



## St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

'Let your light shine and set the world on fire'

### Upcoming dates

Nursery visits - 4<sup>th</sup>  
November 2pm

Year 1 Language Link  
Parent Workshop - 5<sup>th</sup>  
November 9am

Parents Evening - 5<sup>th</sup>  
November and 12<sup>th</sup>  
November 2.30-5.30

Reception visits for  
2026-2027 - 18<sup>th</sup>  
November 10am



Dear Parents, Carers, and pupils,

What a wonderful half term it has been at St Catherine's! We've enjoyed so much learning, fantastic family activities, and brilliant parental engagement activities. It has been a joy to see our school community come together through so many successful events. Thank you for being such an important part of your child's learning journey. Your involvement makes a real difference.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to our dedicated staff team for their continued hard work and commitment to St Catherine's - your efforts do not go unnoticed. Enjoy your well-deserved rest during half term!

Well done to all our children who have shone so brightly in their learning this half term - we are very proud of you!

Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable half term break. We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 8:40am for another exciting half term at St Catherine's.

Warmest wishes,  
Miss Hoey  
Headteacher



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Reception - 97.4%

Year 1 - 94.2%

Year 2 - 96.7%

Year 3 - 97.5%

Year 4 - 91.9%

Year 5 - 98.4%

Year 6 - 97%

Year 5

- Attendance Winners

Attendance below 90% has a drastic effect on academic achievement

91-95% is a cause for concern

96-100% is spot on!



### Star Awards

Our Star awards been handed out to the children for living out our SHINE values.

SHINE Star of the Week - Aliyah Year 3

Letting your Light Shine Frame - Jamie Year 4

Reception - Kinal & Haniys

Year 1 - Alistair & Aissata

Year 2 - Ahana & Drave

Year 3 - Maddox & Eunice

Year 4 - Hibba & Nevaeh

Year 5 - Borys & Alan

Year 6 - Kayan & Aloysius

I am delighted to share some exciting news with you – we have successfully appointed our new Deputy Headteacher, who will be joining us in January.

She brings with her a wealth of experience, and we are thrilled to welcome her to our team. Her expertise and passion for education will be a great asset as we continue to move forward and grow together at St Catherine's.

We look forward to introducing her to you in the new year.



## Our learning

**Nursery-** What a busy last two weeks of the half term for our Nursery children. In RE we have finished off our Baptism topic by acting out a Baptism and the children have learned to make the sign of the cross. The children have also been introduced to our Catholic Social Teaching characters and they have loved learning the rhymes and hearing the stories that go with each one, we even planned a class worship based around Luc the Deer and everyone being special. In Maths we have been learning about shapes, our small steps have been teaching us to select shapes for a purpose, understand that we need to rotate shapes sometime to get them to fit and begin to describe shapes using the words, round, pointy big and small. In Literacy, we have spent a bit more time on the book Leaf Man and have had demonstrated a good understanding of Autumn words in our Literacy sessions as well as really thinking about what sort of leaf man they would make in story, dough and drawing club. In literacy we also practise pre-reading skills and this term the children have been listening in to environmental sounds, the children are now so good at being able to recognise and name different sounds. It has been another two wonderful weeks for developing our Understanding of the World as the children have come in amazed and fascinated by the autumnal changes and are really building up a strong vocabulary and knowledge connected to Autumn. We have had a busy time completing self-initiated art activities both indoors and outdoors and the children have baked banana cupcakes and made autumnal chocolate apples. We hope all our Nursery children enjoy the half term holidays and look forward to seeing you for more fun and learning in November.

**Reception-** Over the past two weeks, we've thoroughly enjoyed exploring our focus books, Hansel and Gretel and Autumn Silly Symphonies. In PE, the children have been actively developing their basic movement skills while having plenty of fun staying fit. In Phonics, we've been introducing new letter sounds and strengthening our blending and segmenting skills using magnetic letter boards. In Maths, we've been deepening our understanding of composition, using vocabulary such as 'more' and 'fewer' to compare quantities with increasing confidence. As part of our Understanding the World learning, we've been using our senses to investigate the season of Autumn, observing the many changes happening around us. On Tuesday, we also enjoyed celebrating Diwali, the festival of lights. In RE, we wrapped up our topic on Belonging by learning how people are welcomed into God's family through Baptism. In PSHE, we've been discussing the importance of healthy eating and self-care, and last week we explored what it means to be a good friend during our 'Show Racism the Red Card' day. The children have also been working hard to learn their Harvest song – we were so proud of their performance on Thursday!

**Year 1** - This week, Year 1 have had a fantastic time learning across all areas of the curriculum! In English, the children enjoyed exploring the story Pigs Might Fly, using it as inspiration for their own imaginative writing. In Maths, they worked hard on addition, focusing on number bonds to 10 and developing their confidence with quick mental calculations. In Design and Technology, the class made delicious smoothies – a highlight of the week! They loved choosing ingredients, blending them together, and tasting their creations. In RE, Year 1 reflected on the importance of the baptismal candle and what it symbolises. To top off a brilliant week, the children gave an amazing performance in the Harvest Festival. They sang beautifully, showing great confidence and teamwork. Well done, Year 1 – what a wonderful week of learning and celebration!

**Year 2** - Last week was such a busy week! We completed more of our English work on Neil Armstrong, answering questions and exploring the topic by watching the amazing moments of him walking on the moon and landing. We created adjectives and similes to describe the experience. In Art, we finished our final painting piece and had great fun doing it. On Friday, it was "Show Racism the Red Card" day, we made red bracelets with powerful messages. In Maths, we practised adding three one-digit numbers by creating a classroom bus and adding passengers to count. In Science, we completed our final lesson on hygiene around the classroom. We explored four different stations: washing hands, cleaning teeth, sneezing, and bathing the baby. We had lots of fun and learned so much while doing it. In both Geography and Science, we completed our end-of-unit quizzes and are excited to move on to our new topics next term. What a lovely last week of term!

**Year 3** - Year 3 are rounding up their learning for this half term with group posters for presenting, final pieces and quizzes. They are having a blast in their French classes as they're learning how to say and sing the alphabet, give and follow classroom instructions and count to 10. Tres bien! In PE they have really progressed in developing their communication skills through problem solving and have absolutely embraced circuits with Miss Haddow. In RE they have really explored and understood the signs and symbols used in Baptism and asked some great questions of Mr Seville in how he prepared and participated in his own sons Baptism. In Geography they are wrapping up their learning by presenting to the class their own research and answers to the question: which natural disaster has the biggest impact? The class really have bounded into this year with so much energy and enthusiasm for their learning - Miss Haddow and Mrs Watkins are having an absolutely great time!

**Year 4**- Last week, the children explored perimeter in Maths and have continued developing their understanding of it this week. In English, they completed their Roman diary entries and have now moved on to creating an informative fact file about Mary Seacole as part of our Black History Month learning. In Science, the class enjoyed making a real-life model of the digestive system to demonstrate how food travels through our bodies. During PE, we've been polishing our football skills and improving our teamwork on the pitch.

**Year 5** - This week in Year 5 has been a dynamic blend of creativity, curiosity, and hands-on learning. In English, pupils have begun exploring biographical writing by delving into the life and legacy of Sir David Attenborough. Through research, discussion, and early drafts, they're uncovering how his passion for nature and storytelling has inspired generations and helped shape public understanding of the natural world. In Maths, we've been investigating multiples, factors, and prime numbers—building strong foundations for number fluency and problem-solving. A major highlight has been the completion of our woodwork project: a 7ft truss bridge! From measuring and cutting timber to assembling each component with care, pupils have worked collaboratively to bring their design to life. Their precision, perseverance, and teamwork have been outstanding, and the finished bridge is a testament to their hard work and engineering thinking.

**Year 6**- Year 6 have had a fantastic couple weeks of learning! In Maths, we've been exploring angles and developing our problem-solving skills. In English, we're enjoying Kensuke's Kingdom and have been busy writing our own exciting versions of the story. Our History lessons have been brought to life as we shared creative homework projects on Crime and Punishment across different eras. In PE, teamwork has been key as we've focused on invasion games, and in DT we had a brilliant whole day of cooking - turning our plans into delicious dishes, from steak and salmon to pineapple cakes and burritos!



### Harvest Festival

What a lovely Harvest Festival we had! Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to attend - it was wonderful to see so many families coming together to celebrate.

A huge well done to all the children for their fantastic performance. They sang and spoke with such confidence and joy - we are incredibly proud of them!

We'd also like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the very generous donations. These will be delivered to the Vinnies Centre, where they will go directly to support those in need in our community.

October 2025 friendly advice and information from Susan Jenkins (Family Support):  
IT Safety Alert: Social Media & Messaging for Children Under 11

With the rise of WhatsApp groups and social media, it's important to remember that most platforms—including WhatsApp, Instagram, and TikTok—are not designed for children under 13. For children under 11, these platforms can pose risks such as exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and privacy issues.

Tips for Kids' Online Safety:

- Keep personal information private: Never share your full name, address, school, or phone number online.
- Only chat with people you know: Don't accept friend requests or join groups with strangers.
- Tell an adult if something feels wrong: If you see or hear anything that makes you uncomfortable, talk to a trusted adult straight away.
- Think before you post: Anything you share online can be seen by others—even if you delete it later.
- Use strong passwords: Don't share your passwords with anyone except your parents or guardians.
- Be kind online: Treat others with respect and report any bullying or mean behaviour.

For Parents:

- Stay informed about the apps your child uses.
- Set clear boundaries for online activities.
- Monitor group chats and social media use.



Top IT Safety Websites for Children's Online Safety

NSPCC - offers guides for parents and teachers on setting up parental controls, starting conversations about online safety, and reporting concerns.

Childnet International- provides resources and presentations for home and school, plus webinars for parents and teachers.

CEOP / Thinkuknow- The National Crime Agency's CEOP has the Thinkuknow programme, with educational resources for all ages and confidential reporting.

Be Internet Awesome (Google) - Interactive games and family guides to help children learn about digital safety and citizenship in a fun way.

## Attendance Matters: A Guide for Parents

### Why Attendance Is Important?

Regular school attendance is essential for your child's success—academically, socially, and emotionally. Everyday counts!

### Key Facts

- Missing just 2 days a month adds up to 18 days a year—that's nearly 10% of the school year.

Students who attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Keep up with their learning
- Develop strong friendships
- Build good habits for future success

### What Happens When Attendance Drops?

- Falling behind in lessons
- Increased stress and anxiety
- Lower grades and reduced confidence
- Risk of not meeting academic milestones

### Common Reasons for Absences

- Illness (keep your child home if they're contagious or very unwell)
- Appointments (try to schedule outside school hours)
- Family holidays (these should be planned during school breaks).

### How You Can Help

- Set a routine: Consistent bedtimes and morning habits make school days smoother.
- Plan: Schedule appointments and trips outside of school hours.
- Stay informed: Know your school's attendance policy and who to contact if your child is absent.

Reach out: If your child is struggling with school, talk to their teacher or support staff.

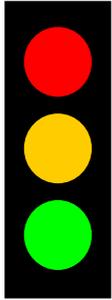
### When Is It Okay to Stay Home?

- Fever, vomiting, or contagious illness
- Doctor's advice to rest
- Bereavement or serious family emergency



## Next Steps

In the new half term, Susan Jenkins, the Attendance Officer will be sending out Traffic Light Letters. These will let you know your child's attendance levels.



Red - Danger Zone - Below 90%

Amber - At Risk Zone - 91%-96%

Green - Safety Zone - 97% - 100%

If your child is below 90% Attendance, you may be contacted by Susan, to see if there are any underlying reasons why it is under 90%. Please don't worry, this is just an informal chat to see if school can support you in any way.

## Unauthorised Leave of Absence

Unauthorised Leave of Absence (ULOA) or Holiday requests are looked at on an individual basis. Requests for ULOA during Term Time, are in the main unauthorised, and your child will be marked as G in the Attendance Register. This will then impact on their overall Attendance. Please always complete the school ULOA form if you are intending to keep your child off for any amount of time. St Catherine's Catholic Primary School will be referring families to the Local Authority who complete this request. Once this process has started, you could be issued with a **FIXED PENALTY NOTICE**.

If you are unsure and need more information, please contact Susan at St Catherine's, or the Access and Inclusion Service: [accessandinclusion@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:accessandinclusion@newcastle.gov.uk)

Susan Jenkins is available Monday through to Thursday to help with any queries or concerns.

Telephone : 0191 2326803 mobile: 0707506221429

email : [susanjenkins@stcatherinesnewcastle.org](mailto:susanjenkins@stcatherinesnewcastle.org)



**Attendance  
Matters**





### *What a Successful Macmillan Coffee Morning!*

Thank you to all the parents who donated cakes, came along to the event, and bought tea, coffee, and cakes. It was a lovely opportunity for parents and children to spend time together.

We are delighted to announce that we raised a fantastic £250.40 ! A huge well done to our Year 6 Faith in Action Team and to Susan Jenkins, our Family Support Advisor, who organised and led the morning.

### Our parish churches

*St Dominic's Catholic Church*, New Bridge Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 2TE

Mass times: Saturday 5.30pm Sunday 10.00am

*Holy Name Jesmond*, 7 North Jesmond Avenue Jesmond Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3JX

Mass Times: Saturday 4.00pm Sunday 10.00am



### Contact Information

Should you have any questions, please contact:

School Office: Mrs Johnson & Mrs Roberts 0191 232 6803

[office@stcatherinesnewcastle.org](mailto:office@stcatherinesnewcastle.org)

Safeguarding Lead: Miss Hoey 0191 232 6803

[office@stcatherinesnewcastle.org](mailto:office@stcatherinesnewcastle.org)

Parent Support Advisor: Susan Jenkins 07506221429

SENCO: Alys Haddow [sendco@stcatherinesnewcastle.org](mailto:sendco@stcatherinesnewcastle.org)