

Friday 17th October 2025









"Miss Khalique, I know why I went wrong and I know how to fix it!"

Those were the words of a Year 1 child earlier this week, announced with pride after he spotted and corrected his own mistake in maths. While this might sound like a small moment it isn't: it perfectly captures what we are aiming for at Saint Christina's, and I was privileged to witness it.

That realisation wasn't really about maths at all, it was about reflection and understanding how learning works. This is metacognition in its simplest and most powerful form and it sits at the heart of what we want for every child. It was, without question, the highlight of my week.

Moments like these remind us that learning is not just about what children know, but how they come to know it. Across the school, we are helping children to understand the process of learning itself, to pause, think, and recognise what helps them make progress. Even our youngest learners in maths are beginning to articulate their thought processes, explaining not just their answers but the steps that led them there.



That same awareness of learning, thinking, reflecting, and connecting, is visible in many other aspects of school life. You could see it beautifully during the Year 1 and Year 4 Buddy Walk, where older and younger children worked together to explore the world around them, sharing ideas, asking questions, and learning from one another. Learning is as much about who we become as what we know. It helps children to grow in awareness, emotional intelligence, and understanding, qualities that lie at the heart of our values.

That connection between learning and living was also at the centre of my message at our Open Morning, which was very well attended, thanks in no small part to our supportive parent body who are spreading the word. I spoke about the influence of the Handmaids and how they keep us focused on service, kindness, and hope. Those words could not be more relevant in the times we are living in. They remind us that education is not only about strong academic outcomes but about helping children to grow in character. Put simply, knowledge has greater value when it's connected to purpose.

The strapline on our website, "Where Kindness Meets Ambition," captures that balance perfectly. I see it every day in the way children persevere with challenging work while supporting one another, and in the way colleagues go out of their way to help each other. It is that meeting point of the head and the heart that defines who we are.



This week also brought a lovely surprise: a visit from three of our former Year 6 pupils, now in their first term of Year 7. We sat down together to talk about how things are going, what feels different, and what still feels the same. It was wonderful to see how confident and grounded they remain, and to be reminded of why we do what we do. They are the living example of the kind of education we cultivate at Saint Christina's, one that helps children to know themselves and to move forward with purpose.

As the half term ends, I've found myself reflecting on what gives Saint Christina's its spirit, and a few moments today summed it up perfectly: walking into the Arts Hall to find parents hard at work preparing for Monster Mash, then making my way back through the hall and being told to "shush" by a Year 2 pupil hiding in the corner while playing a game during the drama workshop, hoping not to be spotted. The delight on their faces said everything. It reminded me that what makes this place special is how everyone plays their part.



The children bring energy and joy to every corner of the school, my colleagues pour care and imagination into everything they do, our parents give their time and encouragement so generously, and the Handmaids keep us grounded in service, kindness, and hope.

Thank you for such a positive start to the year. I hope the half term brings you rest, time together, and a chance to pause before we begin again on Monday 3rd November.

Have a good weekend, and half term when it comes.

Best,

Damien Walshe Headteacher

Janie Walle



Celebrating Black Achievement All Year Round

While October marks Black History Month in the UK, at Saint Christina's we believe that celebrating Black achievement and contribution should be a year-round commitment. Throughout the year, we honour and learn about the inspiring work of Black activists, politicians, nurses, artists, athletes, writers, and many others who have helped shape our world.

During a Vote for Schools session Years 1-6 considered the role that clothing and fashion plays in exploring Black History and how it contributes to the UK's vibrant cultural fabric.

As part of Year 3's History topic on the Romans, they found out about the life of Severus Septimius, a black Roman emperor from North Africa, who came to Britain in AD 197 and died in York.

In Nursery the children celebrated Black History Month by reading Mixed by Arree Chung, a story about three colours, Red, Blue and Yellow, who at first live separately but soon discovered that life is brighter and happier when they all come together. They talked about how our classroom is just like the story, full of different people who make it a wonderful place when they mix, share and play together. The children have been exploring what makes each of them unique by looking at their eyes, hair and skin colour, height and other special features, and have also been creating self-portraits to celebrate themselves and the wonderful mix of cultures in their classroom.

In Reception, the children also learned about Jean-Michel Basquiat, a famous Black artist known for his bold use of colour and symbols. Inspired by his work, they created their own vibrant pastel artwork at the easel. They also read The All-Together Quilt and explored how quilts can tell stories and bring people together. After learning about Faith Ringgold and Harriet Powers, the children designed their own hexagon pieces to represent something special about themselves. These will be combined into a class quilt to celebrate creativity, collaboration, and community.

This year, we are very excited to welcome Nicola Bellinfantie, a London-based artist, founder, and upcycled art workshop facilitator. In November, Nicola will visit Saint Christina's to work with our children. She will share her creative process, introduce us to the inspiring art of Faith Ringgold and Alma Thomas, and lead a hands-on workshop using recycled materials. Through her visit, we will explore important themes such as diversity, equality, fairness, and the power of creativity to express identity and community.



Ms Bretones - Head of Art/DT and Ms Sephton - Head of Humanities



Enrichment at Saint Christina's

Key Stage One

The Key Stage One challenge was another number puzzle where children were invited to work out the value of various symbols.

The Winners in this challenge were Alp, Amaya, Aria, Arya, Asiya, Azuha, Carlos, Celia, Chloé, Danae, Diana, Evaan, Haluk, Islay, Jack, Ji, Juliet, Kriesha, Leon, Luna, Martin, Rami, Sofia, Sophie, Stella, Ulysse and Yosef

The Runners Up were Illy, Oliver and Oscar.

Well done to so many KS1 children for taking part in this challenge!

The next challenge is something slightly different... watch out for something new...

Key Stage Two

The Key Stage Two short challenge was a number teaser where children had to work out how many cats somebody had based on some simple clues.

The question was trickier than it appeared, but well done to the following children who were all able to work out that there were THREE cats altogether: **Herb, Matthew, Raphael**

The Key Stage Two long challenge invited children to investigate how different types of animals communicated. Eight different types of animals were investigated: Bees, Cats, Dogs, Great Tits, Otters, Prairie Dogs, Sharks and Whales.

Some of the challenges are on display in the main staircase, and others are on display in the Mathematics Breakout Room.

The winners of this challenge were Adrian, Eimear, Matthew, Nazuna, Sameera and Serina

The Runners Up were Greta, Hedi, Milan and Raphael.

Congratulations go to everyone who presented their research into how different animals communicate – there were plenty of different facts that were both interesting and surprising to find out.

The next long challenge is open to everyone, it will focus on Collaboration in a special way!

Fr Rudolf - Teacher in Change of Enrichment



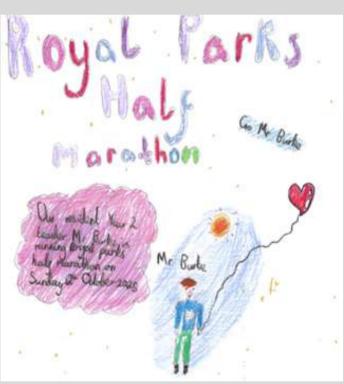
Royal Parks Half Marathon for St John's Hospice

A huge thank you to everyone who supported and sponsored me as I ran the Royal Parks Half Marathon last Sunday in support of St John's Hospice. Your generosity and encouragement mean so much and will make a real difference to the hospice and those they care for.

The hospice does such incredible work in our local community, and I'm very proud that we as a school continue to strengthen our partnership with them.

If you would still like to donate, our JustGiving page can be found here: St John's Hospice – JustGiving.





Mr Burke - Assistant Head (Pastoral)







Maths in SCS

This half term, we have introduced our new White Rose Maths scheme, which supports a mastery approach and helps children build strong foundations in number. Across the school, we have focused on place value and addition and subtraction, diving deeper into each concept through practical activities, problem solving, and reasoning. Children have been encouraged to explain their thinking clearly and use mathematical vocabulary with confidence.

We would also like to encourage all children to keep practising regularly on Times Tables Rock Stars and Numbots. These platforms are a fantastic way to build fluency and confidence through short, engaging games.

Congratulations to the children who have shown the best effort and wonderful commitment and received certificates in assembly this half term:

Numbots TTRS

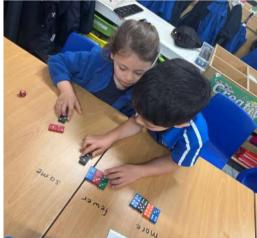
Kriesha (Y1MK) Catharina (Y2) Chloé (Y1OH) Milan S (Y3)

Martin (Y2) Benjamin and Naosuke (Y4)

Alice and Oliver (Y5)

Ms Higgins - Head of Maths













Merlin Magic with Perform4All

On Friday, Reception to Year 3 took part in an exciting drama workshop run by Perform4All. The children were immersed in the magical world of Merlin, joining in with a range of imagination and drama games that brought the story to life. They became wizards, knights, and potion-makers, working together to protect the castle from danger. Throughout the session, they showed wonderful creativity and collaboration, as they explored the story and took on different roles. It was full of energy, laughter, and teamwork, the perfect way to channel their enthusiasm ahead of the Monster Mash disco that evening! To finish, each child was proudly knighted in celebration of their success. A wonderful end to the half term!

Ms Randle - Head of EYFS











Diwali Celebrations in Nursery

Celebrating Diwali this week in Nursery has been full of creativity and excitement. The children learned the story of Rama and Sita and explored how families celebrate this special festival of lights.

At the dough table, they discovered a new material, clay, and used it to make their own Diya lamps, which they later painted and added a candle to. They also created beautiful Rangoli patterns by drizzling PVA glue and sprinkling coloured salt, made by mixing salt with powder paint and giving it a big shake, shake, shake!

Ms Randle - Nursery Class Teacher













Talk for Writing in Reception

This term in Reception, we have been learning all about how to tell and sequence a story. We have been using special story words like once upon a time, one day, unfortunately, luckily, finally, and the end to help us tell stories from beginning to end.

We read the story The Enormous Carrot and learned to retell it using a class story map and actions. The children were excited to perform the story as a class, and they felt very proud when they could remember it all by themselves.

Each week, we also have Make It Up Monday, where the class helps come up with their own characters, settings, problems, and solutions using the same story structure. During choosing time, the children have enjoyed creating their own stories with new characters and settings, using the same special story words to help them organise their ideas. Many children have loved sharing and presenting the stories they've made with their friends.

It has been wonderful to see the children grow in confidence as storytellers and use their imaginations in such creative ways.

Ms Williams - Reception Class Teacher















Year 1 Shape fun!

This week Year 1 began a new maths topic all about Shape. The children started by recapping the names of different 3D shapes such as cubes, cuboids, spheres and cones. They explored the properties of these shapes, including faces, edges and curved surfaces, and enjoyed describing what they noticed.

The children also worked on recognising and sorting shapes in different ways, thinking carefully about how shapes are similar or different. They looked for examples of 3D shapes in the classroom environment and were excited to spot objects that matched the shapes they had been learning about.

They then applied their learning by building towers using a range of 3D shapes. The children discussed which shapes were most useful for making a strong and stable structure and noticed that flat-faced shapes like cubes and cuboids were easier to stack than rounded shapes like spheres. They worked together, shared ideas and used lots of mathematical language as they built and tested their towers.

Ms Higgins and Ms Khalique - Year 1 Class Teachers













Year 1 STEM Afternoon

Year 1 had an incredibly exciting STEM afternoon, exploring Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths through a range of hands-on, curiosity-filled activities.

For Technology, the children loved programming Bee-Bots to travel around maps, linking to their Humanities learning about maps. In Science, they enjoyed creating lava cups using water, oil, and fizzy tablets to explore reactions, and labelling skeletons to learn about the human body. Engineering came to life as they worked together to build bridges, testing how strong and stable they could make them. For Maths, they tackled a variety of fun problem-solving challenges, practising reasoning and teamwork along the way.

We also loved visiting the science room, where the children explored materials, made observations, and investigated like real scientists.

It was a fantastic afternoon full of excitement, discovery, and creativity with so many of our 6Cs shining through!

Ms Higgins and Ms Khalique - Year 1 Class Teachers















Year 2

This month, Year 2 have been celebrating Black History Month by learning about inspiring individuals who have made a lasting impact. One of the people we focused on was Laurie Cunningham (1956–1989), one of the first Black footballers to play for England.

The children learned about Laurie's journey and how his parents moved from Jamaica to the UK. They talked about the barriers he broke in football and how his courage and determination continue to inspire players today.

Meanwhile, in Science, the class had great fun making bread and butter from scratch. They were fascinated to see how the ingredients changed as they mixed and shook them, and enjoyed learning about the process step by step.

In RE, following up on our visit from Sister Anne, who taught us the Hail Mary, we have been learning about how October is the Month of the Rosary. The children even made their own Rosary beads as a way to help them reflect and pray.

Mr Burke - Year 2 Class Teacher







Year 2 Bread Making

Who needs The Great British Bake Off when we have our own brilliant bakers in Year 2? While studying food sources, Year 2 have made bread and butter to see where these foods originate from.

We had great fun, as well as learning a lot of Science, while making bread dough. The children learned about flour production, gluten, yeast culture and the conditions needed for its growth, kneading and food sources. We also found it very funny that WE did all the hard work and the DOUGH needed to rest! We also exercised our arms while shaking milk and ice to make butter, learning about fat solidifying along the way.

After our effort, we all agreed that it was the best bread we had ever tasted!

Miss Chand - Head of Science





KS1 Story Club

Mr. Men Little Miss: Dinosaurs' by Roger Hargreaves: I love this story because it is about two of my favourite things - dinosaurs and Mr Men! Everyone loves Mr Men and Little Miss books and I have so many at home. - Child in Year 1 MK





The Book with No Pictures by B.J. Novak: This is a really funny story. You should get a grown up to read it to you and you will have a lot of fun. It is a really silly story! It is my favourite story in the whole world! - Child in Year 1 MK

KS1 STEM Club

This week, our KS1 STEM Club got into the Halloween spirit early, inspired by the upcoming Monster Mash Disco! With bubbling excitement, our young scientists mixed bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to create their very own fizzing monster heads. The experiment was a monstrous success, colourful eruptions, giggles galore, and plenty of spooky science fun! We can't wait to see what they'll brew up next...

Ms Farquhar - Head of STEM









Year 3 Mass

Year 3 led the School Mass on the theme of Harvest where we thanked God for his many gifts at this time of the year. We also thought of those in our local area and in the world, who are less fortunate than us. Remembering that if we have got more than we need, then we should always share what we have with others.

The children read their parts beautifully and everyone sung their hearts out in the responsorial psalm, 'Thank you Lord for the Harvest' and the hymn, Harvest Samba. We all left the chapel feeling uplifted! Well done Year 3, for leading such a lovely Mass.

Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher







Year 4

Year 4 had a fantastic week filled with learning and creativity! In Religion, we explored the story of Joseph and identified how he showed key virtues, such as love when he forgave his brothers. History brought excitement as we finally learned about mummification, a hot topic this term, and even acted out the process using props and imagination on dolls. In Art, the children completed their stunning multimedia Egyptian Headdresses and their entries for the Christmas Card Competition, with incredible results! Maths lessons focused on multiplication and division, including the 11 and 12 times tables, multiplying and dividing by 1 and 0, and multiplying three numbers together. In English, we tackled a comprehension about a flying dog to sharpen our inferencing skills, continued reading Secrets of a Sun King, and wrote persuasive telegrams to convince Mrs Mendoza to travel to Egypt. We ended the week on a high with the House Poetry competition. Well done to all our brilliant performers!

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher











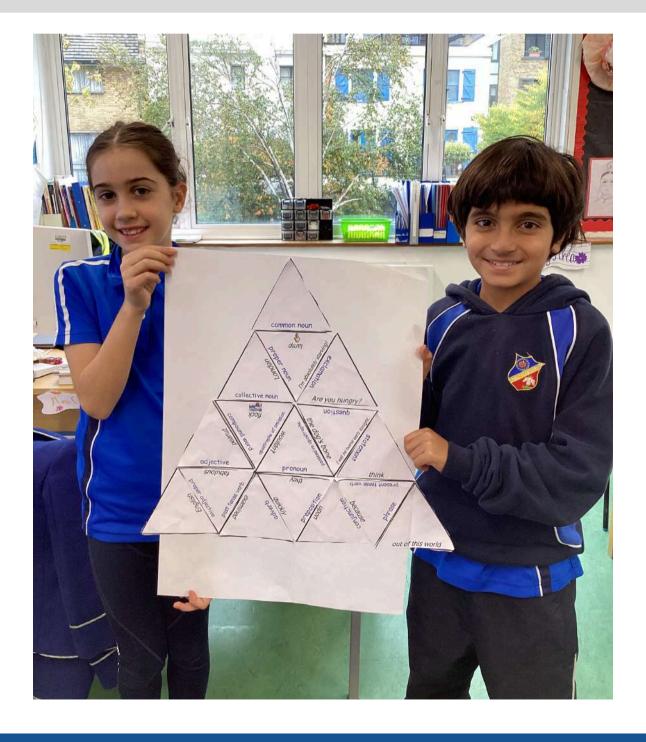


Year 5 Reasoning

Year 5 have been enjoying a Reasoning Carousel this week, designed to strengthen both their verbal and non-verbal reasoning skills. Activities have included crosswords based on our new vocabulary to practise spelling and word meanings, as well as non-verbal reasoning puzzles drawn from practice books.

The children also explored Atom Learning challenges and Tarsia puzzles focusing on key grammatical terms, encouraging both critical thinking and collaboration. It's been wonderful to see such enthusiasm and perseverance as Year 5 tackle a wide variety of reasoning tasks!

Ms O'Leary - Year 5 Class Teacher





Year 6

It's been another exciting and action-packed week for Year 6!

The week began with a *sweet* start in Maths, as the children were introduced to ratio through a hands-on lesson involving sweets. You can imagine how motivated they were to dive into this new topic! As the week progressed, so did their confidence, by the end of the week, they were tackling ratio problems with enthusiasm and skill.

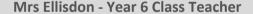
Midweek brought an important occasion as we welcomed many prospective families to our school. Year 6 were outstanding ambassadors, greeting visitors with warm smiles, giving informative tours, and sharing their love for our school community. Their maturity, confidence, and friendliness made us all very proud.



Year 6 enjoyed a fascinating trip to the Churchill War Rooms as part of their World War II topic. Highlights included stepping inside the historic Cabinet Room, where crucial wartime decisions were made, exploring Churchill's bedroom, and discovering the secrets of the Map Room, the operational heart of the underground headquarters. We then walked to Downing Street, paid our respects at the Cenotaph, saw the guard on horseback and walked through Horse Guards Parade. The visit brought history to life and deepened the children's understanding of this pivotal period.

To end the week and the half term the children met with their Nursery buddies spending time getting to know each other doing different activities in the Nursery classroom and doing some gardening together.

What a fantastic week, Year 6, full of learning, leadership, and lasting memories!























Sport Update

Year 5 have completed their intensive swimming course this week, and it has been wonderful to see how much the children have progressed over the fortnight. This week, they focused on developing their breathing techniques across different strokes, as well as isolating arm and leg actions before putting the full strokes back together. On Friday, the class enjoyed some mini races and team challenges, which were great fun for everyone. The children represented the school superbly, and the swimming teachers were full of praise for their efforts and the impressive improvements they made.

This week, the Year 5 and 6 teams continued their excellent start to the Netball season with two strong victories against Cavendish. Both teams played some fantastic Netball. The Year 6 team began strongly, showing great passing and quick ball movement up the court. Accurate shooting from Ava and Juliana secured an 11–3 win. Star player was awarded to Beatrix for her excellent defending and long passes. The Year 5 team started more slowly and initially struggled to convert their chances, but in the third quarter, Ava found her rhythm, scoring 7 goals in one quarter. The team came back from 3–0 down to win 10–6.

Well done to the star players, Ava for her outstanding shooting and Sofi for her excellent passing, assisting several goals.



Across the school, the children have continued to impress in their PE lessons. After half term, Key Stage 2 will move on to Netball in their double lessons and Football in their single sessions. The younger classes have continued to develop their coordination and ball skills this term. It has been so lovely to see them throwing themselves into all their PE lessons with such positivity and enthusiasm.

After half term, we have a busy fixture schedule with more opportunities for children to represent the school in Football and Netball. The Year 5 and 6 teams will begin their Netball league matches, while Years 3 and 4 will take part in their Inter-House Football Competition.



| Date | Against | Team/ Year | Venue | Time |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Monday 3 rd November | St Christophers | Year 6A/5A Girls Netball | Away | 16.00 - 17.00 |
| Monday 10 th November | Ivy House | Year 5/6 Mixed Football | Home | 15.30 - 16.30 |
| Monday 17 th November | Trevor Roberts | Year 5/6 Girls Netball | Home | 15.45 - 16.45 |
| Monday 24 th November | Ivy House | Year 3/4 Mixed Football | Home | 15.30 - 16.30 |
| Tuesday 25 th November | Cavendish | Year 5/6 Mixed Football | Home | 15.30 - 16:30 |
| Monday 8 th December | Sarum Hall | Year 5 and 6 Girls Netball | Away | 16.00 -17.00 |

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport



(FROM 10 MONTHS -TO 30 MONTHS)

FROM THE MOMENT THEY ARE BORN, BABIES BEGIN EXPLORING THE WORLD THROUGH THEIR SENSES.

TOUCH, MOVEMENT, SOUND, AND SMELL PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT. THIS MULTI-SENSORY EXPERIENCE NOT ONLY HELPS THEM MAKE SENSE OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS BUT ALSO PROVIDES A FUN AND ENGAGING WAY TO LEARN.

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 EDMUND TERRACE

SATURDAY 8TH & 29TH OF NOVEMBER 2025

TIME: 10:45AM - 11.30AM

NW8 7PY

PRICE: £10 PER CHILD CASH ONLY

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

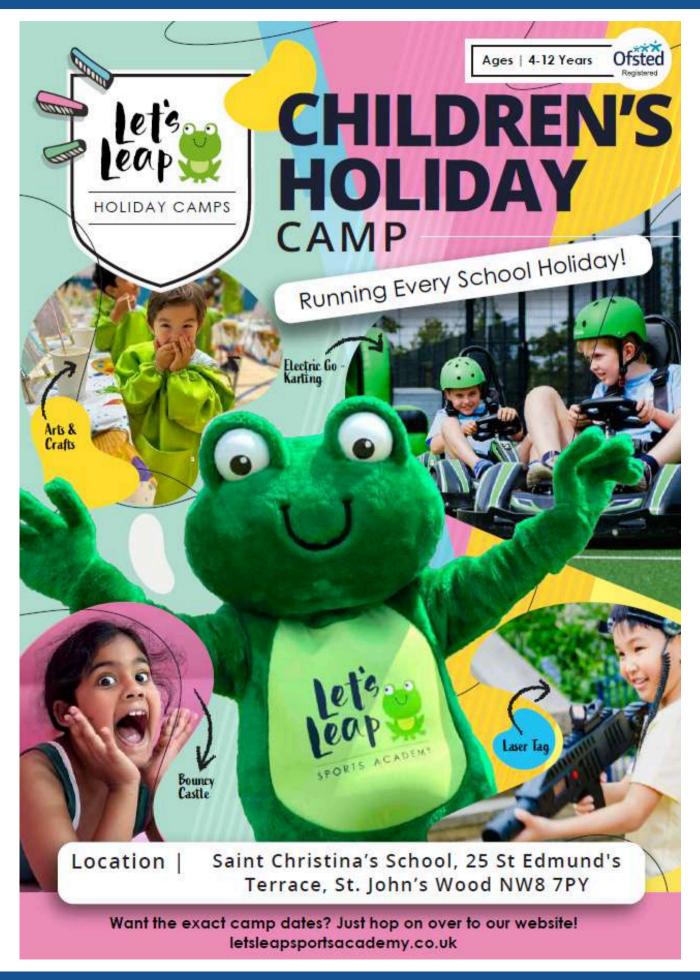




PLEASE BOOK YOUR SPACE VIA THE EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW:

RETESIE@GMAIL.COM











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.

Healthy Snack

A quick reminder that Saint Christina's is a Healthy School! Please ensure that all breaktime and pre-club snacks are **fruit or vegetables only**. Thank you for helping us keep our school community healthy and energised!

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.



Dates for your diary

Friday 17th October SCHOOL CLOSES AT USUAL TIME FOR THE END OF HALF TERM

(Let's Leap Holiday Camp Running at Saint Christina's - see flyer for more info)

Monday 3rd November CHILDREN RETURN

Monday 3rd November

• Year 6 A & Year 5 A Girls Netball (Away)

Tuesday 4th November

- Individual Photographs (children to wear full winter uniform)
- Nutritionist Visit

Wednesday 5th November

- Art Workshops (Year 2 and Year 6)
- Year 1 Parent Coffee Morning (9.00 am)

Thursday 6th November

- Year 5 History Trip (Details to follow)
- Year 3 & 4 Inter-house Netball Fixture

Friday 7th November

- Anti-Bullying Assembly led by School Council
- Year 2 Mass (2.45 pm)



| Monday 10 th | |
|-------------------------|--|
| November | |

- Parent Online Safety Workshop (9.00 am - 10.00 am)
- KS2 Oline Safety Workshops (All Day)
- Year 5/6 Mixed Football (Home)

Tuesday 11th November

• Year 1 Lego Building Workshop

Wednesday 12th November

 Year 2 Parent Coffee Morning (9.00 am) (details to follow)

Friday 14th November

• Year 6 Mass (2.45 pm)

Monday 17th November

- Year 3 History Trip (Details to follow)
- Year 5/6 Netball (Home)

Wednesday 19th November

 Year 3 Parent Coffee Morning (9.00 am) (details to follow)

Friday 21st November

• St Cecilia House Mass (2.45pm)



| Monday 24 th November | Year 3/4 Mixed Football (Home) |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 25 th November | Year 5/6 Mixed Football (Home) |
| Thursday 27 th November | Visiting Pantomime 'The Jungle Book' |
| Friday 28 th November | Year 3 First Holy Communion Enrolment |
| Monday 1 st December | Last Week of Clubs |
| Tuesday 2 nd December | Year 4 History Trip (Details to follow) |
| Wednesday 3 rd December | Little Voices Assembly (Details to follow) |
| Friday 5 th December | Year 5 Advent |
| Monday 8 th December | No clubs this week Year 5 and 6 Girls Netball (Away) |



Tuesday 9th December

• EYFS Nativity (Details to Follow)

Wednesday 10th December

• KS1 Nativity (Details to Follow)

Thursday 11th December

- Christmas Lunch
- KS2 Carol Service (Details to Follow)

Friday 12th December
SCHOOL CLOSES AT MIDDAY FOR THE END OF THE AUTUMN TERM

Tuesday 6th January 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/