



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 13th March 2026



Where Kindness Meets Ambition



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Dear Parents,

Last Sunday marked International Women's Day, and this year the United Nations framed it around three words: rights, justice, and action. The reason becomes clear when you realise that in 2026 women around the world still hold only about 64% of the legal rights available to men, and barriers exist in over 70% of the countries surveyed. Progress has happened, but it is uneven and nowhere near finished. The hope is always that each generation moves the dial further towards greater gender equality.

A co-educational school plays its part right at the beginning of that story. The most formative years of childhood are precisely when boys and girls begin to shape their expectations of one another. When they learn together, debate together, compete together and collaborate together, they build a picture of the world that is very different from one formed in separation. Leadership, confidence and intellectual authority cease to belong to one group or another; they are recognised simply as qualities that any child can develop.

Boys and girls sit beside one another every day, sharing ideas, questioning one another and learning how to work together. Girls grow up confident that their voice carries weight, and that leadership is open to them. Boys grow up expecting that the girls beside them will lead, challenge and achieve alongside them.

At this age children tend to recognise ability for what it is. The girl with the clearest idea may win the debate, the fastest runner the race, another child may persist until the problem is solved, and another may bring a team together and help others succeed. Children accept this with a refreshing simplicity, and that gives reason for optimism about the future they will help to shape.

That spirit connects directly with the story of this school. Saint Christina's was founded by the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart, a religious order of women who were themselves pioneers in education. Their foundress, St Raphaela Maria, believed deeply in the power of education to change lives and to open doors that might otherwise remain closed. The sisters placed education at the centre of their mission, particularly the education of girls at a time when opportunities for girls across Europe were still limited. Although Saint Christina's did not begin as a fully co-educational school up to Year 6, it welcomed both boys and girls from the outset - an instinct that now feels strikingly forward thinking.

If this generation grow up expecting that talent, leadership and ambition belong to everyone, the hope is that the percentages we read today will look very different in the decades ahead.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

Damien Walshe
Headteacher



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Pastoral Update

This week, I wanted to share something that has genuinely made me smile. Two of our children have written about their experiences of the Wellbeing Hub - and their words speak far more powerfully than anything I could say myself.

The first piece is from one of our Year 6 Wellbeing Ambassadors, who explains how the Hub works and reflects on what the role has meant to her - including developing greater empathy, patience, and respect for others. Reading it reminded me just how much our ambassadors give to this work, and how seriously they take their responsibility to their peers.

My Experience Going to the Wellbeing Hub

The Wellbeing Hub is a place where children go when they feel angry or sad.

I decided to go because I felt sad.

When I arrived, I spoke to a year six and Mr Burke.

After I visited the Hub, I felt better.

It helps me in lessons because I didn't have as much sadness as I had before.

I think the best thing about the Hub is that you have somebody to talk to and you have different things to help you to feel better.

I applied so I could help the other people in the school if they are worried or upset about something so that they have someone to talk to privately. In the wellbeing hub all you need to do is write your name and what Wellbeing ambassador or Mr Burke on a piece of paper and put it into a little box and a wellbeing ambassador will check it and whoever you want to talk to will talk to you.

When you have put your name in the box and someone comes to talk to you (whoever you put down) we they will listen to whatever you have to say and give you advice no matter how big or small.

I have learned that even if people have a small problem it doesn't mean they don't need help with it and I have learned empathy and more respect for others and I have also learned more patience since I've been a wellbeing ambassador.

The wellbeing hub has changed the pupils as now they know they always have someone to talk to. I have noticed that most pupils are happier now as they ~~know~~ have talked about their worries.

I think every school should have this as pupils may be scared to talk to a teacher but now they can talk with a friend.

The second is from one of our Year 3 children, who visited the Hub at a time when they were feeling sad. Their reflection is honest, heartfelt, and a wonderful example of the courage it takes to ask for support - and of the difference the Hub can make.

I am incredibly proud of all the children who have chosen to visit the Hub, and equally proud of our Wellbeing Ambassadors who make it such a welcoming and safe space. The impact this provision is having on our school community is clear to see - and we will continue to work together, listening to the children and learning from them, to make it the best it can possibly be.

Mr Burke - Assistant Head - Pastoral



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Neurodiversity Celebration Week

Next week, we will be celebrating Neurodiversity Week across the school. Classes will be taking part in a range of activities to learn about and celebrate the different ways we think, learn and experience the world.



Our Wellbeing Ambassadors and Inclusion Ambassador will be leading a whole school assembly, where children will explore different types of neurodivergence, including ADHD, dyslexia, autism and more, and reflect on how we can all be kinder, more understanding, and more inclusive. Everyone has their own unique strengths, and thinking differently is something to be proud of!

For more information and resources to support conversations at home, parents can visit: www.neurodiversityweek.com/parents

We look forward to another positive and thoughtful week.

Mr Burke - Assistant Head (Pastoral) and Ms Geary - SENCO

The Big Lent Walk – Next Thursday!

A reminder that on **Thursday 19th March**, children in Years 2–6 will be taking part in our Big Lent Walk, organised by our Caritas Ambassadors. We'll be walking around two miles, raising money for CAFOD to support families without access to food, clean water or safe homes



Children should wear PE kit and comfortable trainers, and bring a coat. We leave at 1:45pm and will be back before 3:00pm.

If you'd like to sponsor us, you can donate here: superkind.org/campaign/saint-christinas-the-big-lent-walk

Thank you for your support, every step makes a difference!

Mr Burke - Assistant Head (Pastoral) and the Caritas Ambassadors



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Hispanic Parent Visit

A huge thank you to Leon's dad, Yerco, for visiting our class and giving such an interesting talk about the geography of his birth country, Chile. The children were fascinated to learn about the incredible length of the country and its more than 3,000 volcanoes! They were very excited to discover so many new facts and were eager to listen to every detail.

Yerco made the session even more engaging by asking questions throughout the talk, and the children were thrilled to receive stickers for every correct answer. It was lovely to see their enthusiasm and curiosity.

It was a very sweet and memorable visit. Thank you so much!

Ms Bretones - Head of Spanish, Art & DT





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Nursery's Art Exploration Week 3: Foil Sculptures

In Week 3 of our Art Exploration we continued making sculptures, but this time we used foil. The children quickly discovered that foil is very different from the cardboard rings we used last week. They squeezed, twisted, folded and rolled it to see what shapes they could make. Some children created rainbows and donuts, while others experimented with balancing their sculptures on top of each other to make tall structures. Because the foil is so easy to change, the children enjoyed trying different ideas and reshaping their creations as they worked. It was a fun new experience exploring how we can use different materials to create sculptures.

Ms Randle - Head of EYFS





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Exploring Space in Reception

This week, Reception has been exploring the exciting topic of space, which has become a big interest in the classroom. In Talk for Write, we read the story *How to Catch a Star* and practised retelling it using our class story map before retelling the story in our own words in our journals. We also read both fiction and non-fiction books about space and, as a class, shared what we already know before creating a list of questions we would like to research and find the answers to. During choosing, the children played in a space rocket and space station, watched a short video about what astronauts do and what life is like in space, and wrote lists of what people might need if they travelled to space. They also made astronaut helmets using foil. At the playdough table, the children explored the moon and talked about why it sometimes appears in different shapes. In the construction area, the children designed and built their own spaceships and space stations using design sheets and wooden blocks. On Friday, we tried making astronaut food in cooking by rehydrating instant pudding. It has been a wonderful week of curiosity, imagination and discovery as we continue learning more about space.

Ms Williams - Reception Class Teacher





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Year 1 Science: Seasons

In Science this half term, we have been learning about the seasons. We explored the four seasons and began to think carefully about the signs that tell us spring is arriving. The children enjoyed comparing the different seasons and discussing how the weather, plants and our activities change throughout the year.

To help us remember the cycle of the seasons, we created our own seasons spinners. This activity encouraged lots of discussion as we shared ideas and worked together to think about what makes each season special. The children showed wonderful curiosity as they noticed signs of spring around our school grounds.

We were especially excited to see the beautiful daffodils beginning to bloom in our outdoor learning space. It has been a lovely opportunity to observe the changes happening in nature and to talk about the signs of spring we can see around us.

We are very much looking forward to continuing our learning during our trip next week, where we hope to spot even more signs of spring and explore the natural world together!

Ms Higgins and Ms Khalique - Year 1 Class Teachers





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Year 2

This week in Music, we had so much fun! We learned a new song called How Do You Do. It helped us count the beat in our heads. We performed it for Mr Burke and we did lots of dancing too - it was really fun!

Then we started to learn about notation. This means writing music down. We had never done this before and it was so exciting!

In Science, we planted broad bean seeds! We explored what would happen if a plant had no sunlight or no water. We found out what a plant needs to grow. It was really interesting!

Year 2 Class





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KS1 Story Club

KS1 Story Club loved settling into our beautiful new library this week. We spent time exploring the space, choosing books and testing out all the cosy seating before gathering together to listen to our story. The children were very excited to discover the different reading spots and enjoyed curling up with a book in the comfortable beanbags and hanging seats.

It was a lovely opportunity to slow down and enjoy reading together as a group. The children listened carefully to the story and were eager to share their thoughts and favourite parts afterwards. Story Club has quickly become a calm and joyful part of the week and the children are already looking forward to their next visit.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped create such a welcoming and inspiring new library space for our school community!

Ms Higgins - Teacher in charge of KS1 Story Club

Mr Men: Mr Impossible: *I like Mr Impossible because he can do impossible things. He can walk on a tree. This story is funny and silly. I didn't know that he could sleep upside down! I like when he kicked the ball snow fell on it.* - Child in Y1 OH





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Year 3 Sacrament

Last Friday, six of the children in Year 3 took a beautiful step in their faith journey as they celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All the children in Year 3 acted out the parable of the Lost Sheep, conveying the message that when we make mistakes, we might feel a little lost, but Jesus never gives up on us. He is always waiting to welcome us back with open arms.

The children were brilliant in delivering their dialogues, showing fantastic acting skills, keeping our audience in fits of laughter, and singing beautifully. Well done Year 3! We were so very proud of you all!

The children in Years 4, 5 and 6 who have received their First Holy Communion also took part in this sacrament, as the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a perfect reflection during the season of Lent.

Ms Sephton and Ms Fernandes





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Year 4

This week, Year 4 worked incredibly hard completing their end-of-term PIRA, PUMA and GAPS assessments, and everyone should feel very proud of their effort. In RE, we explored the parable of the Prodigal Son through different perspectives to understand its themes of mercy and forgiveness, and linked the Judgement of Nations parable to the Christian belief that helping others is a way of loving God. Our Geography learning focused on deforestation, considering both its advantages and disadvantages, before writing persuasive pieces answering the question, "Should people cut down trees?" In Maths, we revisited key concepts from across the year and completed practice tests in preparation for our assessments, while in English, we answered comprehension questions on chapter 9 of Journey to the River Sea. In Art, we began creating our rainforest dioramas by planning designs, painting backgrounds and starting to construct trees, plants and animals for our scenes. In PSHE, we continued our Digital Wellbeing unit by discussing how online messages can be misunderstood and what to do when words hurt. We also enjoyed taking part in the school's Open Morning, where the KS2 choir performed beautifully, and the class impressed visitors with their superb attitude and effort during PE. Well done Year 4!

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher





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Year 5

As a part of Design and Technology lessons, Year 5 have been enjoying a wonderful opportunity to learn sewing with Sister Noella. The children began by developing the important skill of threading a needle, something that required a great deal of resilience, patience and determination! Despite a few tricky moments, the class showed fantastic perseverance and were very proud when they succeeded.

Once their needles were threaded, the children practised creating a running stitch. They learned how important it is to keep their stitches evenly spaced and to carefully follow a straight line around the edges of the fabric. This required concentration, steady hands and attention to detail.

The session was a lovely reminder that learning new practical skills takes time and practice. Year 5 demonstrated great resilience throughout the lesson and are already looking forward to continuing to develop their sewing skills.

Ms O'Leary - Year 5 Class Teacher





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Year 6

Year 6 were wonderful ambassadors for the school at our Open Morning. The children thoroughly enjoyed giving tours to prospective parents and approached the role with great maturity and confidence. They spoke positively about their experiences and engaged warmly with visitors, proudly sharing what makes our school so special. We received extremely positive feedback from parents, many of whom commented on how clear it was that the children genuinely love being part of our school community.

In preparation for the upcoming Easter play, the class has been busy organising the props and trying on costumes.

A lot of fun was had to celebrate Pi Day. Philippe memorised pi to a whopping 410 decimal places! This is absolutely huge and sees him set the new Saint Christina's record!! Very well done Philippe! We also had fun as a class learning a medley of Pi Day songs!

Mrs Ellisdon - Head of English





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Sport Update

This week the children have continued to enjoy a wide variety of sports activities across the school. The Year 1 classes have particularly enjoyed their gymnastics lessons, where they have begun putting together some simple routines and developing their confidence when performing different movements.

Our Nursery and Reception children have been busy exploring a range of apparatus, with a focus on developing balance and strength through climbing, balancing and controlled movement activities.

The older classes have continued to impress during their tag rugby sessions. The Year 6 group especially enjoyed taking part in some exciting 4v4 matches, showing great teamwork and determination. Meanwhile, the football and netball sessions have been very game-focused, giving the children plenty of opportunities to apply their skills in match situations.

On Monday, the Year 5 and 6 football team took on Trevor Roberts in three very competitive matches. Despite strong performances, we were narrowly defeated in two of the games due to some excellent finishing from the opposition and several amazing saves from their goalkeeper. However, the team finished high by winning the final match, scoring some fantastic goals. One highlight was an incredible long-range strike from his own half by Philippe. Well done to all the children who took part for their effort, teamwork and determination.





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Looking ahead to next week, our Year 6 netball team will continue their league fixtures with a game against St Mary's. Meanwhile, the Year 5 and 6 girls' football team have two tournaments next week.

Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 16th March	St Mary's	Y6A and B Netball Girls	Away	16.00-17.00
Wednesday 18th March	Cavendish Tournament	Y5/6 Football Girls	Away	10.00-13.00
Friday 20th March	Belmont Tournament	Y5/6 Football Girls	Away	13.00 - 16.00
Monday 23rd March	Channing	Y6 Netball Girls	Away	15.30-16.00

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport

School Council Update

The School Council were excited to sit down with Chef Nigel on Monday this week to talk about school lunches. In preparation for the meeting, the councillors carried out a short survey in their classes to find out which meals the children really enjoy, which ones they prefer less, and any ideas for new dishes they would like to see on the menu. The children were also keen to say that they enjoy the food overall and appreciate the variety of meals that are prepared for them each day.



The children enjoyed speaking with Nigel and were very interested to learn more about how the kitchen works behind the scenes. Nigel was pleased to hear their feedback and will now review their suggestions with a view to trying some of the ideas in future menus.

Mr Hirst - Deputy Headteacher



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Music Lessons

We have spaces for flute, violin, guitar, trumpet and trombone lessons at the moment. If you are interested in lessons for your child, you can find information and the application form [here](#). If you have any questions please contact me via email - ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk

Mrs Bryant - Director of Music

DINY'S SENSORY AND MESSY PLAY (FROM 10 MONTHS -TO 36 MONTHS)



SENSORY AND MESSY PLAY GIVES BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN THE FREEDOM TO EXPLORE THE WORLD THROUGH THEIR SENSES-TOUCH,SIGHT,SOUND,SMELL AND MOVEMENT. THROUGH ACTIVITIES AND EXPLORING DIFFERENT TEXTURES,CHILDREN BUILD CONFIDENCE, CURIOSITY, AND ESSENTIAL EARLY SKILLS.

OUR NEXT SESSIONS WILL HAVE A FUN SPRING-EASTER THEME RELATED ACTIVITIES AND THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR HANDS ON- SENSORY EXPERIENCE.

LED BY EDINA, A QUALIFIED EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR WITH 10+ YEARS EXPERIENCE INCLUDING ROLES AS BABY ROOM LEADER AND DEPUTY MANAGER.

VENUE:THE ART'S HALL. SAINT CHRISTINA'S SCHOOL,
25 ST EDMUND'S TERRACE
NW8 7PY

7TH AND 28TH OF MARCH SATURDAY

TIME: 10:30AM - 11:30AM

PRICE: £10 PER CHILD OR BRING A FRIEND FOR £15

CASH ONLY

PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE PRESENT WITH YOUR CHILD FOR THE DURATION OF THE SESSION



PLEASE BOOK YOUR SPACE VIA THE EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW:

[RETESIE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:retesie@gmail.com) FIND US ON HAPPITY TOO

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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.

Mass – Reminder to Parents and Carers

We kindly remind parents and carers that, in line with our safeguarding policies and school guidelines, photographs and videos must not be taken of children during Mass.

We also ask that this time is respected as a moment for reflection and prayer. We would therefore be grateful if parents and carers could refrain from using mobile phones during Mass.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



Online Safety – Children and Mobile Phones

The NSPCC has published guidance for parents and carers about children's use of mobile phones and staying safe online. While phones can be helpful for communication and learning, it is important that children are supported to use them safely. The advice encourages parents to have regular conversations with their children about their online activity, set clear boundaries for phone use, and make use of parental controls and privacy settings.

You can read the guidance here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/children-phones-online-safety/>



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Dates for your diary

Monday 16th March

- **EYFS Parent Teacher Meetings**
- **Last Week of Clubs**
- Neurodiversity Week
- Science Week
- SCS Hispanic Week (Monday - Wednesday)

**Wednesday 18th
March**

- **Year 5 Parent Coffee Morning (9am - 10am)**
- Year 5/6 Girls Football (Away)

Thursday 19th March

- Mr Walshe & Mr Hirst Visiting Handmaids School in Portugal (2 day)
- Year 1 Trip
- The Big Lent Walk (1.45pm - 3.00pm)

Friday 20th March

- Year 4 Music Concert Trip
- Year 2 Cinema Trip
- Y5/6 Football Tournament
- Year 1 Mass
- **Nearly New Uniform Sale**

Monday 23rd March

- **No Clubs**
- Year 6 Netball Fixture (Away)

**Wednesday 25th
March**

- **Year 6 Parent Coffee Morning (Details to Follow)**
- Year 4 Zoo Trip



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Thursday 26th March

- Year 1 Cinema Trip
- **Passion Play**

Friday 27th March

- **Nursery Art Exhibition (Details to Follow)**

Friday 27th March

SCHOOL CLOSURES AT MIDDAY FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS

Tuesday 21st April

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/>