



# Saint Christina's

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

## Bulletin

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be writing to you at the end of a busy start to the new school year. The holidays are already a distant memory and everyone is finding their feet in their new class, and in the case of some, their new school. May I extend to you all, a very warm welcome back to this new school year and may I commend all the staff and children for a fantastic start! It has been a real privilege to spend time in every class and see energy, purpose and buzz as we all move back into our routines and get to grips with our new curriculum. Thank you for the generous comments that you have made about the start of term arrangements and the meetings that you enjoyed with your child's teacher. I am pleased too, to note that the nearly new uniform sale was well-received and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful Parent Link team who organised the event.

We extend a special welcome to all the families who are joining us for their first term. We hope that you will quickly settle into our school family. We also extend a warm welcome Ms Farquhar, our new Year 4 teacher, Mrs. Retesi and Ms Tiniaieva, our new Reception Teaching Assistants, and Mrs. Hills, our new Y6 Teaching Assistant. All of our new staff come to us with considerable depth of experience and have already made a wonderful impact on the school and the children. Mrs Bretones' role has also slightly changed as she expands her role following maternity leave – she will now teach our Spanish curriculum as well as maintaining some of her Art teaching. We wish all of the new members of our community every blessing as you begin this new phase in your lives.

I would like to thank all of our parent body for your support for us as we set out this term. Drop-off and pick-up is always very busy in the first week of the new year as we all work out exactly how everything functions, however, it is only day three and I can already see the children bouncing in and heading in the right direction without too much guidance required. Clubs will start next week, which will mean that there will be a little more space at the end of the day in particular, but I would ask all parents to be mindful that as we release the children it is really important that they have clear access on the pavement and that parents or carers are clearly visible to us as we release them. Once collected, we would be grateful if you would quickly move away and free up the space around the gate.

Today we enjoyed our first whole school assembly. Our theme today and over the next few weeks will be around relationships, and how we can make the world a better place through the way we think about and treat others. This is all part of our Golden Thread, that we love our neighbours. Over the next few weeks we will be thinking about our core values of love, joy, peace, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control and who we would like to be.

Those of you who have been at Saint Christina's for some time, will know that we have tried to keep a gentle flow of information around the possible implementation of VAT on independent school fees. Since taking office, the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves has stated that it is the intention of the government to follow through on this campaign pledge and implement the policy as early as January 2025. This is obviously not what we all would have liked to hear but it is the reality, although a careful scrutiny of the media will show you that there is an increasingly vocal critique of the policy, and not just from our sector. You might have noticed that a number of state school heads have already spoken out against the impact that they perceive the policy will have on their schools, for example.

The reality is that we will not know exactly what the government intends to do or whether there will be any nuance to the application of the levy. I am aware that the ISC, for example, has been lobbying for smaller schools and for those of us who have a faith element. We will have to see if that has any impact, but my instinct is that the government seems to be being quite hard-nosed about the policy and that schools will be forced how best to accommodate this unwelcome guest. What I can say, regarding Saint Christina's is, that our governing body is kind and mindful of the need to ensure that our community continues to flourish as a wonderful, safe and happy place for children to grow and learn, and this will inform the decisions that they make when we know the full details after the Chancellor's announcement on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

Despite the joy that you will have had that term has restarted, I am sure that you will all be looking forward to the weekend. It will give everyone the opportunity to just take a breath and recalibrate as we look forward to our first full week back in school next week.

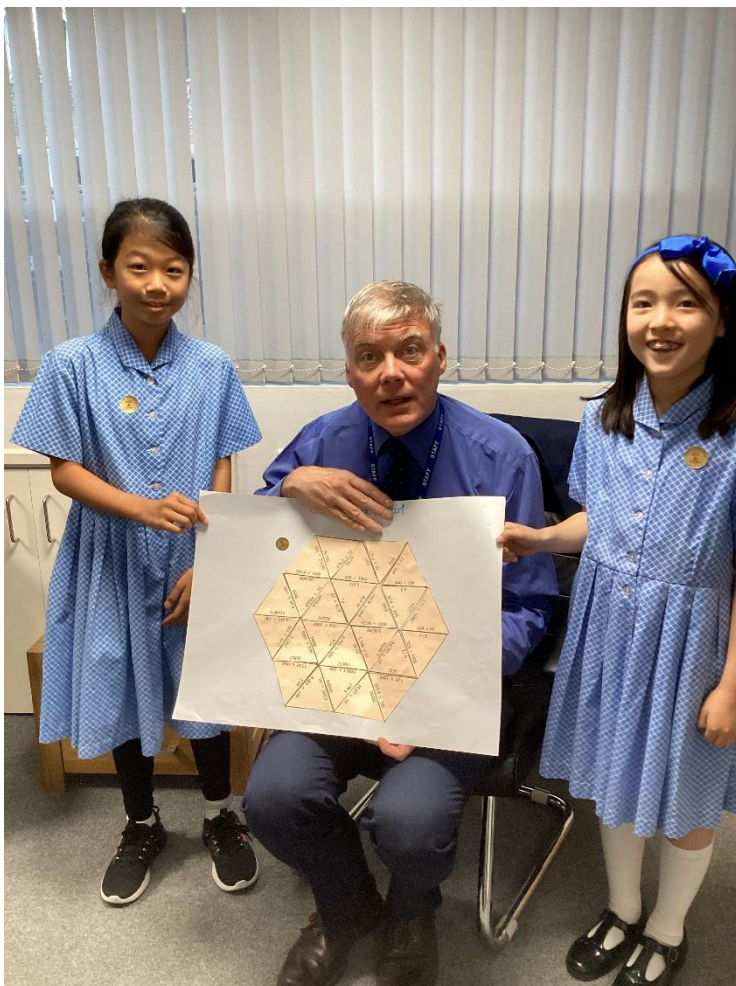
Yours sincerely,

Alastair Gloag  
Headteacher

## Year 5 Tarsia Puzzle

Year 5 have been honing their problem-solving and teamwork skills this week! The children worked on complex Tarsia puzzles based on mathematical operations. It was a great opportunity to develop our teamwork skills as we collaborated to solve the equations and ensure they fit together neatly to form a perfect hexagon.

Ms O'Leary – Year 4 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.

## Music Update

Welcome back to a new term and I hope everyone is excited about exploring new musical adventures this year!

### Singing

Being part of a choir is a brilliant way to develop musicality and skills whilst having fun. Singing is good for your physical and mental well-being, and also boosts memory, confidence, concentration and all sorts of other things!

For KS1 - **Little Voices** on Tuesday lunchtimes, 12.45-1.15 (meet in the Hall)

For KS2 - **Choir** on Monday lunchtimes, 12.30-1.00 in the Music room

### Instrument lessons

There will be a demonstration assembly on Thursday 12th September when our flute, violin and guitar teachers will be performing for the children and talking about their instruments. Following this, if you are interested in these lessons for your child there will be the opportunity to sign them up for a free 10-minute taster lesson, which will take place during school time, and the teacher will then contact you to discuss lessons going forward. Look out for the link to the sign-up form in next week's bulletin.

As well as flute, violin and guitar we also have spaces for piano and singing lessons - please email me directly ([ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk](mailto:ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk)) if you are interested. Lessons normally take place during school time and are available for children in Year 1 upwards.

**Mrs 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

- [ktaylor@saintchristinas.org.uk](mailto:ktaylor@saintchristinas.org.uk)  
KS1 and 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

- [ktaylor@saintchristinas.org.uk](mailto:ktaylor@saintchristinas.org.uk)

**Mr Taylor – Guitar and Ukulele Teacher**

## 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**

## Saint Christina's Food Collection



## MacMillan Coffee Morning

Dear Parents/Carers,

We warmly invite you to our MacMillan Coffee Morning on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024** from 9:00 – 10:00am in the Arts Hall.

*The first ever Coffee Morning happened way back in 1990. It was a rather small affair with a simple idea: guests would gather over coffee and donate the cost of their cuppa to Macmillan in the process. It was so effective, we did it again the next year – only this time nationally. Since then, Coffee Morning has raised over £200 million for MacMillan.*

The school is supporting this fantastic annual event by holding its own coffee morning. In addition to this, children are invited to wear their own clothes on this day. We will be doing this in memory of Ms Overing's sister, who over the course of her life held many of these events and raised thousands of pounds to support this wonderful charity.

To support this event, we kindly encourage you to make a donation in advance of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024 through: <https://superkind.org/campaign/saint-christinas-macmillan-coffee-morning-2024>

All proceeds will be sent to the MacMillan Cancer Trust in support of their ongoing work. The event is an opportunity for us all to come together as a school community and share time over a coffee and cake knowing that we are supporting an excellent charity. Last year, £27 million was raised for MacMillan Cancer Support.

If you would like to make or provide a cake or pastries for the coffee morning, please bring them with you on the day. As you are aware, the School is a strict **nut free** zone. Although this is an adult-only event and the children will not be involved, we still need to maintain the highest possible allergen awareness standards because the area we will use for the event is used by the children at a later time. There will also be adults who have particular needs – gluten free etc. Therefore, if you are able to make or provide a cake, we would be grateful if you would ensure it is **nut free** and accompanied by a comprehensive list of ingredients so that participants can avoid anything that they should not come into contact with. Thank you so much for your support with this.

So that are able to gauge the number of adults that will be attending this event, we warmly encourage you to RSVP to [office@saintchristinas.org.uk](mailto:office@saintchristinas.org.uk) by **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September**.

We look forward to welcoming you to the event.

**Mr Burke and Mrs Overing**

### **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 enrolls 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.**

## Dates for your diary

<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CLUBS BEGIN</b></li> </ul>
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instrumental taster assembly for children (flute/violin/guitar)</li> </ul>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judo Demo for children during assembly</li> <li>• Y6 Mass – 14:45-15:15</li> </ul>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y5 Mass – 14:45-15:15</li> </ul>
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Parent Social Evening - 17:00-19:00 – details to follow</li> </ul>
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 5/6 Mixed Football Fixture (Home)</li> </ul>
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• London Fire Brigade Visiting – Year 2 &amp; Year 5</li> </ul>
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 5 &amp; 6 Boys Football Fixture (Home)</li> </ul>
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
W/C Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual 11+ Meetings for Year 6 parents – details to follow</li> </ul>
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition talk by Holroyd Howe Nutritionist for Years 1-6</li> </ul>
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 5 swimming lessons begin (2-week course)</li> </ul>
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 6A &amp; B Mixed Netball Fixture (Away)</li> </ul>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 6A and Year 5A and B Girls Netball</li> </ul>
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y3 Mass</li> </ul>
W/C Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent/Teacher Meetings – details to follow</li> </ul>
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 6A &amp; B Mixed Netball Fixture (Away)</li> </ul>
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Morning for Prospective Parents – 09.15-11.30</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NO MASS</b></li> <li>• <b>SCHOOL CLOSSES AT USUAL TIME FOR THE HALF-TERM HOLIDAY</b></li> </ul>
<b>HALF-TERM HOLIDAY – MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER (INCLUSIVE)</b>	
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Children &amp; Staff return</b></li> <li>• Year 5A &amp; B Girls Netball Fixture (Away)</li> </ul>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual Photographs</li> </ul>
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-Bullying Week</li> </ul>
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 5 and 6 Mixed Netball Fixture (Home)</li> </ul>
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendship Friday – children may wear their own clothes to school and make a donation to Kidscape Anti-Bullying Charity – details to follow</li> </ul>
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 5 Art trip</li> </ul>
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 5 &amp; 6 Boys Football Fixture (Away)</li> </ul>
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 5 History trip</li> </ul>
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 2 Parents Coffee Morning - 09.00-10.00 in the Arts Hall – details to follow</li> <li>• Year 3 Class Football Fixture (Home)</li> </ul>
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting Pantomime (The Selfish Giant) for Nursery to Year 6</li> </ul>
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 5 Girls Football Tournament (Away)</li> </ul>
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 4 A and B Mixed Netball Fixture</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>KS2 Carol Service- PM</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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff INSET</li> </ul>
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children return</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/>