



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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

Upcoming dates

Reception visits for 2026-2027 –30th

September 2.00pm and
18th November 10am

Buddy Stay and Pray –
Reception and Year 6 –
2nd October. 9.00am

School Mass – 3rd
October. School Hall. All
welcome.

**Language Link Parent
Workshop**- 15th October
9am

**MacMillian Coffee
Morning** 16th October 9am

Harvest Festival – 23rd
October 2.30pm. Sport
Hall. All welcome



Dear Parents, Carers, and pupils,

We are now halfway through the half term, and it has been wonderful to see so much exciting learning taking place across the school. The lovely weather this week has made it even more enjoyable for the children both in and out of the classroom.

We have lots of upcoming events in the next few weeks, so please keep an eye out for details. It would be fantastic to see as many of you as possible joining us.

Wishing you all a restful and happy weekend.

Warmest wishes,

Miss Hoey

Headteacher



GET INVOLVED



Getting Involved

We value parental partnership and encourage parents and carers to participate in school life whenever possible. Opportunities include volunteering to help on trips, joining the PTA, half termly coffee mornings and attending events throughout the year.

Celebrating Our Community

We want to highlight the achievements and kindness of our pupils. Teachers will nominate children for our weekly Student Spotlight, with special mentions in future newsletters.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Reception- 99.6%

Year 1 - 98.4%

Year 2 – 95.4%

Year 3 – 99.1%

Year 4 – 95.2%

Year 5 – 98.2%

Year 6 – 100%

Year 6- 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 – Charlie

Letting your Light Shine Frame – Jessica

Reception – Aalam & Zainab

Year 1 – Nathan & Athena

Year 2 – Maeve & Ismael

Year 3 – Deborah & Dorathy

Year 4 - Zayn & Joanna

Year 5 – Lexi & Omar

Year 6 – Haniya & Mansukh





Our learning

Nursery- It has been another busy week in Nursery. We have been learning about dinosaurs and found out that humans could not be eaten by dinosaurs as they are now extinct, the children have produced some wonderful writing about dinosaurs in drawing club where they used words such as stomping, swishing and gliding to describe how they moved. In Maths we have learned about matching objects that looked the same together and heard some wonderful stories about odd socks. In RE we have completed our all about me topic by learning the importance of prayer and how to be peaceful and respectful during prayer time. On top of all that we still found time to make banana bread out of fair-trade bananas.

Reception- In literacy, we have explored the stories Little Red Riding Hood and Time for School! No Worries! We have enjoyed celebrating our families and talking about what makes each of us unique. We have also listened to the Bible stories of the Good Samaritan and Calling of the disciples, learning about kindness and caring for others. In Maths, we have been developing our subitising and counting skills through fun activities and games.

Year 1 -Year 1 have had a busy week! In English, we have been writing sentences linked to We're Going on a Bear Hunt, bringing the story to life in our own words. In Maths, we have been practising greater than and less than, using different representations to help us compare numbers. In PSHE, we talked about Fairtrade and why it is important, while in PE we enjoyed playing team games and working together. In Science, we learned about our body parts and their uses, and in Geography we used a compass to explore our school grounds, spotting physical and human features. In RE, we thought about how God shows love in our families, and in DT we had lots of fun chopping fruit as part of our food work.

Year 2 -In English, we have been exploring figurative language, with a particular focus on onomatopoeia. The children enjoyed experimenting with this in their writing. In PE, we have continued our multi skills unit with focus on Netball, learning different types of throws. Next week, we will build on this by developing our catching skills. In our Celebration of the Word, we reflected on the theme of love. The children shared thoughtful prayers for people who are special to them. In Geography, we took on the role of weathermen/ women researching the weather in different countries around the world. This led us to answer our question, 'Does it rain everywhere at the same time?' In Science, we have been, focusing on how different animals grow. We explored the life cycle of a butterfly and compared this to the stages of human growth. In English, we finished reading Little Red Reading Hood, and we have really enjoyed the exciting ending. We are now busy planning and looking forward to completing our Shine and Write pieces.

Year 3 - Year 3 are really finding their stride in adjusting to their new class and Key Stage. They are particularly enjoying their PE units of circuit training and problem solving - both units are really helping them to develop their communication and resilience skills. In Maths the class are using their prior knowledge to support their current learning - how number bonds can be scaled up to make larger numbers. In Art they are really enjoying developing their still life and perspective skills and in Computing they have been learning all about what networks work and the journey a file makes when it is sent. And last but not least they have really shone in English where they are working towards writing their own seasonal poems - watch this space!

Year 4- Year 4 has been full of exciting learning and creativity! In Maths, the children have been stretching their number skills all the way up to 10,000 and they have been busy exploring how to round numbers, while in English they continued writing the adventures of a cheeky dog who just can't stop feasting. Our History lessons took us back to Ancient Rome, where we explored fascinating artifacts and uncovered stories from the past. In DT, the children became chefs and designers, inventing their own soup recipes and packaging—some of which sounded delicious! Finally, in RE we explored Jesus' family tree. In PE, they've been practicing their skills through invasion games, learning how to tackle and defend the ball with growing confidence. Science lessons took a closer look at the different types of teeth we have and their important functions. To round off the week, they discovered the importance of Fairtrade and the positive impact it has around the world.

Year 5 -This week in Year 5 has been a vibrant mix of creativity, curiosity, and teamwork. In English, pupils have begun crafting their own urban legends, stepping into the role of a thane observing the epic clash between Beowulf and Grendel. Their writing brings the legendary battle to life with vivid detail and dramatic tension. In Maths, we've focused on rounding, sharpening our number sense and applying it to solve real-life problems. DT has seen us engineering spaghetti truss bridges, testing strength, stability, and design skills in hands-on challenges. Out in PE, we've put our communication and problem-solving abilities to the test through outdoor and adventurous activities, learning the value of teamwork along the way.

Year 6- Year 6 have been on fire over the last two weeks! In Maths, we've been diving into powers of ten and getting our heads around numbers up to 10,000,000 (yes, million!). For our Shining Write, the children have turned into mini journalists, interviewing staff and prepping to write brilliant biographies that celebrate our school community. In history, we've been comparing crime and punishment from Roman times to the Anglo-Saxons—let's just say things got a bit gruesome! On the football pitch, we've been sharpening our defensive skills, and in PSHE we've been learning how Fairtrade helps make the world a fairer place. We've also spent some lovely time with our Reception buddies, getting ready for next week's Buddy Liturgy. Lots of teamwork, lots of thinking, and lots of heart.

MacMillian Coffee Morning

Join us for a delicious Macmillan Coffee Morning in support of

Date: **Thursday 16th October**

Time: **9am**

Location: **Sports Hall**

Enjoy cakes, coffee, and good company while raising funds for a great cause. All proceeds help support people living with cancer. Everyone is welcome—bring friends and family!

For more details or to donate cakes, please contact Susan Jenkins our Family Support Advisor.



Support!

Harvest Collection by the Mini Vinnies

As the autumn season arrives, we are pleased to announce our annual Harvest Festival and Food Collection. This event has always been a wonderful tradition in our school community, and it is an important way for us all to help those in need.

We kindly invite you and your children to contribute to our Harvest collection, which will support Vinnies Centre. Donations may include tins, jars, packets of food, UHT milk, toiletries, or other non-perishable items. Every donation, big or small, is warmly welcomed and will make a real difference to individuals and families in our community.

Donations can be brought to school and placed in the designated collection boxes in the classroom by 22nd October.

If you wish to participate, your generosity appreciated. Please remember that taking part collection is entirely voluntary.



Parent Workshop Reading at home

We had a wonderful turnout for our Reception and KS1 learning to read meeting.

The parents were all eager participants, learning how children learn to first say and read pure sounds, blend them together using 'Fred Talk' and begin to build up to confident fluent readers.

One of the facts that we can all take away from the meeting is that at five years old a child who is never read to will know 4,622 words a child who is read to 1-2 times a week will know 63,570 words a child who is read to 3-5 times a week will know 169,520 words a child who is read to daily will know 296,600 words and a child who is read to five times a day will know 1,483,300 words.

The most important thing you can do with your child is read with them.

If you missed it and would like to know more, here is the Ruth Miskin parents page.

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parentsandcarers/>



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

Safeguarding Lead: Miss Hoey 0191 232 6803

office@stcatherinesnewcastle.org

Parent Support Advisor: Susan Jenkins 07506221429

SENCO: Alys Haddow sendco@stcatherinesnewcastle.org