



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 25th September 2026



Where Kindness Meets Ambition



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Dear Parents,

On Monday morning, we welcomed a group of school founders and directors who had travelled from Uzbekistan to learn more about British education. At the end of their visit, they spoke with real admiration about what they had seen at Saint Christina's. They noticed the atmosphere across the school and the thought given to what children learn, both in lessons and through their wider experience of school life. Most of all, they admired the quality of the children's questions. They saw children who were brave enough to offer an idea and able to listen when somebody else saw things differently.

Their comments were especially well timed, as Jason Buckley was spending the day working with our children and staff on philosophy and metacognition. Jason, also known as 'The Philosophy Man', is a leading advocate for philosophy in schools and one of the authors of Thinking Moves A-Z, the programme that underpins our approach to metacognition across Saint Christina's.

Jason and his colleague Tom have worked with us for the past 18 months. This work helps children to understand their own thinking and gives teachers a shared language through which to deepen it. The questions admired by our visitors did not, therefore, appear by accident. They reflect sustained work, guided by an underlying belief that children should have the confidence and tools to think for themselves.

Our visitors described British education as booming in Uzbekistan. There is some irony in this. At home, the independent sector is under considerable pressure and has no shortage of detractors. Overseas, people continue to travel thousands of miles to study it, and British independent education remains one of this country's most respected exports.

I was also in Birmingham this week for the IAPS Heads' Conference. IAPS is one of the professional associations to which Saint Christina's belongs and represents many of the world's leading independent prep schools. The themes were reassuringly familiar. Seminars and talks considered how education should respond to a changing world and also explored how schools can distinguish what deserves their attention from the noise surrounding them. The schools represented were very different, but discussion kept returning to the same practical question: what will children need, and what should schools be doing about it now?

Last week, I wrote about concentrating on the stitch in front of us. Our Approaching 2030 vision asks us to give that immediate work a longer horizon by considering what today's children will need in a future none of us can predict with certainty. As information becomes ever more abundant, their ability to understand their own minds and exercise sound judgment will grow in importance, as will their capacity for genuine human connection. Understanding how they learn will help them adapt when the familiar changes, while a secure sense of self will help them make choices grounded in their values and face setbacks without allowing those setbacks to define them.



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This is the larger pattern to which every lesson and every decision adds another stitch. It is a serious ambition, and one worthy of our unwavering commitment.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

Damien Walshe
Headteacher



Volunteers Needed!

We would be really grateful if any of you would be able to spare some time to help us make decorations for the upcoming Monster Mash Disco.

We'll have a group of parents in the Arts Hall from Friday 2nd October from 9am – 12 noon, and on the following Friday morning, working on the decorations.

If you're able to pop in for an hour or two, or stay for the morning, we'd really appreciate your help. Every extra pair of hands makes such a difference! Please email office@saintchristinas.org.uk to let us know that you would like to volunteer.

Thank you so much for your support!

Ms Randle - Head of EYFS and Sustainability



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Saint Christina's Parents' Link
proudly presents

2026 MONSTER MASH

Friday 16th October 2026

Timed entry tickets:
EYFS & YR1: 5.30pm
YR2 - YR6: 6.30pm

Ends at 8pm

Pumpkin judging

Costume competitions

Disco

Bizarre Balloons

Children tickets: £17.00

Adults tickets: £12.00

Tickets get on sale on Friday 2nd October 2026 at 8pm

NO TICKET SALES ON THE NIGHT!

COSTUMES • FRIENDS • MUSIC • FUN!



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Caritas Ambassadors

We were delighted to welcome our new Caritas Ambassadors to their first session this week. The children explored what it means to be an ambassador and discovered that Caritas means 'love in action'. They reflected on how Jesus calls us to love our neighbour and began exploring how Catholic Social Teaching can help us put this love into practice.

The Ambassadors also worked together to imagine what a fair and loving world might look like and considered how we can care for those in need. Over the coming weeks, they will learn more about the principles of Catholic Social Teaching before working together to plan their own project to make a positive difference in our local community.

We are very excited to see our new Caritas Ambassadors grow into their role and help us continue to put our faith into action across our school community.

Mr Burke – Assistant Head (Pastoral)



Macmillan Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning this week. It was wonderful to see so many members of our school community coming together to support such an important cause.

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we have raised over £800, plus an additional £110 in Gift Aid, for Macmillan Cancer Support. We are so grateful to everyone who attended, donated, baked or helped to make the morning such a success.

If you were unable to attend but would still like to support the fundraiser, donations can still be made here: [Macmillan Coffee Morning](#)

Thank you once again for your generosity and for helping us support the wonderful work of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Ms Overing, Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors



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Tooled Up Education October Webinars

Tooled Up Education warmly invites you to register for their upcoming October 2026 webinars:

REGISTER HERE: [5 October 2026, 12:30-13:30 BST](#)

In this webinar, executive coach and author Georgie Rudd shares practical strategies to help working parents navigate the competing demands of career and family life.

REGISTER HERE: [7 October 2026, 12:30-13:30 BST](#)

Join child and family psychiatrist Dr Kathryn Hollins as she shares evidence-informed guidance for responding to difficult questions and fears about death. Learn how children's understanding of death develops and how to talk about it in a calm, honest and age-appropriate way to ease anxiety without dismissing their concerns.

REGISTER HERE: [8 October 2026, 12:45-13:15 BST](#)

Upcoming UK social media restrictions for under-16s are raising questions and concerns for many families. If your teen feels frustrated, worried about missing out, or unsure about the changes, knowing how to respond can be challenging.

In this 30-minute webinar, Dr Kathy Weston will share practical ways to talk openly with teenagers helping you listen to their concerns, discuss risks and benefits, and keep communication open about their digital lives.

REGISTER HERE: [12 October 2026, 12:30-13:00 BST](#)

Every month, parents in our community ask thoughtful, challenging and fascinating questions. In this session, we'll explore a selection of recent queries and share evidence-informed advice and practical suggestions.

Please submit your questions when registering so we can include as many as possible.

REGISTER HERE: [21 October 2026, 12:30-13:30 BST](#)

With proposed government restrictions on social media for under-16s and feature limits for older teens now front of mind, many foster carers are feeling unsure about what's expected of them, and what to say to a young person who's about to lose access to the accounts and friendships they rely on. In this webinar, online safety specialist Adrienne Katz will unpack the changes and how to have those difficult conversations.

Mr Burke – Assistant Head (Pastoral)



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Signs of Autumn in Nursery

This week, Nursery have been learning about the seasons and spotting the signs of autumn. We went on a leaf hunt around the playground before using our finds to make beautiful leaf crowns, which the children were very proud to wear! We also enjoyed conker rolling painting, covering conkers in paint and tipping the trays from side to side. It was messy and lots of fun!

Ms Randle - Head of EYFS and Nursery Class Teacher



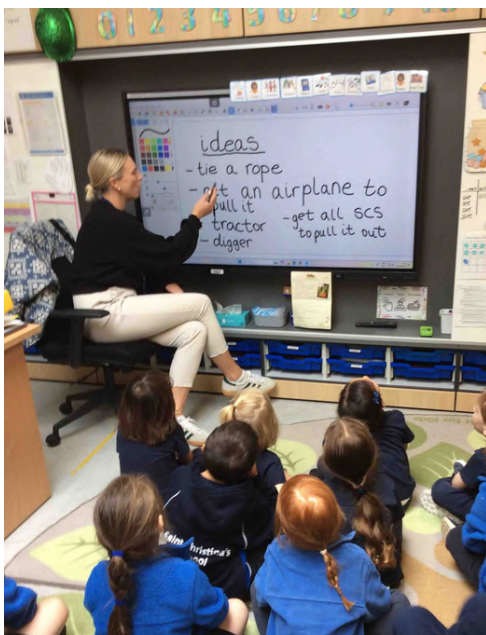
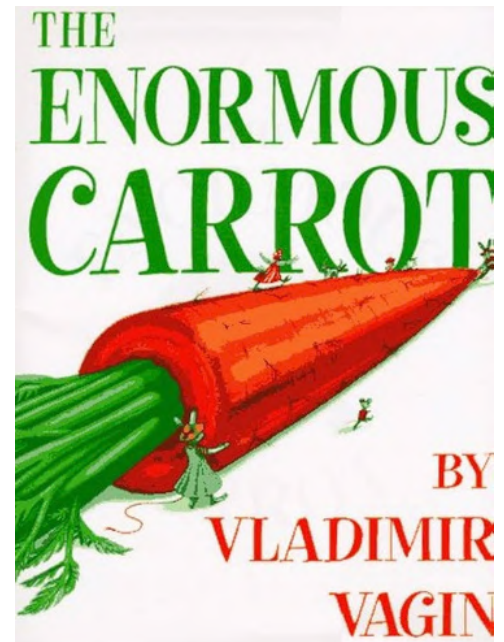


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An Enormous Carrot Problem in Reception

This week, Reception received a very special delivery from the school office, a letter from a farm just outside London asking for our help! The farmers had grown an enormous carrot and could not work out how to pull it from the ground. As Reception have been growing vegetables in the Early Years garden, the children were full of ideas for how they could help. This led us to our first Talk for Write story of the year, *The Enormous Carrot* by Vladimir Vagin. Next week, the children will create a class story map and actions to help them learn and retell the story. The carrot fun continued with our first cooking session, where we made our own carrot chips. We will now be sending a letter back to the farm with all of the children's ideas and are looking forward to finding out if the farmers use any of them to finally pull out their enormous carrot!

Ms Williams and Ms Koci - Reception Class Teachers





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Year 1 and Year 4 Autumn Buddy Walk

Our Year 1 children had a wonderful time meeting their Year 4 buddies for the very first time! Together, they set off on an autumn walk to Primrose Hill, where they explored the outdoors and looked carefully for signs of the changing season.

The children collected autumn treasures such as colourful leaves, twigs and other natural materials, which they will use with their buddies to create some autumn-inspired artwork in the future.

It was a lovely opportunity for the children to get to know one another, enjoy the fresh air and begin building new friendships. There were lots of smiles, conversations and plenty of fun along the way!

Ms Khalique - Year 1 Class Teacher





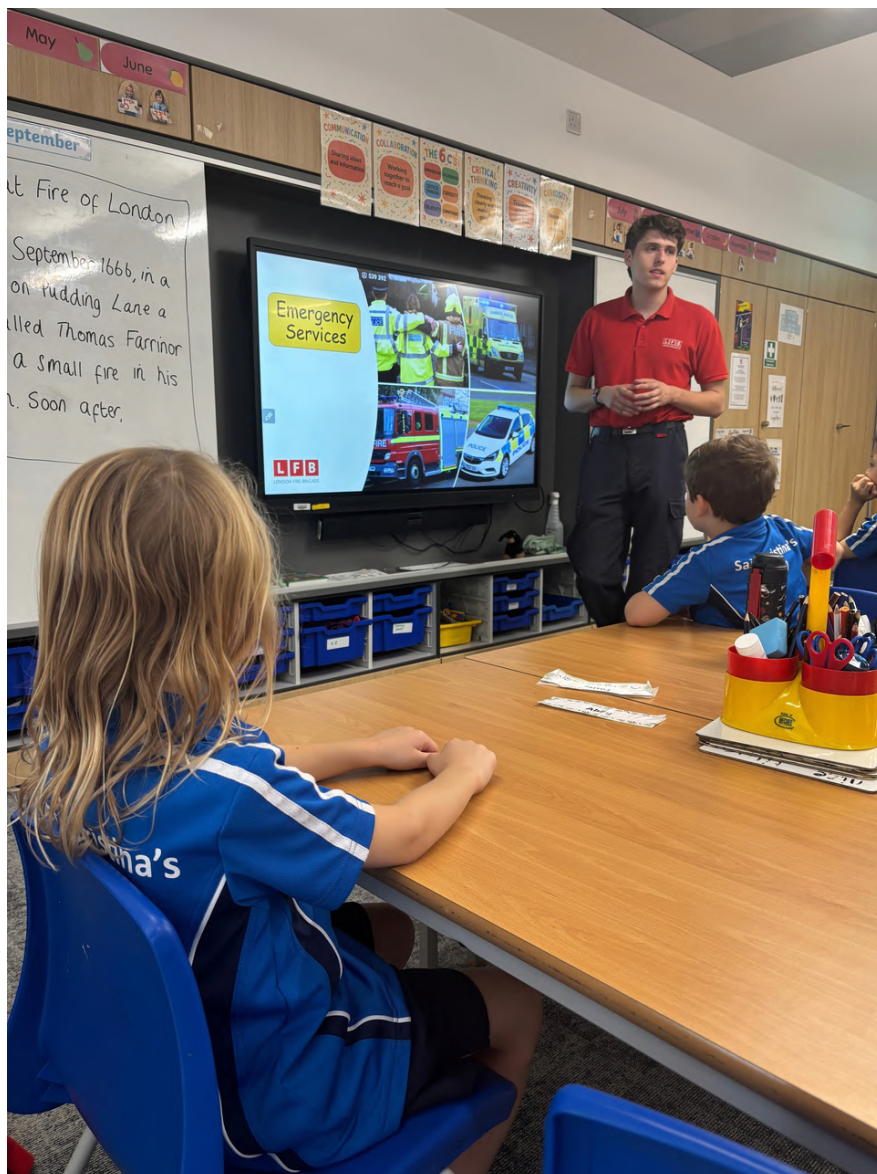
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Fire Brigade Visit Year 2

On Thursday, Year 2 were delighted to be joined by an Education Officer from the London Fire Brigade for a special fire safety workshop. The children learnt about common fire hazards, the importance of never playing with matches or lighters, how smoke alarms help to keep us safe and what to do in an emergency, including how and when to call 999.

The session was particularly meaningful as it linked brilliantly with our current History learning about the Great Fire of London, allowing the children to compare fire safety today with life in 1666. The children listened carefully, asked some excellent questions and thoroughly enjoyed welcoming our visitor to Year 2.

Mr Burke and Ms Higgins - Year 2 Class Teachers





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Cinderella: A Fashionable Tale:

I love this story because I like that it is the things that I like! It has a princess and dresses. I also like reading it and seeing what stories you can imagine and how you read them and discover more. - Child in Year 2 DB



The Colour Monster:

I like that it pops up because it is so cool!. I love all the colours in the story. It is a fun story! - Child in Year 2 OH



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Year 3

Year 3 kicked off an action-packed week with two fascinating workshops led by Jason Buckley, focusing on P4C and Metacognition. In the first session, the children discussed the key ingredients of friendship - ranking qualities like trust, harmony, and respect - before using the metaphor of a "friendship bake" and exploring Aristotle's three levels of friendship (Utility, Pleasure, and Virtue). The learning continued with a creative retelling of The Three Little Pigs, where children took on the roles of the pigs to debate whether the brother with the brick house should take in his siblings after the wolf blew their homes down.

In English, our young writers used Talk4Writing to use powerful adjectives and noun phrases while retelling the story of Romulus and Remus. In Maths, we navigated place value, number lines up to 1,000, and finding 1, 10, and 100 more or less. Philosophical discussions carried into our regular P4C lessons as we tackled the sticky question, "Can a world be perfect for you and not perfect for someone else?" While in Science, we focused on healthy diets and learning what makes up a truly balanced plate.

Ms Mackley - Year 3 Class Teacher



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Year 3

Year 3 have had an exciting week in RE as our topic this half term is 'Creation and Covenants'. We have been learning about Imago Dei (the "image of God") which means that every person, no matter who they are, is loved and special because they are made like God. It means that everyone has worth and value, and should be treated with kindness, respect and love. To reinforce this message, we created bookmarks with a motto based on our understanding of being made in the image of God. Here are some examples of our motto:

- We are made in the image of God.
- God's love remains forever true.
- God made me in His love.
- I am God's masterpiece.
- I am a great steward of God's creation.

How do we witness honouring the Imago Dei in every person we encounter?

Ms Fernandes - Teaching Assistant





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Year 4

This week in Year 4, we explored the story of Abraham and Isaac in RE, discussing how God tested Abraham and finding links between this story and Jesus' Crucifixion, while also preparing for our class Mass for St Vincent de Paul. In History, we learned about the pharaohs of Ancient Egypt, taking on the roles of different rulers to share facts about our lives before investigating sarcophagi, burial objects and their symbolic meanings. In Maths, we finished our place value unit by learning Roman numerals and practising rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. In English, we developed our reading skills by using context to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words, practised using nouns and pronouns effectively, and wrote descriptive autumn paragraphs inspired by photographs while continuing our class text, *Secrets of a Sun King*. We also enjoyed our first buddy visit of the year, joining Year 1 for an autumn walk at Primrose Hill, and took part in two exciting thinking workshops with Jason Buckley, where we explored metacognition and discussed how we might teach a robot the difference between right and wrong.

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher





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Year 5

Year 5 led a wonderful Mass, reflecting on the importance of forgiveness. They reflected on how God our Father loves them unconditionally and forgives them when they turn away from Him or say "No" to Him. They also thought about how they can become more like Jesus by showing love, kindness and forgiveness towards others. The children read their parts clearly and confidently and sang beautifully.

The children also had a fantastic and informative workshop with the Fire Brigade. They learnt about the important role firefighters play in our community, explored common causes of fires and discussed ways to prevent them. They also learnt what to do and how to stay safe in the event of a fire. It was a valuable session that gave the children lots of practical knowledge about fire safety.

Ms Sephton - Year 5 Class Teacher





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Year 6 P4C Workshop

Year 6 enjoyed their P4C workshop with Jason Buckley at the start of the week. The children explored the philosophy of the Stoics, including the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, who ruled from AD 161–180. They began by discussing positive and negative emotions before considering what we can control, partly control and cannot control in our lives. The children recognised that they can control their actions, behaviour, effort, responses and mindset, while emotions may be only partly within their control. They also explored how other people's actions, the past and the future are beyond their control. There was a valuable connection to the children's upcoming 11+ exams, as they reflected on the importance of focusing on what they can control, such as their preparation, effort and attitude, rather than worrying about the questions they might face or the final outcome. It was a thought-provoking and engaging workshop, with the children confidently sharing their ideas, explaining their reasoning and considering how they can apply these philosophical ideas to their everyday lives.

Mrs Ellisdon - Assistant Head (Academic) and Year 6 Class Teacher





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Year 2 Art

We started off with some hands on Art and DT, creating collages of Tudor houses burning using tissue paper for the flames and strips of black card for the timber. We are also busy designing our own Tudor houses on paper, thinking carefully about all the features that make them Tudor. The children are becoming real experts in Tudor houses!

Next week, we'll be taking our designs and starting to build our houses using cereal boxes. We're also learning a very catchy song all about the Great Fire, ready for the spring when we'll take our houses outside, burn them in the playground and sing our song!

Ms Bretones - Head of Spanish, Art & Design Technology





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A Fantastic Start to Science!

The children have made a brilliant start to science this year, with plenty of practical investigations, thoughtful questions and enthusiastic discoveries!

Year 4 recreated the digestive process in a wonderfully messy experiment! Banana and crackers were squashed in a bag to model the stomach's churning action, with orange juice representing stomach acid. The mixture was then squeezed through tights to demonstrate how nutrients pass through the wall of the small intestine.

Year 2 have been learning all about keeping healthy, including how exercise affects their heart rate and why hand hygiene matters. Using pepper to represent germs, they watched it scatter when a soapy finger touched the water in a Petri dish. The soap lowers the water's surface tension, causing movement that carries the pepper away. This provided a memorable starting point for discussing how soap helps remove germs and antibacterial gel kills many germs, although real germs do not simply move away like the pepper!

Year 3 have been exploring balanced diets and learning about our bones, discovering how we nourish and support our bodies. Meanwhile, Year 5 have been investigating the Solar System and making orreries - models showing how the planets move around the Sun. Year 6 have been exploring light and testing the law of reflection: the angle at which light meets a mirror equals the angle at which it reflects away.

In KS1 STEM Club, the children rose to the challenge of building the tallest, most stable tower possible. As the photograph shows, their teamwork and engineering skills produced some very impressive results!

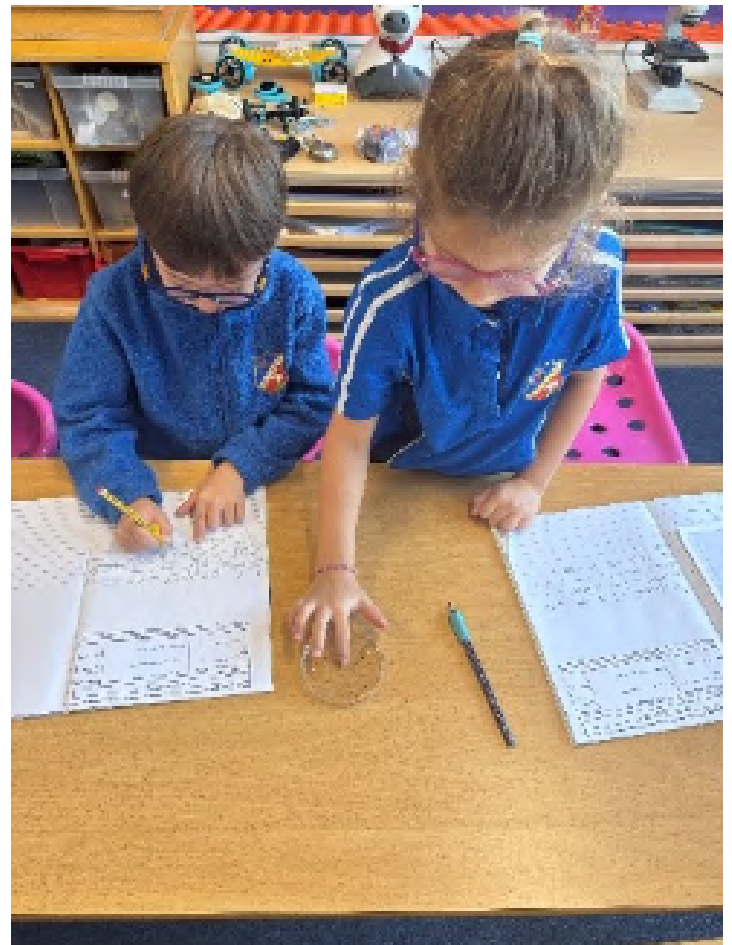
Everyone is hugely looking forward to Space Day on Monday, when there will be even more opportunities to explore, investigate and wonder!

Mr Hirst - Deputy Headteacher and Science Teacher





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Music Update

Music Demonstration Assembly

On Thursday this week, two of our instrumental teachers Ms Hu (flute) and Mr Taylor (guitar and ukulele) demonstrated their instruments for the children. We had great fun learning about these instruments and seeing the professionals play – especially when they played together! The children asked some excellent questions showing great curiosity about how the instruments work and how the sound can be changed. It was a very inspiring assembly and we learnt a lot.



Music Lessons

We have spaces for violin, flute, guitar, ukulele, trumpet and trombone at the moment, with additional limited spaces for singing lessons. If you are interested in lessons for your child please click on the link [here](#) to access information about lessons and the online application form. Please note that we recommend singing and trumpet/trombone for year 3 upwards, and that there is currently a waiting list for piano lessons.

Please feel free to contact me (ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk) if you would like to discuss any aspect of music lessons.

Mrs Bryant - Director of Music



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Sport Update

It has been a highly energetic week of PE! The children have thrown themselves into their PE lessons, showing great enthusiasm and commitment throughout.

Nursery and Reception have been fantastic, taking part in lots of listening games and developing their ability to navigate space effectively. KS1 classes have spent time working on their shooting technique in football and have continued to develop the accuracy of their passing in netball. KS2 classes have worked on their shooting in netball, while also exploring different ways to lose their markers and create space. In football, we have focused on shooting technique and have practised shooting the ball in a variety of different situations.





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Looking ahead to next week, the Year 3 and 4 children have an in-house football match on Monday, while our Year 5 and 6 football team will take on Ivy House on Tuesday.

Well done to everyone for another fantastic week of PE!

Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Against	Team/Yr	Venue
Monday 28 th September	-	Yr 3 and 4 Mixed Football	Home
Tuesday 29 th September	Ivy House	Yr 5 and 6 Girls Football	Home
Monday 5 th October	Southbank	Yr 5/6 Mixed Football	Home
Wednesday 7 th October	St Margarets	Yr 5/6 Girls Netball	Away
Monday 12 th October	Cavendish	Yr 5/6 Girls Netball	Away

Co-Curricular Update

Next Monday 28th September I am very excited to run an exciting co-curricular day based on the theme of Space. Our children will be celebrating National Space Week which takes place during the first week of October, with an exciting Space Day designed to develop their understanding of space while exploring our 6Cs and important life skills. Children will have a choice of over 100 Space Menu activities covering all areas of the curriculum, alongside two exciting workshops. They will design, create, and launch their own rockets before taking an immersive journey through the universe with a visit to the planetarium. We hope the day will inspire curiosity, creativity, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and confidence, while allowing children to explore their fascination with space.

I can't wait to share lots of photos from our Space Day in next week's bulletin!

Parent Staff netball Sign up

It has been so lovely to see lots of parents and staff sign up for the Netball event taking place on Friday 2nd October. A letter was sent out with all the details last week. There is still time to sign up. If you are interested. Please sign up using the link below by Wednesday in order for me to finalise plans for the event.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



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Getting to know our Year 6 Prefects

Each week we will find out about some of our new Year 6 prefects. This week is the turn of Eco Prefects Charbella and Sofi.

Hi, it's Soffi and Chabella here, the Eco Prefects! We want to help take care of our environment and do our part to reduce pollution. As Eco Prefects, our role is to help make sure that our school is doing everything it can to look after the Earth.

We change the towels in the classrooms twice a week, report back to the school in assembly about our food waste competition and come up with new ideas and plans to help keep our school and our planet healthy. We are really excited about our role and hope we can make a positive difference!

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport and Head of Co-Curricular



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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.

Collection Reminders

To help collection run smoothly and efficiently, we kindly ask that you move away from the school gate once you have collected your child, as this helps us to avoid congestion and maintain a clear flow for other families.

We would also be grateful if conversations with staff at collection could be kept to a brief exchange. If you need a longer conversation, please arrange a suitable time with your child's teacher so that staff can remain fully focused on dismissing the children.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Labelling Uniform

Please remember to label your child's school uniform clearly to avoid losing items. If you have purchased uniform from a nearly new uniform sale, please ensure any previous name labels are completely covered to avoid confusion or misplacement.

Parking and Neighbours

We kindly ask all parents and carers to avoid parking in or blocking neighbouring residents' driveways during drop-off and pick-up times. Please be considerate of our neighbours by only stopping in designated or permitted areas.

Your cooperation helps us maintain a safe and respectful environment for both our community and the families we serve.

Thank you for your understanding and support!



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Dates for your Diary

Monday 28 th September	• KS1 and KS2 Space Day • IPM Parent Teacher Meeting Booking to go live on TES SchoolCloud (Y1 - Y6)
Tuesday 29 th September	• Individual Photos (Full School Uniform) • Year 5/6 Girls Football Fixture (Home)
Wednesday 30 th September	• Forest School Begins for Rec EW
Thursday 1 st October	• Year 2 Great Fire of London Workshop • KS2 Michael Rosen Poetry Online Event
Friday 2 nd October	• St Francis House Mass (14.45) • Parent Staff Netball Social (ADULTS ONLY) (17.30) • Parent-Teacher Meeting Bookings go live on TES SchoolCloud (Nur - Y5)
Monday 5 th October	• Winter Uniform • IPM Parent-Teacher Meetings (All week) • Year 4 Swimming (2 weeks) • Year 5 and 6 Mixed Football Fixture (Home)
Tuesday 6 th October	• Vaccinations (Details to Follow)
Wednesday 7 th October	• Prospective Parents Open Morning (9.15 - 11.30) • No swimming for Year 4 • Year 5 and 6 Netball Fixture (Away)



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Friday 9 th October	• Children's Chaplaincy Team Mass (14.45) • Buddies event for Mental Health Awareness
Monday 12 th October	• Parent Teacher Meetings (Nur to Y5) (All Week) • Year 5 and 6 Girls Netball Fixture (Away)
Wednesday 14 th October	• Year 5 and 6 Inter House Football (Home)
Thursday 15 th October	• Year 6 History Trip (Details to Follow)
Friday 16 th October	• KS2 Inter House Poetry Competition • No Mass • Monster Mash ◦ 17:30 - 20:00 - EYFS + KS1 ◦ 18:30 - 20:00 - KS2
Friday 16th October SCHOOL CLOSSES AT USUAL TIME FOR HALF TERM Monday 2nd November 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/>