picasso, exploring his unique techniques and bold artistic style! They've been working on creating eye-catching portraits that show two contrasting emotions, inspired by Picasso's expressive approach to art.

Each piece reflects their creativity and growing skills as they experiment with vibrant colours, abstract shapes, and imaginative expressions. The portraits not only capture the essence of Picasso's methods but also showcase their ability to express complex emotions through art.



Visit from a Nutritionist

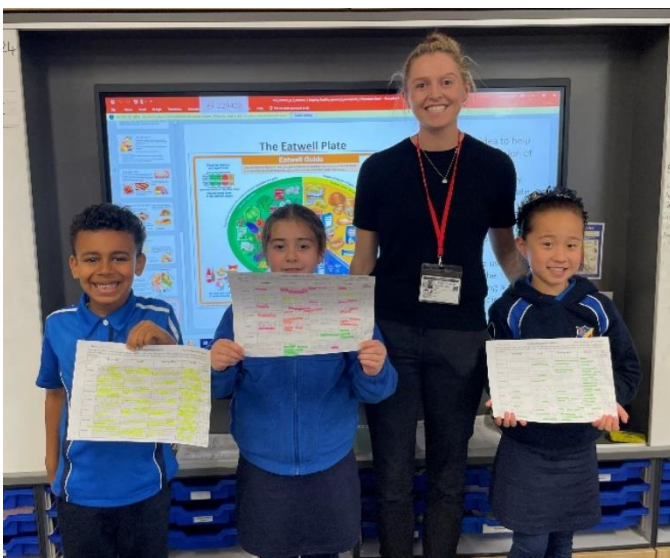
Ellie, the nutritionist from Holroyd Howe, visited the classes in Years 1 to 6 on Wednesday to educate us about the wonders of nutrition and healthy food. We also got to sample some tasty crudité's with hummus dip!

We were particularly delighted to welcome Ellie into Year 3, because part of our science topic this term is all about healthy eating. We learnt about the different food groups and the Eatwell Plate.

The Eatwell Plate is a simple idea to help us know what proportion of each group of foods we should eat to stay healthy. We now know all about the importance of having a balanced diet that contains plenty of carbohydrates, fruits and vegetables, moderate amounts of protein and only a small amount of fats and sugars.

For homework we have been keeping a food diary, highlighting the numbers of fruits and vegetables that we are eating each day and we enjoyed sharing these with Ellie.

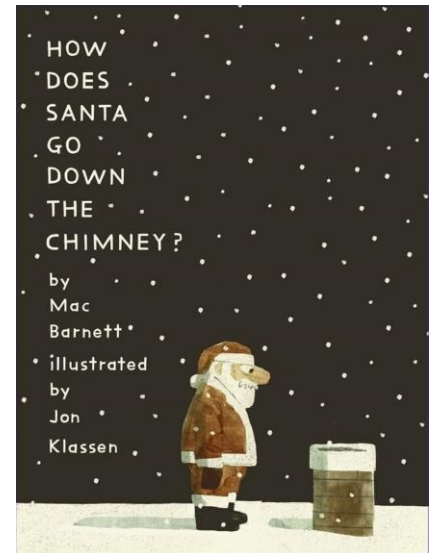
Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher



KS1 Story Club

It has been another great week in story club! Here is another recommendation from one of our members who has been getting us into the Christmas spirit early:

How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney by Mac Barnett: *This is a funny book! It is great for Christmas but a good story all year!* - Eimear Year 2



Year 1 Art

Year 1 have been exploring their understanding of colours. We identified the primary colours, red, yellow and blue. Then we made predictions and mixed colours to paint our own colour wheels.



HH Nutritionist Visit

Year 1 enjoyed our visit from Ellie the nutritionist who taught us about having a balanced plate and the different things we can include. We thought about why carbohydrates, fruits and vegetables, protein and calcium are all important for our bodies. Then we enjoyed some delicious vegetables and hummus!



Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher

Mathematics in Year 6

This week Year 6 have been paying attention to fractions and the problem-solving situations that can arise from fractions.

They have used a range of different problem-solving skills: using logical procedures for decision making, interpreting pie charts, looking for symmetry, applying what they know to a problem where it seems that there is 'no way in', finding patterns in seemingly random results as well as interpreting complex instructions.

In addition, they have practised using various different aspects of fractions: equivalency of fractions, converting fractions to decimals and vice-versa, comparing sizes of different fractions and mixed numbers, adding and subtracting fractions as well as dividing them.

Part of their work will go on display upstairs, as many of them chose to complete quilts where they had to colour in shapes according to various different calculations using fractions.

I will leave you with the investigation that many of them tried out on Wednesday, which comes from the NRICH site:

There's a room in your school that has three tables in it with plenty of space for chairs to go round. Table 1 has one block of chocolate on it, table 2 has two blocks of chocolate on it and, guess what, table 3 has three blocks of chocolate on it.

Now ... outside the room is a class of children. Thirty of them all lined up ready to go in and eat the chocolate. These children are allowed to come in one at a time and can enter when the person in front of them has sat down. When a child enters the room, they ask themselves this question:

"If the chocolate on the table I sit at is to be shared out equally when I sit down, which would be the best table to sit at?"

It is fairly easy for the first few children to decide where to sit, but the question gets harder to answer as the number of children entering the room increases.

Most members of the class solved the problem for 16 pupils (the number of children in Year 6), and some went further to solve the problem for greater numbers of children. A few children even went as far as noticing the patterns that cropped up in their findings and commenting on what they saw.

NOW: Can you solve this problem (with your children, if you like) and present the results in a convincing way?

Year 6 did!

I am indebted to Mrs Ellisdon for allowing me to try out this problem with Year 6. They certainly got a lot out of it.

Fr Rudolf Loewenstein - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

Preparing for Bebras



Calling all parents and pupils from Years 3-6!

The UK Bebras Challenge is here again and helps pupils to a new way of thinking. You can get a feel for the style of the problems by viewing previous challenges, which we will be practising in Computing lessons over the next few weeks. The Challenge will begin after October half term, the week beginning 4th November during Computing lessons.

Please go to www.bebas.uk and click past *Challenges*, select your age group and try out some questions. You will be told straight away whether you are correct and an explanation is given.

Learn about computational thinking skills with BBC bitesize

The BBC have produced some excellent resources for pupils wishing to learn about computational thinking.

This challenge is for parents!

Troy has a collection of gems.

He ranks his gems from his overall favourite to his least favourite.

Sarah knows which gems are in Troy's collection, but she does not know how he has ranked them.

Sarah has a plan to find out which gem is Troy's overall favourite:

- Sarah chooses four of Troy's gems and asks Troy: "Out of this group of four, which gem is your favourite?"
- Sarah chooses a new set of four gems and asks her question again.
- Then she chooses a third set of four gems and asks her question for the last time.



Note: When Sarah chooses her second and third set of four gems, she may sometimes include gems she has chosen before.

Question:

If Sarah is to successfully find Troy's overall favourite gem, what is the largest possible number of gems in Troy's collection?

8 10 11 or 12

PE Update

It has been another exciting week of PE at Saint Christina's, with lots of progress being made across the school.

Our youngest learners in Nursery and Reception have been really enjoying their PE lessons. The focus has been on listening and responding to instructions through a variety of chasing and running games. These activities have helped them develop key skills like jumping, running and negotiating space safely. Year 1, have been working on their coordination and teamwork skills through football and netball-based games. The children have been exploring ball-handling techniques and while practising aiming at nearby targets.



Next week Year 5 and 6 have their Inter House netball competition next Wednesday which should be an excellent afternoon of netball. The Key Stage 2 classes have spent time this week working on their positioning and understanding of the game in netball and are starting to get the hang of some of the tactics. In football we have focussed on shooting and creating space.

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed their first football match of the year against Trevor Roberts on Monday. The children put in an excellent effort against 3 very strong teams and were well beaten but did not give up throughout the games. Well done to the star players from the games who were Oliver and Sadra who both made several fantastic saves in goal and Isabella made lots of fantastic tackles and blocks in defence.



On Wednesday the Year 5 and 6 netball team took part in an afternoon tournament hosted by London Collegiate School. The standard of netball was extremely high and our children put in a fantastic effort throughout the afternoon. They took a little time to adapt to the 5 a side netball rules but made some excellent performances in the later part of the competition drawing and winning their final 4 matches. Well, done to Alice M who was awarded the star player form the team.



Next week Year 5 begin their intensive 2-week swimming course at Swiss Cottage Leisure centre. The sessions are designed to develop the children's all round swimming technique across all of the strokes as well as learning some important water safety skills.

Upcoming fixtures

| Date | Against | Yr/Team | Venue | Time |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------|-------------|
| Monday 7th October | Devonshire House | Yr6 A and B Mixed Netball | Away | 16.00-17.00 |
| Thursday 10th October | SHHS | Yr5A and B Girls Netball | Away | 16.00-16.30 |
| Monday 14th October | St Christopher's | Yr6 A and B Mixed netball | Away | 16.00-17.00 |
| Tuesday 15th October | Southbank | Yr5/6 Mixed Football | Home | 15.30-16.30 |

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport

Cookery Club

In the past few weeks, children in cookery club have enjoyed chopping vegetables and mixing ingredients. They have adored working as a team and also trying new tastes and textures. On the menu so far has been orange juice, chickpea salad with Greek feta, gazpacho soup and guacamole. Delicious!

Miss Edina – Reception TA



History Research: Black History Month 2024

Black History Month is an important opportunity to recognise and celebrate the contributions of black people to British society.

Black people have often been at the forefront of history through social justice movements, through fighting against oppression and through paving the way for change. This has not always been recognised or included in the narrative of the story of our nation.

To celebrate Black History Month, we would like to invite Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children to research an inspirational black person.

The children can display their information in whatever form they like – they could make a poster, a PowerPoint presentation, a poem or even record a video of themselves presenting their research. It's their chance to be as creative as they like and a really good opportunity to participate in your child's learning, if you wish.

We encourage your child to bring in their information by **Thursday 17th October** where they will share what they have learnt with their peers. Each entry will receive 3 house points.

Thank you all so much for your fantastic support.

Ms Sephton and Mr Burke

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 year and we are continuing to collect non-perishable food this half term.

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 11th October.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

Mr Burke and the Charity Prefects

Saint Christina's Food Collection



REMINDERS

NUT FREE SCHOOL

We have a number of pupils and staff in the school who have serious nut allergies. Please will you ensure that you do not give your child any nuts or nut products (e.g., Nutella) to bring into school.

MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

Please do not send your child into school with any medication on their person. Medication can only be administered by qualified personnel. The only medication that we can administer, therefore, is prescribed medication e.g., Antibiotics, Inhalers, EpiPen's. Children should not be sent into school with any other type of medication e.g., Cold and Flu medicines / Calpol / Lozenges etc. If your child is unwell and in need of medication, they should remain at home until they feel better.

If your child does have any medication, please contact Miss Georgia, and she will ask you to fill in the relevant forms and keep the medication safely in the School Office. Thank you for your co-operation.

Late collection of children

Please be aware that if you enrol one child into a club and need to put another in Homework club, there is a charge of £15 for the session. This is necessary to cover the costs of staffing the provision. Additionally, children who are collected late at the end of the school day or after a club will be sent to Homework Club and parents will be charged accordingly. Homework Club runs from Monday to Thursday from 3.30-5.00pm and costs £15 per session. A late fee of £50 is charged if children are collected after 5.00pm which is when the school officially closes for the end of the day.

Parking

Whilst we are delighted to see that Westminster have finally awarded us a keep clear school zone at the front entrance, we note that the parking regime has been updated on the Camden side of the road to include more double yellow lines. Please be aware that we expect enforcement to be vigilant and encourage you to park safely and with consideration for our neighbours in areas where stopping is permitted.

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. 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

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

Safety around drop-off

A polite reminder – if you are dropping your child off for breakfast club or a morning music lesson, **your child must be supervised until the doors open at 8.00am and under no circumstances left unattended.**

Retrieving forgotten items

For practical and safety reasons it is not always possible for children to return to school to retrieve forgotten items e.g. homework, snack boxes, coats etc. Once school has finished, the teachers either use their classroom for meetings or the classrooms may be empty with no one there to supervise your child whilst they are on the premises. It is rare that any oversight will be seminal and that there will be drastic repercussions should anything be temporarily irretrievable. Any belongings left in classrooms can be collected the next day during regular school hours.

Dates for your diary

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| W/C Monday 7 th October | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 5 swimming lessons begin (2-week course) |
| Monday 7 th October | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 6A & B Mixed Netball Fixture (Away) |
| Thursday 10 th October | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 6A and Year 5A and B Girls Netball |
| Friday 11 th October | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Y3 Harvest Mass |
| W/C Monday 14 th October | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent/Teacher Meetings – All week |
| Monday 14 th October | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 6A & B Mixed Netball Fixture (Away) |
| Tuesday 15 th October | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Optional Nasal Flu Immunisations – details to followYear 5 and 6 Boys Football Fixture (Home) |
| Wednesday 16 th October | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Open Morning for Prospective Parents – 09.15-11.30 |
| Friday 18th October | <ul style="list-style-type: none">NO MASSSCHOOL CLOSSES AT USUAL TIME FOR THE HALF-TERM HOLIDAYParents' Link Monster Mash Disco - PM |
| HALF-TERM HOLIDAY – MONDAY 21st OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER (INCLUSIVE) | |
| Monday 4th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Children & Staff returnYear 5A & B Girls Netball Fixture (Away) |
| Tuesday 5 th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Individual Photographs – children to wear full winter uniform |

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| Wednesday 6 th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Mixed Football Fixture (Home) |
| Friday 8 th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remembrance Mass led by Year 2 – 2.45pm |
| W/C Monday 11 th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-Bullying Week |
| Monday 11 th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 and 6 Mixed Netball Fixture (Home) |
| Tuesday 12 th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery Parents Coffee Morning - 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – details to follow |
| Friday 15 th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendship Friday – children may wear their own clothes to school and make a voluntary donation to Kidscape Anti-Bullying Charity – details of how to donate to follow Mass led by Year 6 – 2.45pm |
| Tuesday 19 th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Art trip |
| Wednesday 20 th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1 Parents Coffee Morning - 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – details to follow |
| Friday 22 nd November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Fixture (Away) St Cecilia House Mass – 2.45pm |
| Tuesday 26 th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 History trip |
| Wednesday 27 th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 2 Parents Coffee Morning - 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – details to follow Year 3 Class Football Fixture (Home) |
| Thursday 28 th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visiting Pantomime (The Selfish Giant) for Nursery to Year 6 |
| Friday 29 th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 First Holy Communion Enrolment Mass – 2.45pm |
| Tuesday 3 rd December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Consortium Exams in school |
| Thursday 5 th December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Girls Football Tournament (Away) |
| Friday 6 th December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Mass – 2.45pm |
| Monday 9 th December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 4 A and B Mixed Netball Fixture |
| Tuesday 10 th December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EYFS Nativity – 9.30am (refreshments from 9.00am) |
| Wednesday 11 th December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KS1 Nativity – 9.30am (refreshments from 9.00am) |
| Thursday 12 th December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KS2 Carol Service - PM |
| FRIDAY 13th DECEMBER | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCHOOL CLOSSES AT MIDDAY FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY |
| CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – MONDAY 16th DECEMBER 2024 TO MONDAY 6th JANUARY 2025 (INCLUSIVE) | |
| Monday 6 th January 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff INSET |
| Tuesday 7th January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children return |
| Thursday 9 th January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Netball fixture (Away) |
| Friday 10 th January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mass led by Staff – 2.45pm |

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Monday 13 th January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5/6 Mixed Football Fixture (Home) |
| Tuesday 14 th January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutritionist Workshop |
| Friday 17 th January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 4 Mass – 2.45pm |
| Monday 20 th January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5A & B Girls Netball Fixture (Away) |
| Wednesday 22 nd January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5A & B Girls Netball Fixture (Away) |
| Friday 24 th January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Mass led by Year 2– 2.45pm |
| W/C Monday 27 th January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 4 Swimming (for 2 weeks) |
| Friday 31 st January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Mass – 2.45pm |
| Monday 3 rd February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 & 6 Netball Fixture (Away) |

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/>