



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 12th December 2025





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Dear Parents,

As the year draws to a close, I want to congratulate your children on their commitment and to recognise how much they have achieved this term. They have pushed themselves; they have grown, and it has been a privilege to watch that unfold. Their work on metacognition has taken shape, and they are thinking more carefully about how they learn and what helps them move forward. Many from the youngest to the oldest have also told me how much they enjoy their new philosophy lessons, and it has been encouraging to see them step into new ideas with curiosity.

The language of the 6Cs is now part of how they speak about their learning. They are naming the skills they use each day, and that shared language is helping them understand themselves more clearly and feel more secure in explaining how they improve.

This final week always gathers everything together, and it was an emotional reminder of why leading this school is such a privilege. The Early Years and Key Stage One Nativities were a masterclass in courage and a delight to watch. Those of you who bore witness to the Carol Service will likely agree that it was something else. Hans Christian Andersen wrote that where words fail, music speaks. Last night proved him right. It was a beautiful expression of who our children are and what this unique community is at its best. It left me without words which, as my colleagues will tell you, does not happen that often. I kept reminding myself that this is a primary school. Those voices last night felt like a glimpse of something bigger. Your children have given so much this term, and they now deserve the break ahead.

I also want to recognise the work of my colleagues. They have carried a demanding term with good will, good humour, and a deep commitment to your children. We have begun the first steps of a five-year strategic plan, and they have met each change with openness and a real desire to get things right. I am grateful for everything they bring to the school each day.

My thanks also go to our governors. They give their time generously, and their guidance has helped us think clearly about the months and years ahead. Their support has been invaluable as we begin shaping the next chapter of the school.

Thank you, too, for everything you give this community, for the interest you take in your children's learning, and for the trust you place in us. It strengthens the partnership at the centre of the school and it is never taken for granted. I also want to extend my thanks to the Handmaids, our family next door, whose encouragement and wisdom continue to guide the school's direction.

This time of year brings a theme shared across many world faiths, that of Light. Light carries hope and the belief that renewal is possible. Across religious traditions, it suggests that things are not fixed, and that living with greater awareness is a choice we make each day.



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Christmas sits within that wider wisdom tradition. It suggests that if you want to understand the Divine, you look at a human life in the person of Jesus, a first century teacher who lived among ordinary people, noticed those on the margins, challenged cruelty and dominance, and showed what compassion looks like in practice. The heart of Christmas is the belief that the sacred can be experienced here and now, and that light continues to enter the world through us and the choices we make.

At Saint Christina's, this is our Golden Thread. We want the children to know that what they do and who they are becoming matters, and that the choice to love your neighbour brings light into the world.

As we reach the Christmas holidays, I hope the break gives you time to pause, time with the people who lift you, and time to step out of the rhythm of daily life. However you mark the season and wherever you spend it, I hope it brings rest, connection, and a sense of light in the middle of winter.

We look forward to welcoming the children back on January 6 and continuing the good work we have begun.

Have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year when it comes.

Best,

Damien Walshe
Headteacher





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Carol Service

KS2 did an excellent job of welcoming in the Christmas spirit last night in the Saint Christina's Carol Service. The standard of singing was sensational, and the readings were delivered with confidence; it was wonderful to see the children come together to share the Christmas message so beautifully. It was a delight to hear the variety of instruments last night in what was a beautiful and ambitious Carol Service. We congratulate the children for all their efforts and musical achievements; a special thank you to Mrs Bryant for guiding them so skilfully.

Mr Hirst - Deputy Head

Hymn Book Donations

Sr Noella and all of us at school would like to express our sincere gratitude for all the generous donations given towards our new hymn books at the Carol Service and Nativities. We are very grateful!

Mr Hirst and Sr Noella

Boxes of Love: Visit to St John's Hospice

On Thursday, Year 5 and Year 6 visited St John's Hospice to deliver this year's Boxes of Love. The children represented the school so beautifully, not only handing over the thoughtfully prepared boxes but also singing Christmas carols to patients, volunteers, and staff. They were wonderful - spreading joy, warmth, and Christmas cheer throughout the hospice.

A huge thank you to every family who donated a box. This was our best year yet, and your generosity will bring comfort and joy to those who need it most. We are incredibly grateful for your support.

Mr Burke - Head of Pastoral





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KS1 Nativity: "I'm Gonna Shine!"

On Wednesday, our KS1 children delighted us with their wonderful performance of I'm Gonna Shine! The hall was filled with singing, energy, and enthusiasm, and the children truly brought the Nativity story to life with confidence and joy. Their hard work over the past few weeks really shone through.

Thank you to all families for your support with costumes, lines, and rehearsals. It was a beautiful way to celebrate the Christmas season together, and we are so proud of every child.

Mr Burke, Ms Higgins and Ms Khalique





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The Very Merry Results for Bebras 2025!

The children in year 3-6 participated in the Bebras Competition last month. With 85 member countries and more than 2.5 million participating students in 2025, the competition is the largest computer science competition in the world. We have had amazing results this year and a big congratulations go to all the children.



This competition is aimed at raising awareness of Computer Science in a fun and rewarding way. The competition involves solving problems using computational thinking skills.

Computational thinking involves using a set of problem-solving skills and techniques that software engineers use to write programs and apps. Examples of these techniques would include the ability to break down complex tasks into simpler components, algorithm design, pattern recognition, pattern generalisation and abstraction.

YEAR 3 (age 6-8)

1 BEST IN SCHOOL (TOP Marks)
9 DISTINCTIONS
9 PARTICIPATIONS

YEAR 4 & 5 (age 8-10)

1 BEST IN SCHOOL YEAR 4 (TOP MARKS)
9 DISTINCTIONS
8 MERITS
18 PARTICIPATIONS

YEAR 6 (age 10-12)

1 BEST IN SCHOOL (TOP MARKS)
4 DISTINCTIONS
4 MERITS
8 PARTICIPATIONS

Well done to all who participated this year, I am so proud of you all!

Thank you

Warm wishes for the festive season.

Ms Overing - Head of ICT



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Challenges Update

It's the end of the Christmas term and there has been a great response to the challenges that have been set since the start of term!

Here are the winners of the different challenges from this term:

Best Year Group for competing in challenges: Year One

Most success in all the challenges:

Year One: Celia, Haluk, Kriesha, Leon and Sophie

Year Two: Amya, Evaan, Keishi, Martin, Ulysse, Yosef

Year Three: Adrian, Hedi, Herb, Leyla, Raphael

Year Four: Angelo, Conor, Emily, Matthew, Noah, Serina

Look out for some new challenges next term - and remember, you can all take part if you are interested!

Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Enrichment



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

House Event Update

We have had a wonderfully busy and creative term of House events. Our House Decoration Competition was a tremendous success, with an amazing number of entries showcasing the children's creativity and imagination. It was lovely to see all the effort they put in, and we were truly impressed by the high standard of work. Congratulations to this year's winners: Hunter for his lovely Christmas house, Luna W for her beautiful Santa in his sleigh, Ilaria for her lovely Christmas heart and Eloise for her stunning snowflake. After adding up all entries, the overall winners were Saint Cecilia House.



Our next competition was the KS2 Christmas Quiz, where children enjoyed a festive-themed challenge on Thursday. The quiz included a variety of rounds, such as Christmas songs, movies, an observation round, and Christmas dingbats. We saw some fantastic performances, and after all scores were combined, this year's winners were Saint Joan of Arc House.

This term, Father Rudolf challenged the children to use their collaboration skills to create new House badges. We received some fantastic entries, and choosing the winners proved to be quite the challenge! Working in small groups, the children brainstormed their ideas before bringing them together to form their final designs. A huge well done to everyone who took part once again. The standard was incredibly high. The winning badges can be seen below, and the overall winners of this competition were Saint Cecilia House.



We look forward to many more House events in the coming terms. Thank you to our House Captains for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport



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Rounding Up Our Sustainability and Eco Focus This Term

Our whole-school focus on sustainability has continued to grow this year, and it has been wonderful to see the children engaging so thoughtfully with ways to care for our planet.

Year 1 have been busy in science lessons learning about the 3Rs as part of our Materials topic. We explored how to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and talked about why these choices help to protect the environment. The children shared what they already do at school and at home, and we discussed simple steps we can take even further. Ideas included donating clothes, using reusable water bottles, making new soil through composting, reusing bags and recycling materials such as glass, metal, plastic and wood. We also learned what new items can be created from recycled materials. As part of their topic, the children also went on a materials hunt in the environment, identifying and sorting objects based on what they are made from and discussing which materials can be reused or recycled.

Reception have contributed to our eco efforts by planting bulbs in the garden, carefully tucking each one into the soil and chatting about how they will bloom in spring. They have taken great care of our garden area, and we look forward to seeing the planting journey come full circle in a few months' time.

Ms Randle - Head of EYFS





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

The EYFS Twinkly Nativity

This week, Reception and Nursery took to the stage for The Twinkly Nativity, a joyful retelling of the story of Jesus' birth. The children had been practising for weeks, learning their lines, actions, and songs with growing confidence and excitement. We were thrilled to welcome families to watch the performance, which featured festive favourites such as Twinkle Twinkle Follow the Star, We're Hitting the Road, Come As You Are, The Innkeeper's Song, and the joyful finale, We'll Have a Party. Reception proudly remembered all of their lines, and both Nursery and Reception sang beautifully on the day, filling the room with warmth and celebration. A big thank you to Ms Bryant for teaching the children all of their songs, and to the whole EYFS team for helping to bring the performance together. The children did a fantastic job and made The Twinkly Nativity a truly special part of our Christmas celebrations.

Ms Williams - Reception Class Teacher





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SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

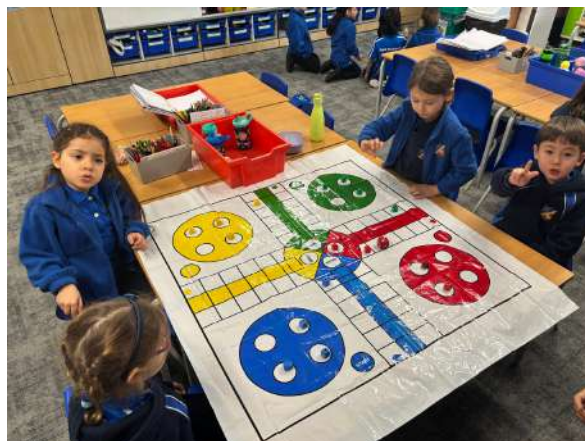
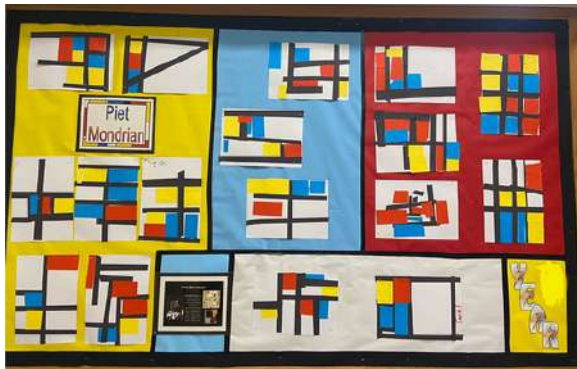
Year 1 and Mondrian Fun!

Over the past few weeks, Year 1 have been learning all about Mondrian, his bright primary colours and his straight black lines. We've done lots of fun projects, we started with a collage in his style, then moved on to Mondrian-inspired Christmas baubles, and finally... Mondrian sandwiches!

The children used bread, cream cheese, black icing pens for the lines, blueberries mixed with cream cheese for the blue, cheese slices for yellow, and strawberry jam for the red. Not only was it great fun to make, it was also delicious!

Well done Year 1!

Ms Higgins and Ms Khalique - Year 1 Class Teachers





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Year 2

This week, Year 2 took part in a Sustainable Christmas Poster Competition. The children explored how some of our festive traditions can create unnecessary waste and discussed simple ways we can all make Christmas a little more environmentally friendly.

They then created their own posters, each including a clear message, a catchy slogan and a practical idea - from choosing recyclable wrapping paper to making reusable decorations.

The children worked with great enthusiasm and creativity, producing thoughtful and eye-catching designs.

Well done Year 2!

Mr Burke - Year 2 Class Teacher





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Year 3

This week in Year 3, the children have been busy writers, historians, and artists! They worked hard to produce fantastic reports about Hadrian's Wall, showing great curiosity about Roman Britain and using brilliant facts in their writing. In art they have been designing and creating their own Roman-style mosaics, carefully selecting patterns and colours to bring their ideas to life. We also rounded off the week with some festive fun, joining Year 4 for class parties, playing games together, doing arts and crafts activities, and making beautiful Christmas cards to take home. A wonderful end to a hardworking term!

Ms Sephton and Ms Fernandes





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Year 4

What a fantastic week we've had! We kicked things off by reviewing our PIRA, PUMA and GAPS tests, turning mistakes into learning opportunities and cracking some tricky questions together. In Religion, we explored Christ the King and admired beautiful artwork, before wrapping up our topic of Prophecy and Promise. History was all about reviewing our learning of Ancient Egypt, and our museum trip was definitely a highlight! In Maths, we revised all four operations and practised using MyMaths for home learning. English saw us mastering expanded noun phrases, diving into Secrets of a Sun King, and writing instructions for our amazing Canopic jars, which we finished in Art with striking hieroglyph details. KS2 wowed everyone with a magical carol service, and we celebrated with a delicious Christmas lunch and a fun-filled party. To top it off, we enjoyed the KS1 and EYFS Nativity rehearsals, what a wonderful way to end the term!

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher





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Year 5

Year 5 have had an amazing few weeks completing their Design and Technology projects! We took inspiration from Victorian fashion and from the incredible engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

For our engineering challenge, the children built bridges out of lollipop sticks, testing out different shapes and designs to see what made their structures strong and stable. There was plenty of problem-solving, teamwork, and proud smiles when the bridges finally held their weight!

In our Victorian fashion project, Year 5 showed fantastic curiosity and creativity as they designed and made their own Victorian-style hats. They planned their ideas, chose materials, and practised careful measuring, cutting, and decorating, with some very impressive results!

Throughout everything, the children demonstrated our 6Cs: creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and commitment.

Ms O'Leary - Year 5 Class Teacher





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SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Year 5 Mass

On Friday 5th December Year 5 celebrated a very special mass heralding the season of Advent. As Father Mark lit the purple Advent candle we were reminded of the great hope God offers to one and all. The children were confident in proclaiming the readings clearly and beautifully singing 'Light a candle...' as our Psalm. Well done Year 5!

Ms Fernandes - Year 5 Class TA





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Year 6

After a busy few weeks of exams, Year 6 enjoyed a much-deserved, exam-free week, and what a week it was! We kicked things off with an unforgettable science session, as Mr Raveney and Ms Chand led the children through the dissection of sheep and cow eyeballs. What a way to start the week!

We were also delighted to welcome our much-loved furry friend, Nelson, whose visit brought plenty of smiles. Later in the week, the children participated in the House Quiz, delivered the Boxes of Love to the hospice and sang Christmas carols, spreading joy and kindness within our community.

Festivities continued back at school with a delicious Christmas lunch, followed by a fun-filled party with our buddies, and then of course our wonderful Carol Service. Spirits are high, excitement is building, and Year 6 is well and truly in the Christmas mood!

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas!

Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Class Teacher





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Let's Leap

HOLIDAY CAMPS

Ages | 4-12 Years

Ofsted
Registered

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CAMP

Running Every School Holiday!

Arts & Crafts

Electric Go-Karting

Bouncy Castle

Laser Tag



Location | Saint Christina's School, 25 St Edmund's Terrace, St. John's Wood NW8 7PY

Want the exact camp dates? Just hop on over to our website!
letsleapsportsacademy.co.uk



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Ages | 4-12 Years

All staff are DBS checked and First Aid Qualified



camp activities

- ✓ Canoeing* (Ages 6+)
- ✓ Electric Go-karting (Ages 4+)
- ✓ Segway training (Ages 8+)
- ✓ Zorb Football (Ages 6+)
- ✓ Kin-Ball
- ✓ Nerf Tag
- ✓ Multi Sports
- ✓ Laser TAG (Ages 6+)
- ✓ Fencing (Ages 6+)
- ✓ Animal Shows
- ✓ Parachute Games
- ✓ Forest School*
- ✓ Swimming*
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Bouncy Castle
- ✓ Team Games
- ✓ Electric Bumper Cars
- ✓ Inflatable Obstacle Course*



Times & Prices

*Activities subject to camp location

Standard Day

8:30am – 4:30pm | £65

Extended Day

8:00am – 5:30pm | £70

Extra Slice

5:30pm – 6:00pm | £8

300+ 5★
REVIEWS



register and book



Scan me to

Please provide your child with a healthy & balanced packed lunch with additional snacks for break times including a refillable drinks bottle.

We are a
NUT FREE CAMP
so no nuts please!



Swimming

Fencing

HOW TO BOOK | letsleapsportsacademy.co.uk | 020 3797 6386



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NOTICES and REMINDERS

Nut Free School

We have a number of children 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.

Cold Weather Clothing

There has been a noticeable drop in temperatures. Please ensure your child comes to school with their school hat, scarf, and gloves, as well as appropriate warm layers. This will help keep all children comfortable and prepared for the colder weather.

Sunday Mass

You are warmly invited to join Sunday Mass, which is held in the Chapel at 10:00am.

Parking

We kindly ask parents and carers to please avoid parking on the zig-zag lines outside the school. Keeping this space clear helps ensure a safe and smooth arrival and departure for all our children. Thank you for your support.



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 6th January 2026
CHILDREN RETURN

Thursday 8th
January

- Year 4 Netball Fixture (Away)

Friday 9th
January

- Staff led Mass

Monday 12th
January

- Clubs Start

Wednesday 14th
January

- Year 4 Coffee Morning (Details to follow)

Friday 16th
January

- Year 4 Mass

Monday 19th
January

- Year 5A and B Girls Netball (Away)
- **Heritage/International Week**



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday 21 st January | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 3 Class Netball (Away) |
| Friday 23 rd January | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 2 International Mass |
| Monday 26th January | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 3/4 Mixed Football (Home)• Year 4 Swimming (2 Weeks) |
| Friday 30 th January | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 6 Mass |
| Monday 2 nd February | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 5/6 Mixed Football (Home) |
| Wednesday 4 th February | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 5/6 Inter House Football |
| Friday 6 th February | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NSPCC Workshop with Years 2, 5 and 6• Year 5 Mass |
| Monday 9 th February | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 3/4 Netball (Home) |



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

**Tuesday 10th
February**

- Inter House Pancake Challenge
- Year 5A and Year 6A Netball Fixture (Home)

**Thursday 12th
February**

- Inter House Music Competition

**Thursday 12th February
SCHOOL CLOSSES AT USUAL TIME FOR HALF TERM**

**Monday 23rd February
CHILDREN RETURN**

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/>