



28th March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that this is the last day of an extremely busy term. I would like to say thank you to the children, staff and parents for their continued support. The children are so special, and many people remark on this: including senior heads whom I have visited, and prospective parents. My staff continue to keep themselves upskilled and go out of their way to make the learning enjoyable and fun.

Farewell and thank you Mrs Chandaria

We held a special final assembly to say goodbye to Mrs Chandaria today. Mrs Chandaria was appointed as Saint Christina's first specialist Science teacher. Her passion for the subject is very strong and she has always gone out of her way to make the learning as practical and as exciting as possible. The photographs of the children filled with awe and wonder say it all!

We have been privileged to have had some invigorating external speakers organised by Mrs Chandaria, who have also inspired the girls. She has organised Science weeks over the years, and this year introduced a highly successful STEM club.



We thank Mrs Chandaria for her valuable contributions to our School and we will all miss her.

We wish her and her family God's blessings in the future.



Staff News

- Miss Elisabeth White will be leaving the School at the end of the Summer Term to pursue other interests. Miss White has worked in EYFS for the last nine years and her energy, passion and devotion to the children and her department is without question. I would like to thank Miss White for all that she has done in teaching EYFS throughout these years at Saint Christina's.

- Miss Loren Gilmore will also be leaving as she is returning to Australia. Miss Gilmore has been with us this last year as Nursery Teacher for the second Nursery class, and she has been a strong support to Miss White, the EYFS Team and the children.
- Miss Alicia Nunes will be taking over Mrs Amy Evans' maternity cover during the Summer and Autumn terms.
- Mrs Evans will be taking her maternity leave from the beginning of the Summer Term. We wish her well on the impending birth of her baby.
- Mrs Pywell will be leaving us at the end of the Summer Term after covering Ms Bretones' maternity leave. I would like to thank Mrs Pywell for all of her hard work and dedication to the children.
- We would like to extend our congratulations to Miss Argles who is getting married during the Easter Holidays. We wish her all the best for a wonderful day.

Counselling

Increasingly we read in the press how children are suffering from mental health problems which can be due to a number of issues such as: bereavement, unrealistic expectations of parents with regard to academic ability, peer pressure, unhappy home life (including separation and divorce); bullying, gender issues and excessive amounts of time spent using social media. I was recently contacted from an IAPS school in London asking what we do about counselling, as schools are increasingly exploring counselling services to support some of their more vulnerable children. As schools are at different stages of development with regards to counselling, we are very fortunate at Saint Christina's to have Mrs Pilar Rodrigo who as well as being a Spanish teacher is a trained counsellor. Her letter, sent out to you all yesterday, outlines the counselling service that she can offer with the procedures to follow should your child require counselling. We also have our volunteer Claudia, who brings in Milo (her PAT dog) as an extra support for children in our school.

Puberty and School Journey Meeting

On Thursday 26 April at 6.00 pm Mrs Rodrigo will give the puberty talk to parents and show everyone the PowerPoint that we show the girls in Years 5 and 6. Afterwards, Ms Donnelly will outline the procedures for our school trip to Osmington Bay.

Preparation for 11+

As I said in my previous letter, I am delighted with our excellent Year 6 results which are a credit to your children, and to the staff who prepare them so well. Father Rudolf and I will next term meet all Year 5 parents individually for an initial discussion on the 11+ process. Another such meeting will take place in the Autumn Term.

Father Rudolf has also kindly agreed to provide 'drop in' sessions during next term for parents of children in other year groups who may like to benefit from his wisdom and experience. He is a 'walking encyclopaedia' of knowledge and can provide practical advice on choosing suitable schools. These sessions will be held on Thursdays from 3.45-4.30pm in the Year 6 Classroom, during the time when the Parents' Sewing Club is held.

11+ Evening Talks

There will be a talk by **Mrs Rosalynd Kamaryc, Principal of Queensgate School** and **Mrs Mary Breen, Headmistress of St Mary's Ascot** for parents of KS2 children on **Thursday 17 May at 6.30 pm**. Please put this date in your diaries for next term, as it will be a chance to hear about the new 11+ system for the North London Consortium Schools and to find out information about entry to boarding schools. If some Year 6 parents could attend and give their experience from a parental perspective, please contact Miss Michelle. I shall also invite some Year 6 girls to outline their views of the process too.

Boarding Fair: 'Open your eyes to Boarding'

Choosing a senior school is a big decision, which is why it is best to do as much research as possible before making your choice. 'Open Your Eyes to Boarding' is an opportunity to discover what modern boarding has to offer your daughter. There will be a Boarding Fair at:

St Matthew's Church, London W2 4LA on Thursday 26 April 2018 from 6.30-8.30pm

25 GSA boarding schools will be represented including schools from all over the country, whether big or small, rural or urban.

Let the GSA know you are attending by sending an email to boarding@gsa.uk.com or simply register on the GSA website.

Passion Play

Finally, I would like to reflect on the moving Passion Play directed so capably by Mr Rhodes. The girls played their parts with such dignity and respect. Their performance, without doubt, showcased their talents in acting, singing and reflection.

It was a thought provoking Passion Play which gave glory to God. This really helped us all engage and reflect upon Christ's Passion and Resurrection in preparation for the remainder of Holy Week and Easter.



I wish you and your families a very peaceful, happy and holy Easter.

God bless

Jenny Finlayson

Jenny Finlayson
Headteacher

