



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Friday 9TH May, 2025





SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all of you who joined us for the Quiz Night yesterday evening. It was such a lovely event, and I must admit I felt decidedly underdressed after spending the day in red, white and blue for VE Day commemorations! The evening was a wonderful reminder of how fortunate we are to belong to such a warm and committed community. Special thanks go to the Parents' Link for organising the event so brilliantly, and to the catering team and all who went above and beyond to make it such a success and to raise valuable funds for our library's development. Thank you also to Mr Burke and Ms Williams for their excellent quiz mastering, and congratulations to the winning Year 4 team!

That phrase "above and beyond" feels like something of a theme at Saint Christina's. Whether in the classroom, the staffroom, or at events like last night's, we so often see colleagues, parents and pupils giving more than is expected, out of care for others and pride in being part of this community. The generosity, teamwork and enthusiasm on display last night were, in their own way, a celebration of leadership - parents stepping forward, supporting others and making a difference.

That same spirit of service and responsibility is something we're exploring in school at the moment, particularly with our Year 5 pupils, who will soon begin reflecting on the roles they may take on as prefects next year. Earlier today, I had a lesson with Year 5 on the theme of leadership, what it looks like, why it matters and how each of us can live it out in our own way.

The theme of new leaders feels even more meaningful in the same week that the Church welcomed the election of Pope Leo XIV. From the balcony of St Peter's Square, he urged us to be "a Church that builds bridges." We pray for him as he begins this new ministry, and we wish him strength, courage, and wisdom in his leadership of the Church. His words echo powerfully with our own mission at Saint Christina's: to be a School that builds bridges - between faith and understanding, between cultures and communities, and between academic ambition and wellbeing. We are proud to be a place where children are encouraged to think, to lead and to serve.

As our Year 5 pupils consider what leadership might look like for them, we have also been reflecting on how we continue to grow and shape leadership across the School. Part of this involves reviewing how we organise ourselves as a team to ensure clarity, alignment and the best possible support for our children and colleagues. With that in mind, I am pleased to confirm that from the start of the new academic year, Mr Burke will become Assistant Head (Pastoral) and Mrs Ellisdon will become Assistant Head (Academic). Both will continue to teach their classes and remain closely involved in the daily life of the school.

In addition:

- Mrs Ellisdon will remain Subject Leader for English and will also take on a new role as Head of Future Schools (11+), supporting families and children as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journey
- Mr Burke will continue to lead on Catholic Social Teaching, PSHE and wellbeing, all of which are core to our mission and ethos
- Ms Randle, our Head of Early Years, will formally join the Senior Leadership Team and will also take on a whole school responsibility for Sustainability and Environmental Leadership as part of her role

Mr Hirst will remain as Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead, with expanded responsibilities for the day-to-day running of the school and wider strategic oversight. Mrs Reilly, our Bursar, will continue to lead our administrative and site teams, ensuring effective operations across the school.

These changes reflect a restructuring of leadership roles. Over time, we have found that the previous phase-based model can sometimes lead to duplication and slower decision making. This new structure creates clear, streamlined lines of accountability across academic and pastoral matters, running consistently from Nursery through to Year 6.



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A key reason for strengthening the academic and pastoral strands is to ensure even greater coherence and accountability across the whole school. We already have a strong foundation in both areas, and this structure allows us to build on that success. Over recent months, we have been reviewing our curriculum, pedagogy and assessment frameworks, and the full implementation of this work will begin in September. Having a single point of leadership for academic matters across the school will help us embed this work with clarity and consistency, ensuring high standards, well-sequenced learning and purposeful curriculum design at every stage. At the same time, the pastoral strand ensures that our commitment to knowing and supporting each child as an individual remains strong and consistent throughout their journey at Saint Christina's.

I am also delighted to let you know that Ms. Higgins has been appointed Head of Mathematics from September 2025. Ms. Higgins brings great energy to this role, and I know she will lead the subject with great care and ambition for the children. Mr. Rudolf will continue to work within and support the Mathematics department, particularly supporting and stretching our more able pupils. He will also be taking on a new responsibility for Stretch and Challenge across the School, which over time will grow to include strands such as Linguistics, Latin and other exciting enrichment projects.

Finally, we will share our full line management structure with you at the start of the new academic year in September. This will set out who does what and, importantly, who to contact if you ever need to speak with someone regarding your child or any aspect of school life.

As always, thank you for your support and trust, and have a good weekend when it comes.

Best,

Damien Walshe
Headteacher



Future Schools

THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE



11+ / 13+ Choices – Independent Schools Show

The Independent Schools Show Summer Fair is back at a new central venue, The Royal Horticultural Society's Lindley Hall in London's SW1 on **Wednesday, 21 May 2025**.

Now in its fifth year, the Fair is the complete guide to 11+ and 13+ independent school options for London parents, whether you are looking for senior schools in the capital or beyond.

- Meet the **leading London independent day schools**.
- Consider education outside the capital, meeting schools in commuter belts plus the most **prestigious UK boarding schools**.
- Decide whether to introduce your child to **boarding at a prep school**, or wait until 13+ senior school entry.

There is no better place to get answers to your 11+ / 13+ questions.

Advance tickets are FREE, £15 on the door.

[Get FREE advance tickets](#)



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What's **NEW** at this year's show?



See [the full list here](#).

Head down on **21 May 2025** to explore the wealth of opportunities and plan your child's future. It's a space to learn more and understand how each school could help your child's educational journey.

The Fair features leading London independent schools including **Westminster, St Paul's, St Paul's Girls', Highgate, City of London School for Girls, Merchant Taylors'** and **Francis Holland School**, alongside top boarding schools such as **Winchester College, Radley, St Edward's Oxford, Wellington, Benenden, Marlborough, Tonbridge, Bedales, Lancing, Millfield, Stowe, Roedean** and **St Mary's Calne**.



Hear from the **EXPERTS**

At the Summer Fair, the Guide's editors and education experts feature strongly in the *The Good Schools Guide Forum's* [talks programme](#) and will be on hand all day to answer your questions.



- **Would my child suit a highly academic school?** Morning session features Gary Savage, Head Master of Westminster & Emma Goldsmith, Head of The Dragon. Topic repeats in the afternoon with Elizabeth Stone, Headmaster of Winchester College & Jenny Brown, Head of City of London School for Girls.
- **Educating boys** St Paul's, Tonbridge and St James' with Melanie Sanderson, Managing Editor of The Good Schools Guide, discuss how to tackle the challenges faced by boys in the 21st century.
- **Educating girls** Benenden, St Catherine's Bramley, and Queens Gate with Lucinda Lafferty, Managing Director of the Guide, discuss how schools and parents can help girls successfully navigate the stresses and challenges of teenage years.



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VE Day

On Thursday, we marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a poignant and memorable celebration. Children and staff came dressed in red, white, and blue, creating a wonderful sense of occasion across the School. Year 6, who studied World War II earlier in the year, led a thoughtful assembly for the whole school, explaining the significance of VE Day and why it is important to remember. It was a brilliant opportunity for them to showcase their learning and understanding. Throughout the day, children explored the meaning of VE Day in their lessons, making it a powerful and reflective experience for all.

Mrs Ellisdon - Year 6 Class Teacher



2025 Junior Mathematics Challenge

Every year the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) runs various competitions in Mathematics – one of these is the Junior Mathematics Challenge. This is aimed primarily at children in Years Seven and Eight, but able or keen children in lower years are encouraged to participate as well.

This year, we had children in Years Five and Six attempt the JMC last week. Most of the children found the paper pretty challenging and hard, but not everyone was put off by it:

- 'Challenging, but not impossible'
- 'Very hard...'
- 'It was all right, and I was able to do/attempt most of it...'

Fr Rudolf Loewenstein OP - Teacher in charge of Mathematics

These were just some of the views expressed by children when they were asked for their views. For any parent interested in seeing more of the questions, two of the questions are reproduced below:

- Q 1: What is $\frac{1}{2}$ of 10% of 20?
- Q 25: Given a cube, how many equilateral triangles are there whose vertices are three vertices of the cube?

As this is a competition entered by children across the whole country, it takes a while for all the results to be processed and marked. Once this has happened, boundaries for Bronze, Silver and Gold are decided as well marks needed for participation in the two follow on rounds – the Junior Kangaroo and the Junior Mathematics Olympiad.

We should know more about the overall results in around two weeks' time and are hoping that our children have garnered plenty of awards this year!



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Nursery

This week, Nursery had their very first Forest School session, which was also our first proper excursion out of school. We visited Primrose Hill and discovered how fairies live in the forest but are very shy. The children gathered natural materials and worked together to create fairy houses, featuring everything from slides and swimming pools to hammocks and kitchens! We hope the fairies enjoy their wonderful new homes soon.

Ms Randle – Nursery Class Teacher



Reception

This term, Reception have been diving into The Very Hungry Caterpillar as part of our Talk for Writing focus. The children have thoroughly enjoyed retelling the story together using their story map and expressive story actions.



This week, they brought the tale to life in a variety of creative and hands-on ways. They have been busy writing the story in their journals, acting it out in the small world area, and searching for story words hidden around the classroom. Alongside this, the children have loved getting crafty—creating caterpillars and other minibeasts out of playdough, painting vibrant symmetrical butterflies, and even building their very own bug hotels in the creative area.

As part of the innovation stage, both classes created their own versions of the story. Blue Class imagined The Very Hungry Tadpole, while Green Class came up with The Very Hungry Penguin—two fantastic and imaginative twists on the original!

Next week, we're excited for the children to take the next step in their storytelling journey as they begin planning and writing their own original stories. We can't wait to see where their imaginations take them!

Ms Williams – Reception Class Teacher



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Year 1

This week, Year 1 has been diving into the fascinating world of the human body in Science. We've been enthusiastically naming, identifying and labelling the different parts of the human body. It's been an exciting journey of discovery, and we are thrilled to learn how our bodies work!

In English, we've been writing our next letters to our penpals in the United States. We eagerly shared our stories about the Easter holidays. It's wonderful to see our excitement as we connect with friends across the ocean. We've also enjoyed reading the letters we've received from our penpals, which has been a delightful way to learn about their lives and cultures.

Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher



Year 1 and Year 4 VE Day Buddies

We enjoyed learning about VE Day in the assembly led by Year 6. Year 1's celebrations with our Year 4 buddies have been a highlight of the week. We got creative by designing our own commemorative plates and medals and listening to the iconic Vera Lynn singing "We'll Meet Again." We loved learning about the history and it was a fantastic opportunity to commemorate this important day together!

Ms Higgins – Year 1 Class Teacher

KS1 Story Club

On the Way Home by Jill Murphy: I like this story because it has my favourite animal a snake. It tells you not to lie but it is also very funny. - Student Year 2

Ottoline goes to School by Chris Riddell: This is a good story because Ottoline is very brave and the others are not. Ottoline finds spooky stuff the other children do not. Ottoline doesn't find her gift yet but at the end she finds it and is very proud. - Student Year 1





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Year 2

It's been another fantastic week in Year 2 with lots of great learning across the board!

In English, we've started a new unit all about instructions. We've been exploring what makes a good set of instructions and learning the difference between statements and commands. The children have enjoyed giving each other simple instructions and spotting bossy verbs in real examples – keep an eye out for any bossy verbs at home!

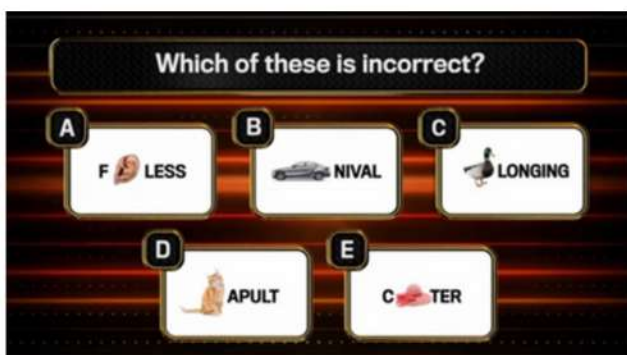
In Computing, we've been working on our touch typing and the class are becoming really speedy. There's been a big focus on accuracy and using the correct fingers – lots of friendly competition too!

We've also been taking on some tricky puzzles inspired by The 1% Club – testing our reasoning and problem-solving skills. Here's one for you to try at home:

Can you work it out?

Great work this week, Year 2 – keep it going!

Mr Burke – Year 2 Class Teacher



Year 3

Year 3 have continued with their intensive swimming sessions this week, at Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre. It has been fabulous to see their enthusiasm each day and to witness the impressive progress they have made over the last two weeks. To celebrate VE Day, they have been carrying out their own research to find out why we celebrate it. They also completed a diary writing task, imagining they were at a street party on the 8th May 1945, and wrote about how they felt about the war in Europe coming to an end.

Ms Sephton - Year 3 Class Teacher





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Year 4

In Science this week, Year 4 were learning about the properties of liquids and solids. We looked at a variety of materials and classified them as either a liquid or solid by using our new knowledge. This proved rather tricky, as there were some things like oobleck and shaving foam that had properties of both! We then created videos as Science experts to share our knowledge with others. The highlight for many of us was playing with shaving foam before packing up.

Ms Farquhar - Year 4 Class Teacher



Year 5's VE Day Artwork: Honouring 80 Years of Peace

To commemorate the upcoming 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day in 2025, our Year 5 children have created powerful and heartfelt artwork inspired by British remembrance artist Jacqueline Hurley.

Using a range of materials—including charcoal, paint, and mixed media—the children explored scenes of VE Day with symbolic imagery such as silhouetted soldiers, red poppy fields, and peaceful landscapes. Their artwork captures both the joy of peace and the solemn remembrance of those who served.

The Poppy, a lasting symbol of remembrance, features prominently in every piece, tying together the students' thoughtful reflections on history with vibrant creativity.

Ms O'Leary – Year 5 Class Teacher





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Year 6 St George's Mass



Year 6 led a thoughtful Mass in honour of St George, the Patron Saint of England. They beautifully shared the story of how St George came to be revered for his chivalry, bravery, and military strength—qualities that made him a powerful symbol during the Crusades and endeared him to monarchs like Richard I, Edward III, and Henry V. The children led us in a heartfelt prayer, asking for strength, kindness, and forgiveness, and reminding us of the importance of helping others and doing what is right. Their rendition of the responsorial psalm, "You Are Holy," was sung with such grace and clarity—it was a joy to hear. Well done, Year 6, for leading us in such a meaningful celebration

Mrs Ellisdon - Y6 Class Teacher

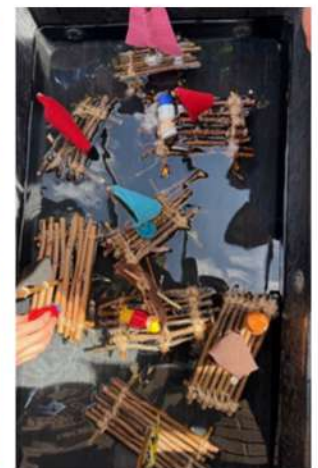
Year 6 D&T: Raft-Building Adventure!

This term, Year 6 has been diving into the fascinating topic of rivers. To bring our learning to life, we took on an exciting Design & Technology project: building our very own wooden rafts! Using wood, fabric, and string, each child crafted their designs with creativity and effort.

The big test came on Tuesday when we launched our rafts on water to see if they would float—and we're thrilled to say they were all fully functioning! It was a fantastic hands-on experience where we not only had lots of fun but also learned about floatability, structure, and the importance of good design.

Well done Year 6!

Ms Bretones - Art Teacher





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PE

It's been another action-packed week of sport at school, with the children showing great enthusiasm, determination, and team spirit across a wide range of activities.

The Key Stage 2 classes have been busy offsite this week, preparing for the upcoming Sports Day. The classes this week have spent time developing their overarm throwing and practicing for the sack race which has been most enjoyable. We have also spent time continuing to develop their Cricket skills through some modified games in preparation for the start of the Cricket fixtures after half term. The younger classes have also been getting active, practicing their throwing techniques and enjoying a range of running activities. The ever-popular egg and spoon obstacle race has brought lots of laughter into our lessons this week.



On Wednesday, our Year 5 and 6 boys' Football team took part in a highly competitive tournament hosted by Southbank. The team started strongly, securing two draws in their opening matches before facing some tough opposition in the remaining games. They finished on a high, winning their final game with two fantastic goals from Alex. A special mention goes to our Goalkeeper, who was outstanding in goal—making several crucial saves and distributing the ball brilliantly from goal kicks. The team now looks forward to their final match of the year in a couple of weeks, which will complete what has been a fantastic Football season.



Year 3 have continued to impress during their intensive Swimming sessions. Over the past two weeks, the children have worked hard to refine and develop their techniques in front crawl, backstroke, breaststroke, and their dolphin kick. The Swimming teachers have been full of praise for the children's positive attitudes, effort, and progress. The week concluded with a fun-filled Friday featuring relay races and water-based activities that were thoroughly enjoyed by all.



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Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Team	Time
Monday 19th May	Trevor Roberts	Y5 and 6 Boys Football	15.30-16.30
Thursday 22nd May	Northbridge House	Y5 and 6 Mixed Cricket	14.00-15.00
Wednesday 4th June	St Marys	Y5 and 6 Girls Cricket	16.00-17.00
Friday 6th June	SHHS	Y5 and 6 Girls Cricket	12.00-15.30

Mr Raveney - Director of Sport



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN




SAINT CHRISTINA'S SPRING CONCERT

A FUNDRAISER FOR OUR WONDERFUL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY 21st MAY 2025




FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS AS SEATING IS LIMITED
IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND YOU MAY BE ALLOCATED UP TO
TWO SEATS PER FAMILY

PLEASE RSVP TO:

saintchristinasparentslink@gmail.com

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





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Catholic Social Teaching at Saint Christina's

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



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

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

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

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

Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors



SAINT CHRISTINA'S BULLETIN

Fr Terry's Food Bank



We believe, at Saint Christina's, that we are called to serve those around us throughout the year.

We were so touched by your generosity towards Fr Terry's Food Bank last term and we will continue to collect non-perishable food to celebrate his legacy.

All donations will be distributed to the homeless and local families in need. We would be delighted if you would support us with this initiative – even the smallest donation can make a big difference.

If you would like to donate any non-perishable goods to this cause, please ask your child to leave their donation in the locker underneath the stairs next to the Arts Hall. We kindly ask that all donations for this half term are brought into School by Friday 16th May.

Thank you for your support with this cause.

Mr Burke and the Caritas Ambassadors



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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 12 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y5 and 6 Residential Trip (5 Days)
Thursday 15 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">EYFS Singing Showcase
Friday 16 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y5 and 6 Return from their Residential TripY4 Saint Raphaela Feast Day Mass
Wednesday 21 st May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Music Concert Evening
Thursday 22 nd May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Away)
Friday 23 rd May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">First Holy Communion
Friday 23rd May SCHOOL CLOSING AT USUAL TIME FOR HALF TERM Monday 2nd June CHILDREN RETURN	
Monday 2 nd June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Children ReturnY6 Cycle Training Starts
Wednesday 4 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y6 Parent Coffee MorningY5 and 6 Girls Cricket (Away)
Friday 6 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y5 and 6 Girls Cricket (Away)Joan of Arc Mass
Monday 9 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y4,5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Home)
Wednesday 11 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Away)



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Friday 13 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 Sports Day• No Mass
Monday 16 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y4,5 and 6 Mixed Cricket (Home)
Wednesday 18 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y5 Parent Coffee Morning• Y5 and 6 Inter House Cricket
Friday 20 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EYFS and KS1 Sports Day• Y5 Mass
Tuesday 24 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Photographs
Friday 27 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y2 Mass
Saturday 28 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer Fair
Monday 30 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 Production Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 2 nd July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 Production (Y3 and 4 Parents)
Thursday 3 rd July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 Production (Y5 and 6 Parents)
Friday 4 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whole School Mass (Buddies)
Monday 7 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y6 Legacy Evening
Tuesday 8 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 Prize Giving
Wednesday 9 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y6 Leavers Mass

Wednesday 9th July
SCHOOL CLOSING AT MIDDAY FOR THE END OF TERM
Wednesday 3rd 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/>