



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 15th May 2026



Where Kindness Meets Ambition



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Dear Parents,

Last weekend I read an article about what is being called the modern information crisis. The central argument was unsettling because much of it felt pretty accurate. We once worried about 'fake news' but now there are moments now when reality itself feels less stable.

Children and young adults are growing up in a world where information is relentless. They (and we) are surrounded by opinions that are not necessarily facts, and a great deal of performance presented as authenticity, where emotion, or a carefully constructed image can make something 'feel' true before it has been properly tested. Images can now be generated, voices can be cloned, and stories can move around the world before anybody has properly stopped to examine them.

This is a challenge for young people, and I think many adults feel it as well, myself included. Public conversation has become that bit faster, harsher, and more judgemental, and attention moves quickly from one thing to the next. Reflection can often give way to reaction, and I think that all of this taken together changes the responsibility of schools.

This morning I spent some time watching a Year 5 debate on whether aliens exist. It is one of those questions children immediately enjoy, and adults do too because it is a big and inherently interesting question: In the vastness of the cosmos, is it possible that intelligent life exists somewhere else? I find it fascinating. What impressed me with Year 5 was their thinking around the topic and how they managed to incorporate all 6Cs with incredible skill. They had planned their arguments carefully, listened closely, challenged ideas respectfully, and justified their reasoning. In short, they were thinking properly.

A good education still begins with knowledge. It must. Children need to read fluently, write well, think mathematically, understand history and theology, encounter great literature, and wrestle with scientific and philosophical ideas. There is no substitute for knowing things properly because knowledge gives children something to think *with*.

But schools also must help children develop judgement. They need to become comfortable asking difficult questions and become equally comfortable with uncertainty before arriving at an answer. They need to recognise the difference between somebody sounding convincing and somebody being correct. They need enough confidence to question what they hear, but also enough humility to change their mind when they encounter a better argument. It's a big ask.

As a philosophy teacher, I accept that I am perhaps too ready to bring things back to Socrates. Still, Plato has Socrates suggest that philosophy begins in wonder, and I could see that in Year 5 this week. The question began with aliens, which is always a great 'hook', but because of these wonderful children it became about evidence, reasoning, listening, and learning the habit of thinking beyond a first answer.



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What I saw in Year 5 was a reminder that children are capable of this kind of thinking when they are given the chance and a bit of space to actually think. They do not need every answer handed to them. Sometimes they just need a question big enough to make them think properly.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

Damien Walshe
Headteacher

Staffing Update

I want to share some lovely news with you. Ms Daria is expecting a baby, and I know you will join me in congratulating her warmly. This is a special time for her and her family, and we are delighted for them. Ms Daria will begin her maternity leave in September, and the process of finding the right colleague to cover her absence is already underway. We will keep parents updated once arrangements are confirmed.

Prefect and Heads of School Appointments – September 2026

We are now beginning the process of appointing next year's prefect team and Heads of School (Head Girl and Boy). This is an important part of how we help pupils develop leadership, service and responsibility as they move into Year 6.

All children currently in Year 5 have been invited to apply for up to three prefect roles from a list that reflects different areas of school life. They may also propose a new role if they feel there is an area they would like to develop and lead.

Children who wish to be considered for Head Girl or Head Boy will write a short statement explaining why they feel they would be a strong ambassador for Saint Christina's. Pupils and colleagues will then vote for the Heads of School, with the vote forming an important part of the final decision alongside the application itself.

We are also mindful that leadership brings important life lessons. Many children will take on roles of responsibility, though not every child will be appointed to the specific role they first hoped for. Learning to celebrate the success of others, respond with resilience and continue to lead through example are all part of growing in character.

I am looking forward to seeing how the Year 5 pupils respond to this opportunity and to appointing a prefect team that will live out The Golden Thread in the life of the school.



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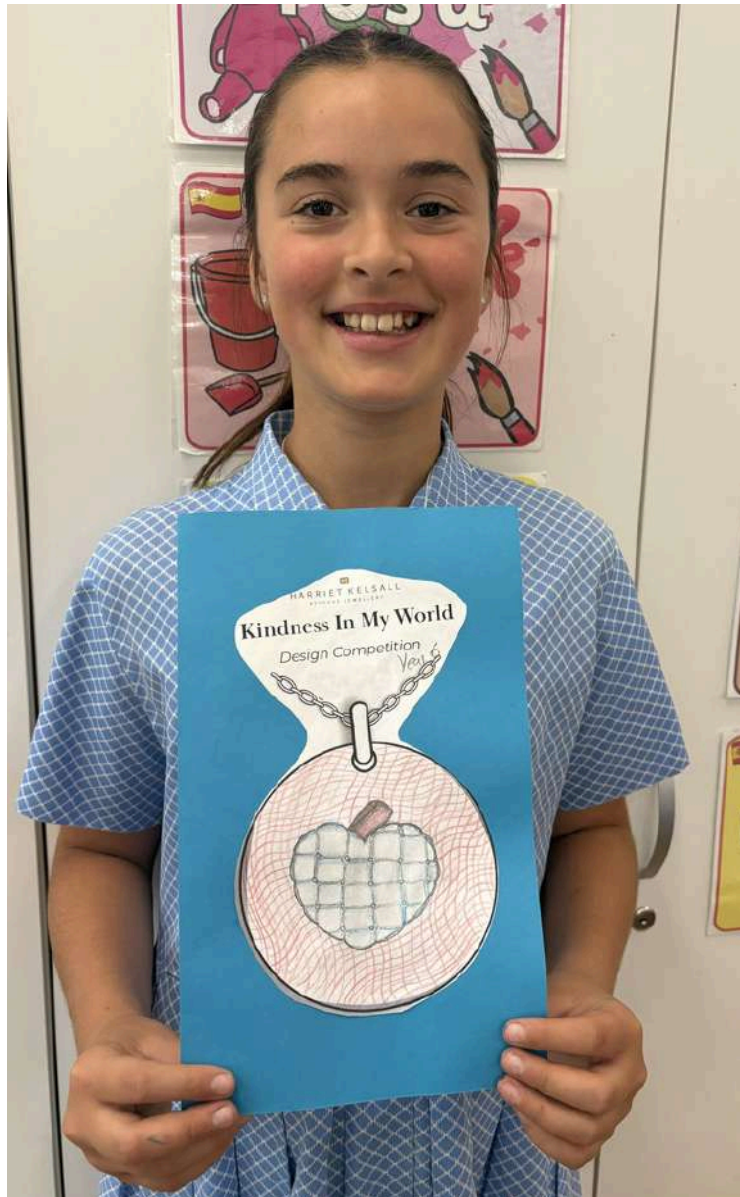
Pedant Design Competition

A child in Year 6 has made us incredibly proud by achieving second place in a prestigious pendant design competition launched by Harriet Kelsall studio in Primrose Hill.

The children were invited to create a pendant inspired by an important moment in their lives, and she designed a beautiful and meaningful heart-shaped pendant that impressed the judges with its detail and thoughtfulness. Achieving second place in such a competitive event is an excellent accomplishment.

Well done!

Ms Bretones - Head of Art and DT



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From Caterpillar to Butterfly

Our caterpillars have now all turned into cocoons and, as we eagerly wait for them to hatch into butterflies, Nursery made their own versions of a caterpillar in a cocoon turning into a butterfly! Nursery were very eager to do this and were able to make them completely independently. They loved sharing them with their friends and many were carried around all week and joined in with all the different activities in Nursery!

Ms Randle - Head of EYFS and Nursery Class Teacher





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Caterpillars in Reception

At the beginning of this term, Reception received a very exciting delivery of caterpillars in the post.

The children were immediately fascinated, which sparked lots of interest in minibeasts and inspired our new Talk for Write story, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. Together, we carefully unboxed the caterpillars, added their food and gently moved them into their pots using paintbrushes. Over the past few weeks, we have been closely observing the caterpillars as they have grown bigger and bigger. The children could not believe how quickly they doubled in size and then doubled again. We talked about the caterpillar life cycle and learned that the caterpillars would eventually form chrysalises before becoming butterflies. All of our caterpillars are now hanging in their chrysalises inside a special butterfly net, and the children have been watching carefully each day to spot any changes. Reception has loved making predictions about when the butterflies might emerge, with some children predicting it may take more than two weeks, just like in *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

We are all very excited to see what happens next in our butterfly journey.

Ms Williams - Reception Class Teacher





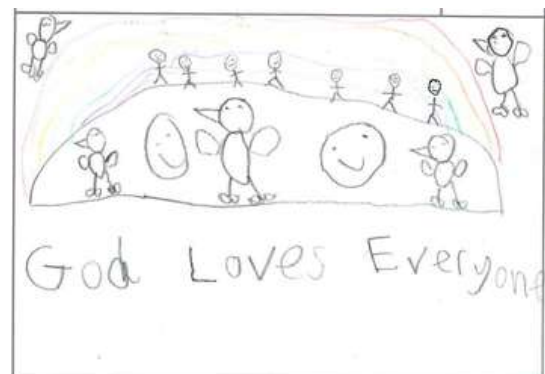
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Year 1 RE: Sharing the Good News

We loved exploring the story of Pentecost and learning how the Holy Spirit helped the apostles change from fear to courage as they shared the Good News with others. We thought carefully about the message the apostles shared and discussed how we can also be disciples today by showing kindness, helping others and sharing God's love in our daily lives.

A highlight of the lesson was creating our own bright and thoughtful posters to spread messages of hope, courage and love, inspired by the Good News the apostles shared after Pentecost. We were so proud of the creativity and care shown in the children's work and loved hearing the confident messages they performed together. This learning linked beautifully to our school's golden thread, 'love your neighbour as yourself', reminding us that we are all called to share God's love with others every day.

Ms Higgins & Ms Khalique - Year 1 Class Teachers





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Year 2

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, Year 2 took part in a really thoughtful discussion based around the question, "Do tests change how you feel?" We spoke about how everybody's mind works differently and how tests can make different people feel different emotions, from excitement to nervousness. The children shared some incredibly mature ideas about ways we can support each other during times like this, including staying calm, encouraging one another, getting enough sleep and remembering that tests are there to help us learn.

In RE, the children demonstrated their creativity by designing their own symbols to represent what they thought the Holy Spirit might be. We explored the symbols linked to Pentecost and discussed how symbols can help express meaning and ideas in different ways.



Mr Burke - Year 2 Class Teacher

Mental Health Awareness Week 2026

This week, we marked Mental Health Awareness Week across the school.

Throughout the week, children took part in a range of age-appropriate discussions, reflections and wellbeing activities linked to emotional health, positive relationships and looking after ourselves and others.

At Saint Christina's, we believe wellbeing is something that should be embedded into daily school life rather than discussed only during awareness weeks. However, it was a valuable opportunity to pause and reflect together as a community.

As part of the week, we also encouraged children to think about simple actions that can support positive mental health, such as:

- getting outside for fresh air and exercise
- talking to someone they trust
- taking breaks from screens
- getting enough sleep
- making time for hobbies, creativity and relaxation
- showing kindness to themselves and others

We know that small, consistent actions can often make the biggest difference, and we are grateful for the continued support of our families in helping to promote positive wellbeing both in school and at home.

Mr Burke - Year 2 Class Teacher



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KS1 Story Club

Lego Ninjago: Dragons Rising - Meet the Ninjas: *I liked this story because it has a quiz at the end. I like that I can see the Legos that I have. I have the exact same green and red ninjas that are on the front.* - Child in Y1 MK



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Year 3 Art and Design

In their Art lessons, Year 3 have been exploring the dynamic and expressive style of British artist Nick Rowland by creating volcano sculptures using paper mâché. They brought their models to life with a variety of painting techniques, such as blowing, dripping and flicking, to depict flowing lava, experimenting with colour, blending and texture to create dramatic effects. The finished pieces are full of energy and creativity, and the children really enjoyed evaluating their own and others' artwork.

Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher



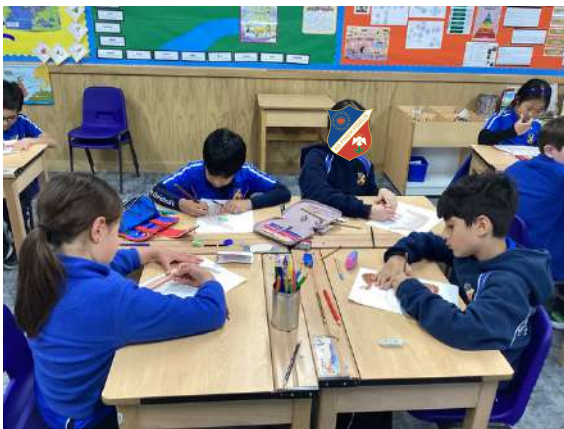


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Year 4

This week in Year 4, we explored the Apostles' Creed in RE, learning how it summarises Christian beliefs and how the Church is structured. In History, we investigated whether Alfred the Great deserved his title by examining evidence and justifying our opinions. In Maths, we began our new topic on shape, learning about different angles and the properties of triangles, quadrilaterals and polygons. In English, we completed a comprehension on firefighters, revised fronted adverbials and practised writing expanded noun phrases inspired by Beowulf. In Art, we enjoyed drawing cartoon Viking longships and designing shields using runes, while in PSHE we created wellbeing toolboxes for Mental Health Week. We also celebrated our talented musicians at Tuesday's concert - well done to everyone who performed!

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher





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Year 5

Last week, Year 5 celebrated Mass to launch Laudato Si' Week, all in keeping with the 100th birthday of David Attenborough. Inspired by Pope Francis' call to care for our common home, the children reflected on the importance of protecting and preserving our world for future generations. During the celebration, the children proudly presented the beautiful plants they had sown, planted, and nurtured since Earth Day at the beginning of term. This Laudato Si' Week, let us all try to take one small step towards caring for the beautiful world we live in.

Ms O'Leary - Year 5 Class Teacher





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Year 6

As you know, Year 6 have been taking part in the Young Entrepreneur Academy, an exciting programme designed to introduce pupils to the world of business and enterprise. Through a series of modules, the children have explored what businesses are, different types of companies, developing and refining ideas, writing business plans, marketing, supply chains, finance, break-even analysis, financial statements, franchising, raising capital and the factors that help businesses grow and succeed.

This week, the pupils completed the Mid-Series Test and are performing extremely well. They are on track to achieve their accreditation from University College London, a fantastic accomplishment that reflects their hard work, creativity and growing business knowledge.

The skills the children have been developing through the Young Entrepreneur Academy are directly supporting their Legacy Projects. Earlier this week, you will have received a letter from Juliana, Akari, Finn and Ehwan, who have designed a set of House T-shirts. The T-shirts cost £14 each. Although the original deadline for orders was today, they have extended this to Thursday 21st May.

As the children will be away on their residential trip next week, if you would like to place an order, please email your completed order form to me at lellisdon@saintchristinas.org.uk. This will allow the children to finalise numbers and place the order with the supplier on Friday before we break up for half term.

Please send cash payment to the School Office and confirm in your email that payment has been made.

Other teams are currently negotiating costs and finalising their products, and they will share further information with you after half term.

Alongside their entrepreneurial studies, Year 6 have also been focusing on refining their essay-writing skills in preparation for the transition to secondary school in September. They have been working hard to structure their ideas clearly, develop thoughtful arguments and write with increasing confidence and independence.



Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Class Teacher



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STEM fun in Year 1

This week, Year 1 enjoyed a fantastic STEM lesson using our new Toyi kits! The children used linking tools and elastic bands to transform recycled materials into their own imaginative creations, including animals, objects, and many other wonderful inventions.

It was lovely to see the children thinking creatively and using their little hands so carefully to build and construct their ideas. Not only were they incredibly creative, but they also developed important skills such as patience, collaboration, and teamwork while working in pairs. A wonderful lesson full of creativity, communication, and problem-solving!



Ms Bretones - Head of Art & DT
Ms Khalique - Year 1 Class Teacher



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Sport Update

We have had another great week of sport at school, with fantastic enthusiasm and effort shown across the entire school. The sports clubs are now in full flow and there have been some very competitive games in the football academy, with lots of goals, great saves and some fast-paced passing on display. Cricket Club has continued to focus on match play in preparation for upcoming fixtures, while the netball teams are continuing to prepare for next season.

On Monday, the Year 4 and Year 5 cricket teams played two close games against Sarum Hall. The Year 5 team narrowly secured victory thanks to some strong hitting from Isabella and accurate bowling from Amelia. The Year 4 team tried very hard but lacked accuracy in their bowling, resulting in a 20-run loss. It was many of the children's first experience of competitive cricket and, hopefully, the Year 4s can bounce back in their next game. Today, the Year 4 boys take on Trevor Roberts.

The Key Stage 2 classes have had a big focus on running between the wickets in cricket this week, alongside developing the accuracy of their overarm bowling.

We are continuing to prepare for our upcoming Sports Days and this week we have focused on the shooting challenge, which requires both speed and coordination, as well as the overarm throw event. Children have enjoyed throwing a variety of different objects and exploring different angles of release.





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| Date | Against | Team/Yr | Venue | Time |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Wednesday 3 rd June | Southbank Tournament | Y3/4 Football (Boys) | Away | 10.00 - 15.30 |
| Friday 5 th June | St Mary's Tournament | Y5/6 Cricket (Girls) | Away | 12.00 - 15.30 |
| Monday 8 th June | Ivy House | Y5/6 Cricket (Mixed) | Home | 15.50 - 16.30 |
| Monday 15 th June | Trevor Roberts | Y5/6 Cricket (Mixed) | Home | 15.30 - 16.30 |

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport



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Junior Mathematics Challenge 2026 Results

We have just received this year's Junior Mathematics Challenge results, which are some of the best that we have received over the past few years!

Out of 20 children participating, we had 11 children receive awards, no mean feat in a competition which is traditionally dominated by pupils in Years Seven and Eight.

Our results consisted of 4 Gold awards (representing the top 8.3 % of the population taking the test), 1 Silver award (representing the next 8.3% - 25% of the population), and 6 Bronze awards (representing the next 25% - 50% of the population)

The results were all the better since 3 of our participants who gained Gold awards qualified to go through to the next round - the Junior Kangaroo. These children represent performers in the top 5% of the competition. The Junior Kangaroo competition will take place in June, during the second half of the Summer Term.

The names of the children who gained awards are as follows:

Gold: Akari, Ehwan, Philippe and Sofi

Silver: Diana

Bronze: Altea, Beatrix, Harry, Juliana, Matthew and Raphael

Congratulations go to all of our participants, whether they gained awards or not. It was commented that this year's competition was rather more challenging than usual, so our children have worked and performed really well.

Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Enrichment



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Music Update

Congratulations to all the children who took part in the Spring Concert this week! Over 70 children took part – members of Little Voices, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Brass Group, Guitar Group and Orchestra. It was a wonderful evening and all the children performed brilliantly.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the evening such a success.





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Brass lessons – free taster lessons!

On Wednesday, Mr Thomas and some of our brass pupils gave an assembly about brass instruments and what it is like to learn them. It was great to hear from children about why they enjoy playing so much. We are looking for new brass players and this is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn an instrument that is a little out of the ordinary.

Mr Thomas will be offering **free taster lessons** next week (**20th May**) to any children in Years 2, 3 or 4 who would like to try it, and Year 5 will be offered them after half term.

In the taster lesson they will get to try both trumpet and trombone, and Mr Thomas will then recommend the one he thinks they are most suited to. If you would like your child to have a taster lesson, or if you have any questions, please email me at ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk



Music Assembly – Summer Term 2026

We will be holding a music assembly on Tuesday 9th June, for children in KS1 and any in KS2 who did not get the opportunity to perform in our Spring term assemblies. This is an opportunity for children to experience performing on their instrument (or voice) to a friendly and supportive audience, and parents are also invited to attend.

If your child has lessons in school their teacher will discuss this with them. If your child has lessons outside school (and is in KS1 or did not perform last time) then you can sign them up to perform using the [form here](#)

Please ensure you complete this by Friday 22nd May to help with planning.

Music Exams

Congratulations to Betsy in Year 6, who passed Grade 3 Singing recently. Well done!

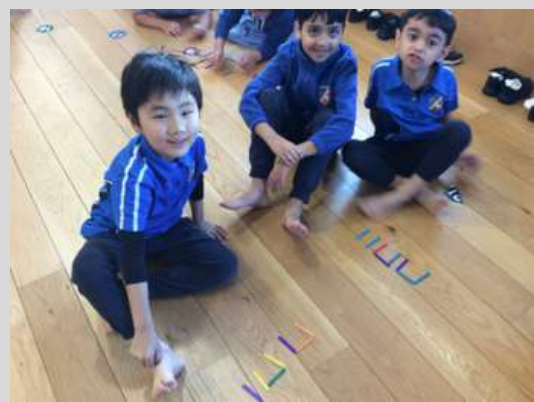
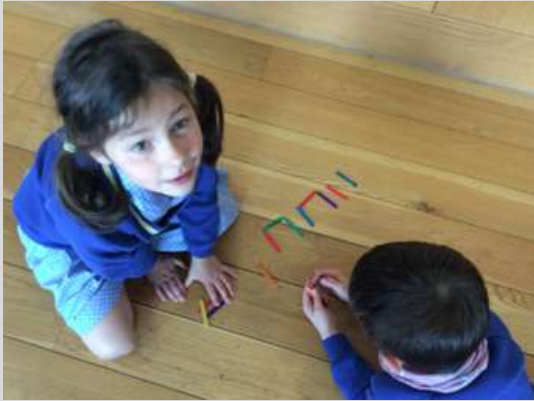
Mrs Bryant - Director of Music



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Year 2 Music

Year 2 have been learning about musical notation, and in particular how to notate simple song rhythms. This week we had great fun using lolly sticks to represent 4-beat rhythms. Well done Year 2!



Dates for your diary

Tuesday 9th June, 9.00am – Music assembly (for KS1 and any children in KS2 who did not get an opportunity to perform in the Spring term)

Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd July, 6.00pm – Summer Production: "A-la-la-la-laddin"

Music Lessons

If you are interested in lessons for your child, you can find information and the application form [here](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Mrs Bryant - Director of Music



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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.

Emailing scomms@saintchristinas.org.uk

Please do not send emails to the scomms@saintchristinas.org.uk email address, as this inbox is not monitored. Instead, kindly direct your emails to office@saintchristinas.org.uk or the relevant class teacher.

Online Safety – New Government Guidance: Screen Time for Under-Fives

The government has this week published its first evidence-backed screen time guidance for children under five, recommending no more than one hour of screen time per day and avoiding screens alone for under-twos. The guidance suggests watching together where possible, avoiding fast-paced content, and trying simple "screen swaps" — a story or a game instead. It also notes that not all screen time is the same; watching with an engaged adult is linked to better outcomes than solo use, and that time limits should not apply in the same way for assistive technologies supporting children with SEND.

You can read the full guidance here: <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/screen-time-under-5s/>

At Saint Christina's, we will continue to support children in developing healthy relationships with technology through our Digital Wellbeing provision as part of PSHE. If you would like to revisit the themes raised in the guidance at home, a digital recording of our recent parent talk, Parenting in the Digital Age, is available here: [Parenting in the Digital Age](#)



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Dates for your diary

Monday 18th May

- Year 5 and 6 Residential Trip (1 Week)
- St Raphaela Feast Day

Thursday 21st May

- Year 1 & Year 4 Trip

Friday 22nd May

- No Mass
- Year 5 and 6 return from Residential Trip

Friday 22nd May

SCHOOL CLOSSES AT USUAL TIME FOR HALF -TERM

Monday 1st June

CHILDREN RETURN

Monday 1st June

- Year 6 Cycle Training (All week)

Wednesday 3rd June

- Nursery Forest School

Friday 5th June

- Year 5/6 Cricket (Away)



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Monday 8th June

- Year 5/6 Cricket (Home)

Tuesday 9th June

- Music Assembly (Details to follow)
- New Starter Taster Morning (Nursery)

Wednesday 10th June

- Nursery Forest School

Friday 12th June

- KS2 Sports Day

Monday 15th June

- Year 5/6 Cricket (Home)

Wednesday 17th June

- Nursery Forest School

Friday 19th June

- EYFS & KS1 Sports Day

Monday 22nd June

- Last Week of Clubs

Tuesday 23rd June

- Class Photos (Details to Follow)



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Wednesday 24th June

- Nursery Forest School
- Reception Trip (Details to follow)

Friday 26th June

- Nursery Trip (Details to follow)

Tuesday 30th June

- KS2 Production Dress Rehearsal

Wednesday 1st July

- Nursery Forest School
- KS2 Production - Years 3 & 4 Parents (Details to follow)

Thursday 2nd July

- KS2 Productions - Years 5 & 6 Parents (Details to follow)

Saturday 4th July

- Summer Fair

Monday 6th July

- Class Change over & new starters from YR to Y6 visiting

Tuesday 7th July

- KS2 Prize Giving (Details to follow)

Wednesday 8th July

- Year 6 Leavers' Mass



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Wednesday 8th July
SCHOOL CLOSURES AT MIDDAY FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Thursday 3rd September
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/>