



# SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025



CURIOSITY CHARACTER COMMUNITY



# SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Dear Parents,

You'll have to bear with me this week. I came across something in my inbox that I'll admit at first glance did make me roll my eyes just a tiny bit. Four phrases that wouldn't feel out of place on one of those gift shop tote bags with the pictures to match: **Be More Hawk. Be More Tree. Be More Salmon. Be More Wolf.** Here is the thing, as I read on I got quite into the article and started to realise that behind the strapline there was more than a grain of truth. Not just for school leaders, which is who the article was aimed at, but for all of us - children, teachers and families alike. Each phrase speaks to the kind of person we hope every child at Saint Christina's will grow to become, and the kind of community we want to build around them on that journey.

In fact, it also links perfectly to a wisdom tradition with a rich history. Taken from classical philosophers like Plato and Aristotle (my view is that most ideas were), Saint Augustine wrote frequently about *"being and becoming"*, a concept that each of us is made in the image of God, worthy and loved, but also growing into the person we are called to be. I am of the view that education at its best holds both truths at once. We want our children to know they are valued as they are, and also to feel inspired to become something more. More curious, more compassionate, more courageous, more fully themselves, and more comfortable in their own skin. Humour me for a few minutes...



## Be More Hawk: Seeing the Bigger Picture

The hawk encourages us to lift our eyes, to pause before we act, and notice the wider view. We want our children to develop this sense of perspective, to ask good questions, to be curious, and to see how things connect. As colleagues, we are trying to do the same as we review our offering. We are asking what really matters, and whether our 'why' is leading back to the best possible experience for your children. And for families, this feels like the reminder we all need sometimes in that growing up is not a race, and that helping children find meaning is just as important as helping them succeed, however we choose to define success.

## Be More Tree: Rooted in Relationship



A tree grows strong because it has strong foundations. We talk a lot about flourishing at Saint Christina's, and we know that true flourishing only happens in a place where children feel safe, supported, and known. That is why we put so much emphasis on our Golden Thread, and relationships that are real. The Wellbeing Hub is part of this, but so are the day-to-day conversations, the check-ins, and the moments of quiet encouragement. For colleagues and families, it is a reminder that what we build with children emotionally is just as lasting as what we teach them academically.



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## Be More Salmon: Brave and Purposeful

Salmon swim upstream and take the more difficult route when they know it leads to somewhere important. We see that same bravery in our children when they try something new, when they keep going after a disappointment, or when they speak up for someone else. We strive to model that as a team, too. To make decisions that are rooted in values, even when they are not the easiest ones. For families, it means having the courage to raise children in line with values that may at times run counter to cultural pressures, and a world that appears increasingly to reward shortcuts.

## Be More Wolf: Learning Together

Wolves pay attention. They respond to the world around them, and they rely on one another. That feels like such a good image of what a School community should be. We are trying to build something joined up; where teaching, pastoral care, leadership and family life all speak to the same values. The way we use pupil voice across the School is one example of this: inviting children to reflect on their experiences, contribute ideas and take ownership of their learning and their community. For colleagues, we're strengthening our systems for sharing good practice and developing professionally as a team. And for families, this is a reminder that you are part of the pack too. Your voice, your presence, and your partnership matter. Is everything always perfect? No, but great education is always collaborative and willing to learn new lessons.

So yes, the phrases might be a tad trite, but they turned out to be a better reflection than I expected of the journey we are on. A journey not just about academic progress, but about nurturing thoughtful, kind and brave young people who understand themselves and their place in the world, and doing that together, side by side, as a collective: parents, colleagues, Handmaids, and most importantly, the children who are entrusted to our care.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

**Damien Walshe**  
Headteacher





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## Catholic Social Teaching in Year Six

Year Six have spent some time this week discussing Dignity, as this is an important part of Catholic Social Teaching. They came up with a strong understanding of what the Church teaches here, and realised the importance of always following God's will in treating people fairly and hence with dignity.

After the class discussion, they set their minds to creating acrostic poems on Dignity.

Here is one such poem that two members of Year Six constructed.

Dignity is a key in life  
If you do it you should strive  
Never turn your back on  
God!  
In the world it should be fair, so  
Tonight, fight for your right  
You can always help a friend, and that would be a great end!  
By Alice and Isabella

Fr Rudolf

## Art and DT

Year 2 have been very busy in Art and DT, helping to make props for their summer production. They have been designing and creating bright poppies using wood and cupcake cases. The children have really enjoyed getting creative and working together. We're very proud of their efforts and can't wait to see the finished props on stage!



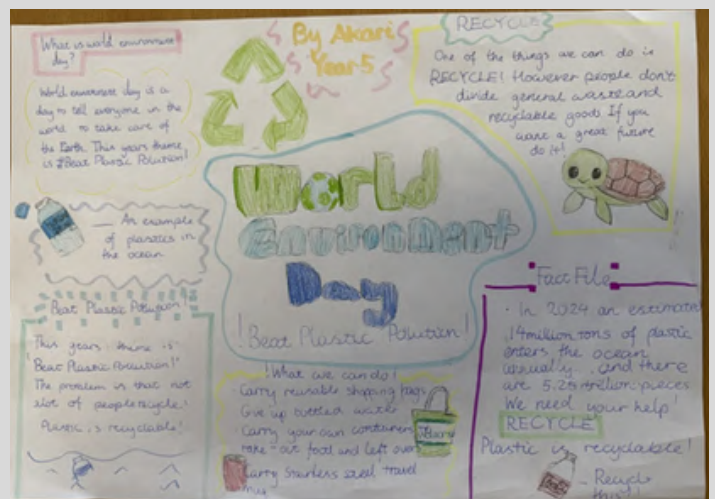
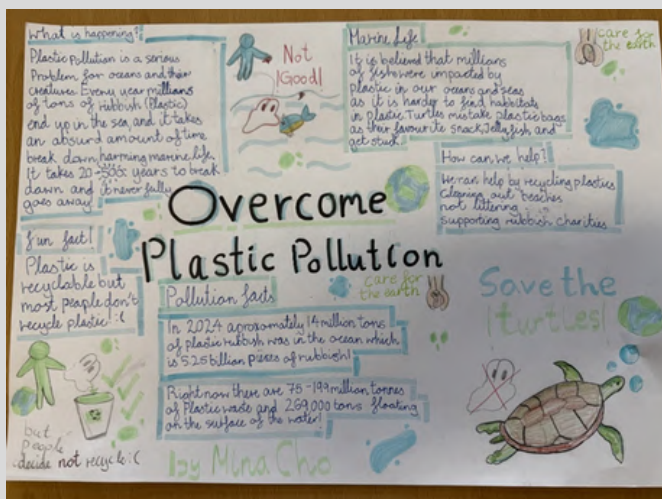
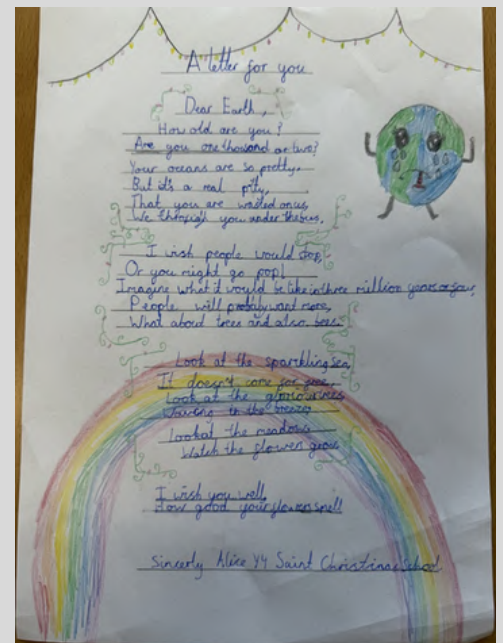
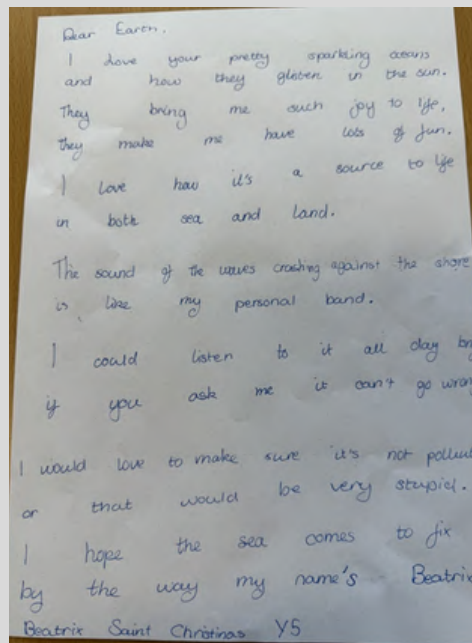
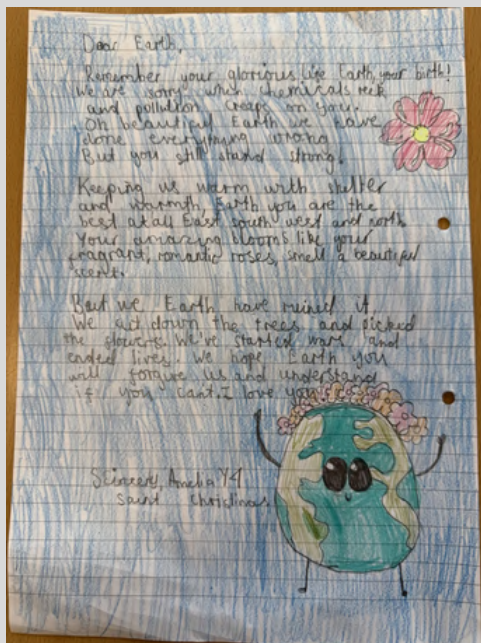
Miss Bretones - Art Teacher



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## World Environment Day in Science

This week, our children have been enthusiastically embracing World Environment Day through their Science lessons. Year 5 have been busy preparing thoughtful presentations exploring why World Environment Day matters and the many benefits of protecting our planet. Both Years 4 and 5 created eye-catching posters to raise awareness and also wrote poignant and heartfelt letters to Mother Earth as part of the Society of Heads writing competition. A big well done to all involved for their creativity, passion and environmental awareness!



Mr Hirst - Deputy Head and Science Teacher



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## Make and Create

Last half term, the children were busy exploring a variety of creative and sensory activities. They made calming sensory bottles and crafted their own minibeasts from salt dough, which sparked lots of imaginative play and fine motor practice. Reception also enjoyed making beautiful flower suncatchers, getting creative with colourful flowers. In addition, they painted their own kindness rocks, writing and sharing positive, thoughtful messages to help brighten someone's day.



Miss Edina - Reception Class TA



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## Nursery

At Forest School, Nursery made nature bracelets by carefully searching through the long grass for different flowers, leaves and seed pods. The grass was often taller than the children, which made the hunt even more exciting! The children loved noticing the tiny details in nature and thoughtfully choosing which treasures to add to their bracelets. They were very proud to wear their finished creations as we walked back to school.



Ms Randle - Nursery Class Teacher



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## Reception

Reception have thoroughly enjoyed observing the fascinating changes in their class caterpillars. The children have been learning all about the Life Cycle of a caterpillar, from tiny larvae to the moment they form their chrysalises. They've made careful observations, noticing the caterpillars' growth, the silk they spin, and even the tiny droppings (faeces) they leave behind.

As part of this experience, the children have also been learning how to be gentle and respectful with living creatures, showing great care when observing the caterpillars up close.

Now, with great excitement, they are (impatiently!) waiting for the next magical stage — when the butterflies finally emerge. It's been a wonderful opportunity to develop curiosity, scientific thinking, and empathy for the natural world.

**Ms Khalique – Reception Class Teacher**





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## KS1 Story Club

It has been a wonderful start back to Story Club after the half term break. We have enjoyed hearing about the books everyone read over the break.

*Rainbow Magic: Bella the Bunny Fairy: My favourite part is when the goblin is really surprised and it was dancing up and down. I like the bunny inside and the two girls Rachel and Kirsty. - Child in Year 1*



## Year 1

This week in Year 1, we've been diving into some exciting new learning across all subjects!

In Maths, we've been solving problems all about mass. Using balancing scales, we explored how to compare the weight of different classroom objects and worked out which were heavier or lighter. We also tackled real-world problems using addition and subtraction, learning how to turn word problems into number sentences. It's been a great way to build our confidence in using maths in everyday situations!

In History, we've been time travellers! We created our own timelines and began learning about how castles have changed over time. From wooden motte-and-bailey castles to grand stone fortresses, we've been fascinated by how people lived and defended themselves in the past.

In English, we've started planning and writing the beginnings of our own stories, inspired by Jack and the Beanstalk. We've been thinking about setting the scene, introducing our characters, and building excitement to hook our readers. We can't wait to see where our magical stories will take us next!

Ms Higgins - Year 1 Class Teacher



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## Year 1 and Year 2 Meet Their American Pen Pals

On Tuesday afternoon, the children in Year 1 and Year 2 had the exciting opportunity to meet their pen pals from Ancillae Assumpta Academy in the USA via Google Meet.

The children have been exchanging letters with their pen pals throughout the year, building friendships across the Atlantic. This was the first time they had the chance to see and speak to one another face-to-face. Each child was paired with their own pen pal and loved the chance to chat, ask questions, and learn more about each other's school lives.

The children were full of smiles and enthusiasm, and we look forward to continuing this special partnership.



**Mr Burke and Miss Higgins - Year 2 and 1 Class Teachers**

## Religious Education in Year 2

In RE this week, Year 2 have been reflecting on the meaning of the Our Father and exploring how its message can still guide us today. As part of their learning, the children wrote their own modern-day versions of the prayer, using language that makes sense to them in 2025.

Here's one wonderful example:

**Our Father who lives in Heaven,**

**Holy is your name.**

**Your kingdom will be complete when Earth is just like Heaven.**

**Give us life and forgive us for the things we have done wrong as we forgive other people.**

**Don't lead us into bad things, but lead us into good things and keep us safe.**

**Amen**



I was very impressed by the children's understanding and creativity as they turned this prayer into their own words.

**Mr Burke - Year 2 Class Teachers**



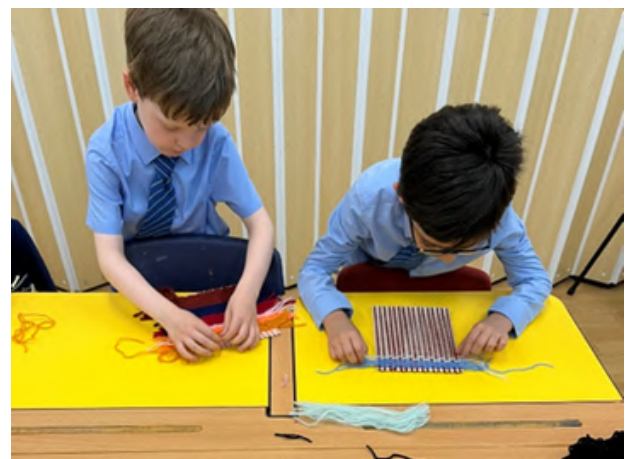
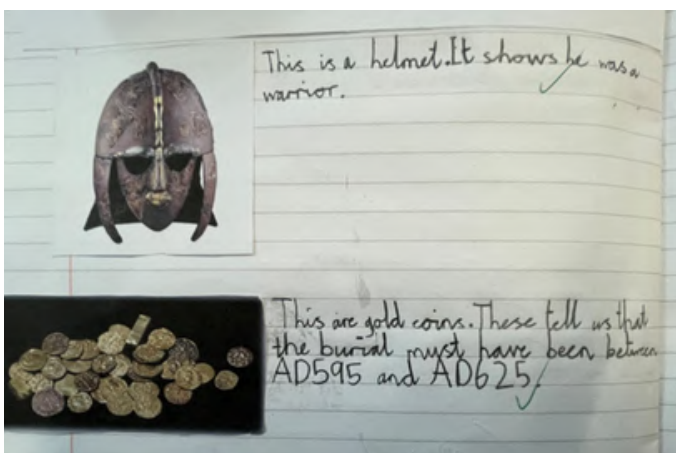
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## Year 3

Year 3 have finished their History topic on the Anglo-Saxons by exploring the significance of the mystery grave at Sutton Hoo in East Anglia. They have been using primary sources of evidence to make deductions about who might have been buried there.

They have also been taking part in a hands-on weaving project in Art and DT. The children have been learning how weaving was an important part of Anglo-Saxon life, and now they are trying it for themselves! Although it's a tricky skill to learn, the class has embraced the challenge with enthusiasm. Many children have said it's been their favourite Art activity so far, finding it both relaxing and fun. It's been a lovely way to bring history and creativity together!

Miss Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher





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## Year 4

This week in RE Year 4 has been learning about our final Catholic Social Teaching principle for the year, which is Dignity. We learned that dignity is about treating everyone with love, kindness and respect. We discussed how we all have different strengths, and used this to create our own poems based on the poem "I am Better Than OK" by Madeline Duran. This highlighted how unique and special we all are in so many different ways.

**Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher**

## Year 5 Explore the Ethics of Protest in Philosophy with Mr Walshe

This week, Year 5 enjoyed a thought-provoking Philosophy for Children (P4C) session led by Headteacher Mr Walshe. The big question of the day was: "Is protest always acceptable?" Pupils explored this idea through real-world examples, including historic and recent protests that have involved defacing famous artworks or causing traffic disruption.

Together, the class weighed up the pros and cons of protest, debating when and why people might feel the need to take dramatic action to be heard. They discussed the impact of such actions on society, art, and everyday life, showing impressive reasoning and empathy throughout.

The session sparked meaningful conversations around justice, freedom of expression, and the consequences of protest. Year 5 demonstrated maturity and curiosity as they tackled complex ideas with confidence. A fantastic example of critical thinking in action!



**Miss O'Leary - Year 5 Class Teacher**



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## Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been busy taking part in Cycle Training as part of their Leavers' Programme. The children successfully completed both Level 1 and Level 2 of the Bikeability Scheme. Level 1 focused on developing control and confidence while riding in a safe, off-road setting on the School playground. Level 2 took their skills further, preparing them for short journeys such as cycling to School. This training was done in small groups on quiet, local streets to give them real-road experience. The children really enjoyed the experience and showed great enthusiasm throughout!

In addition to their cycling adventures, Year 6 also continued rehearsing for the Wizard of Oz. In history, they are learning about the Maya Civilisation and this week focused on the ruins and what they tell us about city-states. In English lessons this week the children have continued to strengthen comprehension, vocabulary, and grammar skills to ensure that they maintain high levels of attainment to be fully prepared for the start of their secondary journey, while in Maths, the children revised a range of key concepts.

As part of their Legacy Project, Team Minions have their tea towel design back from the company and have accepted the digital view and committed to ordering 200 tea towels. You should have received a letter with details and a tear-off slip at the bottom to place an order if you'd like to purchase a tea-towel.

The other teams are in production mode and are looking forward to sharing their products with you in time.

**Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Class Teacher**





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## PE

We have had a very busy start back to the term, with Year 5 and Year 6 making their final preparations for Sports Day at the track this week. The children have been working hard on sprint races, long jump, and perfecting their relay changeovers. They have shown great determination, focus and teamwork, and I am sure that next Friday's Key Stage 2 Sports Day will be an enjoyable and exciting event for everyone involved.

On Friday 13th June all children in KS2 should come to School in their full PE kit and make sure they bring a **hat** and a **water bottle** with them. If the weather is sunny, **please apply sun cream at home before school**. Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend. The event is due to start at 12.45pm and will finish with a presentation at around 3.15pm.



The younger classes have continued to take part in their PE lessons with lots of enthusiasm and are getting very excited about their upcoming Sports Day. This week, we've spent time practising the obstacle course as well as other events including the sprint race and the aim and throw challenge.





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In Key Stage 2, the focus has remained on Cricket. The children have been developing their understanding of bowling techniques and learning the basic rules of the game. Their progress has been impressive, and their enthusiasm is clear to see. They have also been working on the field events in preparation for Sports Day, including the shot put, overarm throw, sprint races and the relay. These sessions have been thoroughly enjoyed by all and have helped develop strength, coordination, and determination. Well done to all the children for their continued effort and energy – we're looking forward to seeing it all come together on Sports Day!

## Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Team	Time
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	St Christophers	Y4/5/6 Mixed Cricket	15.45 - 16.45
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Trevor Roberts	Y5/6 Mixed Cricket	14.00 - 15.00
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Sarum Hall	Y4/5/6 Mixed Cricket	16.00 - 17.00
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Ivy House	Y2 Mixed Football	15.30 - 16.30

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport



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## Caritas Ambassadors Project

To mark World Environment Day, our Caritas Ambassadors – Phillipe, Alice, Betsy, Pia and Beatrix – launched an exciting new project called Canal Keepers. Inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, the project focuses on Care for Creation, Dignity, and Participation and Community.

The children are taking responsibility for our local stretch of Regent's Canal by organising a clean-up, raising awareness of local wildlife, and inviting every class to take part in a creative campaign called Messages for the Canal. The project encourages pride in our local area, protection of biodiversity, and a shared commitment to caring for God's creation. We look forward to sharing more in the coming weeks.

Mr Burke

## 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.

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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 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

## Saint Christina's Food Collection



Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors



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## 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 Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors



# 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.

### 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.



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## Dates for your diary

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June CHILDREN RETURN

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y4,5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Home)</li></ul>
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Away)</li></ul>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KS2 Sports Day (pm)</li><li>• No Mass</li></ul>
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y4,5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Home)</li></ul>
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y5 Parent Coffee Morning</li><li>• Y5 and 6 Inter House Cricket</li></ul>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EYFS and KS1 Sports Day (am)</li><li>• Y5 Mass</li></ul>



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Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y2 Mixed Football (Home)</li></ul>
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Class Photographs</li></ul>
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summer Fair</li></ul>
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KS2 Production Dress Rehearsal</li></ul>
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KS2 Production (Y3 and 4 Parents)</li></ul>
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KS2 Production (Y5 and 6 Parents)</li></ul>
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nursery Trip</li><li>• Whole School Mass (Buddies)</li></ul>
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Class Change Over Day</li><li>• Y6 Legacy Evening</li></ul>



# SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July

- KS2 Prize Giving

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>  
July

- Y6 Leavers Mass (pm)

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**  
**SCHOOL CLOSSES AT MIDDAY FOR THE END OF TERM**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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/>