



Saint Christina's
Pre-Prep and Prep School
for boys & girls aged 3-11

Bulletin

Friday 15th November 2024

Dear Parents,

I write to you at the end of what has been a wonderful week at Saint Christina's. The older children have been participating in the Primary Maths Challenge, while the Nursery parents had the opportunity to meet with teachers over coffee at the Nursery Parents' Coffee Morning. This week's Mass focused on the importance of caring for the less fortunate members of our society.

At the heart of our activities this week has been the theme of Anti-Bullying Week. You will find more details in Mr. Burke's piece about the efforts each class has made to celebrate respect, kindness, and individuality. The children have also embraced the fun of wearing "odd socks," a symbolic reminder that we are all unique and special, and that everyone deserves the right to be themselves and to be happy. It was heartening to hear the children in assembly today sharing ideas on how we can all "love our neighbour".

Additionally, we held Eco-Committee elections this week, and I was delighted to announce the new committee in today's assembly, along with the Eco Prefects. I look forward to seeing the exciting ideas the committee will bring forward to help make our school as green and eco-friendly as possible.



I wish everyone a peaceful and pleasant weekend.

Warm regards,

Simon Hirst
Deputy Head



Anti-Bullying Week 2024

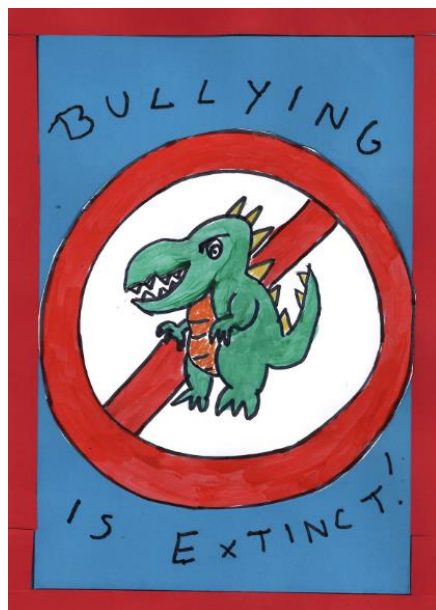
This Anti-Bullying Week, our school came together to celebrate respect, kindness, and individuality in meaningful ways.

In Nursery, children enjoyed stories about friendship and discussed what it means to be a good friend. Through role-play and problem-solving activities, they learned who to turn to for help and shared kindness by making friendship cards to exchange with classmates.

In Reception, children wrote "friendship recipes" in their journals and decorated odd socks to celebrate individuality. Throughout the week, children across the school wore odd socks to celebrate uniqueness.

Year 1 explored kindness, empathy, and ways to stand up against bullying. They wore and designed odd socks and discussed what bullying is and how to respond if they see it happening. They brainstormed ways to spread kindness, like including others in games and using kind words, creating a supportive and friendly classroom environment.

Year 2 channelled their creativity into designing anti-bullying posters and used the computers to create their own anti-bullying songs, spreading messages of kindness and respect through both art and music. Year 2 and Year 5 also enjoyed buddy time, building connections across year groups.



Year 3 began the week by discussing types of bullying, including physical, verbal, and cyberbullying, and the importance of not being a bystander. They celebrated World Kindness Day on November 13th by creating posters for Anti-Bullying Week and World Kindness Day, which are now proudly displayed around the school.

Year 4 explored respect and kindness in their creative writing, inspired by their class novel's main character who recently faced conflict with empathy. They wrote stories featuring a main character who responds to challenges with kindness. In PSHE, they acted out respectful and

disrespectful scenarios to deepen their understanding of positive decision-making.

In Year 6, children expressed the theme of respect through poetry, capturing their thoughts on kindness and empathy.



Respect

Respect is the thing,
That shines more than bling,
That helps to grow
The kindness that we sow.

Respect is so important,
As it helps to complement
How wonderfully we should treat people,
And the fact that our kindness should be as high as a steeple.

Respect is a choice, we can make everyday,
In all that we do, in all that we say.
It's a path we can choose,
It's a tool we can use.

By using respect,
We cannot neglect,
Every person's uniqueness
And save them from loneliness.

It helps us to think,
More about our actions
So that in a blink,
Our goodness spreads to all nations.

Respect is the thread,
That bounds us all together,
So let's show respect,
And win this tough battle.

By Apolline Year 6

They also created a "Kindness Tree," adding leaves with positive words and actions they've shared with each other, creating a beautiful display of friendship and respect.

Our week culminated in Friendship Friday, where children wore their own clothes, raised funds for Kidscape, and participated in an anti-bullying assembly to reinforce the importance of standing up for others.

It's been a wonderful week filled with acts of kindness and a celebration of friendship and respect.

Mr Burke – Year 2 Teacher and Head of KS1

Pen Pals

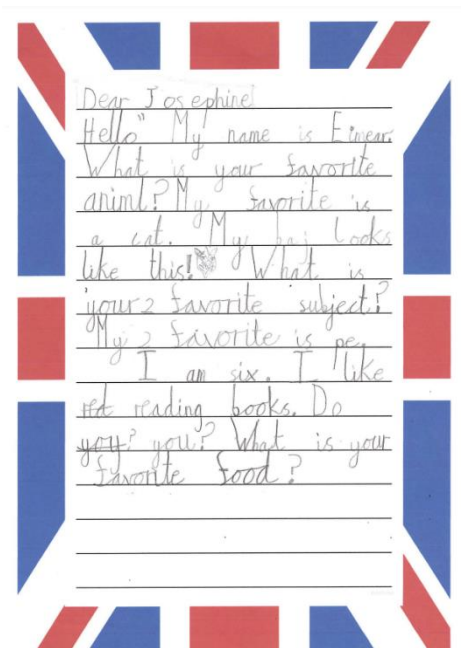
This week Year 1 and 2 were excited to write their very first letters to their new pen pals at our sister school, Ancillae Assumpta Academy in Pennsylvania.

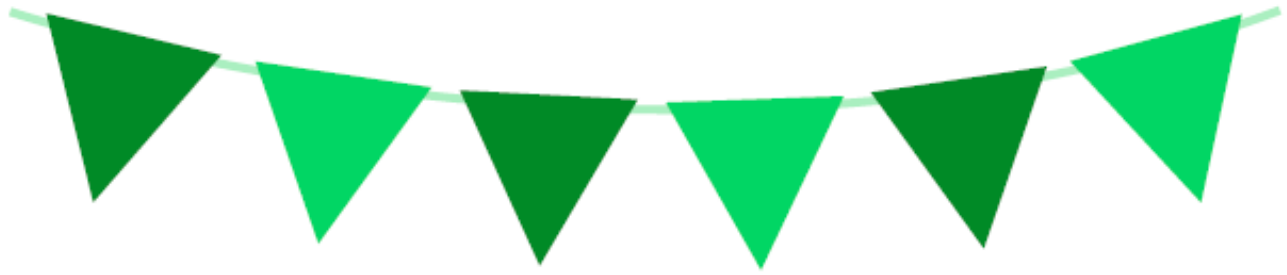
The children were eager to introduce themselves and share stories about their lives, interests, and what they're learning at school.

It was a wonderful experience for the children to make another connection with friends across the pond, and they can't wait to hear back.

We look forward to continuing this special exchange and building a lasting friendship with our pen pals in the USA.

Mr Burke and Miss Higgins





Thank you

St Christina's School

Hosting Coffee Morning in 2024 & raising over £3600



Thanks to you, more people with cancer can get the right support in the right way. They can find the answers they need, feel less alone and live more of life's moments as fully as possible.

Thank you.



MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Nursery

For Anti-Bullying Week, Nursery has been reading stories about friendship and discussing what it means to be a good friend. During circle time, we used prompt cards with challenging scenarios and role-played solutions with toys, helping children think about what they could do in similar situations. We also talked about who we can go to for help if we ever have a problem. To celebrate kindness, the children have been making friendship and Diwali cards for each other, posting them in our class post box, and enjoying the excitement of giving and receiving cards from friends

Ms Randle – Nursery Teacher and Head of EYFS

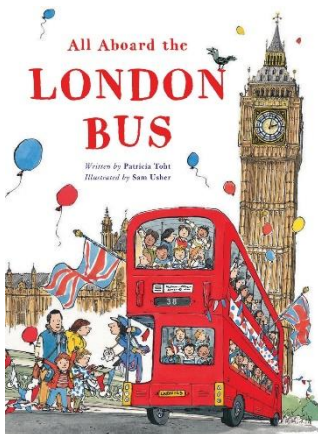
Year 1

Year 1 have had another exciting and busy week! In English, we have been writing letters to our new pen pals, practising our letter-writing skills and sharing a little bit about ourselves. The children are really excited to start receiving letters back and learning more about their new friends! In Maths, we have been using counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s to help us solve problems. The children have enjoyed practising their skip counting and using it to tackle a variety of challenges. In History, we've been learning all about how toys have changed over time. The children have enjoyed comparing toys from the past with the toys we play with today and discussing how materials and designs have evolved. In Design and Technology, we have started our new projects by completing the *Explore* and *Design* stages. The children have been researching different types of puppets and coming up with their own ideas for a new puppet they'd like to create. They're looking forward to moving on to the making stage soon!

Ms Higgins – Year 1 Teacher

KS1 Story Club

Momotaro: Momotaro (Peach Boy) is the most famous folktales in Japan. I like the funny part where Momotaro is born out of a peach. – Child in Year 1



All Aboard the London Bus by Patricia Toht: I love the sunset at the end. You can see London places like the Gerkin. I like the River Thames and you can find lots of places like Buckingham Palace. – Child in Year 1

Ms Higgins and Story Club Attendees



Mathematics and ICT are together again!

It has come to that time of year when I like to check up on how we can use ICT as an aid or partner to the learning of mathematical skills.

You, as parents, are all familiar with some of the software we use at Saint Christina's to aid children's learning: for example, Times Tables Rock Stars, My Maths and Atom learning may come to mind for some of you.

But there must be many programs, apps or examples of websites and or software that you use independently to help your child progress further in his or her journey towards mastery of Mathematics. Therefore, I am asking you to e-mail me with any sites or programs/apps that you use for your children at home that you think I, as a teacher ought to know more about. If you do this, it will help us a school to use a wider range of apps and programs to help your child learn.

I shall look forward to hearing from some of you in due course – and once I have received enough information from all of you, I collate everything into a booklet for wider dissemination within the school community!

Fr Rudolf Loewenstein OP - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

25th Annual Primary Mathematics Challenge

This week, some 49 children in Key Stage Two participated in the 25th annual Primary Mathematics Challenge. Although it is mainly aimed at children in Years Five and Six, many of our Year Four children took part, along with one pupil from Year Three.

The competition consists of 25 questions – the first twenty are multiple choice questions, and the remaining five questions require an exact answer to be given.

Examples of this year's questions will be posted in the School Bulletin in two weeks' time. This is because the paper itself runs over a period of two weeks, and to publicise questions before other schools have had a chance to participate is not allowed!

We will not know until December if any of our children will go through to the Bonus Round (sometimes referred to as the Final Round). This is because after the challenge ends, the Mathematical Association has to wait until all the scores from the participating schools have been submitted. You will of course receive notification if any of our children do get through to the Bonus Round!

Fr Rudolf Loewenstein - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

Year 3

Year 3 have recently enjoyed visiting the school chapel to take part in a role play to reinforce their learning about what happens at the sacrament of baptism. They took on the roles of the priest, the parents and the godparent/s and used the rite of baptism to help them to know what to say. They thought about the important promises made at baptism by both the parents and godparents. They discussed this first sacrament and how it is a very special event in the life of a Christian, when they become members of the Church family. Fr Rudolf has been helping us by answering. The children have been very lucky, because they have also had the opportunity to ask Fr Rudolf lots of questions about baptism so we now know everything about it.

Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher



Year 4

Year 4 has enjoyed showing their support for Anti-Bullying week by wearing odd socks every day! We also learned about respect, and wrote stories about characters who reacted to conflict with respect and acted out some school scenarios both in a disrespectful way and a respectful way. We started our design and technology project, which is making our very own canopic jars – just like our class novel *Secrets of a Sun King* and our studies of Ancient Egypt! We are looking forward to continuing this project for the rest of the term. 14 of our students decided to try the Primary Maths Challenge which was fantastic.

Ms Farquhar – Year 4 Teacher



Year 5 - English

Our talented Year 5 students have entered this year's BBC 500-Word Writing Competition, showcasing their creativity, imagination, and writing skills! The competition encourages young writers to craft an original story in 500 words or less, and our class has risen to the challenge with enthusiasm. From thrilling adventures to heart-warming tales, the students have been busy crafting their stories and honing their storytelling techniques. We are so proud of their hard work! Best of luck to all our Year 5 writers – we're cheering you on!

Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Teacher



KS1 STEM Club

Our KS1 STEM Club has been busy exploring the world of programming and technology with an exciting project—creating a Glow Snail using LEGO WeDo! The students worked together to build their snails and then programmed them to change colour with the push of a button. It was a fantastic hands-on learning experience, combining creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork. The children were amazed by how their programming could make the snails light up in vibrant colours, bringing their creations to life. We're so proud of their innovation and can't wait to see what they come up with next in STEM Club!





Ms O’Leary – Year 5 Teacher

Year 6

This week, Year 6 tackled the Primary Maths Challenge, applying their problem-solving abilities. They also revised important grammar concepts, completed a mock comprehension paper, and explored a creative comprehension task and a mock maths paper.

To mark Anti-Bullying Week and this year’s theme of “choose respect”, Year 6 celebrated kindness and respect in several thoughtful ways. They created a beautiful “Kindness Tree,” adding leaves with kind words and actions they had shown to each other throughout the week. Reflecting on the theme of respect, they wrote heartfelt poems that emphasised the power of kindness and standing up for one another.

In our Critical Thinking session, we had three Current Affairs presentations and three persuasive arguments. For his Current Affairs, Sebastian talked about LingoSat: The new type of Satellite. Giulio told the class about the Nobel Peace Prize and Isabella referred to Anti-Bullying Week while discussing International Kindness Day. All three presentations were extremely interesting and captivated the class.

During the persuasive discussion Momoka chose the question, “should children choose what time they go to bed” which sparked an interesting discussion amongst the class. Overall, the children thought it was more beneficial for parents to choose what time their children should go to bed. Aoife has been very excited about Christmas for some time so chose the question, “should Christmas celebrations begin before Halloween?” This was a very exciting topic for the children in Year 6 and although many of the children thought it would be fun, the over consensus was that perhaps it is best for November/December! Our animal loving Juliana asked the question, “should every class be allowed to have a class pet?” She gave a good balanced argument but overall, the class voted that ‘yes’ every class should have a class pet!

To end the week, Year 6, alongside the Caritas team, led the Mass with the theme “Caring for the Poor,” reminding everyone of the importance of compassion and generosity. It was a wonderful week filled with learning, reflection, and kindness!



Respect

Respect is the thing,
That shines more than bling,
That helps to grow
The kindness that we sow.

Respect is so important,
As it helps to complement
How wonderfully we should treat people,
And the fact that our kindness should be as high
as a steeple.

Respect is a choice, we can make everyday,
In all that we do, in all that we say.
It's a path we can choose,
It's a tool we can use.

By using respect,
We cannot neglect,
Every person's uniqueness
And save them from loneliness.

It helps us to think,
More about our actions
So that in a blink,
Our goodness spreads to all nations.

Respect is the thread,
That bounds us all together,
So let's show respect,
And win this tough battle.

Respect

Respect is the dignity that everyone shows,
It's the Choices you make what you say and you
do.
It's a flower of friendship, the flower that grows,
It's the words that you speak and the words that
are true

You can lighten a mood you can lighten a day,
With the actions you make and the words that
you say.
If someone makes a mistake, if someone gets
hurt,
Rather than laughing, pick them up from the dirt.

Not only is it love it's also justice too,
Stand up for what is right, be brave and be true.
Now that our poem has ended,
Always be respectful and never be tempted!

By Milana and Sophie

Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Teacher

Judo

We are proud to announce the incredible achievements of Sebastian and Adrian, who competed in the XXIII Villa De Avilés Judo Team Event on October 27, 2024. Competing in their home country in this prestigious tournament, the boys delivered outstanding performances that exemplified their dedication and skill.

Adrian, competing in the U27 category despite weighing just 23kg against 27kg opponents, showcased immense courage. On a vast stage with seven mat areas, he appeared as small as an ant but fought fearlessly, winning all his matches without hesitation. Sebastian, battling in both the U34 and U38 categories, also showed exceptional resilience and technique, earning victories that contributed significantly to the team's success.

Their combined efforts gave Mike's Judo Club the head start it needed to advance through each round. Competing against 12 formidable teams representing different regions of Spain, Sebastian and Adrian's grit helped secure 1st place for Mike's Judo Club.

We applaud Sebastian and Adrian for their skill and dedication and for demonstrating true sportsmanship. Congratulations to the boys on their well-deserved success!



Mikes Judo Club

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.

- **Preferential Option for the Poor** - The option for the poor reminds us of God's preferential love for the poorest and most vulnerable people. God's love is universal; he does not side with oppressors, but loves the humble.
- **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 Preferential Option for the Poor.

The Church holds that we should all have a special focus on supporting, walking alongside, and sharing with people who are living in poverty. Pope Francis's much quoted phrase about wanting 'a poor church for the poor' holds the Catholic social teaching principle of the preferential option for the poor at its heart. Although it includes the charitable support of the Church, both the institution and individual members, for those living in poverty locally and globally, it is also wider than this. The option for the poor includes talking with, and listening to, those who are living in poverty. It is not just thinking that we know what people want or need, but listening to people, sharing in their suffering, being the 'voice for the voiceless' when it is not being heard, whilst enabling the voice, the experience, the needs of people to be heard by others in our communities, society, and the world.

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 half term 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 6th December.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

Mr Burke, Edda, Aoife, Yumi and the Caritas Ambassadors



Box Of Love



you can donate
stuff like



and...
↙



or...
↘



the deadline
is....

6 December

By Beatrix

Thank You pls donate

Boxes

of

LOVE

The **6th** **Deadline!**
December!



Saint Christina's School

We are asking you to bring Boxes of Love to give to people less fortunate than us this Christmas! Do you want to make people happy?



Made by:

Caritas Ambassador
Sakura



NOTICES and REMINDERS

PARENT PARKING AT PICK-UP and DROP-OFF: The School has received a number of complaints from residents about their driveways and gates being blocked by members of our community. In our mind we might think that we will only be a few minutes, but the reality is, residents should be able to expect access to and from their properties whenever they need it. In one instance, someone who has had medical need has been delayed by a car that has been parked inconsiderately.

Please be aware that enforcement on the Terrace is increasingly vigilant and please park safely and with consideration for our neighbours within areas where stopping is permitted.

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.

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.**

Dates for your diary

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
Thursday 21 st November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 History Trip
Friday 22 nd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Fixture (Away) St Cecilia House Mass – 2.45pm
Monday 25th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISEB Pre - Test Exam in school
Tuesday 26 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 History trip
Wednesday 27th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISEB Pre - Test Exam in school 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 3rd 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 Advent Mass – 2.45pm
Monday 9 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EYFS Nativity – 9:30am (refreshments from 9.00am) Year 4 A and B Mixed Netball Fixture (Home)
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"> Christmas Lunch 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 A and B Mixed Netball fixture (Away)
Friday 10 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baptism of the Lord Mass led by Staff – 2.45pm
Monday 13th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs to start this week Year 5 and 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"> • Heritage Week • Year 5 A and B Girls Netball Fixture (Away)
Wednesday 22 nd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 3 Netball Fixture (Home) • Year 5 A and 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) • Year 3 and 4 Mix Netball Fixture (Home)
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 and 6 Netball Fixture (Away)
Wednesday 5th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Child Learning Reviews – Reception to Year 6 • Year 6 A and Yar 5 A Girls Netball Fixture (Away)
Thursday 6th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Child Learning Reviews – Reception to Year 6
Friday 7 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Mass (House Competition)

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/>