



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 23rd January 2026



Where Kindness Meets Ambition



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Dear Parents,

One of my earlier experiences as a new Head last January was Heritage / International Week, and I loved every minute of it, particularly the food! More than anything, it gave me a clear sense of the soul of the school early on, through the children themselves, the way parents and families became involved, and my amazing colleagues who brought it together.

Saint Christina's reflects the city in which it sits. Like London itself, it is diverse, varied and international in outlook, and I speak about this with pride to anyone who will listen. We are a Catholic school, rooted in the idea of being universal. Within that, children of every belief, background, and story belong naturally. That is who we are.

Heritage / International Week gives us a chance to notice this more deliberately. Across the school, children explored countries, cultures, stories, and traditions from around the world. Different year groups spent time getting to know places such as the Netherlands, New Zealand, and India, with learning running through academic subjects and practical work.

Creativity featured strongly across the week. Younger children worked on Celtic knot designs and art inspired by Van Gogh. Further up the school, children explored Arabic mosaics, rangoli patterns, and collage work. In KS1 STEM Club, children approached the world through hands-on geography, map reading, and problem solving, bringing together curiosity and critical thinking.

What gave the week its depth was the way learning connected to real experience. Parents and visitors joined us in school to share their heritage and first-hand stories, and those conversations mattered because they grounded the children's learning in real lives and real stories.

The non school uniform day, with many children choosing to wear national dress or colours, the assembly where classes shared what they had learned, and the brilliant International Mass all shaped the tone of the week. There was a real buzz across the school. It was also an excuse for me to dust off my green Converse, which I realised on my journey to work, are older than some of our teachers.



This week also reminded me of my own childhood. I grew up in London as the child of Irish immigrants, within a wider network of friends and relatives that was mixed and varied. Some weekends meant curry and jalebi in Walthamstow with my Indian cousins, others took us to Leytonstone for curried goat with my West Indian family. Food was often where culture, family, and belonging met. Moving between different homes, families, and traditions was part of everyday life growing up. Only later did my siblings and I understand how formative that was, and how much growing up in a global city, with all its overlap and texture, shapes who we become.



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Our children show us, perhaps more clearly than I have seen anywhere else, what it means to show up as yourself and live alongside different cultures, backgrounds, and belief systems with confidence and ease. They do this with a genuine curiosity about other people, and that openness carries into how they listen, how they learn, and how they treat one another every day.

Thank you to colleagues, families, and children for what you bring to Heritage / International Week. It captures something authentic and true about our school, and it reflects the kind of community we are.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

Damien Walshe
Headteacher

A Huge Thank You!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our families for their incredibly generous contributions towards the purchase of new hymn books. Thanks to your support, we have raised an amazing £1,040.59, which will make a real difference to our worship and music for years to come. We are truly grateful for your kindness and continued support of our school community.

Sister Noella



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Academic Spotlight

Heritage / International Week has been a wonderful celebration of collaboration, communication, creativity and curiosity across the school. The children have worked together through group discussions to deepen their understanding of their class chosen country, and the heritage projects which have been created have been fascinating to listen to, showcasing confident communication through presentations. It's always a joy to see the children meeting up with their buddies and this week was like none other! Again, creativity, collaboration and communication were at the core of the activities that they completed together to celebrate Heritage / International Week. It has been a true celebration of diversity, giving all children the opportunity to share a little about where they come from and to learn more about one another. We are extremely grateful to the parents who were able to take time out of their own schedules to visit classes this week to share their experiences and knowledge of countries the classes were studying. These visits have provided further enrichment to the children's understanding, thank you!

Elsewhere across the school this week, it has been a joy to see the KS2 houses get together once more to continue preparing their musical pieces for the House Music Competition, which takes place at the end of term. The collaboration, teamwork and enthusiasm shown by the children have been a pleasure to watch.

I have enjoyed visiting many lessons throughout the school this week, where curiosity and creativity have been evident at every stage. From Nursery children exploring numbers in Spanish, to Year 2 children asking thoughtful questions about Vincent van Gogh, and the impressive creativity shown by Year 5 as they began writing vivid island descriptions inspired by their reading of *Kensuke's Kingdom*. The learning has been rich and engaging across the curriculum.

The 6Cs are becoming firmly rooted and embedded across subjects and year groups. Children are given opportunities to collaborate respectfully, communicate their thinking clearly and approach learning creatively, while continuing to develop their personal character.

By valuing knowledge, skills and attitudes equally, the children are supported to grow in confidence, curiosity and independence, helping them to enjoy learning and celebrate their progress along the way.

Mrs Ellisdon - Assistant Head (Academic)



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Visit from CAFOD

We were delighted to be joined last Friday by Miriam from CAFOD, who spoke to the children about the Big Lent Walk and the work CAFOD does to support communities around the world. She helped the children to understand how taking part in the Big Lent Walk during Lent is a simple but meaningful way of standing alongside others, particularly those affected by poverty, conflict, and the climate crisis.

The children listened carefully and made thoughtful links to our Catholic Social Teaching, especially our current theme of solidarity and peace. Supporting the Big Lent Walk is something we would really like to take forward as a school this Lent. Please look out for more information coming soon from our Caritas Ambassadors!

Mr Burke - Assistant Head (Pastoral)



Parenting in the Digital Age - Online Workshop

We are delighted to share details of an online workshop for parents. Following last week's bulletin outlining the school's approach to digital strategy, screen use, and emerging technologies, this session offers an opportunity for families to engage further with current thinking in this area. Parenting in the Digital Age will be delivered by The Parent Team on **Tuesday 10th February at 7pm**.



The workshop will explore how families can develop clear and appropriate boundaries around screen use at home, have constructive conversations with children about their online activity, and support healthy habits around switching off. The session recognises the important role of the home environment, alongside school, in shaping children's digital habits and overall wellbeing.

Further information and registration details can be found here:

<https://theparentteam.simplero.com/page/689986-parenting-in-the-digital-age-free-online-workshop-in-childrens-mental-health-week>

Mr Burke - Assistant Head (Pastoral)



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Art Update

This week, the children have had a fantastic time in Art exploring the artistic traditions of their chosen countries as part of Heritage / International Week. Year 1 focused on Ireland and the Celts, creating intricate Celtic knots around the initial of their names. They found the patterns quite challenging, but they persevered and showed great determination as they carefully practised weaving the lines together. Year 2 learned about the Netherlands and explored the work of Vincent van Gogh, experimenting with colour and expressive brushstrokes and wool strings. Meanwhile, Year 6 created Arabic mosaics, discovering the patience and precision needed for this beautiful art form. Many children found the process calming and rewarding as they carefully placed each piece to create detailed patterns, and they are now much more appreciative of the patience required to create mosaics. Overall, it has been a wonderful week of creativity, resilience and cultural learning across the year groups.

Well done to you all for your great effort!

Ms Bretones - Head of Art & DT





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From robots to skyscrapers - Nursery really rose to the challenge this week!

As part of Heritage / International Week, Nursery have been learning about the USA. After the success of last week's robots, the children's love for junk modelling continued as we set to work creating a New York City skyline. We even made our own Statue of Liberty and Empire State Building.

It was a real whole group effort, with everyone involved in painting, building, accessorising and problem solving across the week, all coming together to create an impressive final cityscape.

Ms Randle - Head of EYFS





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Celebrating Canada in Reception

This week, Reception has been learning all about the amazing country of Canada, where Ms Williams is from. We looked at maps and were surprised to see just how big it is, discovering that it is the second largest country in the world. We read *Good Morning, Canada* by Andrea Beck and *Carson Crosses Canada* by Linda Bailey, which helped us explore the many different landscapes, animals and habitats across the country. We learned that Canada has the most polar bears in the world and created polar bear fact files in our journals. In the small world area, the children played with snowy Arctic scenes featuring polar bears, seals and other Arctic animals linked to our winter learning. In our Write the Room activity, we focused on Canadian words such as maple leaf, hockey and moose, which the children enjoyed searching for and writing around the classroom. In the playdough area, we looked at Canadian coins and made the gold one-dollar coins called Loonies, named after the Canadian bird, the Loon. At the creative table, the children made habitats inspired by Canada's rich natural environments, including forests, mountains, lakes, waterfalls and the Arctic. On Wednesday, we met with our Year 3 buddies to make Canadian flags featuring the iconic maple leaf. Then on Friday, we made and tasted Canada's national dish, poutine, made with chips, cheese and gravy. It has been a fantastic week filled with learning, creativity and curiosity as we explored this incredible country.

Ms Williams - Reception Class Teacher





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Year 1

Year 1 have absolutely loved celebrating Heritage / International Week. This week, we have been learning all about Ireland. We listened to Irish legends such as The Salmon of Knowledge, found Ireland on the map, learned about traditions and culture and even tried out camogie and hurling. We also enjoyed trying on jerseys and helmets used for camogie and hurling, which the children were very excited about. We had great fun dancing a céilí to Siege of Ennis and learning a nursery rhyme and some words in Irish.

We were so lucky to welcome many parent visitors into class. We learned about inventions from China and Scotland, Mardi Gras celebrations in Louisiana, life in Italy and enjoyed an exciting Turkish belly dancing demonstration.

Throughout the week, we saw the 6Cs in action through wonderful projects and presentations about foods, cultures, traditions, flags and daily life in other countries. We finished the week with a fantastic international banquet to celebrate our cultures together. We are so lucky to be part of such a rich and diverse school community.

Ms Higgins and Ms Khalique - Year 1 Class Teachers





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Year 2

This week, Year 2 have been celebrating Heritage / International Week, and we have absolutely loved sharing our projects and spending time learning about our chosen country for the week, The Netherlands. The children have been brilliant at sharing what they already knew, asking thoughtful questions, and taking real pride in their learning as we explored a different culture together.

For one of our lessons, Year 2 were taught not by Mr Burke, but by his nieces, Poppy and Martha, who live and have grown up in the Netherlands. They taught us all about daily life there, including schools, food, language, traditions, and what it is like to grow up in another country. The children were fascinated to hear first-hand experiences and loved being able to ask questions and make comparisons with life in the UK.

Mr Burke - Year 2 Class Teacher

Learning Objective	Date:
I can listen carefully and record key facts about another country.	Tuesday 20 th January 2020
Task 1 Watch the video and write down the facts you hear about life in the Netherlands.	Task 2 Use your notes to write three clear fact sentences using full stops and capital letters.
	Deeper Thinking Which fact tells you the most about what life is like in the Netherlands? Explain your choice.
	Independent Teacher Assisted TA Assisted Peer Work



In Amsterdam, there are more bikes than people. 1 popular food is *stampot* (mashed potato and sausages). A good treat at Christmas is "oliebollen". There are little pancakes called *poffertjes*. There are lots of artists who live there like Rembrandt, Van Gogh and Mondrian.

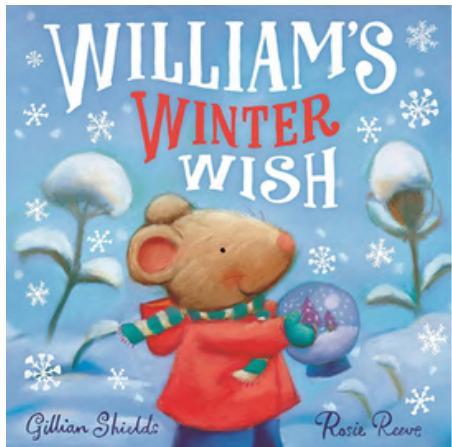
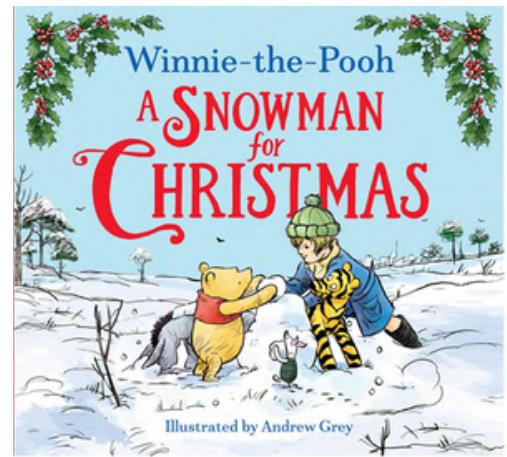




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KS1 Story Club

Winnie-the-Pooh A Snowman at Christmas: *I like this story because there are some really funny parts like when they think they pull a tail!* - Child in Year 1 MK



William's Winter Wish: I like this story because when things go wrong the try to help and cheer him up again. - Child in Year 2

KS1 STEM

This week, KS1 STEM Club was inspired by Heritage / International Week as the children explored the world through a range of hands-on geography activities. They worked together to complete puzzles of the continents and oceans, learning where each part of the world is located, and investigated where different animals live around the globe, linking habitats to countries and continents. To finish, the children carefully coloured in the continents using a key, developing their map-reading, observation and problem-solving skills. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, teamwork and curiosity as the children explored our world through STEM.

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher





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Year 3 Heritage / International Week

Year 3 have had a fantastic time celebrating Heritage / International Week! The children thoroughly enjoyed presenting their projects to the class and listening to one another share information about a living tradition or aspect of culture from their heritage.

As part of our learning, we chose to focus on Italy. We began by locating Italy on a globe and maps of different scales before exploring its physical and human features. Using this knowledge, the children wrote informative reports in their English lessons. We also discovered the importance of hand gestures in Italian culture and learned how to say a few simple words in Italian.

Year 3 also took part in a lovely creative session with their Reception buddies. Together, they made Italian and Canadian flags, and taught each other about the countries they were learning about.

The highlight of the week was designing and making our own pizzas. We shaped the dough and added a variety of toppings. Chef Nigel kindly cooked them so they could eat them for lunch. They smelt and tasted absolutely delicious!

It has been a wonderful week full of learning, creativity and collaboration.

Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher





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Year 4

This week, we celebrated Heritage / International Week, learning all about New Zealand, a country many of us were discovering for the first time. We visited our buddy class for a fun Kahoot quiz and enjoyed some brilliant student presentations about heritage countries, all linked to the theme "Living Heritage – Traditions, Stories & Celebrations," from which we learnt so much. We also loved sampling a wide range of foods on Friday. Thank you to everyone who contributed! In Maths, we began our new topic on fractions, revising fractions of shapes, writing and placing fractions and mixed numbers on a number line, partitioning mixed numbers, and comparing and ordering them. In English, we explored how to create an effective leaflet and used our research skills to produce informative leaflets about New Zealand, which we proudly published using Canva. In Religion, we learned about Māori creation stories, known as pūrākau, focusing on Māui and stories such as Māui and the Giant Ika (Fish) and Māui and the Sun. Our creativity continued in Art, where we made collages of native New Zealand birds set against leaf-printed backgrounds, and in Geography, we developed our map skills by locating New Zealand and identifying key places on a world map.

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher





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Year 5 Explore India!

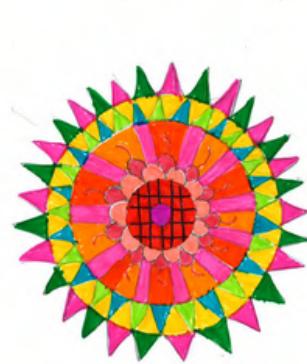
Year 5 have been discovering the wonders of India! The children explored Indian food, smelled and identified different spices, and even made chapatis with Sister Noella. We were also lucky to have a special visit from Ari's mum, who spoke to the children about life in India and shared important customs, such as taking shoes off indoors and the symbolism of eating with hands, which represents respect, connection, and tradition.

The children created their own Rangoli patterns, beautiful, brightly coloured designs often made during festivals. They also tried out Bollywood dancing and learned about India's location and geography.

As part of their learning, the class discovered fascinating wildlife, including langur monkeys that live in Jaipur in Northern India, where they can be seen chasing one another across the blue-washed rooftops of the city.

We also enjoyed fantastic presentations from the class about their own different heritages, celebrating the diversity within Year 5. Well done to everyone for your curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm!

Ms O'Leary - Year 5 Class Teacher





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Heritage / International Week Year 6

During Heritage / International Week, Year 6 focused on the country of Syria, linking closely with our school's 6Cs, particularly curiosity and creativity. The children investigated Syria's location in the Middle East, its physical and human geography, climate, culture, history and heritage. The children learned about Syrian landscapes, rivers, cities and population, as well as its rich traditions, food and languages. In Art, the children demonstrated creativity by designing and creating mosaics inspired by the traditional mosaics of Damascus.

A highlight of the week was a visit from Léa, originally from Syria, who shared first-hand knowledge of the country. She taught the children how to write their names in Arabic, shared traditional Arabic bread, demonstrated how authentic Syrian soap is made, and generously gifted the class a bar of traditional Aleppo soap.



The week concluded with an international banquet and time spent with their buddies, bringing our learning together in a joyful celebration and continuing our school-wide commitment to global understanding, curiosity, creativity and community.



Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Class Teacher



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Sport Update

It has been another successful week of sport across the school, with the children demonstrating enthusiasm, teamwork and excellent sporting skills.

Year 5 played two matches against St Mary's and Channing. On Monday, both teams showed great determination and resilience. The A team were narrowly beaten 4–3 in a very close and well-fought match, while the B team produced a strong and confident performance to earn a 3–3 draw. On Tuesday, Year 5 returned to the court with real energy and focus, delivering a fantastic performance in an impressive 11–3 victory against Channing. The team worked really well together, showing accurate passing, strong defending and excellent shooting. A special well done goes to Ava, who was nominated as star player for her outstanding shooting.

In PE lessons this week, Year 1 and 2 have continued to enjoy their tag rugby sessions. The children are making excellent progress, particularly in their handling skills, teamwork and ability to dodge opponents in game situations. Their confidence and understanding of the game are growing with each session.

The younger EYFS classes have been busy exploring gymnastics. The children have enjoyed using a wide range of apparatus and experimenting with different ways of travelling, balancing and jumping. They have learned a variety of jumping techniques and have shown great imagination and confidence as they explored movement in a safe and controlled way.



Year 3 and 4 have continued to impress in gymnastics lessons. The focus has been on the theme of bridges, with children working both individually and in groups to create sequences and routines. They have demonstrated creativity, strength, and control while linking movements together smoothly. Many children have shown excellent cooperation and thoughtful choreography in their work.



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Year 5 and 6 also enjoyed their inter-house netball competition on Wednesday. The event was played in a fantastic spirit, with high levels of participation, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout. After a series of exciting and closely contested games, St Francis were crowned overall winners. Congratulations to Camilla, Fabio and Farah, who were awarded star players for their exceptional performances, and to Imad and Betsy, who finished as the leading scorers in what was an excellent and enjoyable competition for all involved.

Date	Against	Team/YR	Venue	Time
Monday 26 th January	Trevor Roberts	YR 3/4 Mixed Football	Home	15.45-16.45
Monday 2 nd February	Trevor Roberts	YR 5/6 Mixed Football	Home	15.45-16.45
Monday 9 th February	Ivy House	YR 3/4 Netball	Home	15.40-16.30
Tuesday 10 th February	Ivy House	YR 5A and 6A Netball	Home	15.00-16.00

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport



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Music Update

Music Assemblies

There are three music assemblies coming up - on the **29th January, the 3rd February and the 11th February**. If your child is performing you will have been sent a letter telling you which assembly they are taking part in - please check to make sure you have the correct date! All assemblies are now full and we are looking forward to hearing some fantastic performances.

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

United Kingdom Linguistics Olympiad 2026

Every year, children from Saint Christina's School participate in the annual United Kingdom Linguistics Olympiad (UKLO). The Olympiad consists of problems that ask children to work out the meanings of words and phrases in different languages, given clues and information about the languages in question. Each year, the languages chosen vary - so that this year, the three problems that children will attempt are in Lithuanian, Naija and Korean.

Already there has been some excitement with a group of children in Year 4 working out some of the station names on the underground trains map in Seoul; other children have been working out (and guessing!) what words to use in simple passages of Lithuanian, with yet another group looking at how words change in Naija according to their meaning.

For the more advanced problems, which are initially aimed at children in Years 7 to 9 (i.e. KS3 children) the languages of Finnish and Rumanian have been added. There will certainly be some children at Saint Christina's who will attempt these problems.

Answers to this year's competition are yet to be published, but we hope that at least some of our children will gain awards - once the awards have been announced, you will of course be told about this in the School Bulletin.

In the meantime,

Happy Puzzling!

Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Enrichment



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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 ANIMAL THEME RELATED ACTIVITIES AND VALENTINE DAY TUFF TRAYS.

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

24TH OF JANUARY/ 7TH OF FEBRUARY-SATURDAY

TIME: 10:30AM - 11:30AM

PRICE: £10 PER CHILD CASH ONLY

PLEASE BOOK YOUR SPACE VIA THE EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW:

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

RETESIE@GMAIL.COM





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.

Sunday Mass

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

Labelling School Uniform

We kindly ask all parents and carers to please ensure that your child's school uniform is clearly labelled with their name. Labelling uniforms helps prevent items from being misplaced or lost and makes it much easier for us to return them to the correct child.

Online Safety Reminder for Parents & Carers

As children spend more time online playing games, watching content, and chatting with friends, it is important to help them stay safe in digital spaces.

We encourage parents and carers to:

- Take an active interest in the games, apps, and websites your child uses
- Use parental controls and privacy settings appropriate to your child's age
- Remind children never to share personal information online
- Encourage them to speak to a trusted adult if something online makes them feel uncomfortable or worried

Regular conversations at home about online behaviour, kindness, and safety can make a big difference. Working together, we can help ensure children enjoy the benefits of being online. For more useful information please see [Padlet Resource](#) and [Safety by age Resource](#).



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Dates for your diary

**Monday 26th
January**

- Year 3/4 Mixed Football (Home)
- **Year 4 Swimming (2 Weeks)**
- **No KS2 Choir**

**Thursday 29th
January**

- Mr Walshe & Mrs Reilly visiting Handmaids School in Dublin

**Friday 30th
January**

- Year 6 Mass (2.45pm)
- **Year 3 & 4 PL Movie Night**

**Monday 2nd
February**

- Year 5/6 Mixed Football (Home)

**Wednesday 4th
February**

- Year 5/6 Inter House Football
- **Parent Child Learning Review (Rec - Year 6 from 8.10 - 8.30am)**

**Thursday 5th
February**

- **Parent Child Learning Review (Rec - Year 6)**
- Mr Walshe attending the CISC Conference (2 Days)

**Friday 6th
February**

- NSPCC Workshop with Years 2, 5 and 6
- Year 5 Mass (2.45pm)
- **Year 5 & 6 PL Movie Night**

**Monday 9th
February**

- Year 3/4 Netball (Home)
- EYFS & KS1 House Pancake Challenge (Throughout the week)



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Tuesday 10th
February

- KS2 6C Challenge Day
- Year 5A and Year 6A Netball Fixture (Home)

Thursday 12th
February

- Inter House Music Competition

Thursday 12th February

SCHOOL CLOSES AT USUAL TIME FOR HALF TERM

Monday 23rd February
CHILDREN RETURN

**Monday 23rd
February**

- Children Return

Wednesday 25th
February

- Year 5 Netball Tournament (Away)

Thursday 26th
February

- 11+ Information Meeting (Year 3 - 5) (Details to Follow)

Friday 27th
February

- Year 4 Mass (2.45pm)

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/>