



# SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026



*Where Kindness Meets Ambition*



# SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Dear Parents,

In assembly this week, I asked the children to sit in silence for one minute which proved rather more revealing than expected because it quickly became clear how long a minute can feel when there is nothing to fill it.

We then reflected on that minute and thought about what was happening within it, because even when it feels empty, it is not. They learned that their hearts took about 60 to 100 beats, they took about 12 to 20 breaths, they blinked around 15 to 20 times, and that Earth had travelled about 1,100 miles around the Sun.

From there, we moved into the day as they experience it, because most of it is made up of minutes just like that, often passing without much notice, yet full of small decisions that influence how they respond to one another. A child drops something, someone feels left out, someone needs help, and the moment arrives without warning and passes just as quickly. In that moment, they either act or carry on.

At its best, this is how our Golden Thread is lived out across the day, through ordinary interactions that take very little time but make a noticeable difference to others.

The focus of the assembly was a straightforward instruction: notice those moments when they happen, pause, even briefly, and decide what to do with it.

We then grounded this in the kinds of actions the children recognise. Stopping to pick up something that is dropped, letting someone join a game, waiting your turn, helping when no one has asked, staying with someone who needs it. Each of these takes only a moment, but it changes how someone else experiences *their* day.

What stands out across the week is how often this already happens, and it is one of the things that makes your children such a good group to work with. In the middle of all the day-to-day movement of a busy prep school, there are children who stop to think about others, even when there is nothing to gain from it. That is something worth holding on to, and it should never be taken for granted.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

**Damien Walshe**  
Headteacher



# SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

## Screen-Free Day

As part of our ongoing focus on Digital Wellbeing, we took part in our Screen-Free Day last Friday, and it was fantastic to see the response across the school.

The day was entirely screen-free, with children and staff embracing the opportunity to step away from laptops, iPads and interactive screens. Classrooms were full of discussion, creativity, collaboration and purposeful learning, and it was lovely to see the children so engaged through talk, play and shared experiences.

We also marked the day with a School Council-led assembly in the morning, where the children spoke confidently about the importance of balance, wellbeing and making positive choices around screen use. They did a brilliant job leading this and setting the tone for the day.

It has also been lovely to receive such positive feedback from families about the initiative. Thank you as well to those who supported this at home, whether through a screen-free evening, a game, a walk or time spent reading together.

A really positive, pupil-led initiative that we look forward to building on further. If you have any further comments or feedback, please do email me at [dburke@saintchristinas.org.uk](mailto:dburke@saintchristinas.org.uk).

Mr Burke and Mr Hirst - Assistant Head (Pastoral) and Deputy Head





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## School Council visit City Hall

Yesterday, the School Council enjoyed a fascinating and memorable visit to City Hall. The children represented the school impeccably throughout the day, demonstrating excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and impressive general knowledge when answering questions. We were extremely proud of them all.

The journey itself was an exciting experience, with the children travelling on the IFS Cloud Cable Car and enjoying a spectacular bird's-eye view of London across the Thames.

At City Hall, the children learned all about the important role it plays in running our capital city. They discovered how the Mayor of London is responsible for overseeing around £23 billion of public funding to help improve transport, policing, housing, the environment and many other services across London. The School Council were full of ideas of how Sadiq Khan could spend the money to benefit everyone. The children also explored the rich history of London and discussed why so many people consider it to be the greatest city in the world!

One of the highlights of the visit was seeing real-life democracy and leadership in action. The children had the opportunity to meet Kaya Comer-Schwartz, who is responsible for overseeing policing, community safety and the budget for the Metropolitan Police Service on behalf of the Mayor of London. She was chairing a meeting with senior police leaders at the time and kindly took time to speak with the children. She was very impressed by their thoughtful questions and enthusiasm.

It was a wonderful educational experience and a fantastic opportunity for the children to see how decisions are made to help shape and improve life in London.

**Mr Hirst - Deput Headteacher**





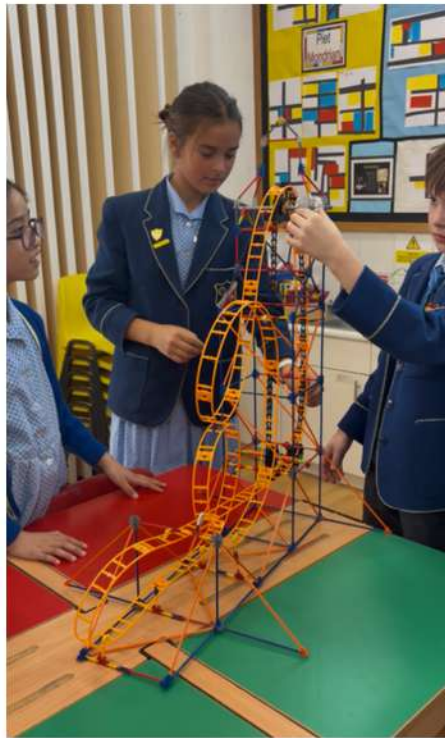
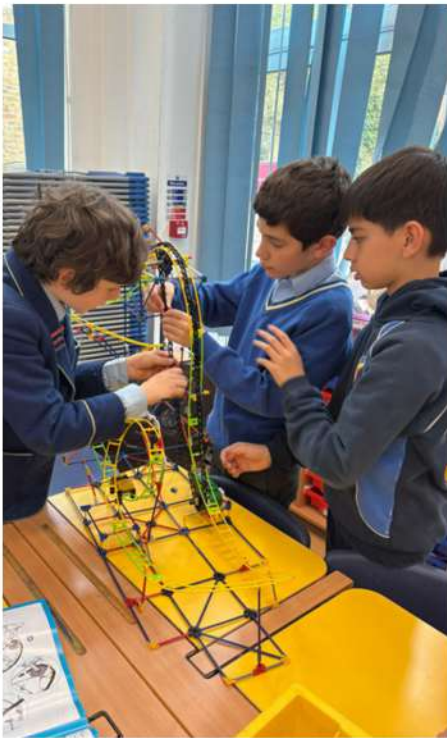
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## Rollercoasters!

Year 6 have been incredibly focused during their D&T lessons as they have worked in teams to build these amazing rollercoasters. Following detailed instructions carefully, the children have shown great patience, cooperation and determination to complete each stage of the project. The task has been fun and challenging, requiring lots of concentration and teamwork along the way. Some of the rollercoasters are already finished and fully working, while others are still in progress, but all of the children have found the experience rewarding and the results so satisfying.

Well done Year 6!

Ms Bretones - Head of Art and DT





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## EYFS Eco Club

Last week in Eco Club, the children have been getting creative while learning about our planet. They made beautiful Earth-themed suncatchers using small pieces of blue and green paper to represent land and sea. The children carefully arranged the colours onto a sticky backing, then added a handmade cardboard frame and matching decorations. The finished suncatchers look fantastic and are a lovely reminder of the importance of caring for our world

Ms Gloria - Teacher in charge of EYFS Eco Club



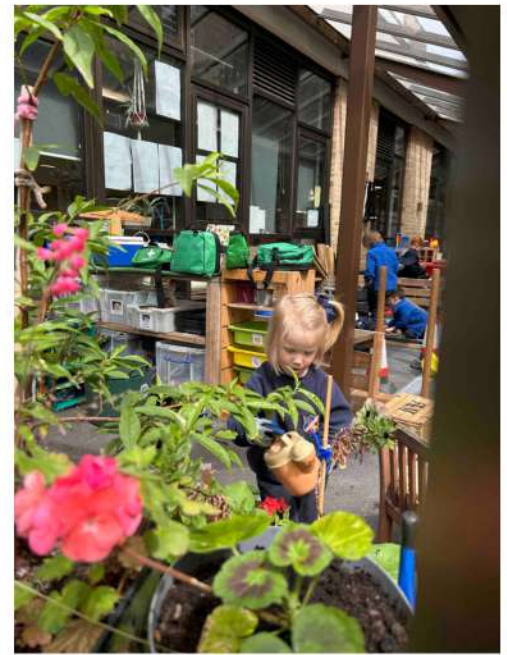


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## Summer Term Outdoors and Our First Harvest

Nursery have been fully embracing the summer term and our wonderful outdoor area. We have been busy planting, caring for the plants and checking what has been growing. We even picked our radishes, our first harvest of the year! There has also been lots of minibeast hunting, playing in the mud kitchen, especially with the cauldron, and plenty of time climbing, balancing and exploring outside.

Ms Randle - Head of EYFS and Nursery Class Teacher





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## Reception's Year 1 Visits

This term, Reception children have started visiting the Year 1 classrooms as part of our transition journey. During the visits, the children have explored the classroom space, sat at the tables and begun experiencing what learning in Year 1 will be like. They brought their own sound mats, used the Year 1 table resources and completed their journal entries independently. The children were especially excited by the quiet critters, sparkly little creatures that sit on the tables while the children work quietly and focus on their learning. The children have really enjoyed their visits and are growing in confidence and independence each week. We are looking forward to continuing our transition journey and helping the children feel happy and ready for their next big adventure in Year 1.

Ms Williams - Reception Class Teacher





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## Year 1 Geography: Traffic Survey

Year 1 loved becoming geographers this week as we headed out into our local area to carry out our very own traffic survey! We explored the roads around school, thinking carefully about which places might be busy or quiet and discussing why this might be. We were so excited to use real tally charts to collect information about the different vehicles we spotted, including cars, buses, vans and bikes. It was wonderful to see everyone working together so enthusiastically and taking such care with their observations.

Back in the classroom, we used our findings to help us learn even more about our local area and how it is used. We enjoyed spotting patterns in the data and talking about what our survey showed us. The lesson brought our Geography learning to life and helped us develop important skills in observing, recording and interpreting information. We especially loved being out and about as real fieldwork geographers!

Ms Higgins & Ms Khalique - Year 1 Class Teachers





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## Year 2

Year 2 celebrated the 100th birthday of David Attenborough on Thursday by learning all about his life and work. The children were fascinated to discover how he has spent his life exploring the natural world and helping people understand the importance of protecting our planet. We linked this closely to our recent Earth Day learning, discussing ways we can care for the environment and the small actions we can all take to make a positive difference.

We also loved hearing from one of the children, who shared photographs of the knitted animals and post box covers that had appeared in their local area to celebrate David Attenborough's birthday. They confidently taught the class all about the displays and explained how they had been created in honour of his work and passion for wildlife.

Mr Burke - Year 2 Class Teacher

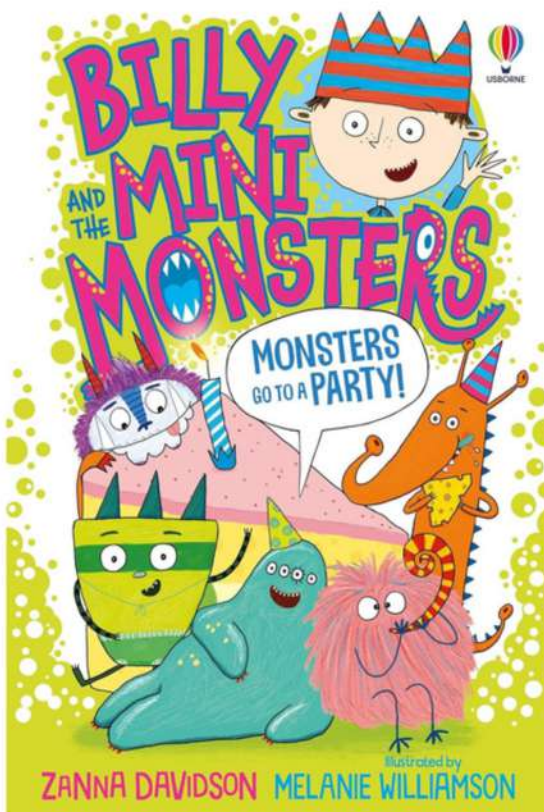




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## KS1 Story Club

The Lion Who Lost His Roar - *I likes this story because he learns how to roar! He draws a pretty pattern. The flamingo picture is really good.* - Child in Year 1 OH



Billy and the Mini Monsters: Monsters go to a Party - *I like this story because it's funny because the monsters are being silly. They don't know what they are doing. At the start, they tricked Billy into bringing them to a party when they jumped into the bag and they messed up everything when they got to the party.* - Child in Year 2



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## Year 3

In RE, Year 3 have been learning about life after the death of Jesus. Before ascending, Jesus entrusted his disciples with a mission to go out and make disciples of all nations, baptising them and proclaiming God's love to all they meet. He passed on this mission to us and so we are called to be active ambassadors, carrying the light of the Gospel into our communities with courage and joy. Taking turns in the 'hotseat,' the children stepped into the shoes of the disciples to explore how it felt to be commissioned by Jesus. The session was filled with thoughtful questions from their peers, met with even more profound, thought-provoking answers. It was a powerful exercise that bridged ancient history with personal emotion, revealing a deep, heartfelt understanding of the responsibility and excitement of sharing faith.

Ms Fernandes - Teaching Assistant



Answering questions of how the disciples felt when Jesus commissioned them. 1-5-26





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## Year 4

This week in Year 4, we explored Peter as the Rock and the role of the Pope in Religion, linking our learning to the Apostolic Church today. In History, we learned about Viking beliefs and Norse Gods such as Loki, Odin and Thor, using this knowledge to advise imaginary Vikings. In Maths, we finished our unit on time by converting between 12- and 24-hour time and reading analogue and digital clocks. In English, we learned about "power of three" sentences and used them in our Beowulf setting descriptions, alongside a comprehension on the history of the police. We also completed our detailed Viking portraits in Art, finished our Digital Wellbeing unit in PSHE, and enjoyed a special enrichment session with Father Rudolf, designing our own quilt patterns.

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher



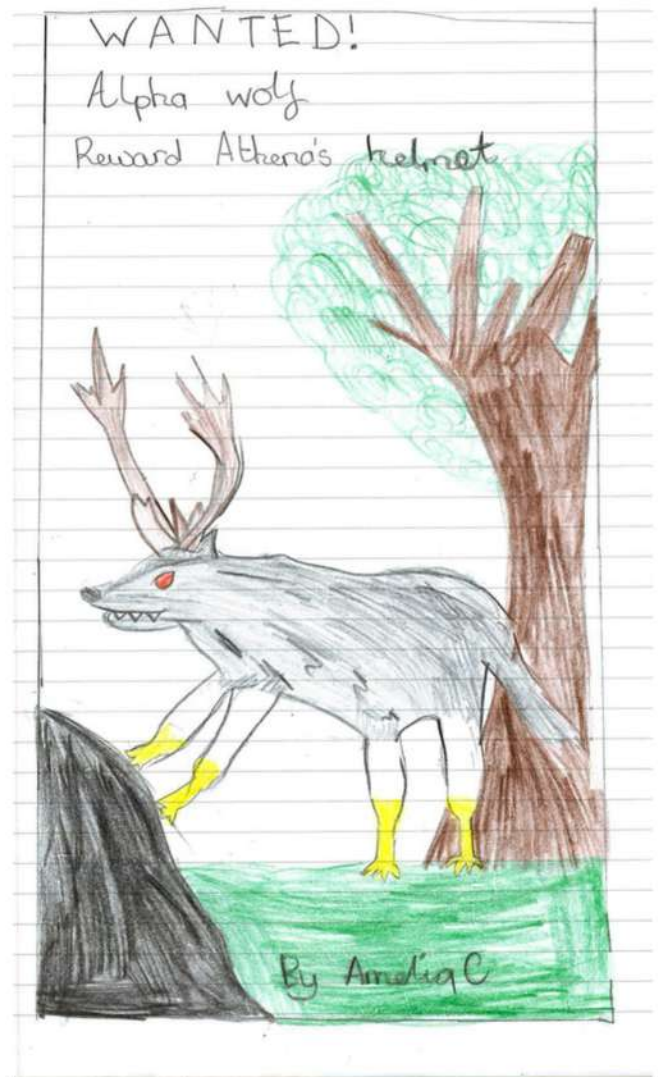


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## Year 5

In English, Year 5 have been exploring the fascinating world of Greek myths and using them as inspiration for their own creative writing. Inspired by creatures such as Medusa, as well as ideas from Science and nature, the children designed and described their own unique mythological beasts. From fearsome hybrids to magical creatures with extraordinary powers, Year 5 produced some wonderfully imaginative creations — check them out below!

Ms O'Leary - Year 5 Class Teacher





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## Year 6

Last Friday, Year 6 led the whole school Mass in honour of Our Lady, Queen of Peace. They entered the chapel in a procession carrying a statue of Mary and led the Mass with confidence and respect.

Following Mass, the children set up their sale to raise money for their Legacy Projects. With exciting and ambitious final products in mind, they have been working incredibly hard, and we are very grateful to everyone who supported them on Friday to help them raise funds. Some teams are already planning additional sales in the coming weeks, watch this space!

Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Class Teacher



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## Sport Update

This week, Year 3 continued their swimming lessons and enjoyed some fun sessions involving races and challenges. The children have made fantastic progress throughout the programme and represented the school extremely well. Their teacher commended their effort, improvement, and excellent behaviour. The children will continue swimming again in Year 4.

The younger classes have enjoyed taking part in egg and spoon races and javelin throwing as part of their preparations for the upcoming Sports Day. The children continued to show great enthusiasm and effort in all activities.

From Year 1 upwards, all classes are now fully involved in their cricket lessons and are developing their skills very well. Year 1 and Year 2 particularly enjoyed this week's focus on batting and running between the wickets through a variety of conditioned games. Across Key Stage 2, classes have been focusing on mini pairs cricket games to develop their understanding of the game, while improving their batting, bowling, and fielding skills in preparation for upcoming fixtures. Next week, Years 4 and 5 have two cricket matches to look forward to.



## Westminster Mile Opportunity

For those who enjoyed the Mini Marathon, as well as anyone who is interested in taking part in a one-mile event, you now have the opportunity to sign up for the Westminster Mile, taking place on 26th September. To register, please visit the official website <https://www.londonmarathonevents.co.uk/westminster-mile> where you will find a range of start times available to choose from. The cost to register and take part in the race is £12 per adult with children running for free. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in another exciting running event.



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Date	Against	Team/Yr	Venue	Time
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Sarum Hall	Y4, 5 and 6 Cricket (Girls)	Home	15.30 - 16.30
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Trevor Roberts	Y4 Cricket (Mixed)	Away	15.00 - 16.00
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Southbank Tournament	Y3/4 Football (Boys)	Away	10.00 - 15.30
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	St Mary's Tournament	Y5/6 Cricket (Girls)	Away	12.00 - 15.30
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Ivy House	Y5/6 Cricket (Mixed)	Home	15.50 - 16.30
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Trevor Roberts	Y3 Class (Mixed)	Home	14.30 - 15.30
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Trevor Roberts	Y5/6 Cricket (Mixed)	Home	15.30 - 16.30

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport



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## Our Science Room's new visitors

Our Science Room has welcomed four very special new visitors - tadpoles! The children are very excited to observe them over the coming weeks as they grow and metamorphose into frogs, helping to bring our learning about life cycles to life in a real and memorable way.

A huge thank you to Alice in Year 5 for kindly bringing them into school for us all to enjoy and learn from. We can't wait to watch them grow and change!

**Mr Hirst - Deputy Headteacher**



## 2026 Junior Mathematics Challenge

The Junior Mathematics Challenge is a national competition aimed primarily at children in KS3 (i.e. children in Years 7 and 8). However, the challenge is not limited to children in these years, but may be sat by anyone in lower years, provided they have the ability or interest. Twenty of our children sat this challenge last week - all of Year 6, along with a few children taken from Years 4 and 5.

We won't know results for another week or two, since answer sheets have to be scanned and sent off to the UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) and then collated with all of the other competition entries.

However, as in previous years, we would anticipate around one third of our children gaining awards!

Two of the questions that children were posed in this challenge were as follows:

Q4 Barry thinks of a number. Half of the number, plus a third of the number, plus a quarter of the number is 52. What number is Barry thinking of?

Q25. Four runners entered a race. We are told that at most two tied at the finish line (and were therefore given the same finishing position). How many possible finishing orders were there for the race?

Could you have succeeded with these questions?

**Fr Rudolf - Teacher in charge of Enrichment**



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## Music Update

### Composer of the month

Our composer for this month is **Aaron Copland**. Children can find out more about him and his music at the links below. They can explore some of the recommended listening, then fill in a "I listened to.." slip saying what they thought of the music. They can collect a slip from the wallet on the board, print it out from Google Classroom, or ask me for one. Once they've filled it in, they should bring it to me or one of the Music Prefects (Akari and Finn) to add it to the board and earn a house point.

Some of the pieces of music are quite long and of course you do not need to listen to all of them.

[A \(very!\) short biography of Aaron Copland](#)

[Fanfare for the Common Man](#)

["Hoedown" from Rodeo](#) (in this video Aaron Copland himself is conducting the orchestra!)

[Appalachian Spring](#)

[Suite from Billy the Kid](#)

### Spring Concert – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May

We are looking forward to our Spring Concert next week. This involves children in Little Voices, Guitar Group, Brass Group, Orchestra, Junior Choir and Senior Choir. A letter has been sent out – please email the office to reserve your tickets. The concert starts at 6 pm, and children will need to be back at school at 5.30 pm in smart school uniform. Doors will open to parents at this time with refreshments available, and we expect the concert to last about an hour. We hope you enjoy what the children have worked hard to prepare for you!

### Special assembly - "An introduction to learning a brass instrument"

We have an excellent brass tutor at Saint Christina's, Mr Thomas, who will be giving an assembly on brass instruments on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 9.00 am. These instruments are more accessible than you might think and we are keen to offer this opportunity to more children. Children in Years 2-5 will be attending the assembly, and parents are very welcome to attend as well to find out more. Mr Thomas will be available to answer any questions, and will be offering free taster lessons to any children whose parents would like this. If you would like to attend, please email me at [ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk](mailto:ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk).





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## Music Assembly – Summer Term 2026

We will be holding a music assembly on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, for children in KS1 and any in KS2 who did not get the opportunity to perform in our Spring term assemblies. This is an opportunity for children to experience performing on their instrument (or voice) to a friendly and supportive audience, and parents are also invited to attend.

If your child has lessons in school their teacher will discuss this with them. If your child has lessons outside school (and is in KS1 or did not perform last time) then you can sign them up to perform using the form [here](#). Please ensure you complete this by **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** to help with planning.

### Dates for your diary:

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May (6.00 pm)** - KS2 Spring Concert (ensembles)

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May (9.00 am)** - "An introduction to learning a brass instrument" assembly (details to follow)

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July (6.00 pm)** - Summer Production: "A-la-la-la-la-laddin"

### Music Lessons

If you are interested in lessons for your child, you can find information and the application form [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact me via email - [ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk](mailto:ebryant@saintchristinas.org.uk)

**Mrs Bryant - Director of Music**



# SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

## DINY'S SENSORY AND MESSY PLAY (FROM 10 MONTHS - TO 36 MONTHS)



SENSORY AND MESSY PLAY GIVES BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN THE FREEDOM TO EXPLORE THE WORLD THROUGH THEIR SENSES-TOUCH, SIGHT, SOUND, SMELL AND MOVEMENT. THROUGH ACTIVITIES AND EXPLORING DIFFERENT TEXTURES, CHILDREN BUILD CONFIDENCE, CURIOSITY, AND ESSENTIAL EARLY SKILLS.

OUR NEXT SESSIONS WILL EXPLORE A FUN MINIBEASTS THEME, ALONGSIDE A MUD KITCHEN AND SAND TRAY FOR HANDS ON SENSORY AND MESSY PLAY.

LED BY EDINA, A QUALIFIED EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR WITH 10+ YEARS EXPERIENCE INCLUDING ROLES AS BABY ROOM LEADER AND DEPUTY MANAGER.

VENUE: THE ART'S HALL. SAINT CHRISTINA'S SCHOOL,

25 ST EDMUND'S TERRACE

NW8 7PY

25TH OF APRIL / 9TH OF MAY -

SATURDAY

TIME: 10:30AM - 11:30AM

PRICE: £10 PER CHILD - CASH ONLY

PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE PRESENT WITH YOUR CHILD FOR THE DURATION OF THE SESSION



PLEASE BOOK YOUR SPACE VIA THE EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW:

[RETESIE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RETESIE@GMAIL.COM) FIND US ON HAPPITY TOO



# 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.

### **Emailing [scommms@saintchristinas.org.uk](mailto:scommms@saintchristinas.org.uk)**

Please do not send emails to the [scommms@saintchristinas.org.uk](mailto:scommms@saintchristinas.org.uk) email address, as this inbox is not monitored. Instead, kindly direct your emails to [office@saintchristinas.org.uk](mailto:office@saintchristinas.org.uk) or the relevant class teacher.

### **Online Safety – New Government Guidance: Screen Time for Under-Fives**

The government has this week published its first evidence-backed screen time guidance for children under five, recommending no more than one hour of screen time per day and avoiding screens alone for under-twos. The guidance suggests watching together where possible, avoiding fast-paced content, and trying simple "screen swaps" — a story or a game instead. It also notes that not all screen time is the same; watching with an engaged adult is linked to better outcomes than solo use, and that time limits should not apply in the same way for assistive technologies supporting children with SEND.

You can read the full guidance here: <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/screen-time-under-5s/>

At Saint Christina's, we will continue to support children in developing healthy relationships with technology through our Digital Wellbeing provision as part of PSHE. If you would like to revisit the themes raised in the guidance at home, a digital recording of our recent parent talk, Parenting in the Digital Age, is available here: [Parenting in the Digital Age](#)



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## Dates for your diary

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May

- Year 4, 5 & 6 Cricket Fixture (Home)

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May

- Spring Concert (6 pm)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

- Brass Showcase (9 am)

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

- First Holy Communion (11 am)
- Year 4 Cricket Fixture (Away)

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May

- Year 5 and 6 Residential Trip (1 Week)
- St Raphaela Feast Day

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May

- Year 1 & Year 4 Trip

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

- No Mass
- Year 5 and 6 return from Residential Trip



# SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

SCHOOL CLOSURES AT USUAL TIME FOR HALF-TERM

Monday 1<sup>st</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/>