

### **Bulletin**

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

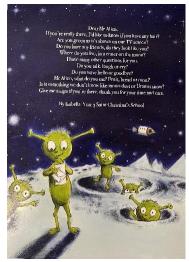
Dear Parents,

I am delighted to add to my comments from last week and express how well the children have settled into the new term! Everyone is getting used to their new routines and quickly picking up the way that we do things in our new classes. I am very impressed – long may it continue.

Over the week we have had a few notable events. On Thursday afternoon we had our first fire practice of the term, introducing the children to what we have to do if there is an emergency. I was blown away by how well the reception children, in particular, dealt with the situation and, without any foreknowledge of the event, were able to deliver a textbook evacuation. The children in Years 1-6 also enjoyed an assembly on Thursday where our Visiting Music Teachers demonstrated their instruments with a view to offering their services to those families who would like their child to take instrumental lessons. More details are available from Mrs Bryant, our Director of Music, so please contact us so that we can get you started, if you are not yet signed up. The children have also been able to enjoy a Judo demonstration with a view to seeing if any would like to join the club. It was great to see two of our current pupils demonstrating their moves and worth noting that for two years they have been competing in national and international competitions and building up their medal collections. Do consider judo for your child – details can be got from the School Office.

In assembly today, we were able to celebrate a whole host of wonderful things that have already been achieved so far this term. There have been a large number of children 'spotted' over the week for hard work, perseverance and

kindness and so their citations were all read out in assembly. I was delighted to give out a large number of singing and instrumental music exam certificates. The majority of the children work towards the ABRSM grade levels and it was good to see new entrants at Grade 1 all the way through to Grade 3 already this term. In addition to this, it was a pleasure to hand out our first LAMDA certificate today – LAMDA is something the children can work towards in a similar vein to those who learn an instrument, but it is instead around Drama and Public Performance. Finally, I was absolutely delighted to give very special recognition to a member of our Year 4 cohort who came third in a national poetry competition in the summer with her poem, 'Dear Mr Alien'. She has already received her prize from the Society of Heads, however, we like to encourage intellectual curiosity and thus I felt I wanted to recognise the scale of the achievement a little more. In so doing, I was able to persuade a published children's author and illustrator, Sharon Rentta, to do her magic with the poem, so now we now have a happy girl who has her own illustrated poem to take home and hang on her wall.



I would like to remind those parents who are new to SCS that we have our New Parent Social Evening on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September from 5.30 – 7pm. This is a chance for you to meet your child's teacher informally and find out a little more about how well things are settling. At the same time, you will have the opportunity to meet other parents.

I would also like to thank your Parent Link team who invited me this morning to their AGM this morning. It was really lovely to recall all the amazing and wonderful things that PL organised to support so many things that we do within

our community, over the last year. Thank you again for helping fund the IPads and supporting so many other initiatives. We are currently still building up funds to refurbish our library so this will remain a focus over the term, but will be a wonderful thing to achieve for EVERY child in the school.

Finally, I wanted to make you aware of an unusual collection that you may be able to help with. Sister Anne is collecting mobility devices to give to organisations that are working in areas of conflict around the world. If you have any crutches, wheel chairs, walkers, sticks around your home that you keep meaning to dispose of, or no longer have use for, please will you be in contact with Sr Anne (you can do this through the Office) who will be delighted to take them off your hands.

Yours sincerely,

Alastair Gloag Headteacher

# **KS2** Collective Worship

Collective Worship was led by children in Year 6 this week. In the Gospel, Jesus spoke the ordinary words, 'Be opened', with extraordinary power, healing a deaf man who couldn't stop telling everyone about it! We learnt what it means to allow Jesus to open our ears and mouths so that we can hear and share the Good News.

Then, looking up to Heaven, He sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha", that is, "Be opened".

Mark 7:34

### The Key messages:

We understand that Jesus heals and changes people by the power of God.

We know that, if we allow Him, Jesus will open our ears and mouths so we can hear and share the Good News through our words and actions



The Year 6's read an interactive story of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves





Well done to Year 6 for leading a super first Collective Worship of the year and for reminding us about our Golden Thread of loving our neighbour as ourselves.

Mrs Ellisdon - Head of KS2

### **Nursery**

The children in Nursery have had an exciting and action-packed first few days! They've been busy learning new routines, making friends, and growing in confidence every day. Nursery has settled in wonderfully, becoming familiar with the class rules and routines. They've met their specialist teachers, made new friends, and explored both the indoor and outdoor environments. A big milestone for many has been enjoying lunch at school for the first time! The children have also dived into exploring different resources, such as making food out of playdough to serve in the home corner, creating owl puppets to act out the story *Owl Babies*, and building various vehicles with Mobilo or measuring each other with measuring tapes.

Ms Randle – Nursery Teacher

## Reception

Reception has been busy this week settling into new routines, class expectations and learning more about one another. The children have loved exploring the Early Years environments, both inside and out. In the playdough area, children have put their baking hats on, baking many a cupcake! In the role play area children have been making some very important phone calls. In the creative area, children have been mixing paints to make different skin tones and drawing self-portraits. Building vehicles and racing them has been a popular activity in the small construction area. Outside, children whipped up some appetising soups in the mud kitchen and loved the more sensory activities such as the water and sand trays. We've started easing into Maths sessions together by focusing on a number of the day, and into phonics by reviewing our set 1 sounds. Overall, it's been a bustling week in Reception and we can't wait to see what next week has in store!

Ms Nunes and Ms Williams – Reception Teachers

## Year 1

It has been a wonderful start to Year 1! We have loved making friends and getting to know one another. We have been introducing our new topics such as Our Local Area in Geography and Seasonal Changes in Science. We have loved taking on challenges in maths and writing our own sentences about different animals as we learn about sentence structure. We are very excited for the year ahead!







Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher

### Year 2



We are so proud of how well our Year 2 children have settled into their new school year!

It's been a pleasure to welcome our new starters, who have quickly become part of the class. The children have worked together to create class rules and set learning targets. They've also started their reading and enjoyed getting involved in some fun maths activities.

What a great start to the year!

Mr Burke - Year 2 Teacher

## Year 3

Year 3 had a wonderful first week back at school. We welcomed our new children; Mani, Tallulah and Theodor and the whole class has settled so well into Key Stage 2. We are really enjoying having our own desks and choosing from the salad bar at lunchtime. We have been finding out all about the Romans in History and learning about a healthy diet in science.

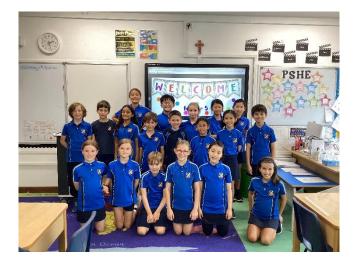
#### Ms Sephton – Year 3 Teacher

## Year 4

Year 4 had a wonderful first week back at school. We extended a very warm welcome to our new students; Cecilia, Alejandro, Imad, Bobby, Lochlan, Farah and Camilla. Our returning students did a fantastic job of supporting our new students both in class and on the playground. We created neighbourhood maps in art to get to know one another better and learned what exciting subjects we have coming up this term, including Ancient Egypt and Biology.

#### Ms Farquhar – Year 4 Teacher

### Year 5:



Year 5 have settled in wonderfully to their new classroom and routines! This week they started their new class novel, Street Child. The story which is set during Victorian times has already proven a hit with the class! In Reasoning lessons, the class logged onto Atom learning for the first time, which is a great platform to help us prepare for 11+ Exams. Lots of clubs started this week including debate club, Latin club, Maths club and cosy club! The children are very excited for the term ahead!

Ms O'Leary – Year 4 Teacher

# Year 6



The children in Year 6 have returned to school with great enthusiasm and happiness, ready to take on the challenges which lie ahead. They have had a fantastic start to what will be a very busy year. This term marks an important phase for them, as they will be focussing on their 11+ exams which they will take throughout the term. I have been impressed with their focus and mature approach to their learning already. The children have embraced their new prefect roles with dedication, demonstrating good leadership and responsibility.

#### Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Class Teacher

# **Mathematics at Saint Christina's**

This week, children have been racking their brains over some of the following problems:

- You have a collection of identical equilateral triangles. What different shapes can you make with 2 triangles? 3 triangles? 4 triangles?... and are there any patterns you can find with the total number of different shapes you can make? NB: You will find it helpful to use isometric paper (which you can download from the internet) to draw out your triangle pictures/shapes, and if you are sufficiently interested you can check out the shapes by searching for 'polyiamonds' on the internet.
- 2. How many different words can you make using three different letters? Four different letters? And what proportion of these words are nonsense words? NB Some of Year Three found all six words that you could make with three letters, but the jury is still out on how many words can be made with four different letters...one member of Year Three found thirteen different words in under ten minutes!
- 3. I have three rods, which measure 6cm, 11cm and 9cm. How can I make a length of 14cm by using all of these rods and not breaking or bending any of them?
- 4. What is the distance between a seahorse that is 2m below sea level and a seagull flying 9m above sea level?

Perhaps you might like to try some of these problems out with your children and see how they get on with them!

#### Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

## **PE Update**

What a fantastic summer of sport it has been with so much sport to watch, including the Euros, Olympics and Paralympics to name a few. It has been lively catching up with the children and hearing about all of their participation in sport throughout the summer break.

We have had a great start to our sports sessions this year, and the children have thrown themselves back into our sporting program. The enthusiasm and energy from the children have been wonderful, and we have had some excellent lessons.

The Key Stage 2 classes this half term will be focusing on football during their single lessons and netball during their double lessons. We have had a focus on dribbling in football, working on their close control and movement with the ball. In netball, we have spent time recapping chest passing and movement around the court and have started to apply these ideas into small-sided games. The younger classes have enjoyed a variety of spatial awareness and running games, getting children to negotiate space effectively and respond quickly to instructions.



It has been brilliant to see so many children attending the after-school sporting clubs, which are on offer this time. The first sessions of the football club and football academy were greatly enjoyed, and it was lovely to see the children getting straight to work in the netball clubs. There are still spaces available in several of the clubs, so if your child would like to sign up, then please contact the office.





I am very much looking forward to working with our new Sports Captains Alex and Milana from Year 6. We met for the first time this week to discuss their role, and they came up with some great ideas to further develop sport throughout the school. Please see below some more information about their sporting interests.



Hí, my name is Alex. It is an honour to be Sports Captain this year. My favourite subject at school has always been PE. I love all sports but my favourites are football, tennis, swimming and skiing. I play football in two different leagues and I train many times a week. My sporting role model is Kylian Mbappe.



Hí, I am Milana and I am very excited to be Sports Captain this year. I love all sports and enjoy PE. My favourite sports are netball, hockey, football and tennis. I play in all of the sports teams at school and love playing GD in netball.

We have a very busy term ahead with lots of sporting opportunities. Year 5 has their 2-week intensive swimming course starting on the 7<sup>th</sup> October, with Year 3 and 4 swimming courses planned for later in the school year. We have a huge number of fixtures against other local schools organised and several Sporting House competitions to look forward to, including football, netball, and fitness.

Date	Against	Yr/Team	Venue	Time
Monday 23rd September	Trevor Roberts	Yr5/6 Mixed Football	Home	16.00-17.00
Wednesday 25th September	Kerem	Yr5/6 Mixed Football	Home	13.30-14.30
Friday 27th September	Gower School	Yr5/6 Boys Football	Away	14.00-15.00
Monday 30th September	Trevor Roberts	Yr3/4 Mixed Football	Home	16.00-17.01
Wednesday 2nd October	National Collegiate	Yr6 Girls Netball Tournament	Away	12.00-15.15
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

## **Musical Instrument Taster Lessons**

On Thursday morning the children were treated to performances on the flute, violin and guitar given by our visiting instrumental teachers. The teachers are now offering free 10-minute taster lessons so that children can try out the instrument. If you would like your child to have a taster lesson, please sign up using the link here:

#### Instrument Taster Lessons sign-up

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly (<u>ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk</u>).

#### Liz Bryant - Director of Music

## **Guitar and Ukulele**

If your child would like to have guitar or ukulele lessons, there are some spaces available. Please contact Keith Taylor at

• <u>ktaylor@saintchristinas.org.uk</u> KS1and KS2 only.

There are also spaces in the Ukulele club which takes place on a Thursday morning at 8am.

If your child is interested in joining the club, please contact Keith Taylor at

<u>ktaylor@saintchristinas.org.uk</u>

Mr Taylor – Guitar an Ukulele Teacher

# **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 in work** - 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.

We will be looking at each of these principals throughout the academic year. The principal we will be focussing on this half term is Caring for Creation.

The earth and all it contains has been created by God. It is a gift, given to all for the good of all. The resources of the earth are not infinite. They have been given to us and to future generations. How we have treated and continue to treat the earth has profound impacts on people now and in the future. Too often we have destroyed elements of the earth for a quick gain. At a General Audience in May 2014, Pope Francis described our destruction of creation as 'like saying to God, 'I don't like it' ... Care for creation is care for God's gift to us, and it means saying to God, 'thank you, I am the custodian of creation, but to enable it to progress, never to destroy your gift''. As stewards, or custodians, of creation we have a special role to play. How we care for the earth is another sign of how we are Christians, how we show God's love in the world and put our love into action.

As well as introducing to the children to the concept of caring for creation, will be looking at what it means to be a 'good steward' and how they could look after our world. It is important that the children understand that the way we treat our common home affects everyone, in every country, now and in the future.

# 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 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

Mr Burke and the Charity Prefects

# **Parents Link Committee Updates**

#### Nearly new uniform sale:

Help support our Nearly New Uniform Sale! Please bring in your uniform donations by Friday, 20th September. The sale will take place on Friday, 27th September at 3pm. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

#### First Event of the year - Monster Mash!

Yes, the Mash is back, a school disco so loved, even other schools talk about it. Sold out the past two years running, our annual school disco returns, and is a special opportunity for parents, students and staff to come together for an epic evening of fun for all. No one's left out, with special early start time for EYFS and Yr1 families, before doors open to all at 6.30pm. Get ready to start brainstorming your costume ideas! We're bringing back prizes this year for the best individual and family group outfits, so get creative. Dust off those dance moves and mark your calendar—don't miss out! Join us on Friday, October 18th, for a night of fun as we do the Monster Mash!

#### Monster Mash Volunteers - we need you <3

We have a theme for this year's Mash but we need your hands to make it happen. If you'd like to help, make this year's decorations ahead of the event, please join us in the Arts Hall on either or both of the following dates; Friday Oct 4th 10-11.45am Friday Oct 11th 09.00-11.00 am If you don't have time/don't like painting/can't wield a glue gun, but still want to help, please save your large cardboard boxes for us! We will also be seeking volunteers to help run stands and stalls on the night too, so there will be a chance for everyone to contribute in some way. Watch this space.

#### **Class Reps**

Thank you to all of you who have offered to act as your class rep. The School is still looking for a Year 5 rep, so please do drop us a line if you would be prepared to act as the conduit between School and the group. The role is not onerous, but really important.

#### **Parent Link**



#### 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

If a parent enrols one child into a club and needs to put another in Homework club, they will be charged a fee of £15 for the second child. 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 will be charged if children are collected after 5.00pm.

#### **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 8am and under no circumstances left unattended.

Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul> <li>New Parent Social Evening - 17:00-19:00 – details to follow</li> </ul>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	• Y5 Mass – 14:45-15:15
	PLEASE BRING IN ANY UNIFORM DONATIONS
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	• Year 5/6 Mixed Football Fixture (Home)
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul> <li>London Fire Brigade Visiting – Year 2 &amp; Year 5</li> </ul>
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Fixture (Home)

## **Dates for your diary**

Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul> <li>Macmillan Coffee Morning 9:00-10:00 in the Arts Hall</li> <li>Year 5 &amp; 6 Boys Football Fixture (Away)</li> <li>Y4 Mass</li> </ul>
	NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALE 3PM
W/C Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Individual 11+ Meetings for Year 6 parents – details to follow
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Nutrition talks by Holroyd Howe Nutritionist for Years 1-6
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	<ul> <li>Reception Parents Coffee Morning 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – details to follow</li> <li>Year 6 Girls Netball Tournament (Away)</li> </ul>
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul> <li>Online Safety Workshop for parents 09.00-10.00</li> <li>Online Safety talk for Years 3-6</li> <li>KS2/ST Francis House Mass</li> </ul>
W/C Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 5 swimming lessons begin (2-week course)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	• Year 6A & B Mixed Netball Fixture (Away)
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6A and Year 5A and B Girls Netball
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Y3 Mass
W/C Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent/Teacher Meetings – details to follow
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6A & B Mixed Netball Fixture (Away)
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul> <li>Optional Nasal Flu Immunisations – details to follow</li> <li>Year 5 and 6 Boys Football Fixture (Home)</li> </ul>
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Morning for Prospective Parents – 09.15-11.30
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul> <li>NO MASS</li> <li>SCHOOL CLOSES AT USUAL TIME FOR THE HALF-TERM HOLIDAY</li> </ul>
HALF-TERM HOLID	DAY – MONDAY 21 <sup>st</sup> OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 1 <sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER (INCLUSIVE)
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul> <li>Children &amp; Staff return</li> <li>Year 5A &amp; B Girls Netball Fixture (Away)</li> </ul>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual Photographs
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul> <li>Nursery Parents Coffee Morning - 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – details to follow</li> <li>Year 6 Mixed Football Fixture (Home)</li> </ul>
W/C Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 and 6 Mixed Netball Fixture (Home)
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul> <li>Year 1 Parents Coffee Morning - 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – details to follow</li> </ul>
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	• Friendship Friday – children may wear their own clothes to school and make a donation to Kidscape Anti-Bullying Charity – details to follow

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	• Year 5 Art trip		
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	• Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Fixture (Away)		
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 History trip		
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul> <li>Year 2 Parents Coffee Morning - 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – details to follow</li> </ul>		
	Year 3 Class Football Fixture (Home)		
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Visiting Pantomime (The Selfish Giant) for Nursery to Year 6		
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 Girls Football Tournament (Away)		
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 4 A and B Mixed Netball Fixture		
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Nativity – 9.30am (refreshments from 9.00am)		
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity – 9.30am (refreshments from 9.00am)		
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Carol Service- PM		
FRIDAY 13 <sup>th</sup> DECEMBER	SCHOOL CLOSES AT MIDDAY FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY		
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – MONDAY 16 <sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024 TO MONDAY 6 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 (INCLUSIVE)			
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff INSET		
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Children return		

### ABOVE TIMES/DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please note: Policies can be found on the School Website – please click link below: <u>https://www.saintchristinas.org.uk/our-school/policies/</u>