



## St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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

### Upcoming dates

Reception Language Link  
Parent Workshop- 15<sup>th</sup>  
October 9am

MacMillian Coffee  
Morning 16<sup>th</sup> October  
9am

Harvest Festival - 23<sup>rd</sup>  
October 2.30pm Sport  
Hall. All welcome

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 busy week it has turned out to be! We were honoured to welcome special visitors—inspectors from the Diocese—who came to carry out the Catholic Schools Inspection for RE.

I would like to say a huge well done to the children, who shone brightly and truly set the world on fire with their enthusiasm and dedication. I also want to express my sincere gratitude to the parents who took the time to speak to the inspectors and complete the survey—it made a significant difference.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our staff and governors for their hard work, commitment, and unwavering support throughout this process.

We look forward to sharing the inspection report with you in a couple of weeks.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and restful weekend!

Warmest wishes,

Miss Hoey



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Reception- 99.1%

Year 1 - 99.5%

Year 2 - 100%

Year 3 - 100%

Year 4 - 100%

Year 5 - 95.2%

Year 6 - 99.5%

Year 2, Year 3 & Year 4 -  
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

We have had a fantastic start of term with lots of wonder star awards been handed out to the children for living out our SHINE values.

SHINE Star of the Week - Haniya Year 6

Letting your Light Shine Frame - Eddie Mae - Year 1

Reception - Rukaiyah & Noah

Year 1 - Lynn & Rejoice

Year 2 - Frankie & Zia

Year 3 - Anayah & Jacky

Year 4 - Etta & Leo

Year 5 - Lin & Isaac

Year 6 - Zoe and Emma

### St Catherine's Spook Disco

Get ready for some spooky fun! Join us for our Spooky Disco after school on Thursday 23rd October. 🕒 Time: 3:30pm - 4:45 📍 Location: Spoints Hall

Important Information:

- Children must be picked up from class at the end of the school day.
  - All children must be supervised by a parent/carer—no unaccompanied children will be allowed to attend.
  - Children can change into their Halloween costumes after school before the disco begins.
- 🍷 Some light refreshments will be available.



## Our learning



**Nursery**- Nursery began their new RE topic of Belonging. We explored how we feel welcome in the school and at home and made a welcome poster for our classroom. We have carried on learning about feeling welcome, by looking at how babies are welcomed into a family and how we are all part of God's family. Children have talked about their own families and begun thinking about feelings in relation to how they feel about their own families. In Maths we began learning how to compare different groups of objects using language such as more and fewer. We read the book *The Leaf Thief* and went outside to look for clues as to where the leaf thief might be. We also carried on listening for different sounds and matched those sounds to the objects that made them. In Understanding the World we have been using our senses to notice changes in the environment. We have of course had some amazing opportunities to create with autumn colours and objects in our art area. In Literacy we have read the book *Leaf Man* and had a wonderful time making our own leaf men using leaves, sycamore seeds and conkers.

**Reception**- Over the past two weeks, we've had a fantastic time exploring our focus books *Funny Bones* and *Room on the Broom*. In PE, we've continued developing our basic movement skills and have had lots of fun staying active. During Phonics sessions, we've been learning new letter sounds and practising our blending and segmenting skills using magnetic letter boards. In Maths, we've been working hard on subitising and representing numbers in different ways, helping us to strengthen our number sense. The children have enjoyed learning their Harvest song and engaged in a singing lesson with our Music specialist, Caitlin. In Understanding the World, we explored our body parts and reflected on how we have grown and changed. In RE, we began our new topic on Belonging. We discussed the theme of 'welcome' and how we welcome others into our families and into God's family. As part of PSHE, we talked about how each one of us is special and made in God's image. We also took part in a Mental Health Day, learning how to look after our well-being. A real highlight of the fortnight was leading a Stay and Pray Buddy Celebration of the Word with our Year 6 buddies – everyone took part so beautifully, and it was a truly special moment to share together!

**Year 1** - Year 1 have had another amazing week of learning! In English, we started our new book *Where the Wild Things Are* and have loved exploring the story, describing the wild things, and imagining our own magical adventures. In Geography, we began learning about the continents of the world, finding out where we live and discovering the different places around our planet. During RE, we learned about baptism and talked about why it is such an important celebration for Christians. In DT, we had lots of fun testing different fruits, using our senses to describe their taste, texture, and smell. It's been a fantastic week full of curiosity, creativity, and smiles – Year 1 have been amazing yet again!

**Year 2** - Last week was filled with exciting learning activities! In English, we focused on *Shining Write*, where we worked on crafting fantastic stories. For Maths, we practiced using phrases like "greater than," "less than," and "equal to" during a series of fun activities to help understand comparisons. In Geography, we had an interesting discussion about whether we would need a raincoat in the desert, and after thinking it through, we concluded that yes, we would. We then carried out a science experiment to explore whether we all grow the same. By measuring our heights, shoe sizes, and ages, we concluded that we do not all grow the same – we are all unique! Last week in RE, we wrapped up our topic on beginnings and completed our response booklet. In RE, we began exploring baptism with the big question, "Are signs and symbols important?" To bring the lesson to life, we conducted a baptism in the classroom with our baby "Alfie." In Art, we used paint to create a colour wheel, which was a really enjoyable way to end the week! In English, we started the unit *I Am Neil Armstrong*, listening to the song "Man on the Moon" by R.E.M., and even had a little dance to it! We've also begun practicing questioning techniques by conducting interviews with each other, which has been both fun and insightful. Finally, we had a fantastic day on Friday focused on mental health, discussing the importance of looking after our minds, which was a great way to wrap up the week.

**Year 3** - Over the last two weeks Year 3 have kept up their momentum in learning and made some fantastic pieces of work - in school and at home! In Geography they are learning all about our extreme Earth and some of them have been making volcanoes and designing earthquake proof buildings at home. In English we have moved on to learning about the Street beneath our Feet which is a non-fiction text teaching us all about the layers right under our pavements. In RE we have start our unit all about Baptism and why we have certain signs and symbols in this Sacrament; the children really impressed our visitors with their religious literacy. We are still problem solving in PE and learning how our communication skills are transferable between subjects. Keep shining Year 3!

**Year 4** - What a busy two weeks we've had! In maths, we've been on a perimeter hunt, measuring all sorts of shapes and working out the distances around them - rulers at the ready! In English, we travelled back in time to ancient Rome and wrote our very own Roman diaries. Some of us even imagined what it would be like to be in the middle of a gladiator fight - luckily, just on paper! Science had us exploring the wild world of food chains - who eats who and why! In history, we became Roman soldiers, learning all about how the Romans protected their land with walls, forts, and clever tactics. And in French, we've been learning how to tell everyone how we get to school *Je vais à l'école en voiture!*

**Year 5** - Year 5 has been a powerful blend of reflection, discovery, and musical energy. In English, pupils have been exploring the significance of Black History Month by analysing historical speeches and researching inspirational figures whose words and actions have shaped society. Through thoughtful discussion and writing, they've begun to understand the power of language in driving change and celebrating identity. In RE, we've launched our new topic Life Choices, where pupils have started to explore the concepts of commitment and mission. Through stories and real-life examples, they've reflected on what it means to dedicate oneself to a cause or belief, and how personal choices can shape our journey. Music has brought a burst of rhythm and excitement to the classroom as we've travelled through the history of rock 'n' roll. Pupils have been learning to sing and play *Liwin' on a Prayer* by Bon Jovi, discovering how this iconic genre evolved and why it continues to inspire generations. From vocal techniques to instrumental practice, their enthusiasm has been electric!

**Year 6** - The last couple of weeks have been full of brilliant learning in Year 6! We've been completely hooked by *Kensuki's Kingdom*, and the children have produced some fabulous writing inspired by the story. In Maths, we've been exploring different types of angles, and in science we've looked at the effects of smoking and other harmful substances on the body. We also had a fun, practical lesson investigating how exercise affects our heart rate. One of the real highlights was our Buddy Liturgy, where Year 6 truly let their light shine, showing kindness, confidence and care as they supported their Reception buddies so beautifully. It was a wonderful example of our SHINE values in action - living like Jesus, inspiring others, nurturing relationships, and embracing everyone in our school family.

## St Catherine's Family Support and Attendance Advisor

Susan Jenkins is here to support children and families with anything that might be affecting wellbeing, learning, or attendance.

As our Family Support Worker, Susan offers a listening ear and practical help. She can make referrals to services across the city for support with bereavement, mental health and emotional wellbeing (SEMH), housing issues, family challenges, and more. She also helps families navigate meetings and access the right support at the right time.

In her role as Attendance Officer, Susan monitors attendance throughout the year and works closely with families to promote good attendance and punctuality. This includes:

- Traffic light letters sent to all children to highlight attendance levels
- Persistent absentee letters for children with ongoing low attendance
- Punctuality letters to address frequent lateness

🕒 Susan is in school on Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 3pm, but she can be contacted Monday through to Thursday if you need support or advice.

📞 Contact Susan:  
School Office: 0191 232 6803  
Mobile: 07506 221429  
Email: [susanjenkins@stcatherinesnewcastle.org](mailto:susanjenkins@stcatherinesnewcastle.org)



## October friendly advice and support from Susan Jenkins our Family Support

### Staying Safe on Dark Evenings - A Message for Families

As the clocks go back and the evenings grow darker, we want to remind families of some important safety tips to help keep our students safe on their journey home from school.

Whether walking, cycling, or taking public transport, visibility and awareness are key. Please take a moment to review the following advice with your child:

### Walking Home Safely

- Stick to well-lit routes and avoid shortcuts through alleys or poorly lit areas.
- Walk in groups where possible - there's safety in numbers.
- Avoid distractions like phones or headphones so students can stay alert to their surroundings.
- Wear reflective gear - even small reflective strips on coats or bags can make a big difference.
- Carry a torch or use a phone light (safely) to help navigate darker paths.

### Cycling Safety

- Ensure bikes have working front and rear lights.
- Wear a helmet and consider adding reflective tape to clothing and bags.
- Stick to designated cycle paths and obey traffic signals.

### For Parents Driving

- Be extra cautious near school gates and residential areas.
- Watch for children crossing roads, especially in dim light or poor weather.
- Avoid reversing in areas where children may be walking.
- Please remember parents cannot park on the School drive way. This is for health and Safety reasons.

### Emergency Preparedness

- Make sure your child knows who to contact in case of an emergency.
- Consider GPS-enabled devices or smartwatches for younger children.
- Encourage them to check in when they arrive home safely.

We appreciate your support in helping keep our school community safe. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

