



# Saint Christina's

Pre-Prep and Prep School  
for boys & girls aged 3-11

## Bulletin

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

Dear Parents,

I know the sunshine always helps, but this week in School has felt particularly bright and I wanted to register my gratitude for the many ways you, as parents, continue to show up and support our community. Whether you are volunteering at the Primrose Hill Street Fair on Sunday 18th May, giving up your free time to audit our library books in preparation for our Library refurbishment or offering your expertise in marketing, consultancy or advertising, these acts reflect a shared care for the School and a desire to see it thrive.

Saint Christina's is an unapologetically values-led, child-centred school. We are both grounded in tradition and ambitious for the future, and I really believe we are building something special. We want more people to know about the richness of the education we offer here, and how it's shaped by a progressive outlook and a strong moral compass. If you have ideas about how we might widen our reach or tell our story more boldly, please do get in touch. There is wealth of wisdom and commercial expertise on our parent body, and I really want to harness it.

Next week, Mr. Hirst, Mrs. Reilly and I will be spending time reviewing the School timetable and the structure of the school day from September 2025. We want to ensure that our planning aligns with the four pillars of our strategic vision: **Knowledge, Skills, Character Formation and a Culture of Thinking**. As part of that, we've also begun to explore the idea of making certain core skills more visible in our curriculum, which is also under review. These early conversations, still very much at a formative stage, are about what it means to prepare our pupils for the next stage of their education and for the wider world. I do think there is something valuable in naming and teaching skills explicitly, so that children can recognise their own growth and feel ready for whatever comes next.

At the moment, we are looking closely at a set of six core skills which we will likely call the **6Cs**. These are:

- **Communication** – the ability to express ideas clearly and respectfully in different contexts
- **Collaboration** – working effectively with others, contributing to group efforts and listening well
- **Critical Thinking** – asking questions, weighing evidence and thinking things through
- **Curiosity** – showing an interest in how and why things work, and wanting to find out more
- **Creativity** – developing new ideas and looking at problems in original or imaginative ways
- **Commitment** – staying focused, working hard, and showing resilience when things get tough

I also want to acknowledge the many thoughtful conversations I've had recently about the use of technology in classrooms. This week, I've met with former colleagues from schools that embraced digital learning wholeheartedly in recent years and who are now seeking more balance. These conversations have been most useful, and we are listening closely to those lessons. As we review our curriculum and approach, we are being careful to ensure that technology enhances rather than dominates learning, and that human connection and critical thought always come first.

There is a real sense of momentum in our work at the moment, and I want to thank the children, my colleagues, and you as parents for the part you each play. We are moving forward together, even as independent schools like ours

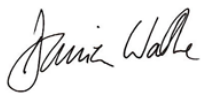
continue to navigate a number of external pressures. The path is not always easy, but it is purposeful, and we are not walking it alone.

Your children remain our focus and our inspiration because daily we see them developing into thoughtful, kind and capable young people. Alongside them, we are fortunate to share our space and our mission with the Sisters next door, whose values continue to shape the character of our school in quiet and meaningful ways. That partnership between families, staff, pupils and the Sisters, gives our community a depth that is both rare and precious.

Thank you for being part of it.

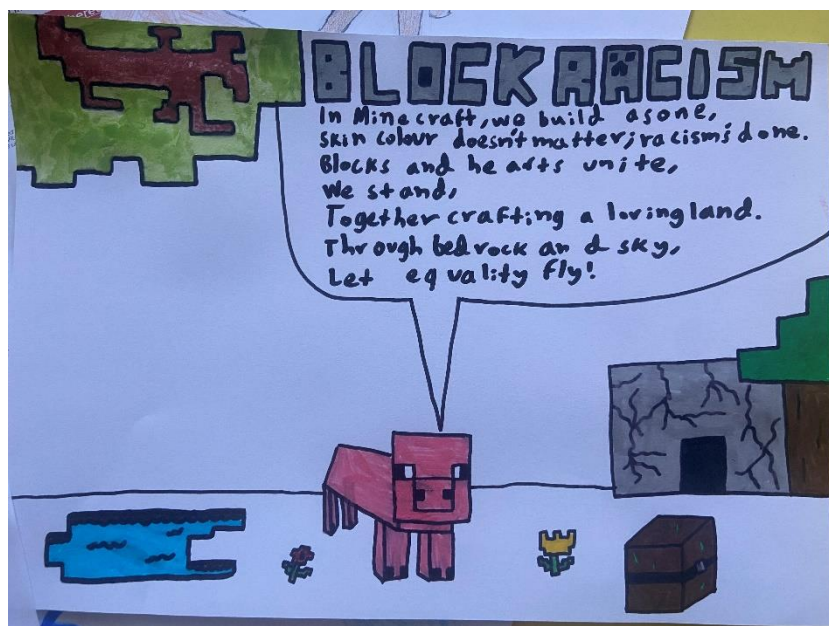
Wishing you a restful Bank Holiday Weekend when it comes.

Best,



**Damien Walshe**  
**Headteacher**

## Congratulations to Giulio!



We are proud to announce that Giulio has won the *Show Racism the Red Card* competition! His powerful and imaginative artwork reflects a brilliant balance of design skills, creative thinking, and poetic expression. From the very beginning, I had a feeling his artwork was something truly special, and we all feel *super proud* of him.

Today, Giulio will attend the awards ceremony at Nottingham Forest FC Stadium with his parents—we wish them a beautiful and meaningful day celebrating this well-deserved achievement. Well done, Giulio!

**Miss Bretones – Art and Spanish Teacher**

## VE Day 80th Anniversary – 8th May

This year marks the 80th anniversary of VE Day, and we will be commemorating this historic event in school on Thursday 8th May. To mark the occasion, children are invited to come to school dressed in red, white and blue. Throughout the day, the children will take part in a range of activities to help them learn about and reflect on this significant moment in history. It promises to be a meaningful and memorable day for all.

**Mrs Ellisdon - Head of KS2**



**SAINT CHRISTINA'S  
SPRING CONCERT**  
**A FUNDRAISER FOR OUR  
WONDERFUL MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

SHOWCASING  
LITTLE VOICES CHOIR  
KS2 CHOIR  
STRING GROUP  
GUITAR GROUP  
& ORCHESTRA

**JOIN US ON  
WEDNESDAY 21st MAY 2025**

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS AS SEATING IS LIMITED  
IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND YOU MAY BE ALLOCATED UP TO  
TWO SEATS PER FAMILY  
PLEASE RSVP TO:  
[saintchristinasparentslink@gmail.com](mailto:saintchristinasparentslink@gmail.com)

**DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM FOR DRINKS & NIBBLES**  
(All proceeds will go towards purchasing new  
instruments and equipment for the Music  
Department)



## Nursery keeping cool in the Sunshine!

This week, Nursery have been making the most of the warm weather by spending plenty of time outdoors and finding fun ways to keep cool! We made fresh fruit kebabs, which gave us the extra challenge of working out how to eat the fruit from the stick—great for our fine motor skills! We also enjoyed some delicious homemade ice lollies. All of this ties in brilliantly with our current story, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, as we explore healthy foods and the joys of eating in the sunshine.



Ms Randle – Nursery Class Teacher

## Reception

Recently, Reception invited parents to come in and talk about their jobs. Last week, Alex's mum visited and spoke to the children about what it's like to be an entrepreneur. Together, she and the Reception class came up with an exciting idea: to open a special lemonade stand called **Star Lemonade**.



Throughout the week, the children have been busy creating colourful bunting and eye-catching signs for the stand during choosing time. They've also practised making and pouring lemonade in the outdoor area and will soon make real lemonade during cooking. To get the ingredients, two children were selected for this week's shopping challenge and bought fresh lemons from the shop. The children are really looking forward to tasting it!



Next week, Reception's home corner will be transformed into a wonderful lemonade stall where the children can practise selling their product.

**Ms Williams – Reception Class Teacher**



## Year 1

This week, Year 1 has been busy learning about addition and subtraction in different orders. We have been working on fact families and using doubles and near doubles to solve our problems. It's been exciting to see how these strategies help us understand and solve mathematical equations more efficiently.

In Geography, we have been developing our map skills. We are learning about compass directions and drawing sketch maps of different rooms in the school. Additionally, we are learning how to



use a key to interpret maps. These activities are helping us become more familiar with spatial awareness and navigation. We are looking forward to continuing our exploration and seeing how these skills can be applied in real-world situations!

Stay tuned for more Flat Stanley updates coming soon!

**Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher**



## Year 2



It's been a great week in Year 2, full of imagination, hard work and a bit of sunshine too!

In English, we've been writing our own stories based on *The Barnabus Project* by the Fan Brothers. The children loved coming up with their own weird and wonderful creatures, thinking about where they might be kept, what makes them special, and the adventures they go on. We've been working on using exciting adjectives, similes to add detail, and a range of punctuation to bring our writing to life. The ideas have been brilliant and the writing

has been full of personality.

We also took our guided reading outside this week to make the most of the good weather. It was a lovely way to enjoy our books together and the children really enjoyed the change of scene.

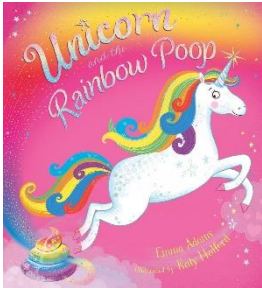
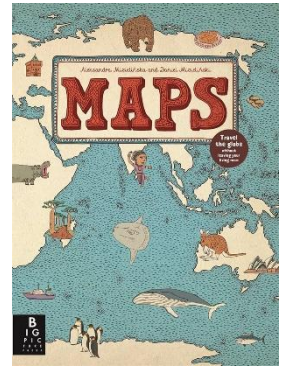
Well done Year 2!

**Mr Burke – Year 2 Class Teacher**



## KS1 Story Club

Maps by Aleksandra Mizielinska and Daniel Mizielinski: This is a giant book of maps. I like this book because you can see all of the places in the world. There are lots of pictures to find things and you can read to find out more. - *Martin Year 1*



Unicorn and the Rainbow Poop by Emma Adams: This is a silly story in a very special world. The unicorn is sad but then the friends have a party and everyone is happy again. - *Charlotte Year 1*

## Year 3 Science

Year 3's Science topic this half term is Forces and Magnetism. This week we have been testing and sorting objects using magnets and identifying some magnetic materials. We found out that most materials are non-magnetic.

At first, we thought that all metal objects would be magnetic but then we discovered, through our testing, that not all metals are magnetic. Only objects made of steel are magnetic because they contain another metal called Iron. Iron is the only common magnetic material.



**Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher**



## Year 4

This week Year 4 has been busy learning all about our new topics. We learned who the Vikings were and created a timeline of key events in History. We made predictions about our new book, *Beowulf*, based on the cover and blurb. We then learned about stock characters and superlatives and used these to create character descriptions of the hero the King in *Beowulf* needs to save him. We had a special Art class with Ms Derveni, who helped us complete a pencil sketch of a Viking warrior using symmetry and different drawing techniques. Don't they look terrifying!

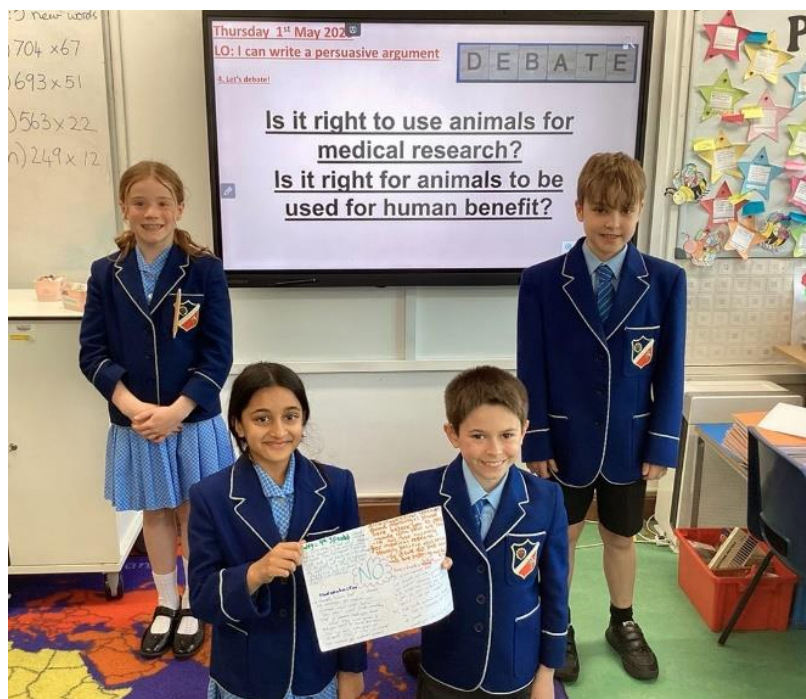
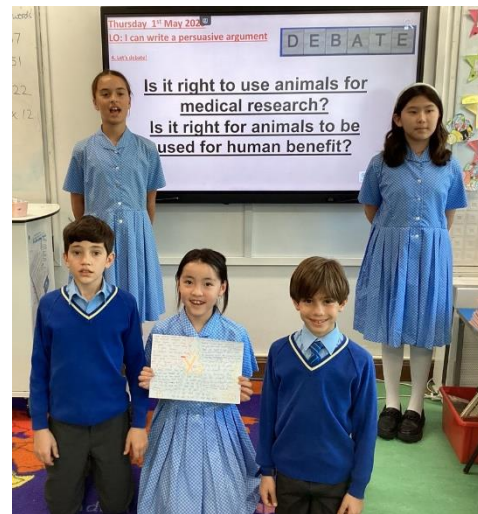


Ms Farquhar – Year 4 Class Teacher

## Year 5 Debate Sparks Big Thinking!

Inspired by our new class novel *Pig Heart Boy*, Year 5 took part in a lively debate exploring the question: *Is it right to use animals for medical research?* Working collaboratively on a live Google Doc, the children recorded and shared arguments both for and against the motion. Using their thinking skills of 'Justify' and 'Weigh Up', they thoughtfully considered different viewpoints—and we even saw some pupils begin to 'Yield' to the opposition's ideas as their perspectives evolved. It was wonderful to see such mature, respectful discussion and critical thinking in action!





## Year 6

Year 6 have had an incredibly exciting week, packed with learning, teamwork and real-world experiences as part of their Leavers' Programme.

To kick things off, they began their St John Ambulance First Aid course. So far, they've learned how to conduct a Primary Survey, how to place someone into the Recovery Position, and gained an awareness of CPR. The sessions have been hands-on, empowering, and a brilliant opportunity for the children to learn skills that could one day save lives.

Meanwhile, the launch of their Business/Legacy Project has been equally thrilling! In their teams, the children have researched recipes and planned what they will bake for their upcoming charity bake sale. This included scaling up quantities, working out ratios, and carefully budgeting using their allocated £10.

With plans in place, we headed to Tesco—shopping lists in hand and maths minds switched on! It was a fantastic experience to see the children navigating the aisles, comparing prices and making thoughtful decisions as a team. With ingredients bought, the baking began.



The children worked brilliantly in their teams, carefully following their chosen recipes to create a delicious array of baked goods. It was wonderful to see them collaborating so well—reading instructions, weighing ingredients, whisking, mixing, and rolling out cookie dough with great care and enthusiasm. They also took responsibility for monitoring their bakes in the oven and transferring them to cooling racks once they were ready. It was amazing to see the new skills being learned—especially as for many, this was their very first-time baking. The sense of pride, teamwork, and achievement was truly special.

We are very much looking forward to our cake sales on Friday!







Mrs Ellisdon - Y6 Class Teacher



## PE Update

The sun has been shining, and the children have made a fantastic start to the summer term! Our younger classes have been busy preparing for Sports Day. They have been exploring a range of activities designed to build coordination, speed, agility, and balance—key skills that will help them shine on the big day. The KS2 Sports Day will be taking place in the afternoon of the **Friday 13th June** and the EYFS and Key Stage 1 Sports day will be taking place on **Friday 20th June**. I will be writing to you shortly with more details and the timings of these events.

Our Key Stage 2 children have been diving into their Cricket lessons. This week's focus has been on fielding techniques and running between the wickets. We have spoken about the importance of attacking the ball when fielding and the children have started to develop their accuracy in throwing. The children have enjoyed playing a variety of fun, modified games to build their confidence and understanding of the sport.





Year 3 began their intensive Swimming sessions this week, with a focus on improving front crawl and backstroke. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm in the pool and to witness such impressive progress already!



On Monday, Year 2 played their first ever class Football match against Ivy House. With incredible support from parents on the side-lines, the team played four exciting matches—winning one, drawing two, and narrowly losing the last. The sportsmanship and teamwork on display were outstanding. While every child gave their all, special recognition goes to Greta, Milan M, Adeline, Sameera and Raphael, who scored a superb hat-trick!



On Wednesday, the Year 5 and 6 girls took part in their final Football tournament of the year, hosted by Southbank. The competition was highly competitive with 12 other schools most of which were a lot larger school than ours. The team put in an incredible effort throughout the afternoon winning four and drawing one game in the group stages which resulted in us topping our group. In the semi-final we faced St Mary's in a very tense hard-fought match which ended in a 0-0 draw. The draw meant we had to have a penalty shot out which unfortunately 2-0. The girls were so disappointed but had one more chance in the third and fourth place play off. We went 1-0 down against Notting Hill Prep but equalised with minutes left of the game resulting in another penalty shootout. This time luck was on our side, and we ended up winning 4-3. It was a brilliant way to round off their season—full of energy, determination, and team spirit well done to all the children involved in another excellent team performance. A special mention must go to Alice B for her great goal scoring and to Beatrix for several important saves throughout the afternoon only conceding 1 goal in open play in the 7 matches we played.

### Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Team	Time
Wednesday 7th May	Tournament	Yr 6 Boys Football	9.30-12.30
Monday 19th May	Trevor Roberts	Yr 5 and 6 Boys Football	15.30-16.30
Thursday 22nd May	Northbridge House	Yr 5 and 6 Mixed Cricket	14.00-15.00
Wednesday 4th June	St Marys	Yr5 and 6 Girls Cricket	16.00-17.00
Friday 6th June	SHHS	Yr 5/6 Girls Cricket	12.00-15.30

**Mr Raveney - Director of Sport**

## Music

### Summer Production – The Wizard of Oz

This week saw us kick off rehearsals for our summer production. Year 6 embraced the audition process with great enthusiasm and we had a challenge to cast so many talented performers. We are very excited for what we are sure will be a wonderful show. Years 3, 4 and 5 will also be involved and will be encouraged to learn songs ahead of our Production Week in June, when we will bring everything together.

### Cardboard Appeal!

For the Production, we will be making set and props as much as we can in order to be as creative, eco-friendly and cost-effective as possible. We will need a substantial amount of cardboard, so if you have any unwanted large boxes (such as those for TVs or furniture, or packing boxes) we would be very grateful to have them. We are looking for large boxes only, especially strong ones. Cardboard can be left with Miss Georgia in the main reception. Thank you!

### Dates for your diary!

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May**, 9.15am - EYFS Singing Showcase assembly

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**, 6.00pm (doors open at 5.30) - Music Department Spring Concert



**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**, 6.00pm – The Wizard of Oz (for Year 3 and Year 4 parents)

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**, 6.00pm – The Wizard of Oz (for Year 5 and Year 6 parents)

More details will follow about these events.

**Mrs Bryant - Director of Music**

## Catholic Social Teaching at Saint Christina's

Catholic Social Teaching is an expression of the Catholic faith, which touches on many aspects of life. Writings by Popes and Catholic leaders show how the Catholic faith can guide our response to different issues.



There are 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we are called to uphold them:

- **Sharing God's world, protecting the poor** - How do pupils share at home and at school? What are the kinds of things that are shared? Should everyone get exactly the same? Should some people get more? Why? For example, families with more children might need more resources, or someone with a disability might need extra help.
- **Human Dignity** - 'What makes me special?' 'What makes people special?' 'How should we treat each other?'
- **Caring for Creation** - How do I show respect for Creation? The earth and all life on it are part of God's creation. We are called to respect this gift. We are responsible for taking care of the world we live in and for sharing all the wonders and resources the earth gives us.
- **The Common Good** - What is 'true community'? The common good is reached when we work together to improve the wellbeing of people in our society and the wider world.
- **Solidarity** - Who are our leaders? How do we stand with others? How did Jesus show service and justice?
- **Family, Community and Participation** - This means all people have the right to participate in society and to seek the common good, which means the good for all.
- **Dignity of Workers** - All people work in some way because work is more than making a living, it's participating. Therefore, jobs and pay should be fair for everyone.



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

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

**Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors**

## Fr Terry's Food Bank

We believe, at Saint 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 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 in the locker underneath the stairs next to the Arts Hall. We kindly ask that all donations for this half term are brought into School by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May**.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

**Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors**

## Saint Christina's Food Collection





## NOTICES and REMINDERS

### **Nut Free School**

We have a number of children and staff in the School who have serious nut allergies. Please will you ensure that you do not give your child any nuts or nut products (e.g., Nutella) to bring into School.

### **Items left in the front office**

Please ensure that your child has everything they need for the school day before they arrive in the morning: e.g., snacks / PE Kit / musical instruments. Items are regularly being left in the office by parents and carers throughout the day and, whilst they will do everything they can to help you, this causes disruption not only to the office staff but also to the children, Class Teachers and TAs who have to come to the office to collect the items. Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

### **Sunday Mass**

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

Dates for your diary	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bank Holiday</li></ul>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vision and Hearing Screening (Reception – Year 6)</li></ul>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y5 and 6 Boys Football Tournament (Away)</li></ul>
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y5 Mass</li></ul>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y5 and 6 Residential Trip (5 Days)</li></ul>
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y5 and 6 Return from their Residential Trip</li><li>• Y4 Saint Raphaela Feast Day Mass</li></ul>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Music Concert Evening (More info to come)</li></ul>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Away)</li></ul>
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First Holy Communion</li></ul>

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**  
**SCHOOL CLOSES AT USUAL TIME FOR HALF TERM**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**  
**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/>**