



Saint Christina's School Bulletin

Summer Term 2021

Dear Parents,

Having dodged through the puddles pock-marking my route to School and having survived the rainforest level downpours that we have been having over the last few days, I remembered that this is actually July and the end of the summer term!

I wanted to thank you all so much for the many ways that you have supported us as through the trickiest of years. It is with great relief that we find ourselves making harbour for the summer without any major disruption to the term. In fact, if you have been keeping track of the news and the local situation, it is astonishing that we have not had classes or year groups out of School. That said, it is a team effort. Your support in not bringing your children into School if they have been unwell and arranging for testing has been key. You have all moved mountains around your own work and personal circumstances to enable the School to operate as it has. In doing this, you have helped protect not just the children, but also the staff here, many of who are in the younger bracket and therefore have had to wait until very recently to get their first job. We are all very grateful to you and thank you for all you have done to support us as we have navigated these tricky waters.

Over the summer, Saint Christina's is going to begin its transformation. The constructors have already started setting up camp in the staff car park and we are looking forward to seeing the skeleton of the new build when we come back after the holiday. We will have staff on duty over the summer but I have asked everyone beyond that core team to take the whole holiday away from School so that there are no impediments on what the construction firm can do.

Over the last week we have enjoyed some lovely end of year events. I am so pleased that we were able to invite some of you in to School to see the School Production of 'The Little Mermaid' live. I know that work is being done to create a recording that will be available for you to watch from the end of the week. Mr Rhodes will be uploading a link to the recording in your child's Google Classroom.

Whilst we were unable to invite parents into School for Prize Giving, it was very nice to be able to welcome Dr Andrew Goddard who is the President of the Royal College of Physicians, into School for the occasion. He was really pleased to have the chance to meet some of the children as he toured the School and talk about what it is like to be a medical practitioner, particularly in these difficult times. The event is also the point in the year that we announce the prefect responsibilities for next year. In this vein, it is my pleasure to inform you that Mercy Arbuthnott and Martina Leccesi will be our new Head and Deputy Head Girl. I hope that you enjoy watching the event via this link [here](#).

I wanted to take this opportunity to formally thank our current Year 6 pupils for all that they have brought to our School during their time here. They have been an outstanding year group and, as I have mentioned in earlier missives, had to deal with an 11+ process that was like no other in terms of predictability. Yet amidst the last minute changes made by the secondary schools around the assessments they would use and the deadlines they were imposing, the children just got on with what they needed to do. What we saw of who they are was lovely, and it feels right that their achievements in the assessments themselves were so good.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you and goodbye to all the children and families who are leaving Saint Christina's this year and who are not in Year 6. It is very sad to see you go and we will miss you very much. Please do stay in contact wherever you find yourself in the world – and you will be very welcome to return should your circumstances change again.

I hope that you will all be able to enjoy the summer and that you will be able to relax and spend some quality time together as a family. Whilst we have enjoyed a season back in School, the pandemic remains in the background all the time and it's quite draining.

On that note, we are obviously aware of all the announcements that are being made by the Government around easing. We expect that these announcements will not change too much over the summer but we will write to you late in August to confirm all the arrangements for the start of term. We are expecting to be able to operate as a whole, within School, because requirements for bubbles are expected to be lifted within Schools. We hope that this will mean that we will be able to do some of the very many things that we have had to put on pause over the last year. Just doing a live assembly for everyone would be lovely but my expectation is that we will also be able to do a few more trips and, of course, pick up a fresh sporting fixture calendar.

There are some things that I will confirm in this letter though. We will continue to split drop-off and pick-up between the two different gates as not only does it prevent everyone being on the 10 metres of pavement at the front of School from a pandemic point of view, it makes the whole process more efficient and safer. Years 1-3 will come to the main entrance at 8.45 am and Years 4-6 the back entrance at the same time. Nursery and Reception will also come to the front entrance but at 9.00 am. We will also hold the initial Teacher / Parent Meeting on Friday 3rd September over Zoom as we did last year.

If you are travelling over the holiday and it will affect the beginning of term because of the restrictions, or you contracting the virus/becoming ill, it is essential that we know, and that any requirements around self-isolation are observed. We have been told to expect an uptick in the rate of infection around the virus. At the same time, we have been informed that the Lambda variant, which is currently mainly to be found in South America, has the potential to be more infectious than the Delta virus. My expectation is that if we are going to have the easing that has been advertised with the lack of parameters that we have had to follow, there is every chance that things may become more complicated in the Autumn in terms of illness and infection. For this reason, we would like to remain as careful as possible in our arrangements at School and would ask for your continued support as we try and steer our way through these challenges. This means that we will ask you to keep your child off School if they are unwell and we will follow any testing regime that will exist at that point. We will continue to think carefully about each and every event and about what we will commit to, both in and outside of School. As ever, and as the picture develops, we will take a view at any given time and keep you informed.

May I thank you, on behalf of all the staff, for all your very kind words, cards, letters and gifts. It has been very lovely to receive so many expressions of your support and kindness at the end of a testing year.

Have a great holiday and I look forward to seeing you all back at School on Monday 6th September.

Yours sincerely,



Alastair Gloag
Headteacher

Message from the Sisters

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The Sisters would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday. Our love and prayers go with you. We pray that you will be able to relax, have fun, and above all, stay safe.

We will miss you all. God bless, Sr Margaret

The Little Mermaid

Last Wednesday and Thursday we were thrilled to open our doors to a very enthusiastic and appreciative audience for our summer production of The Little Mermaid. Our cast certainly brought their A game to the performances, delivering such character, expression and even finding new musical and dramatic ideas in their scenes. We are incredibly proud of our cast who have worked hard, despite the various challenges we have faced this year, to deliver a very memorable performance full to the brim with comedy, drama and emotional narrative.

Thank you to all of those staff working backstage for your support - we couldn't have done this without you! And a big thank you to our audience for attending, your support means so much and we are delighted to have been able to have put this production together for you to enjoy.

We have recorded the production and once edited, this will be uploaded to the Google Classrooms to share with all children and families!

Mr Rhodes and Mr Duncan







Prize-Giving





Year 6 Leavers' Mass



Key Dates

Date	Event
Thursday 2 nd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• STAFF INSET
Friday 3 rd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• STAFF INSET AND PARENTS/TEACHER MEETINGS (ONLINE) - INFORMATION TO FOLLOW
MONDAY 6th SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CHILDREN RETURN

PLEASE NOTE THAT ABOVE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND MAY BE AMENDED DUE TO COVID GUIDELINES AND RESTRICTIONS.