



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 16TH May, 2025





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Dear Parents,

The School has felt a little quieter this week with our Year 5 and 6 children away on their residential, but the photos and messages we've received from Osmington Bay tell a very different story! To quote Mrs Ellisdon, "the weather here has felt like the south of France". Happy faces, and children embracing opportunities like trapeze jumps and rock climbing, rafting and cooking around the campfire, they have collectively shown resilience, leadership and real joy in their learning. This is music to my ears. A huge thank you to the team of colleagues who accompanied the children this week, I am very grateful.

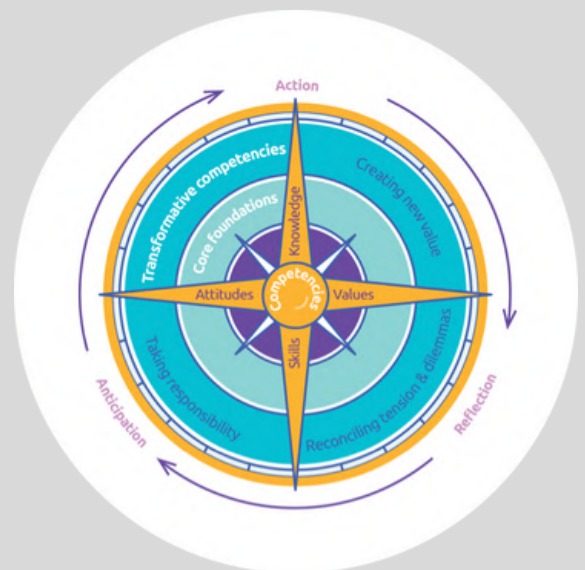
Trips like this are more than just a break from routine. They also give children the chance to grow in independence, deepen friendships, and learn in ways that are practical, reflective and collaborative. They remind us that education is not confined to four walls, and that some of the most lasting learning happens when children are challenged, supported and trusted in this way.

This is exactly the kind of experience we aim to embed across our work at Saint Christina's, as part of our five-year strategic vision, Approaching 2030. Built around four key pillars: **Knowledge, Skills, Character Formation, and a Culture of Thinking**, our plan is designed to ensure that children are not only prepared for Senior School but equipped to thrive in a world that is dynamic, interconnected and uncertain.

These ideas are strongly echoed in the collaborative and extensively researched OECD's Future of Education and Skills 2030 project, which outlines how Schools can prepare children not just for the next stage, but for life.

Their Learning Compass 2030 framework highlights the importance of building agency, developing the competencies needed to navigate complexity, and helping young people develop the ability to anticipate, act and reflect. These are not abstract ideals, rather they are practical ways of describing the kind of person we want each child to become.

The OECD Framework prioritises things like critical and creative thinking, emotional intelligence, digital and ethical understanding, and a strong sense of social responsibility. Of course, no study, even one as collaborative as this, is perfect. It was argued that some voices were underrepresented, and it is difficult to measure things like character and values. The framework is also still catching up with the effects of COVID on education and the rapid rise of AI. That said, the bigger picture is hard to ignore or disagree with on a fundamental level: if education is not preparing children to think critically, act responsibly, and shape a better future, then what is it for? This vision strongly reflects our own focus on the 6Cs - Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Curiosity, Creativity, and Commitment. In time I want these to sit explicitly at the heart of our curriculum and our wider school culture. Through every subject and every experience, we want to help children ask better questions, reflect more deeply, and engage with the world more thoughtfully which takes us to the literal translation of the word education - to '**draw out**'





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A key part of this is our emphasis on metacognition. We are teaching children to think about how they learn, to plan and review their strategies, and to develop self-awareness (ask them if they can perform the Thinking Moves in sign language yet!) It is these essential habits of mind that will support their wellbeing, relationships and decision-making for years to come.

Another strand of Approaching 2030 is our focus on sustainability and environmental leadership, now being led by Ms Randle. This includes supporting children to think systemically, think about their impact on the environment, and become stewards of the world around them. This aligns closely with the OECD's call for schools to embed thinking about global sustainability as part of a broader education for the future, a vision that the OECD itself acknowledges must extend well beyond 2030, into the decades ahead.

Of course, none of this means that knowledge for its own sake is redundant, quite the opposite in fact. But what increasingly matters is how that knowledge is applied and how we teach children to 'pivot'. As the OECD framework makes clear, children must be able to connect ideas across subjects, adapt what they know to new situations, and use their learning to solve real problems. Our job is to equip them not just to know, but to understand and ultimately, to act.

And so back to our little corner of St. John's Wood, and for some of our community this week, Osmington Bay. Whether it is rock climbing, debating a big question, or noticing something new in the world around them, we want our children to feel confident in themselves, secure in their values, and ready for whatever the future brings. That is what Approaching 2030 is all about.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

Damien Walshe
Headteacher



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Mr Burke is Running the Hackney Half!

This Sunday, I'll be running the Hackney Half Marathon to raise money for St. John's Hospice. The Hospice provides vital care to so many people in the local community, and I wanted to do something to give back and help support their incredible work.

Thank you so much for the generous donations so far – I've been really touched by the support.

All money raised will go directly towards patient care, facilities, and the brilliant team who make such a difference every day.

If you'd like to support, you can donate through the Saint Christina's JustGiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/stjohnshospice>

Thank you again for all of your support – it really means a lot!

Mr Burke



KS1 Assembly

In this week's assembly, we spoke about the meaning of peace and how we can bring it into our daily lives.

The children shared some brilliant ideas and watched a short video showing ways to be peaceful and kind to others.

We listened to the story *Peace at Last* by Jill Murphy and thought about how hard it can be to find peace when everything feels busy or noisy. We also looked at the dove as a symbol of peace and finished by listening to the beautiful hymn *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*.

Mr Burke



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Art

Year 2 Completes Their Incredible Papier-Mâché UK Maps

After weeks of hard work and creativity, the children in Year 2 have finally completed their stunning papier-mâché UK maps! This laborious project took them on a journey from designing the shapes with careful papier-mâché techniques to painting each region with precision and even making individual flags with paper and cocktail sticks. The result is a collection of beautifully detailed maps that show both their artistic talents and geographical knowledge.

We couldn't be prouder of their dedication and teamwork — well done Year 2!



Miss Bretones - Art Teacher



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Nursery

On Thursday morning, all of Early Years took part in our Spring Sing performance, proudly showcasing the songs they've been learning over the past few months. The children sang with enthusiasm and excitement, performing songs about building rockets, mother chicks, a little seed, and Our God is a Great Big God, to name just a few. It was a fantastic celebration of their hard work, and it was wonderful to see so many parents in the audience. A big thank you to Mrs Bryant for all of her efforts in preparing the children for such a special event!

Ms Randle – Nursery Class Teacher

Reception Explore KS1 and Create Their Own Stories!

This term, Reception have been taking exciting steps as they begin visiting the KS1 area of the school. The children have loved learning in the new classroom environment and have been confidently completing independent drawings as a starting point for their writing.



After working together last week to create class stories based on The Very Hungry Caterpillar, the children began their independent application of the Talk for Writing process. Using their story maps, they created their very own imaginative versions of the story. Some of the fantastic ideas included The Very Fast Cheetah, The Very Big Tarantula, The Very Jumpy Bunny, and The Very Silly Alien!

Next week, the children will use their story maps — and all the story language they've been learning — to write their own full stories. We can't wait to see how their ideas come to life on the page!

Ms Williams – Reception Class Teacher



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Cooking Club

Reception have been busy in the Cooking Club, making delicious halloumi and pepper wraps. The children attentively chopped the vegetables and carefully rolled up their wraps with great enthusiasm.

They also worked hard mashing chickpeas to make hummus from scratch, which they thoroughly enjoyed tasting with some pita bread.

It was a fantastic hands-on session that helped build their independence, fine motor skills, and love for healthy food!

Ms Edina - Reception Class TA





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Year 1 Design and Technology

Over the past term in Design and Technology, Year 1 has been soaring high with excitement as we embarked on a project to make our own kites!

We began by exploring the fascinating world of kites. We looked at different types of kites, such as diamond, delta and box kites, and learned how they work. We discovered how the shape and structure of a kite affect its ability to fly and stay stable in the air.

Next, we put on our designer hats and sketched out our own kite designs. We thought about the materials we would need and how we could make our kites both beautiful and functional.

With our designs in hand, we got to work making our kites. We carefully cut out the shapes, assembled the frames and decorated them with bright colours and patterns. It was wonderful to see our ideas come to life!

Once our kites were ready, we headed outside for some fun in the sun. Last week, we tested our kites to see how well they flew. It was a joy to watch them soar and to feel the wind lift them into the sky.

After our test flights, we came back together to evaluate our designs. We discussed what worked well and what could be improved. This reflection helped us understand more about the design process and how we can make even better kites in the future.

Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher



KS1 Story Club

Usborne One Hundred Illustrated Stories: Brer Rabbit and the Briar Patch a North American Folk Tale. I liked his story because I read it with my mummy and she likes fox stories. I also read the other Brer Rabbit story. - Child in Year 1

I like books about Real Madrid Football because they score some amazing goals. - Child in Year 2



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Year 1 Traffic Survey

Year 1 have been busy learning about our local area through an exciting traffic survey project! We started by discussing the importance of understanding our local area and how traffic affects our daily lives. We talked about different types of vehicles and the roles they play in our community. Equipped with clipboards and tally charts, we ventured outside to observe the traffic around our School. We counted the number of cars, buses, bicycles and other vehicles passing by. It was a great hands-on experience that helped us learn how to collect and record information accurately. Before heading out, we made predictions about what types of vehicles we would see the most. This was a fun way to engage our critical thinking skills and get us excited about the data collection process. This week, we returned to the classroom to analyse the data we collected. We discussed our findings and compared them to our predictions. Using colourful charts and graphs, we displayed our data to make it easy to understand and share with others.

Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher





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Year 2

It's been a busy and brilliant week in Year 2!

In History, we explored the remarkable life of Florence Nightingale. We sequenced key events from her life on a timeline, learning how she transformed nursing and improved hospital conditions during the Crimean War. The children were fascinated by how her actions shaped modern healthcare, and we reflected on the courage and determination she showed in standing up for what she believed in.

In RE, we've been thinking about Dignity of the Worker – one of the key themes of Catholic Social Teaching. We spoke about the value of every person's work, no matter the role, and why it's important that all workers are treated fairly and with respect. We learned about Fairtrade and how it supports workers across the world, and we shared ideas about what jobs we might like to have in the future – thinking carefully about how we would like to be treated and how we can treat others with dignity too.

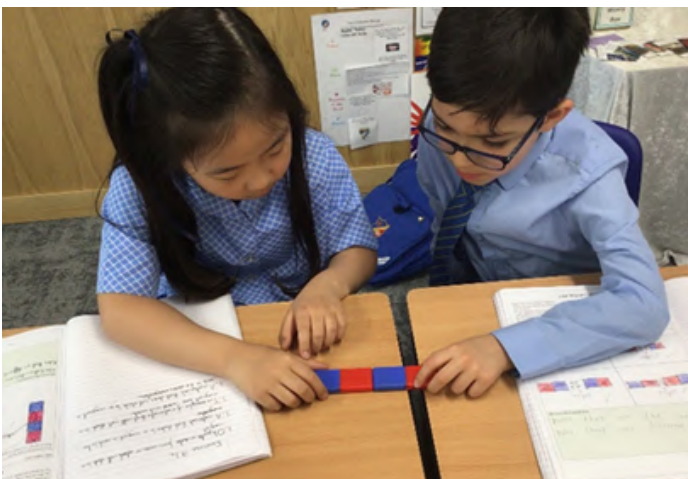
Well done Year 2!

Mr Burke – Year 2 Class Teacher

Year 3

This week, Year 3 has been investigating magnetism in Science. They have been learning that magnets have two poles, a north pole and a south pole and that same poles repel whilst opposite poles attract. They described what they had discovered using labelled diagrams. In History, they have been using a variety of secondary sources to find out what life was like in Anglo-Saxon times. After writing about what Anglo-Saxon villages were like, they went on to design and label their own Anglo-Saxon village showing the many different features. The children who will receive their Holy Communion next week have been busy with Sr. Noella, designing and making banners to attach to the end of the pews in the chapel.

Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher





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Year 4

This week Year 4 has been busy preparing for our Mass! We are very excited to be hosting a very special Mass dedicated to Saint Rafaela Maria on Friday afternoon. We continued our learning on states of matter, focusing on gases this week, and carried out a range of experiments to help us see the gases that surround us every day. Did you know if you weigh an empty balloon then a blown up balloon, the blown up balloon will be heavier because of the gas inside it? We learned about Anglo-Saxon Kings in History, focusing on King Alfred the Great and King Athelstan. We designed our Viking shields in Art, some of us even tried writing our names in Viking runes.

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher





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Year 5 and 6 Residential Trip

Year 5 and Year 6 embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to Osmington Bay this week—an action-packed adventure full of challenge, teamwork, and laughter!

The fun began the moment we arrived, with the children leaping into giant swing and aeroball activities that pushed them beyond their comfort zones and set the tone for a thrilling week ahead. That evening, "Passport to the world" helped everyone explore the PGL site while working together in teams.

Tuesday brought a special celebration for Nuriddin's birthday—complete with balloons, cupcakes on the beach, and lots of singing! The day's activities included trapeze, problem-solving, rock climbing, and survival skills like camouflage, shelter-building, and fire-making, ending with a lively game of Cluedo spread across the site.

Wednesday's highlights included the vertical challenge, archery, and a wet and wonderful coastal adventure where the children built and tested their own rafts. The day ended with a great evening around the campfire, toasting marshmallows and singing songs.

By Thursday, we were street surfing, abseiling, and heading back to the water for some competitive dragon boating—timing our paddles perfectly as we raced our Saint Christina's boats! After a full day of adventure, we danced the night away at the disco, singing our hearts out and celebrating an incredible week.

On Friday we woke up to yet another beautiful sunny day with clear blue skies. The children had a fantastic final morning, working together in teams of three to conquer Jacob's Ladder, encouraging and supporting each other to reach new heights—literally! Their teamwork and determination were impressive. They also had the opportunity to try their hand at fencing, learning the basics of footwork, technique, and strategy.

It was a trip full of resilience, joy, and unforgettable memories. We are so proud of the children for stepping out of their comfort zones this week.



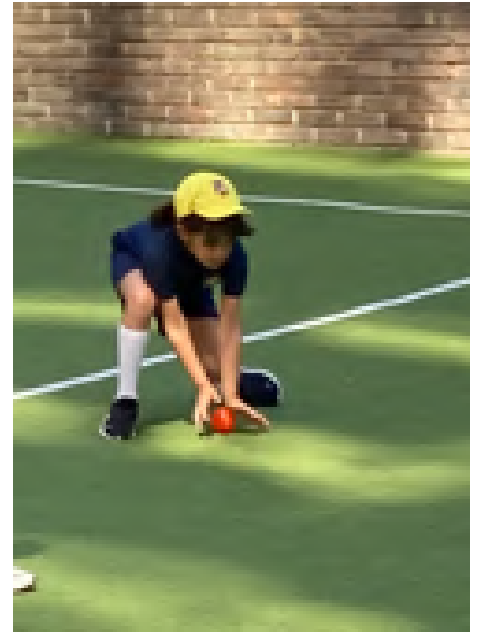
Mrs Ellisdon, Mr Hirst, Miss O'Leary, Mr Artur & Ms Fernandes



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PE

It has been a beautiful sunny week, and the children have been in fantastic spirits during their PE lessons. This week, we continued to focus on cricket and preparations for the upcoming Sports Day. The younger classes worked on the sack race and sprint races, where we discussed important techniques and strategies to help them succeed in these events. In addition, we practiced batting in cricket, hitting balls off tees and from underarm feeds.



Year 3 and 4 enjoyed their athletics sessions at the park where we spent time developing their relay change overs, which is always a topic I really enjoy teaching. The children were introduced to the technique before putting it into practice in some short races. We also spent a bit of time consolidating their understanding of the long jump.



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As a reminder, during hot weather spells, please ensure that children have applied sun cream and have their house caps with them on their scheduled PE days.

I have also been contacted by the teachers who deliver the intensive Swimming sessions regarding a series of intensive Swimming courses over the half-term break, which may be of interest to you. Full details of the courses are provided to the right.



HOLIDAY SHORT COURSES



SWISS COTTAGE LEISURE CENTRE
MAY HALF TERM:
MONDAY 26TH MAY- FRIDAY 30TH MAY

Whether your children are beginners or you're wanting to build their confidence, we cater for all levels of ability and will help them progress in the world of water.

FOUNDATION:

For children aged 4 years and over who are non-swimmers and beginners. Teaching pupils the essential swimming skills to ensure they learn to be safe in and around water. Learning the basic techniques for all 4 strokes, achieving 10 metres on Front Crawl and Backstroke by the end of their Green milestones.

DEVELOPMENT
10:30 - 11:00

DEVELOPMENT:

Children aged 5-12 years who are able to swim 1.5m Plus. Teaching pupils advanced swimming skills, developing their techniques on all 4 strokes to create efficient and effective swimmers. Lessons focus on a wide range of skills across all aquatic sports. Pupils will learn basic water survival and rescue skills as part of the milestone awards. Here we will also work with other partner clubs to assess each pupil's ability to progress in talent pathways.

FOUNDATION
09:00 – 09:30
09:30 – 10:00
10:00 – 10:30

For more information email Kylie.bland@gli.org

Book your child's lesson online betterlessons.org.uk or alternatively speak to a member of our team at the centre who will be able to support you.

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Next week, Year 5 and 6 will play their first Cricket match against Northbridge House, and we have the final Football match of the year for Year 5 and 6 against Trevor Roberts.

Upcoming Fixtures

| Date | Opposition | Team | Time |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Monday 19th May | Trevor Roberts | Y5 and 6 Boys Football | 15.30-16.30 |
| Thursday 22nd May | Northbridge House | Y5 and 6 Mixed Cricket | 14.00-15.00 |
| Wednesday 4th June | St Marys | Y5 and 6 Girls Cricket | 16.00-17.00 |
| Friday 6th June | SHHS | Y5 and 6 Girls Cricket | 12.00-15.30 |

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport



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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 of Workers** - 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.

The principal we will be focussing on this half term is Dignity of the Worker.

The Church has long been a supporter of the right of people to work. Work is more than simply being able to earn money. It is about being able to support oneself, and one's family. It is about finding a role and place within society, finding fulfilment and a sense of purpose and worth. It is also about people being paid a just wage and having adequate facilities to do the work they are tasked with, which is why the Church supports both the Living Wage and Fair-Trade movements.

Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

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.

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 / musical instruments. 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

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



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

| Dates for your diary | |
|---|--|
| Monday 19 th May | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Y5 and 6 Boys Football (Home) |
| Tuesday 20 th May | <ul style="list-style-type: none">PL and Eco Council working on the Green Wall |
| Wednesday 21 st May | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Music Concert Evening (5:30pm) |
| Thursday 22 nd May | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Y5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Away) |
| Friday 23 rd May | <ul style="list-style-type: none">First Holy Communion |
| Friday 23rd May SCHOOL CLOSSES AT USUAL TIME FOR HALF TERM Monday 2nd June CHILDREN RETURN | |
| Monday 2 nd June | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Children ReturnY6 Cycle Training Starts |
| Wednesday 4 th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Y6 Parent Coffee MorningY5 and 6 Girls Cricket (Away) |
| Friday 6 th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Y5 and 6 Girls Cricket (Away)Joan of Arc Mass |
| Monday 9 th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Y4,5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Home) |
| Wednesday 11 th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Y5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Away) |



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| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Friday 13 th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS2 Sports Day • No Mass |
| Monday 16 th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y4,5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Home) |
| Wednesday 18 th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y5 Parent Coffee Morning • Y5 and 6 Inter House Cricket |
| Friday 20 th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYFS and KS1 Sports Day • Y5 Mass |
| Tuesday 24 th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Photographs |
| Friday 27 th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y2 Mass |
| Saturday 28 th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Fair |
| Monday 30 th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS2 Production Dress Rehearsal |
| Wednesday 2 nd July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS2 Production (Y3 and 4 Parents) |
| Thursday 3 rd July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS2 Production (Y5 and 6 Parents) |
| Friday 4 th July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole School Mass (Buddies) |
| Monday 7 th July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y6 Legacy Evening |
| Tuesday 8 th July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS2 Prize Giving |
| Wednesday 9 th July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y6 Leavers Mass |



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Wednesday 9th July
SCHOOL CLOSING AT MIDDAY FOR THE END OF TERM
Wednesday 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/>