



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 27th June 2025



CURIOSITY CHARACTER COMMUNITY



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Dear Parents,

There is a certain irony in what I'm about to share with you. Earlier this week, a research paper landed in my inbox entitled ["AI in Childhood and the Need for Paediatric Input"](#) by Dr Aric Sigman, a psychologist and expert in child development. I heard him speak at a conference a while ago and found him very engaging. If you want to find out more about him then look [here](#). The irony? I was in between meetings, only had about a 15 minute window, and turned to ChatGPT to summarise the paper. So yes, I used artificial intelligence to get the headlines on a research paper that warns us to be cautious about how children use artificial intelligence. Welcome to 2025.

Dr Sigman's paper raises some questions. He points out that discussions about children and AI are largely being driven by voices in computer science, digital education, and, you've guessed it, AI. The people who best understand childhood health and development, paediatricians, are mostly missing from the discussion. This is particularly striking given the growing number of studies suggesting we should proceed carefully.

Sigman highlights early signs of addiction-like behaviours among young people using AI chatbots. These chatbots can create what are called "parasocial relationships", where children feel emotionally connected to something that mimics human interaction but is not actually human. The more realistic the chatbot feels, the more intense the connection can become. There is also evidence linking high AI chatbot use to increased loneliness and decreased real-world social interaction. These findings are still in their early stages, but they suggest we should take note of them.



That said, it is important not to fall into one-sided thinking. Used with intention, AI tools can and will support learning, improve accessibility, and allow children to explore knowledge in engaging ways. I had an interesting philosophy lesson with Year 6 on the ethics of AI (and a similar one with Year 5), and we started to co-create a story using Chat GPT. Now, if this were a literacy lesson and taken to its natural conclusion, that particular use of AI could have sparked a creative urge to finish the story themselves and get children to engage with creative writing.

From the perspective of moral philosophy, my question for Year 6 was 'who wrote the start of this story - AI or humans' (they felt it was a bit of both). Additionally, we have also seen how certain platforms can free up teacher admin time, help children organise their thoughts, and even give personalised feedback. In education, as in life, the value of a tool depends on how we use it.



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What came through in the research paper was the call for a broader range of voices in the conversation. As Sigman notes, government departments for education and technology are leading the charge, with little input from those who specialise in health. On a related note I also wanted to flag that the Department for Education has now published its most comprehensive [policy_paper_on_AI_in_schools](#). The tone is broadly positive, identifying many opportunities AI presents for teachers and children, particularly in reducing workload and supporting learning. However, the DfE is clear about the need for careful management of risks, especially when AI is pupil-facing. This will naturally become more important as young people head into their teenage years and towards public exams. Senior schools are adopting AI policies rapidly and have accepted that children are using it with increasing frequency. As ever, the challenge is to hold space for innovation while keeping children's wellbeing and deep learning at the centre of decision making.

When we discuss technology at Saint Christina's, we talk a lot about the "why." We want our children to be curious and intellectually adventurous, yes, but also discerning. We also want them to experience a childhood without being bombarded by tech or excessive screen time. AI particularly is going to divide opinions, and I've had enough conversations with many of you to know this for a fact. Some will and do embrace it fully; others are deeply sceptical. While the technology itself is not going anywhere, our responsibility is to respond with care, a clear sense of purpose, and with children's wellbeing in mind.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Summer Fair this weekend. The weather forecast looks good, and the funds raised will be put towards the refurbishment of the library. In that regard we have had some promising leads thanks to your support, and I have everything crossed for work to begin in some form over the summer. We are still short of funds to complete the project in one go so please say your prayers that it becomes a reality. My gratitude to all those who reached out with ideas and contacts - it has made a huge difference.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

Damien Walshe
Headteacher





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Thank you to our Children's Chaplaincy Team for delivering an engaging and thoughtful assembly to the whole school about Pope Leo XIV. The children did an excellent job explaining the journey he undertook to become Pope, sharing their favourite quotes and reflecting on what those words meant to them. For example: "We are often preoccupied with teaching doctrine... but we risk forgetting that our first task is to teach what it means to know Jesus."

Well done to the Chaplaincy Team for their excellent presentation, and thank you to Sr Noella for organising it.

We also extend our thanks to the Year 5 children pictured below, who have helped create a beautiful book about the life of Saint Raphaela, founder of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We look forward to sharing copies of this special book with the school community soon!

Mr Hirst - Deputy Head





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Cooking Club

In Cooking Club this term, we have been focusing on baking. The children had the opportunity to make a variety of delicious treats, including cheese scones, vintage chocolate chip cookies, and vegan pancakes.

Through these activities, they developed practical skills such as measuring, mixing, and following recipes, while also learning about different dietary needs and ingredients.

Ms Edina - Reception Class TA





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Last Liturgy of the Year

On Thursday, we celebrated our final Liturgy of the year. We listened to and learned about the story of Jesus calming the storm. The children acted out the story brilliantly, bringing great energy and enthusiasm to the performance. It was wonderful to see so many parents there, thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming many of you back next year, and for those moving into Year 1, you will have the exciting opportunity to enjoy Mass on Fridays!

Ms Randle - Nursery Class Teacher





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Reception's Around the World Finale: A Special Trip to Ecuador

This week, Reception enjoyed their final session of Around the World with Ms Williams, and what a journey it has been! Over the year, the children have “visited” 25 countries of their choice, exploring traditions, sampling different foods, learning new languages, and making beautiful crafts. Some of the countries they explored include Australia, Ukraine, Peru, the United States, Canada, and Portugal. For the final destination, the children voted to visit Ecuador in honour of a classmate who will be moving there after Reception. They found Ecuador on the map in South America, discovered that the flight takes around 12 hours, and practised some familiar Spanish greetings from their language lessons. After adding a final stamp to their travel passports, the children boarded the ‘plane’ (also known as the Nursery Classroom) and landed in Ecuador.

There, they learned about traditional Ecuadorian foods, including pan de yuca. The children carefully chopped strawberries to blend into yogurt while the cheesy pan de yuca baked in the oven. Once everything was ready, they enjoyed tasting the treats together before flying back to the UK, just in time for dismissal.

It has been a fantastic year of global exploration, celebrating the food, culture, and traditions of countries around the world. The children have enjoyed seeing how different life can be in other places, and how fun it is to share, celebrate, and learn from each other.

Ms Williams – Reception Class Teacher





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KS1 Story Club

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Third Wheel by Jeff Kinney: I like this book because it is funny and fun to read. I like all the characters! - **Student Year 2**



As we wrap up another wonderful year of KS1 Story Club, I want to say a big thank you to all the children who joined us each week to share stories, laughter and imagination. From fairy tales to football adventures, your enthusiasm made every session special! Reading for pleasure not only sparks creativity and builds confidence while also helping us in our learning, especially in vocabulary, comprehension and writing. I can't wait for everyone to sign up again next year to keep the love of reading growing strong. We can't wait to welcome new faces and continue our storytelling journey!

Year 1 Maths

In Maths this week, Year 1 have been busy finding halves and quarters of both shapes and numbers. We've been consolidating our understanding through hands-on activities, group discussions, and problem-solving challenges. The children have not only answered word problems but also created their own, showing a strong grasp of the concepts and a growing confidence in explaining their thinking. It's been fantastic to see their mathematical language develop and their enthusiasm for fractions shine!

Year 1 & Year 4 Buddy Trip to London Zoo

This week, Year 1 and Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic buddy trip to London Zoo! It was a brilliant opportunity to strengthen friendships and share learning across year groups. Year 1 were excited to talk about what they've been learning in Science, especially how to categorise animals by their features and diets. Year 4 impressed us with their deeper knowledge, particularly about rainforest animals and their habitats. Together, they explored the zoo, asked thoughtful questions, and spotted some of their favourite creatures. It was a joyful day filled with learning, laughter and teamwork!

Ms Higgins - Year 1 Class Teacher



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Year 2

In History this week, we've been learning all about how people survived during the Stone Age. We started by talking about what 'prehistoric' means and cleared up some common myths – like the idea that humans lived at the same time as dinosaurs!

We looked at a timeline showing how long ago the Stone Age was and found out that people moved to Britain over time. The children were really interested in the Happisburgh footprints – real evidence that early humans were here in Britain thousands of years ago.

We explored photos of Stone Age artefacts and cave paintings, and discussed how archaeologists use these clues to learn about the past. The children then worked in pairs to talk about how people might have used the landscape around them to stay safe and find what they needed.

Mr Burke - Year 2 Class Teacher



Year 3

This week, Year 3 have been busy exploring Geography by analysing the results of the surveys we did last week in St John's Wood High Street, gaining valuable skills in data collection and interpretation. In Science, they've been learning about the fascinating life cycle of flowering plants, discovering how plants grow and reproduce. In English, the children have been unleashing their creativity by continuing writing their very own adventure stories, developing their storytelling and writing skills. Meanwhile, in Maths, they have been tackling word problems, applying their knowledge of number operations to solve real-life challenges.

Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher



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Year 4

This week Year 4 has been busy rehearsing for the upcoming Wizard of Oz production. We have continued to work on our model Viking longships in D&T, they are starting to take shape! We enjoyed our trip to the Zoo with our buddy class, and have been revising some of our key learnings from Maths and English this year.

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher

KS1 and KS2 STEM Club

This week, our KS1 and KS2 STEM Club members teamed up for a deliciously cool experiment — making homemade ice cream using the science of salt and ice! Working in buddy pairs, the older pupils guided their younger partners through the fascinating process of freezing cream without a freezer. By adding salt to ice, they lowered the freezing point, creating the perfect chilly environment to turn their creamy mixtures into tasty treats. It was a fantastic hands-on way to explore states of matter, temperature, and teamwork — all while enjoying a sweet reward at the end. Science has never tasted so good!

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher





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Year 5 Explore the World of Greek Gods

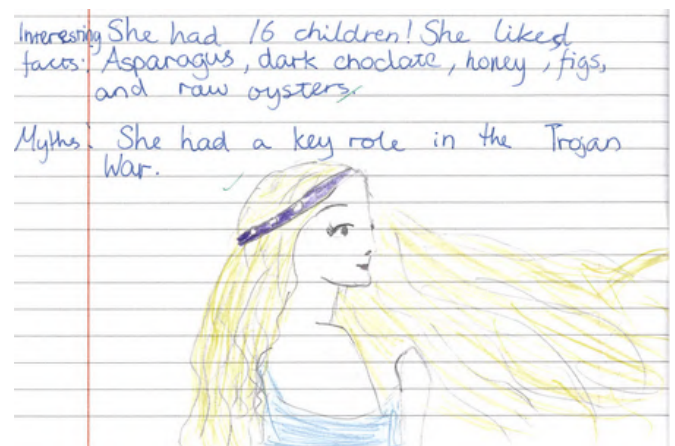
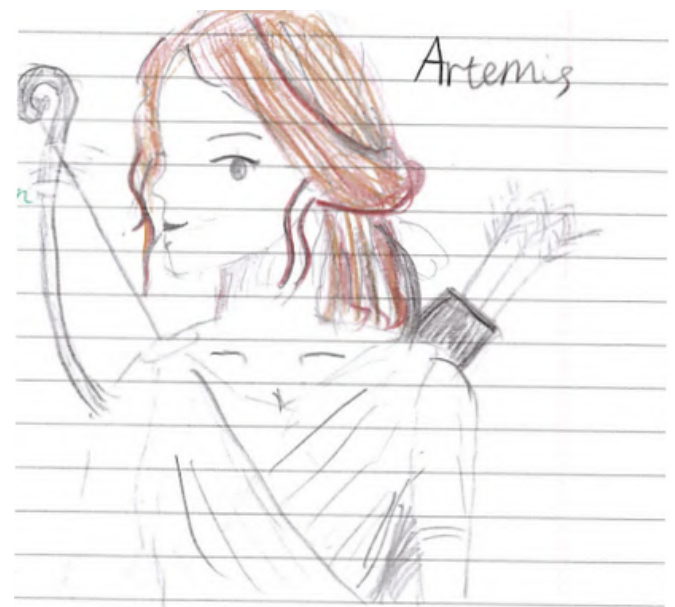
This week, Year 5 have travelled back in time to Ancient Greece. As part of their history and literacy work, the children have been learning all about the powerful and mysterious Greek Gods and Goddesses.

Each child has created their own beautifully presented fact file, packed with:

- Myths and legends surrounding the gods
- Symbols and powers linked to each god
- Fascinating facts
- Stunning hand-drawn illustrations bringing the gods to life

From Zeus' thunderbolt to Athena's wisdom, the classroom has been buzzing with divine creativity and historical curiosity.

Miss O'Leary - Year 5 Class Teacher





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Year 6

This week has been all about the production in Year 6, with rehearsals in full swing and the show coming together – and what a success it has been! The children have been nothing short of wonderful, bringing energy, enthusiasm and real professionalism to each rehearsal.

The children concluded their Legacy Project this afternoon and proudly showcased their final products. One group designed and created a school tea towel featuring self-portraits from every child in the school, while another group launched a bold new addition to the uniform – custom-designed football socks, which they hope will be added to the official kit next year. A third group arranged for a whole-school photo to be taken and created a series of decorative frames for it, and a final group visited each class to present personalised keyrings they had made for every child. The creativity, teamwork and maturity shown by the children throughout this project – even when they didn't always agree – has been inspiring. They've learned to negotiate, budget, problem-solve and collaborate like true professionals. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them.



Mrs Ellidson - Year 6 Class Teacher



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PE

On Monday, our Year 2 class played their final football fixture of the year and ended the season in style with an exciting 7–5 victory over Ivy House. Over the course of the four games played during the afternoon, the team recorded two wins and two losses and should be proud of their efforts. Some brilliant goal-scoring from Raphael, Leo, Lou, and Nathaniel, helped the team finish strong with a total of 7 goals scored and only 5 conceded. As always, thank you to all the parents and spectators who came along to support it was such a wonderful atmosphere.



Last Friday, we had a fantastic morning celebrating our EYFS and KS1 Sports Day. The children put in an incredible effort, showcasing all the skills they have been developing in PE this term. The morning was filled with energy, enthusiasm, and brilliant teamwork and sportsmanship. It was so lovely to see so many parents coming along to spectate, thank you so much for your continued encouragement and support.

A huge well done to our Year 6 children, who did an outstanding job organising and running the event. Special thanks to Giulio, who did a brilliant job keeping track of all the scores throughout the morning. I hope you enjoy some of the photos from the event below.

A big congratulations to Saint Cecilia, who were the overall winners of the event!

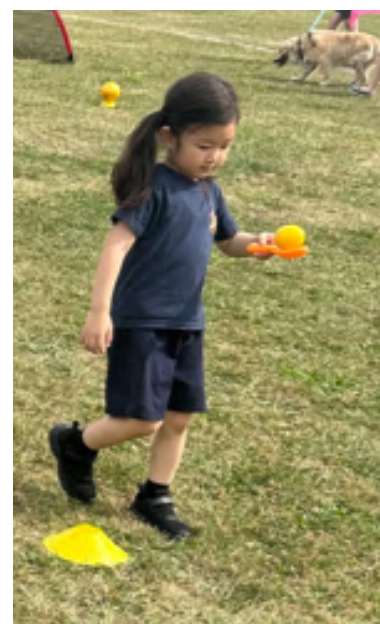




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Sports Day Results

Class	St Francis	St Joan of Arc	St Cecilia
Nursery	74	81	101
Reception Green	98	89	75
Reception Blue	110	76	76
Year 1	98	115	105
Year 2	73	92	138
Total	453	453	495
	St Francis	St Joan of Arc	St Ceilia
Position	2 nd	2 nd	1 st



Mr Raveney - Director of Sport



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Music Update

We have had a very busy and productive week rehearsing for our production of "The Wizard of Oz" which will take place next week on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd July. We are all really looking forward to it, and with the level of enthusiasm and commitment given by the children it promises to be a spectacular event. Please encourage your children to continue practising their lines and song words over the weekend, to polish and perfect the show ready for your enjoyment!

You should have received a letter this week with final details about the performances.



Music lessons

If you are interested in individual instrumental or singing lessons for your child (years 1-6) you can find all the details [here](#). Please note that if your child already has lessons, you do not need to sign up again. If you wish to stop lessons, notice of half a term (or five lessons) is required.

Mrs Bryant - Director of Music



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Fr Terry's Food Bank

We believe, at St Christina's, that we are called to serve those around us throughout the year.

We were so touched by your generosity towards Fr Terry's Food Bank last half term and we will continue to collect non-perishable food to celebrate his legacy.

We were so touched by your generosity towards Fr Terry's Food Bank last half term and we will continue to collect non-perishable food to celebrate his legacy.

All donations will be distributed to the homeless and local families in need. We would be delighted if you would support us with this initiative – even the smallest donation can make a big difference.

If you would like to donate any non-perishable goods to this cause, please ask your child to leave their donation on the designated tables underneath the stairs next to the Arts Hall. We kindly ask that all donations for this half term are brought into school by Friday 4th July.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

Saint Christina's Food Collection



Catholic Social Teaching at Saint Christina's

Catholic Social Teaching is an expression of our faith that guides us in how to act justly and live responsibly in today's world. It is built upon seven key principles, which we explore with the children throughout the year.

This half term, our focus is on the principle of Dignity.

The dignity of every human person, whoever they are, is the foundation of all Catholic Social Teaching. We teach our pupils that every person is made lovingly in God's image and likeness. This means that we are all beautiful, valuable, and worthy of respect – not because of what we do or have, but simply because of who we are.

Understanding this starts with recognising our own worth and then seeing that same dignity in others – whether they are friends, family, classmates, or people we've never met. This core belief challenges us to treat everyone fairly, stand up against injustice, and live out the Gospel values in our daily lives.

We look forward to deepening the children's understanding of this principle through discussion, reflection, and action.



Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors



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NOTICES and REMINDERS

Parking and Engine Idling

We kindly ask all parents to please avoid stopping or parking on the school's zigzag lines at drop-off and pick-up times. These markings are there to keep our children safe and ensure clear visibility. Please also remember to switch off your engine when stationary to reduce air pollution around the school.

Thank you for helping to keep our school environment safe and considerate for everyone.

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.

Last Day Collection Schedule

EYFS - **12.00**

Year 1,2 and 3 - **12.10**

Years 4,5 and 6 - **12.15**



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Dates for your diary

Saturday 28th June

- Summer Fair (12.00 - 16.00)

Monday 30th June

- Reception Parent Teacher Meetings (W/C 30th June)

Tuesday 1st July

- KS2 Production Dress Rehearsal

Wednesday 2nd July

- KS2 Production (Y3 and 4 Parents)

Thursday 3rd July

- KS2 Production (Y5 and 6 Parents)

Friday 4th July

- Nursery Trip
- Whole School Mass (Buddies)
- Reception and Y1 Picnic



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Monday 7th July

- Parent And Resilience Workshop (9.00)
- Class Change Over Day
- Y6 Leavers' Party

Tuesday 8th July

- Leavers Breakfast (Nur - Y5)
- KS2 Prize Giving (13.45 - 15.15)

Wednesday 9th July

- Y6 Leavers Mass (11.00)
- Collection Times:
- EYFS - 12.00
- Year 1,2 and 3 - 12.10
- Years 4,5 and 6 - 12.15

Tuesday 2nd
September

- Parent Teacher Meetings

Wednesday 9th July
SCHOOL CLOSSES 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/>