



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

## Bulletin

**Friday 29th November 2024**

Dear Parents,

So many things going on! This week has been incredibly busy with all the various practices and rehearsals that the staff and children are involved in for Nativities and Carols. On top of this, and all the routine things that we do, some of the older children have still found the time to sing carols outside St John's Wood Tube Station to support the Hospice - a lovely example of living our Golden Thread of Loving our Neighbour, in the community.

You will notice that there are a number of initiatives from the Charity Prefects and Caritas Ambassadors, such as Christmas Jumper Day and the Boxes of Love, so do please support these if you are able to do so. One of the best parts of being the Headteacher in this School is the heart that the children have for others. Please also do not forget that we are continually collecting food for Fr Terry's foodbank, so if you would like to contribute any dry or tinned food at any point, you are most welcome to do so.

Year 3 had the opportunity to go out to St Alban's this week to visit the Roman Museum whilst Year 5 headed out to the Ragged Museum where they had the opportunity to experience what it was like to live as a child in Victorian England – I think that the universal view was that they prefer Saint Christina's to the Victorian Education system! Next week sees even more trips, with Reception and Key Stage 1 heading out on different occasions. As I noted last week, the Autumn Term is not one that fizzles out! It only gets busier but, whilst busy, it is also a joyful time and lovely to see all the ways in which the children are growing in every sense.

I have been very impressed with the entries for my Challenge about elephants and planes. All the entries have been well researched and presented, and it has been really exciting to see how well these very young minds can explain the concepts of lift and thrust etc., in a way that shows that they understand and don't just know about why planes can fly.







My next challenge is a two-weeker! It's not new, but it is a new push. I have challenged children in Year 2 through to Year 6 to see if they can master the Cube before the end of term. All they need is a cube, so I hope that there might be one lying around at home – if not, they are not expensive and could be an early stocking filler? (Choose one that is easy to manipulate and not stiff). I am providing the solution as a separate attachment to this bulletin, so all they need to do is to copy and memorise the phases. Two weeks is a tight deadline, but it's very possible – many have cracked the cube when they have applied themselves, in under a week. The challenge is laid out so that everyone can succeed because there are different levels of mastery – being able to complete one side, or one side and the bottom two ranks of the next phase etc., however, if we have any that crack the whole thing and complete it at speed, there is a handmade Cube Master badge waiting to adorn their blazer. I would love to be able to see what the children can do before I leave at the end of term.

Thank you for your continued support and kind words. They mean a great deal to us all. Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Alastair Gloag  
**Headteacher**

## Mr Gloag's Christmas Rubik Cube Challenge

Challenge	What does it look like	Tick when you can do it
<p><b>Level 1:</b> Can form the basic cross on one side</p>		
<p><b>Level 2:</b> Can complete a side in one colour</p>		
<p><b>Level 3:</b> Can do one colour and build up to the middle of 4 other sides (green on the base is complete and red and yellow are two of the four bands).</p>		
<p><b>Mastering the cube:</b> Can complete the cube</p>		
<p><b>Dominating the cube:</b> Can complete the cube in under 1 minutes</p>		
<p><b>Extreme domination:</b> Can complete the cube one handed</p>		

## Caritas Ambassadors: Crisis at Christmas Appeal 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I'm excited to share an update on the fantastic work of our Caritas Ambassadors, who have been busy with important projects since September.



This term, inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, the Ambassadors have chosen to focus on supporting those experiencing homelessness in Westminster. Recent figures show that 3,307 people were affected by homelessness in the area last year, highlighting the importance of their efforts.

On **Thursday 12th December**, we invite everyone to take part in **Christmas Jumper Day**. Pupils are encouraged to wear their brightest and most festive jumpers. This fun event is also a chance to raise awareness and funds for Crisis at Christmas, supporting local homeless individuals. If you would like to donate, you can do so via this link:

<https://superkind.org/campaign/saint-christinas-crisis-at-christmas>



At our Christmas Carol Concert, the Ambassadors will also sell their beautiful handmade artwork, alongside homemade mince pies baked by the children. These will be available in the school hall for a small donation after the concert.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to help our children develop a sense of social responsibility and make a difference in our community.

Best regards,

Mr Burke, Charity Prefects and the Caritas Ambassadors

## Year 6 Choir Singing at St John's Wood Station

Yesterday morning, our talented Year 6 children brought the festive spirit to St John's Wood Station, singing Christmas carols as part of a fundraising collection for St John's Hospice. In just 30 minutes, the children raised an incredible £400, spreading joy to commuters and making a real difference for this important cause.

A huge well done to the children for their fantastic singing and heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported this wonderful event!

Mr Burke



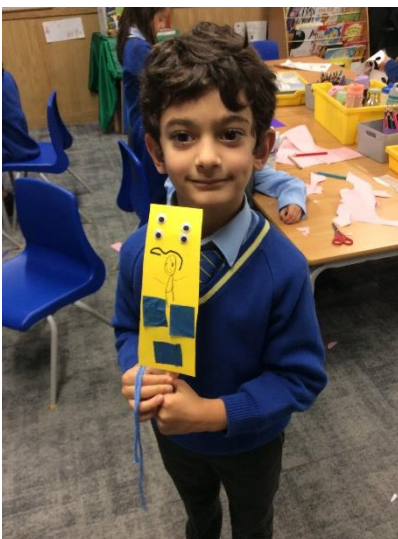
## Year 1 Design and Technology

Over the past few weeks, we have been exploring and learning all about puppets. The children discovered what puppets are used for, explored a variety of designs, and even created their own imaginative puppet designs. This week, we brought those designs to life!



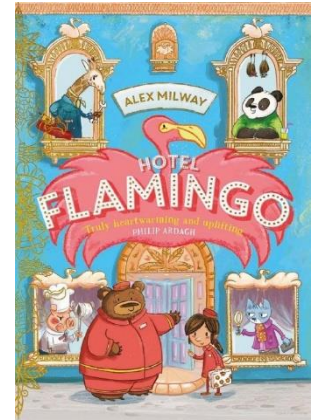
The children made their own puppets, including shadow puppets, sock puppets, stick puppets, and finger puppets. They worked hard to use their designs as a guide and showed fantastic creativity and craftsmanship.

Next week, we will put our puppets to the test by using them to tell stories. We are excited to evaluate how well they work and to see the children's storytelling skills in action!



## KS1 Story Club

Hotel Flamingo by Alex Milway: *I like this book because there is a snail hiding for you to find in each picture. I like the part at the start when everyone goes to hotel blitz. My Daddy likes this story and helped pick it.* - Luna Year 1

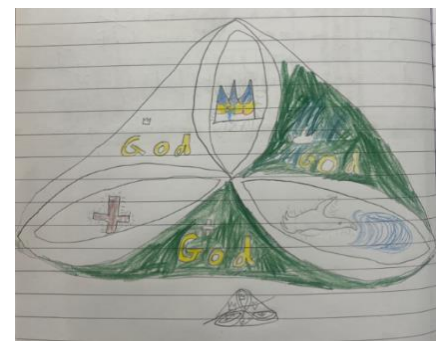


## Year 2

This week in Year 2, the children have been exploring the Holy Trinity, learning to think of God as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As part of their challenge, they created their own symbols to represent the Trinity, adding a creative motto or phrase to explain its meaning.

They also reflected on how other things in nature or the world—such as the three parts of an apple (skin, flesh, and core) or a three-leaf clover—can work together as one, helping to deepen their understanding of the Trinity.

Below are some examples of the symbols we created.



Mr Burke – Year 2 Teacher

## Year 3 Trip to the Verulamium Museum

Last Thursday Year 3 went on a very exciting trip to the Verulamium Museum in St Albans to learn more about the Romans. The museum is built on the site of one of the largest Roman cities in Britain and is filled with ancient treasures and some of the finest mosaics outside the Mediterranean. We took part in an exciting workshop where we got to handle many different Roman artefacts which were almost two thousand years old. We enjoyed discussing what we thought these artefacts were and what they revealed about life in Roman Britain. We then explored all the many fascinating galleries in the museum and even got to play some games the Roman children would have played.





**Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher**

## **Year 5 History Trip to a Ragged School: A Glimpse into Victorian Life**



On Tuesday Year 5 students embarked on an unforgettable journey back in time as they visited a Ragged School, experiencing life as a Victorian child. Dressed in period clothing, the children spent the day stepping into the shoes of the poor and hardworking children of the 19th century.

The trip included immersive activities such as attending Victorian-style lessons with strict rules, just as children in the past would have. Students also tried their hand at washing clothes the old-fashioned way—using scrubbing boards, wash tubs, and soap, just like the Victorian times.

This hands-on experience gave the children a unique insight into the challenges of the past, helping them understand the differences between life today and the harsh realities faced by children during the Victorian era. It was an eye-opening day, full of learning, laughter, and new discoveries!

**Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Teacher**

## An update on the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Primary Mathematics Challenge

Two weeks ago, you received news that 49 of our children had participated in the Primary Mathematics Challenge. Now that the competition is over, we are eagerly awaiting results, and anticipating that at least some of our children will go through to the Bonus Round in January/February 2025. We will not know for sure how many children will be invited, but having spoken to colleagues in another school it is more than likely that some of our children will be invited; however, as the cut off score for invitations varies from year to year, we cannot be entirely sure about just how many children will go through to the next round.

Of our 49 participants, six children were awarded Gold certificates this year. They, and all of the other participants had to answer a range of questions including the following two examples:

Qu 2: My dog Crunch has lived for 104 weeks. How old is he?

Qu 21: Errol and Lauren keep bees. In Errol's hive there are 45,000 bees, to the nearest thousand bees. In Lauren's hive there are 56,000 bees, to the nearest thousand bees. To the nearest thousand, what is the greatest possible difference in the number of bees in the two hives?

You may like to have a go at these questions...!

**Fr Rudolf Loewenstein - Teacher in charge of Mathematics**

## Year 6



This week, Year 6 has been working hard, sitting various exams, but they've also had some exciting and enriching experiences outside the classroom. A real highlight was meeting our new headteacher, Mr Walshe, who will be joining us in January. Mr Walshe held one-on-one interviews with each child in preparation for their upcoming 11+ interviews. This invaluable experience gave the children a taste of what it's like to be interviewed by someone they don't know. Mr Walshe was really impressed with how the children held themselves, their ability to think critically, and their creativity in the interviews.

On Thursday, the class brought some festive cheer to St. John's Wood tube station, where they sang carols for half an hour during the busy morning commute. The beautiful singing raised £400 for the hospice, was a huge success and a wonderful way to start the day. The children's enthusiasm and energy were truly infectious!

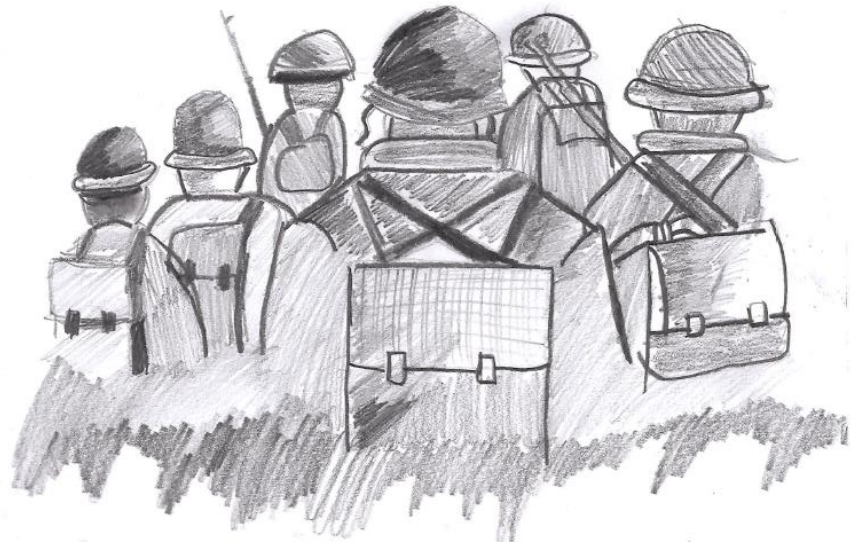
Another highlight was the pantomime, which the children enjoyed. I am incredibly proud of how Year 6 has conducted themselves this week, balancing the pressures of exams with such a positive and thoughtful attitude. Well done, Year 6!

**Mrs Ellidon - Year 6 Teacher**



In their art lesson this week Year 6 looked at WWII soldiers. They focused on sketching and shading as well as drawing in perspective. They could choose whether they used pencil and or charcoal. The artwork produced by the children was outstanding! Here are just a few examples for you to enjoy.

**Year 6 Art:**



Alice Y6



Juliana Y6



Yumi Y6

**Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Teacher**



## PE Update

On Wednesday, we welcomed Sarum Hall to play a football match against our Year 3 children. The children played brilliantly and showed great sportsmanship and team work throughout the morning. The children have been working really hard during their football sessions and this shone through in some excellent performances resulting in 4 victories. Well done to everyone who took part and a special thank you must go to Connor for keeping score and timing the matches. Well done to Noah, Emily, Sadra and Mani who were awarded star players for their excellent contributions during the matches. Sarum Hall did not give up and it we look forward to playing against them again in netball after Christmas.



Last Friday we took on Hereward House in 2 closely fought football matches. The children represented the school fantastically well and put in an excellent effort throughout the afternoon. The B team should be proud of their 4-4 draw having led the match until the final minute and the A team played some lovely football but were narrowly beaten. Well done to Alex, Harry, Oliver, Alejandro and Imad for their well taken goals and a special congratulations must go to Sebastian and Alice M who were awarded star players for their efforts during the matches.



A team match report from our Sports captain Alex

*Last Friday Year 5 and 6 played in a football match Hereward House School. Everyone played magnificently and we could feel the team spirit throughout the game, we were losing 2-0 when Harry changed the dynamic of the game with a beautiful goal that motivated us to keep going. Alex scored 2 other great goals but it still was not enough as we were facing a really strong opposition.*

B team match report from Alice M

*On Friday 22nd November, Saint Christina's played a match against Hereward House. Year 6, Year 5 and some Year 4's played. The B team played fantastically and there were some brilliant shots by Imad, Oliver and Alejandro also Nuriddin defended lots of goals. The final score was 4-4 so we tied. I would also like to say thank you to Mr Raveney and Mr Arthur who led the B team to a tie.*

Upcoming fixtures

Date	Opposition	Team	Time
Thursday 5th December	Devonshire House Away	Year 5 girls football tournament	13.00-15.30
Monday 9th December	Sarum Hall Home	Year 4A and B mixed netball	16.00-17.00

**Mr Raveney - Director of Sport**

## KS1 and Key Stage 2 Inter House Festive competition

The House Captains this week informed the children of a festive House competition. Pupils were asked to create a small Christmas decoration, which will be used to create a Christmas display. The decorations could include your child's house colours (Saint Cecilia-Blue, Saint Francis-Yellow and Saint Joan of Arc-Red). It is a chance for children to earn House points for their Houses and get creative and imaginative. The children should bring the decorations they create to their classrooms and the Year 6 House captains will come around to the classes and collect. The deadline for the competition is **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December**.

**Mr Raveney – Director of Sport**

## 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 St 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 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Thank you for your support with this cause.



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

## Boxes of Love Collection

We are delighted to be supporting St John's Hospice through our Boxes of Love collection this term.

This collection will provide shoeboxes to patients at the hospice that will be greatly appreciated at Christmas.



To support this collection, we kindly ask that your child packs a shoebox with gifts, wraps the box in Christmas wrapping paper and bring it into school. The shoeboxes will then be delivered to St John's Hospice before the end of term.

Some gift ideas that would be greatly appreciated at Christmas by patients at the hospice would be:

- Toiletries and personal care items such as 'shower bags' containing sponges, nail files, combs etc., colourful hair ties/ hair scrunchies;
- Clothing items such as colourful socks, scarves, knitted items, gloves, winter hats;
- Small food items such as chocolates or biscuits.

We would love to be able to send as many boxes as possible from Saint Christina's pupils to St John's hospice.

We kindly ask that the Boxes of Love are brought into school by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Please ask your child to leave their box on the Boxes of Love table in the Main Hall.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

**Mr Burke, Edda, Aoife, Yumi and the Caritas Ambassador**

## **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

<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Year 6 Consortium Exams in school</b></li><li>• Year 1 Trip</li></ul>
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 2 Trip</li><li>• Year 4 History Trip</li></ul>
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 5 Girls Football Tournament (Away)</li><li>• Little Voices Performance</li><li>• Nursery and Year 6 Buddies Workshop</li></ul>
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reception Class Trip</li><li>• Year 5 Advent Mass – 2.45pm</li></ul>
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EYFS Nativity – 9:30am (refreshments from 9.00am)</li><li>• Year 4 A and B Mixed Netball Fixture (Home)</li></ul>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EYFS Nativity – 9.30am (refreshments from 9.00am)</li></ul>
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KS1 Nativity – 9.30am (refreshments from 9.00am)</li></ul>
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Christmas Lunch</li><li>• KS2 Carol Service – 7 PM</li><li>• Christmas Jumper Day and class parties</li></ul>
<b>FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>SCHOOL CLOSSES AT MIDDAY FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b></li></ul>
<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024 TO MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 (INCLUSIVE)</b>	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staff INSET</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Children return</b></li></ul>
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 6 A and B Mixed Netball fixture (Away)</li></ul>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baptism of the Lord Mass led by Staff – 2.45pm</li></ul>
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Clubs to start this week</b></li><li>• Year 5 and 6 Mixed Football Fixture (Home)</li></ul>
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nutritionist Workshop</li></ul>
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 4 Mass – 2.45pm</li></ul>
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heritage Week</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 A and B Girls Netball Fixture (Away)</li> </ul>
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 3 Netball Fixture (Home)</li> <li>Year 5 A and B Girls Netball Fixture (Away)</li> </ul>
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Mass led by Year 2 – 2.45pm</li> </ul>
W/C Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 4 Swimming (for 2 weeks)</li> <li>Year 3 and 4 Mix Netball Fixture (Home)</li> </ul>
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Mass – 2.45pm</li> </ul>
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 and 6 Netball Fixture (Away)</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Parent/Child Learning Reviews – Reception to Year 6</b></li> <li>Year 6 A and Yar 5 A Girls Netball Fixture (Away)</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Parent/Child Learning Reviews – Reception to Year 6</b></li> </ul>
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Mass (House Competition)</li> </ul>

**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/>