



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 5th December 2025





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Dear Parents,

Tell me it's December in a prep school without telling me it's December in a prep school. Singing everywhere, and the whole place feeling lighter for it. On Wednesday, when I walked into my philosophy lesson, Year 6 were halfway through "Silent Night". The entire week had the same rhythm with rehearsals in the music studio, Nativity practices in the hall, and songs drifting out of classrooms as children prepare for their performances. The Little Voices Choir in Years 1 and 2 brought real joy to their assembly, and when I caught up with Mr Hirst, he told me about Year 3 singing inside St John's Wood Tube Station to raise money for St John's Hospice and how proud he felt watching them. A week full of singing, and it has lifted the whole school.

There is solid evidence behind the impact of singing in schools. Recent research drawing on The Children's Society and university studies looked at daily group singing in primary classrooms. In one study, a group sang together for 20 minutes a day over two weeks. Before they began, around four in ten children in the study scored in the lower wellbeing range on a standard life-satisfaction scale. Afterwards, this dropped to around one in ten. The improvement was clear.

When researchers spoke to the children, three themes stood out. They said singing made them feel joyful and happy, they talked about the social side: singing with friends, feeling part of a team, knowing others would carry them if they lost their place. They also said it helped them switch off from worries and feel more settled. Regular group singing strengthened many of the things we care about in schools: positive emotion, connection, focus, and resilience.

Singing is part of the DNA of Saint Christina's; It shapes our liturgies, gives younger children a steady route into confidence, and it gives older children a way to lead. Anyone who has been to one of our Masses and heard the whole school sing "You Are Holy" in harmony will know what it does to a room. Look at the teachers and the parents and you will see that there is often not a dry eye in the house, including mine. Year 3 singing for the hospice this week sits in that same story. Purpose, community, and growth held together through song. All of this builds towards our Carol Concert and Nativities next week, which are always a highlight of the year. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

Damien Walshe
Headteacher

Can you spare a moment to give us some feedback on the bulletin?

Just a gentle reminder to please complete our short [school bulletin questionnaire](#) if you haven't had a chance yet. We would really appreciate your input.



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN



Certificate of Appreciation

Congratulations to
Saint Christina's Prep School
who used SuperKind Fundraising to raise
£665
for Kidscape Campaign For Children's Safety

Signed:

Keren Mitchell
SuperKind Co-Founder
02.12.25



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Walk for SHELTER

We are delighted to share some fantastic news from Year 5. Earlier this week, two children took part in the SHELTER Walk for Home London charity event to raise money for people experiencing homelessness.

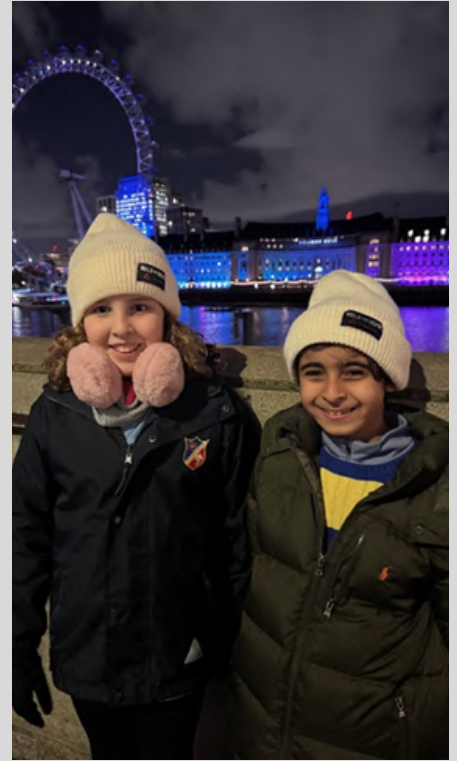
The walk took place on Tuesday evening, in torrential rain, and both children completed it with huge determination and smiles on their faces.

As Caritas Ambassadors, they have been inspired to put their values into action, and this event was a wonderful example of their commitment to helping others. They represented the school brilliantly and showed real compassion and perseverance throughout.

They have already raised nearly £1,600, which is a remarkable achievement. If you would like to support their fundraising, the link is below:

<https://walkforhome.shelter.org.uk/teams/saint-christinas-walk-for-home>

Well done!



Mr Burke and Ms O'Leary

Parent Workshop: The Alchemy of Self-Compassion: A Path to Richer, More Connected Parenting

We are exploring the possibility of hosting a parent workshop on The Alchemy of Self-Compassion, led by Caroline Hanson, a Compassionate Inquiry therapist, Conscious Parenting Educator, and mother of four. The workshop focuses on how the way we speak to ourselves shapes the way we show up for our children. It offers practical tools, gentle reflection and simple self-compassion practices that can support calmer, more connected parenting.

Caroline blends personal experience with evidence-informed approaches, helping parents explore their inner dialogue, reduce self-judgement and build a more intentional, grounded parenting toolkit. It's an opportunity to pause, reflect and consider how caring for ourselves strengthens how we care for our children.

At this stage, we are simply gauging interest. If this is something you would be keen to attend, please let me know at dburke@saintchristinas.org.uk.

Mr Burke - Assistant Head (Pastoral)



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Caritas Ambassadors: Supporting SHELTER This Christmas

Following the two Year 5 children's wonderful efforts for the SHELTER, Walk for Home London event, our Caritas Ambassadors would like to continue supporting their chosen charity as part of our Christmas giving.

On **Thursday 11th December**, children are invited to wear non-uniform and their brightest, most festive Christmas jumpers. This will be a joyful way to celebrate the season while also raising awareness of homelessness and the work Shelter does to support families across the UK.

If you would like to make an optional donation, you can do so via the fundraising link below:

<https://walkforhome.shelter.org.uk/teams/saint-christinas-walk-for-home>

Thank you, as always, for your kindness and generosity.

Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors



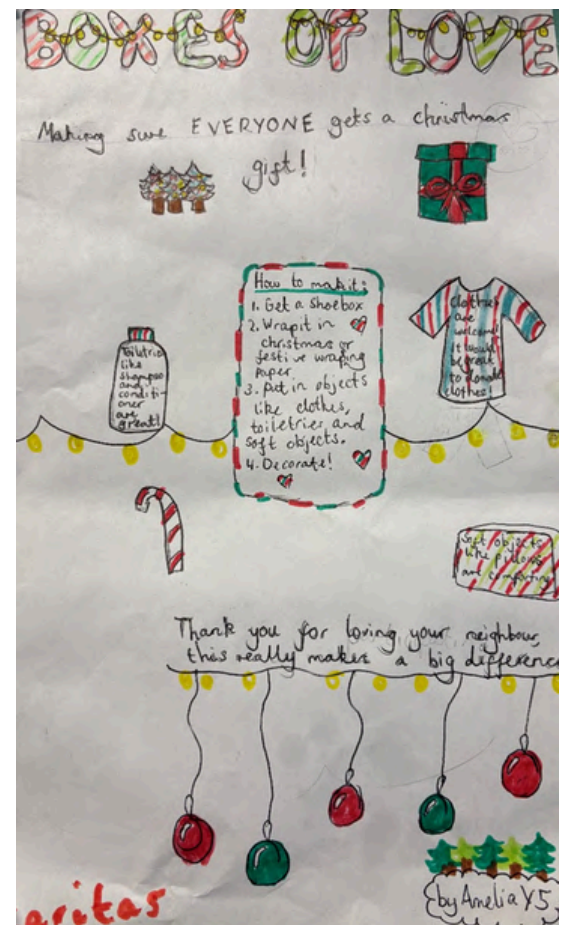
Boxes of Love: Thank You!

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated a Box of Love so far. The response has been truly amazing! Your generosity will bring so much comfort and joy to the patients at St John's Hospice this Christmas.

We will be delivering the boxes with the children next Thursday, so there's still time to drop one off if you'd like to take part. Every single box makes a difference.

Thank you so much again for your kindness and support.

Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Christmas Card Competition Winner

Huge Congratulations to Leyla in Year 3!

Leyla has achieved an amazing second place in the Junior category of the CISC Christmas Card Competition, competing against over 300 entries! Her design stood out for its creativity, style, and fantastic effort, and we couldn't be prouder of her achievement. This is such a wonderful accomplishment and a true celebration of her artistic talent.

Well done Leyla, your hard work and imagination really shone through!

Ms Bretones - Head of Art and DT





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Navidad in Spain

Year 3 have been learning all about Navidad in Spain!

Over the past few weeks, the children have explored festive vocabulary, traditions, songs and even some typical Spanish Christmas sweets. Today we enjoyed a special lesson where the class played a fun Christmas-themed board game, the perfect way to practise new vocabulary, get moving, and share plenty of smiles.

¡Feliz Navidad!

Ms Bretones - Head of Art and DT



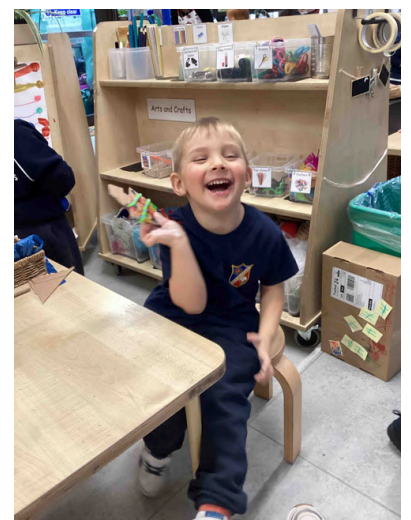


SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Sustainable Christmas Creations in Nursery

Nursery have been very busy getting into the Christmas spirit in a sustainable way. The children have been making Christmas cards for their families using recycled cardboard, hessian and ribbons. They have also enjoyed creating decorations from used Nespresso pods, carefully sticking them together and decorating them. We have been making our own Christmas wrapping paper by stamping festive patterns onto recycled brown paper. All of this has inspired a wave of creativity and the children are now rummaging through our junk modelling boxes daily to make new decorations to add to our Christmas tree.

Ms Randle - Head of EYFS





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Christmas Cheer in Reception

This week, Reception has been filled with excitement as we continue to get ready for Christmas. On Monday, we marked the first day of Advent by making purple salt dough crosses and changing the prayer cloth in our RE area. We learned that Advent is a special time when we begin counting down to Jesus' birthday. Together, we created a beautiful Advent wreath by tracing and cutting out our handprints to form the greenery, then adding paper candles to show the weeks leading up to Christmas. We also started our class Advent calendar using a special chalkboard, and the children have been eagerly crossing off each day as Christmas gets closer. During choosing, the classroom has been buzzing with activity as the children made their own Christmas wrapping paper, cards for family and friends, baubles for the tree, and ornaments to give as gifts. Reception is looking very festive and we are feeling very merry!

Ms Williams - Reception Class Teacher





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Year 1 Zoo Trip

Year 1 has been busy getting into the Christmas spirit with a very special trip on Thursday. We visited London Zoo and met Father Christmas himself as part of our festive celebrations.

We absolutely loved exploring ZooTown, the brand-new indoor play town at London Zoo, where we got to dress up and role play as vets, zookeepers, scientists and more. It really brought the zoo alive for us and linked perfectly with themes of caring for animals and the world around us.

We came back buzzing with festive cheer and are now looking forward to continuing that Christmas spirit in our Nativity next week!

Ms Higgins and Ms Khalique - Year 1 Class Teachers





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Year 2

In RE this week, Year 2 explored the story of Zechariah and the special message he received about his son, John the Baptist.

We began with a fun 'Silent Message Challenge' where Mr Burke acted out a message without speaking, helping the children understand what it might have felt like for Zechariah when he lost his voice in the Temple.

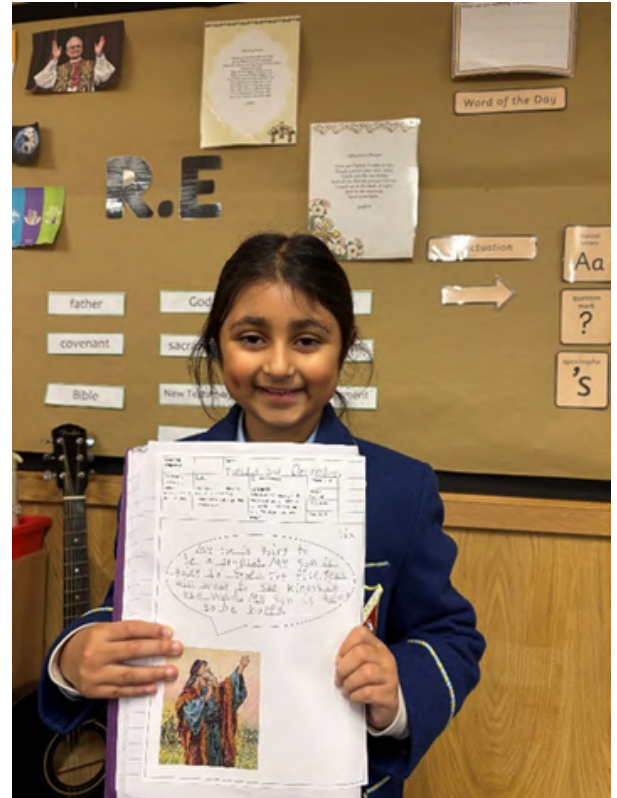
The children revisited the scripture from Luke's Gospel and discussed John's mission to prepare people's hearts for Jesus, bring forgiveness, and shine God's light in the world.

For their main task, the children imagined that Zechariah had just regained his voice and wrote powerful speech-bubble announcements explaining John's mission with real joy and faith.

They finished with a thoughtful reflection on how John's message still matters today and how we, too, can help "prepare the way" for Jesus through kindness, hope and light.

Well done Year 2!

Mr Burke - Year 2 Class Teacher



Year 3 Carolling for St John's Hospice

On Tuesday, Year 3 had a brilliant morning spreading festive cheer as they performed Christmas carols to support St John's Hospice.

The children sang beautifully with great confidence and enthusiasm, and they helped to raise an amazing £503 for a charity that is very close to our hearts. They represented the school wonderfully throughout.

Thank you to the parents who came along to support.

Well done Year 3!

Mr Burke, Ms Sephton and Mrs Bryant

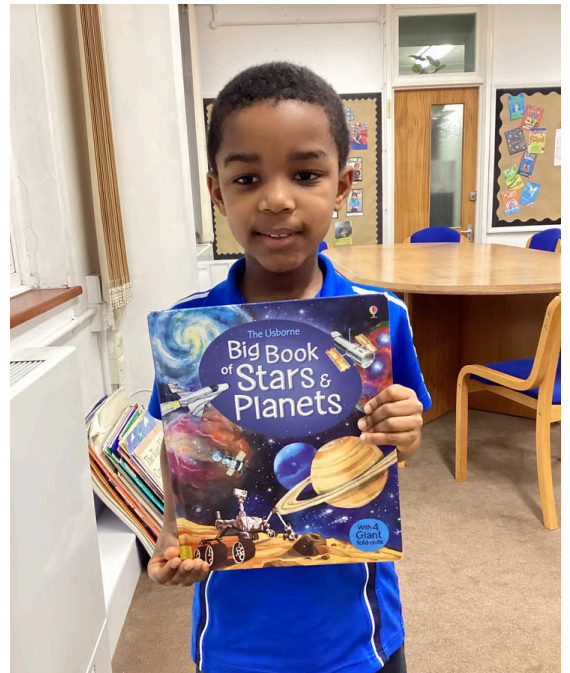




SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

KS1 Story Club

Big Book of Stars and Planets - *This is a very good book. I like it because it has lots of facts. You can learn about planets and space!* - Child in Year 1 MK



KS1 STEM Club Gets Creative with Christmas Trees!

This week, our KS1 STEM Club combined festive fun with clever design as they created their very own Christmas trees using paper plates! The children explored how everyday materials can be transformed into something new, using cutting, folding, and decorating techniques to bring their trees to life. From shining stars to colourful baubles, each tree was unique and showed off the students' creativity and problem-solving skills. It was a fantastic way to celebrate the season while learning about design and engineering in a hands-on way!

Ms Farquhar - Head of STEM





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Year 3

Year 3 celebrated a very special Enrolment Mass on Friday 28th November. This year, we have five children in Year 3 who are preparing to receive two very important sacraments: the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The children read their parts clearly, sang the Psalm 'Only a Shadow' beautifully, and responded meaningfully to the prayers during the Mass. This Mass highlighted the importance of partnership between the children, their families, and the entire school community in their faith journey.

Ms Sephton and Ms Fernandes





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Year 4 Explore Ancient Egypt at the British Museum!

This term, Year 4 have been diving into the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt as part of their history learning. To bring their studies to life, the class visited the British Museum and explored its incredible Egyptian galleries. The children were amazed by the towering statues, intricate hieroglyphics, and real artefacts that have survived thousands of years! Highlights included seeing a genuine mummy and learning about the everyday life of ancient Egyptians. The trip was a fantastic opportunity to connect classroom learning with real history, and the students returned full of curiosity and excitement to share their discoveries.

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Year 5

This week, Year 5 had the privilege of welcoming Miss Anita, who spoke to the children about her life growing up in a Barnardo's children's home. The children listened with great interest as she shared her personal experiences, the challenges she faced, and the positive impact Barnardo's had on her childhood.

Miss Anita's visit linked beautifully with our current History learning about Dr Thomas Barnardo. Throughout the term, Year 5 have been exploring Dr Barnardo's mission to provide care, safety, and opportunities for vulnerable children in Victorian Britain. Hearing Miss Anita's story helped the children understand how Dr Barnardo's legacy continues today, and how the charity he founded still plays a vital role in supporting young people.

We are grateful to Miss Anita for her openness and for giving our pupils a real-life connection to their historical studies. It was an inspiring and memorable experience for all.

Ms O'Leary - Year 5 Class Teacher





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Year 6

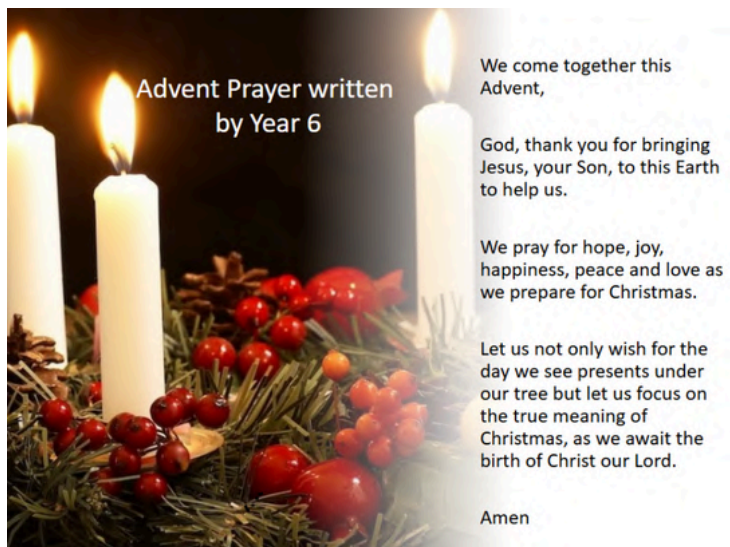
I am incredibly proud of all of the children in Year 6, who have navigated another exam-heavy week with real composure. They remained calm throughout and showed genuine care and encouragement for one another. As we move into next week, all assessments for this side of Christmas will be complete. A small number of exams remain in the new year, alongside the start of the interview process.

The children also enjoyed some much-needed downtime, taking part in games that stretched their logic, coding, maths, and vocabulary skills. It was wonderful to see them collaborating so thoughtfully to solve challenges together.

A particular highlight this week was their leadership of the whole-school Advent assembly. The children wrote, prepared, and delivered it beautifully, setting a reflective and thoughtful tone for the start of the season.

Well done Year 6!

Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Class Teacher





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

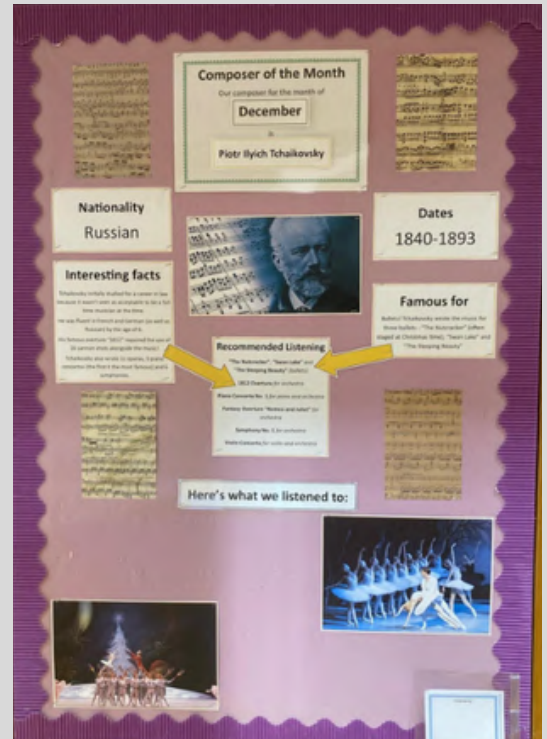
Music Update

Our composer of the month for December is Tchaikovsky! His Christmas-themed ballet "The Nutcracker" is often performed at this time of year and although we have had limited time in class lessons to explore this (because of our own Christmas preparations!) I am including some recommended listening here as I know some of the children enjoy doing this at home. Listening logs brought in will still earn a house point and contribute to our updated display board, where children can also learn a bit more about Tchaikovsky.

["The Nutcracker" ballet \(the story explained\)](#)

["The Nutcracker" ballet \(in full\)](#)

[Piano Concerto No. 1](#)



Little Voices

Congratulations to Little Voices for a fantastic performance during Wednesday morning's special assembly. Some video footage of the performance will be made available on Google Classrooms. Well done everyone!

KS2 Carol Service Preparation

We will be having a full run-through of the KS2 Carol Service next **Wednesday (10th December)** during the afternoon. Please encourage children to **continue learning words** so they are ready by this time. They will also need **instruments** if they play in the Orchestra, Brass Group or String Ensemble (and year 6 guitarists), and any music they normally bring with them.

Here are my top tips for learning song words:

1. Break the song down into **sections** and commit to learning one section or verse at a time.
2. Know what it's **about** – this is better than trying to learn meaningless words. Can you summarise a verse in five words or less?
3. Read or sing the verse **out loud**, by yourself, several times looking at the words.
4. Cover it up and try again **without looking** – how did you do?
5. **Repeat** steps 3 and 4 several times if needed.
6. Get an adult or friend to **test** you.
7. Keep at it – **revise** it the next day to be sure.

Well done everyone, it's going to be a fantastic Carol Service.



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Choirs on Monday 8th December

Please note that there will **still be rehearsals for Senior and Junior Choirs** at the **usual times on Monday 8th December**, as it is the week of the Carol Service. There will be no other music clubs next week.

Music Assemblies

I am planning to organise music assemblies in the first half of next term. This is normally an opportunity for children who have lessons **in school** to perform to an audience, but this time it will also be open to children who have lessons outside school. If your child has music lessons **outside school** and would like to perform, please complete the form [here](#) to register your interest and I will get in touch once we have a date confirmed.

Mrs Bryant - Director of Music

Judo Club Thursday Sessions – Fully Funded by Westminster

It was wonderful meeting everyone on Monday and seeing the children demonstrate their new skills. We're pleased to share that Westminster will be funding our Thursday judo sessions at **St Mark's Community Hall, Abercorn Place, London NW8 9YD**.

Time: 5:00–6:00pm

To join, please register via the link below and use the discount code 'WESTMINSTERCPP60'.

<https://MikesJudoClub.as.me/?appointmentType=86433915>

Once registered, you will be asked to provide proof of council tax. **Please complete registration by 20 December 2025 to receive full funding.**

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sensei Kelly - Mikes Judo Club



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN



Let's Leap
HOLIDAY CAMPS

Ages | 4-12 Years

Ofsted
Registered

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CAMP

Running Every School Holiday!

Arts & Crafts

Electric Go-Karting

Bouncy Castle

Laser Tag

Let's Leap
SPORTS ACADEMY

Location | Saint Christina's School, 25 St Edmund's Terrace, St. John's Wood NW8 7PY

Want the exact camp dates? Just hop on over to our website!
letsleapsportsacademy.co.uk



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Ages | 4-12 Years

All staff are DBS checked and First Aid Qualified



camp activities

- ✓ Canoeing* (Ages 6+)
- ✓ Electric Go-karting (Ages 4+)
- ✓ Segway training (Ages 8+)
- ✓ Zorb Football (Ages 6+)
- ✓ Kin-Ball
- ✓ Nerf Tag
- ✓ Multi Sports
- ✓ Laser TAG (Ages 6+)
- ✓ Fencing (Ages 6+)
- ✓ Animal Shows
- ✓ Parachute Games
- ✓ Forest School*
- ✓ Swimming*
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Bouncy Castle
- ✓ Team Games
- ✓ Electric Bumper Cars
- ✓ Inflatable Obstacle Course*



Times & Prices

*Activities subject to camp location

Standard Day

8:30am – 4:30pm | £65

Extended Day

8:00am – 5:30pm | £70

Extra Slice

5:30pm – 6:00pm | £8

300+ 5★
REVIEWS



register and book



Scan me to

Please provide your child with a healthy & balanced packed lunch with additional snacks for break times including a refillable drinks bottle.

We are a
NUT FREE CAMP
so no nuts please!



Swimming

Fencing

HOW TO BOOK | letsleapsportsacademy.co.uk | 020 3797 6386



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

NOTICES and REMINDERS

Nut Free School

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

Cold Weather Clothing

There has been a noticeable drop in temperatures. Please ensure your child comes to school with their school hat, scarf, and gloves, as well as appropriate warm layers. This will help keep all children comfortable and prepared for the colder weather.

Sunday Mass

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

Parking

We kindly ask parents and carers to please avoid parking on the zig-zag lines outside the school. Keeping this space clear helps ensure a safe and smooth arrival and departure for all our children. Thank you for your support.

End of Term Dismissal Times

EYFS - 12.00 pm

Years 1, 2 and 3 - 12.10 pm

Years 4, 5 and 6 - 12.15 pm



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Dates for your diary

**Monday 8th
December**

- **No clubs this week (Wraparound care and Choirs continue as usual)**
- Year 5 and 6 Girls Netball (Away)

**Tuesday 9th
December**

- **EYFS Nativity - 9.00am in the Main Hall**

**Wednesday 10th
December**

- **KS1 Nativity - 9.00am in the Main Hall**

**Thursday 11th
December**

- Christmas Jumper Day and non-school uniform.
- Christmas Lunch
- **KS2 Carol Service**

Friday 12th December

SCHOOL CLOSSES AT MIDDAY FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

**Tuesday 6th January 2026
CHILDREN RETURN**

**Thursday 8th
January**

- Year 4 Netball Fixture (Away)

**Friday 9th
January**

- Staff led Mass



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Monday 12th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clubs Start
Wednesday 14th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 4 Coffee Morning (Details to follow)
Friday 16 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 4 Mass
Monday 19th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 5A and B Girls Netball (Away)• Heritage/International Week
Wednesday 21 st January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 3 Class Netball (Away)
Friday 23 rd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 2 International Mass
Monday 26th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 3/4 Mixed Football (Home)• Year 4 Swimming (2 Weeks)
Friday 30 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 6 Mass
Monday 2 nd February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 5/6 Mixed Football (Home)



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Wednesday 4 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 5/6 Inter House Football
Friday 6 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NSPCC Workshop with Years 2, 5 and 6• Year 5 Mass
Monday 9 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 3/4 Netball (Home)
Tuesday 10 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inter House Pancake Challenge• Year 5A and Year 6A Netball Fixture (Home)
Thursday 12 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inter House Music Competition

Thursday 12th February
SCHOOL CLOSSES AT USUAL TIME FOR HALF TERM

Monday 23rd February
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/>