



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 4th July 2025





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Dear Parents,

This week's performance of The Wizard of Oz was a joy to watch. From the confidence shown in their acting, their singing (I still can't get over just how good the singing is here), to their infectious enthusiasm, the children brought something remarkable to life. They inhabited their characters and took risks, showing what can happen when creativity is given space to flourish.

"Education is not a mechanical system. It's a human system. It's about people." - Sir Ken Robinson

I've been thinking a lot about creativity in education recently: what it means and why it matters so much. After last night's performance I rewatched the late great Sir Ken Robinson's 2013 TED Talk, [How to Escape Education's Death Valley](#). Whilst the content focuses on the USA, it applies to the UK. I would urge you to find 20 minutes to watch it. He argues that many schools unintentionally suppress creativity by focusing too narrowly on standardisation and conformity, and his delivery is exceptional and very funny.

Creativity isn't limited to art lessons or school productions. It shows up in the way children approach problems in Maths, express opinions in Philosophy or RE, or ask thoughtful questions during a Science investigation. We see it in how they collaborate, experiment, and take risks with their thinking. Creativity is not a break from learning, it is a vital part of the learning. It is how children make sense of what they're doing and how it connects to the world around them. It is also not something that happens after the 'real work' is done, rather it is integral to the work.



There is strong educational consensus behind this, too. At the top of Bloom's Taxonomy, a model used to guide deep learning, and a staple in education, sits the verb 'create.' To reach this level, a child imagines, connects, questions, designs, and builds something new. It is the most complex and powerful form of learning because it turns knowledge into something both personal and purposeful.

This is also one of the key drivers behind our five-year Approaching 2030 plan. The future will not reward children who can only recall what they've been told. It will reward those who can think differently, adapt to change, and come up with original solutions. The World Economic Forum lists creativity, critical thinking, and complex problem-solving among the most important skills for the future, yet too often in education, creativity is the first thing to be squeezed out. In order to be cultivated, it needs to be seen, encouraged and celebrated. Our job is to keep that spirit alive and make sure that every child has the confidence to explore their ideas and the tools to bring them to life. Our ongoing work on metacognition is central to this.



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Returning to the play, I want to thank everyone who co-created our take on The Wizard of Oz. It was an example of what education can be when curiosity, imagination, and courage come first. A huge thank you to Mrs. Bryant and Mr. Duncan for putting it all together with such care and energy. Thank you as well to Parents' Link for all their work behind the scenes, and there was a lot! From designing sets to sewing costumes and everything in between, we owe them a debt of gratitude. Also, to all the parents who supported their children so patiently with learning lines and practicing songs at home. My thanks also go to the many colleagues who supported rehearsals and who ensured everything ran smoothly on both days. When a whole community places the experience of the child at the centre and pulls together in the same direction, something joyful always happens, and I am very grateful to you all.

I will write to you next week with a reflection on the year gone by and a look ahead to our direction of travel in 2025 - 2026. It has been a remarkable year in so many ways, and I look forward to sharing both our highlights and our plans for the future with you.



Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

Damien Walshe
Headteacher



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SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY – VIEWING CARDS

Following Pret-a-Portrait's recent visit to take class photographs, a viewing card explaining how you can view and order pictures, will be sent home with the children shortly.

Please ask your children to give it to you as soon as possible so you have the chance to order any pictures you would like at a discounted price before the Early Bird Deadline 22/07/2025

If for any reason your viewing card doesn't make it to you in the next few days, please contact Pret-a-Portrait directly on 0800 021 7626 or customerservice@pret-a-portrait.net

Ms Williams English Channel Swim for Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)

This summer, I will be swimming the English Channel on July 19th as part of a relay team. We are raising money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), a charity that provides a 24-hour search and rescue service around the coasts of the UK and Ireland. The RNLI is funded almost entirely by donations and is powered by thousands of volunteers who put themselves at risk to save lives at sea. Your support means a great deal and will help the RNLI continue their life-saving work.

We would warmly appreciate any donations. You can donate [here](#)



Ms Williams - Reception Class Teacher



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Summer Maths Update - Fluency Focus

I am very excited to be taking on my new role as Head of Maths and to continue building a love of Mathematics across our school. One of my key priorities is to help every child grow in confidence and fluency with number facts, which are the building blocks for success in all areas of Maths. With that in mind, we're launching some exciting summer challenges to keep those skills sharp and ready for the new academic year!

As part of our continued drive to strengthen mathematical confidence and fluency across the school, we are encouraging all children to keep practising key number facts over the summer. Whether it's number bonds in Key Stage 1 or times tables in Key Stage 2, regular short bursts of practice can make a big difference in building speed, accuracy and confidence. To support this, we will be launching fun and engaging Maths Challenges at the start of next year to celebrate effort and progress. Children are encouraged to use their online learning platforms over the summer holidays to keep their skills sharp and ready for the new academic year.

KS1 – Number Bonds Challenge

For our younger learners, we are focusing on number bonds and number facts. Quick recall of these facts helps children develop strong mental maths skills and prepares them for more complex calculations. We encourage children to use NumberBots, a fun and interactive platform that supports number fluency through engaging activities. Just 5-10 minutes a day can make a big difference! Your child has received their login details this week. We can't wait to see their progress and celebrate our Number Bonds Champions in September!

Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 – Times Tables Challenge

For our Key Stage 2 pupils, we are focusing on times tables up to 12×12 – a crucial foundation for more advanced maths topics such as division, fractions, and problem solving. We encourage children to use Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) regularly over the summer. Just 5–10 minutes a day can significantly boost recall speed and confidence.

If you'd like to try the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC), a free version is available here: <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>

We're excited to see the enthusiasm and progress the children bring in September and to crown our Times Tables Champions!

Ms Higgins - Head of Maths



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Canal Clean-Up

A couple of weeks ago, our Caritas Ambassadors launched a new project called Canal Keepers in a whole-school assembly, encouraging us all to care for Regent's Canal, a place many of us pass every day. They spoke about the wildlife that call it home, the impact of litter, and the small actions we can take to make a difference.

This week, the Caritas and Eco Council teams teamed up and headed down to the canal with litter pickers in hand. They worked brilliantly together to clear rubbish from the towpath and show pride in their local environment.

It was a great way to put their project into action. Well done to everyone involved!

Mr Burke, Mr Hirst and Ms Sephton

First Mathematics Challenge 2025

The 'First Mathematics Challenge' is a competition aimed primarily at children in Years Three and Four, although children in Year Two who enjoy Mathematics may also take part. The competition is run nationally in the last two weeks of June, and its suggested boundaries for Gold, Silver and Bronze are set in advance.

This year, the problems were rather more challenging than usual, although we still had more than half of our 48 participants qualifying for awards. Thus two children gained Gold, seven children gained Silver and twenty children were awarded Bronze.

The highest scorers in each class were Sofi (Y4), Matthew (Y3) and Leyla (Y2).

Congratulations go to them and too all of our children who worked hard and took part in this competition!

Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Enrichment



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Coollest Projects

Congratulations and well done to the children who participated in Year 5 and 6!

This year, over 5,900 young people from 41 countries shared their incredible digital creations with Coolest Projects. Year 5 and 6 created their projects last month and have received their certificates with wonderful comments from the judges. Their projects were themed on helping the environment, solving problems in their communities or all about having fun!



Check out your child's project at their [online showcase gallery](#).

CODING HELPS US TO BE THINKERS !

Ms Overing - Head of ICT



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Make and Create

This term in Make and Create Club, the children were busy exploring their creativity through a variety of hands-on projects. They used paper plates to craft different creations and made their own decorative glass jars using Mod Podge and Epsom salt, finishing them off with unique decorations.

Ms Edina - Reception Class TA





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Nursery's Special Final PE with Their Year 6 Buddies

Nursery had a wonderful final PE lesson as their Year 6 buddies joined in! They went out into the big playground, where Mr Raveney got all of the resources out, and they had a fantastic time playing and exploring together.

Ms Randle - Nursery Class Teacher





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Reception

Reception children have had a fantastic year, filled with learning, laughter, and tremendous growth. To mark the end of their Early Years journey, we will be holding a very special Reception Graduation ceremony.

In preparation for the big day, the children have been busy crafting their own graduation caps using black card, each one made unique with a tassel in their favourite colour.

On Wednesday morning, Reception will take to the stage to be celebrated by their friends, teachers, and the Nursery children. Each child will walk proudly across the stage to receive a graduation certificate, marking their transition from the Early Years Foundation Stage into Key Stage 1.

This is a particularly meaningful moment for many of our Reception children, as a large number of them also began their journey with us in Nursery. Watching them grow into confident, curious learners has been a true joy.

We are so proud of everything they have achieved and can't wait to celebrate all they've accomplished as they prepare for the exciting adventure of Year 1!

Ms Williams – Reception Class Teacher





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Year 1 Maths

Over the past few weeks our class has been exploring the imaginative world of Paul Klee, a famous artist known for his use of colour, shape and abstract design. We focused on one of his most well-known pieces, "Castle and Sun", and used it as inspiration for our own creative work.

We started by learning about Klee's unique style. He often used simple shapes like squares, triangles and circles to build complex and colourful scenes. His artwork feels playful and dreamlike and we were fascinated by how he used art to express ideas and emotions.

After studying his work we began designing our own castle paintings. We used oil pastels to draw the shapes of our castles, layering different forms to create towers, walls and rooftops. Then we added watercolour paint over the top. We were amazed to see how the paint did not stick to the pastel lines. This created a beautiful effect where the colours flowed around the shapes and made our castles stand out.

We really enjoyed this project. It gave us the chance to experiment with new materials and express our creativity in different ways. Each castle turned out unique and full of personality!

Ms Higgins - Year 1 Class Teacher





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Year 2 Mass

Last Friday, Year 2 led a lovely Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart. The children reminded us that Jesus' heart is full of love for everyone and that we can show love too – at home, at school, and to anyone who is sad, lonely, or in need. They brought up symbols to show this and spoke clearly and thoughtfully throughout. Their singing was joyful and their actions showed real care and understanding.

We were so proud of how confidently and clearly they spoke and sang. Thank you to all the families who came along to support.

Mr Burke - Year 2 Class Teacher



Year 3

Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in School Production of Wizard of Oz this week and played their parts of mice brilliantly.

In RE lessons, the children began investigating what it means to be a saint. The children were especially inspired by the life of St Dominic Savio, learning how his faith, kindness, and commitment to doing what is right made him a role model even at a young age.

In Maths, they have been busy interpreting and creating bar charts and pictograms. The children enjoyed collecting data and presenting it visually, developing their understanding of how information can be represented and analysed.

In English, they have been polishing their storytelling skills by finishing the editing of their adventure stories. The children showed great focus in refining their work – checking for punctuation, improving word choices, and making sure their stories are clear and exciting from beginning to end.



Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher



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Year 4

Year 4 have been delighted to take part in the Summer Production this week, with all our hard work rehearsing paying off and amazing performances all round! In class, around our final rehearsals, we have been finishing off our model Viking longships in Art, creating our double page spreads in RE, and revising our statistics knowledge in Maths. We also had our final research projects presented of the year. We enjoyed the buddy mass with our Year 1 buddies, and met with Year 6 to hear from other children about what to expect from the 11+ process before we head into Year 5.

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher





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Year 5 Solve Tsaria Puzzles with Teamwork

This week, Year 5 took on the challenge of Tsaria puzzles, triangular puzzles that test time conversion skills. Working in teams, they used problem-solving, communication, and perseverance to match all three sides correctly. It was great to see such focused teamwork and brilliant Maths in action. Well done Year 5!

Miss O'Leary - Year 5 Class Teacher



Year 5's Special Visitor: Ruby the Reasoning Pup!

Year 5 had a tail-waggingly wonderful time this week looking after Ruby, Ms Reilly's gorgeous and clever dog! Not only did Ruby charm everyone with her good manners and fluffy cuddles, but she also wowed us with her amazing reasoning skills in class! A true expert, Ruby even taught Year 5 a few clever tricks, both the thinking kind and the tail-wagging kind! We loved learning from our four-legged guest and can't wait to welcome her back soon.

Miss O'Leary - Year 5 Class Teacher





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Year 6

What a week it's been for Year 6! The children have poured their hearts into our production of The Wizard of Oz, and we couldn't be prouder of their energy, enthusiasm, and talent. They've absolutely loved performing and we hope you enjoyed watching it as much as they enjoyed being on stage. Take a look at some of the wonderful backstage moments captured below!





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The Year 6's also spent time with their Nursery buddies for a special PE session. It was heart-warming to see them engaging so positively, showing care, patience, and real leadership. Their bond with the younger children is something truly special.



Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Class Teacher



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NOTICES and REMINDERS

Please Lock Your Children's Bikes

We kindly ask all parents to please ensure that their children's bikes are securely locked when left on school grounds.

Please also remind your children to lock their bikes properly each day and avoid leaving them overnight where possible.

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

Monday 7th July

- **Parent And Resilience Workshop (9.00)**
- **Class Change Over Day**
- **Y6 Leavers' Party (18.00)**

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**

Wednesday 9th July
SCHOOL CLOSING AT MIDDAY FOR THE END OF TERM

Wednesday 3rd September
CHILDREN RETURN

**Tuesday 2nd
September**

- **Parent Teacher Meetings**



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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/>