



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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

Upcoming dates

National Science Week -
9th-13th March

Language Link Parents
Workshop for Year 3-
Year 6 parents - 11th
March 9am

Spring Disco - 13th
March 3.30-4.30

Glee Performance -
Hosanna 19th March 6pm

SEND support plan
meetings with parents -
16th March - 27th March

18th March Stations of the
Cross at St Dominic's

Year 4 Stations of the
Cross St Mary's
Cathedral - 25th March

Year 5 Residential to
Ford Castle - 25th- 27th
March

Big Lent Walk - 1st April

Easter Raffle - 2nd April

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderfully busy week it has been in school. Thank you so much to all the parents who took the time to attend Parents' Evening. We really appreciate your support and it was lovely to see so many families enjoying looking through their children's books and celebrating their learning and progress.

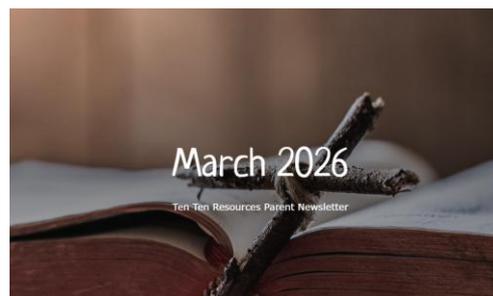
It has also been fantastic to have the Book Fair back in school this week. Thank you to the families who supported it - your encouragement helps us continue to promote a real love of reading across the school.

The highlight of the week was definitely World Book Day. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our World Book Day breakfast; it was so special to see so many families there sharing in the celebration of books. A huge thank you as well to our staff for their brilliant Julia Donaldson-themed costumes and to all the children who dressed up and joined in so enthusiastically. The children had a wonderful day taking part in lots of exciting book-related activities.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you all have a lovely weekend!

Warmest wishes,
Miss Hoey

Ten: Ten Parents
Newsletter
Parent Newsletter





Reception - 95.6%

Year 1 - 94.2%

Year 2 - 90%

Year 3 - 99%

Year 4 - 100%

Year 5 - 99.6%

Year 6 - 98.9%

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

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

SHINE Star of the Week - Anayah Year 3

Letting your Light Shine Frame - Joanne Year 4

Nursery - Matthias & Miriam

Reception - Alyaan & Haniya

Year 1 - Rejoice & Zion

Year 2 - Harley & Ryan

Year 3 - Eunice & Matthias

Year 4 - Charlie & Juana

Year 5 - Abdulmuhjeeb & Isaac

Year 6 - Dorell and Fahmid

We need your help! ❤️

This month, St Catherine's is taking part in the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme. Tesco Stronger Starts supports thousands of local community projects across the UK, and we're delighted to be involved. We are raising money to develop our Early Years Mud Kitchen area, which will provide wonderful hands-on learning opportunities for our children.

If you are shopping in Tesco this month, please remember to pick up a blue token at the checkout and place it in the St Catherine's box. Every token helps and your support really does make a difference. See this video from Jessica Ennis <https://strongerstarts.tesco.com/video/a0e7b1ba-1435-46d1-ac65-9e02b4e35a2c>

These are the following shops that will have our school:

Newcastle Saville Row Express, NE1 8JE

Barrack Road Express, NE1 4BT

Quayside Newcastle Express, NE1 2HF

Newcastle Eldon Express, NE1 5EE

Percy Street Express, NE1 4PW



BID ON A WEEKEND AT FyneFest 2026 for 2 adults! 🍷

We're auctioning off tickets worth approx. £280 to this incredible 3-day festival in the stunning Scottish Highlands (29-31 May 2026)!

- 🎵 Live music
- 🍔 Amazing food & drink
- 🏞 Beautiful Highland setting
- 👨👩👧👦 Family-friendly atmosphere



All proceeds go directly to supporting our school and creating fantastic opportunities for our pupils. Place your bid and don't miss your chance to enjoy an unforgettable festival weekend – all while supporting a great cause!

World Book Day at St Catherine's - What a Story!

What an unforgettable World Book Day we've had at St Catherine's! From the moment the doors opened this morning, our school was buzzing with excitement, imagination and a deep love of reading.

We began the day with our wonderful 'Breakfast and a Book' event, where families joined us to share stories together over breakfast. It was such a lovely way to start the day, and a huge thank you goes to our Year 6 pupils who supported this as part of their Faith in Action work.

Our celebration continued with a fantastic whole-school assembly led by Miss Murray and our brilliant Reading Ambassadors, who inspired everyone to think about the magic of books and storytelling.

Throughout the morning and afternoon, every class took part in our exciting Whole-School Short Story Competition. Pupils across EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2 planned, created and polished their own stories – from imaginative drawings and storytelling in EYFS to carefully crafted narratives in KS2. The focus was simple: creativity, confidence and enjoying the magic of making up your own story.

We also enjoyed themed lunchtime activities in the library led by our Reading Ambassadors, teacher swaps where staff visited different classes to share their favourite stories, and plenty of opportunities for book-inspired artwork. The mysterious Masked Reader videos kept everyone guessing and added even more excitement to the day!

The magic didn't stop there, today we welcomed author Toby Glover into school. From Nursery to Year 6, pupils took part in engaging workshops filled with creativity, laughter and brilliant storytelling tips. It was inspiring for our children to meet a real-life author and see just how exciting writing can be.

A huge thank you to our staff, Reading Ambassadors, families and, of course, our amazing pupils for making the day so special. World Book Day truly reminded us that stories have the power to bring us together, spark our imagination and take us anywhere.





What we have been learning

Nursery - Over the past two weeks, Nursery have been exploring our new topic, the farm. The children learned about what we might see on a farm and discovered that different farms grow and raise different things. We also built our farm vocabulary through the story What the Ladybird Heard Next, enjoying activities such as painting ladybirds, making a snuggly Snerd in story dough and drawing Hefty Hugh and Lanky Len. In maths, the children explored patterns using vocabulary such as zigzag, spiral, wavy, straight and spots. They then practised counting out specific amounts from a larger group, showing great skill in activities like putting two pieces of fruit in a cup or adding three toppings to a pizza. In RE, we began our topic of growing with a nature walk, noticing the flowers beginning to bloom around school.

Reception - Over the past two weeks, Reception have enjoyed exploring the stories Farmer Duck and The Ugly Duckling. In phonics, the children have been practising letter formation and writing simple words. In maths, they have been learning about one more and one less, comparing numbers, subitising and beginning to explore time. In PE, they have been developing their movement skills with our NUFC coach, Evie. In Understanding the World, the children learned about the life cycle of a frog and farm animals. In RE, they explored why people gather together, made Lenten promises and listened to the Easter story. In PSHE, they created family trees and discussed how to show kindness like Jesus. Reception have made the most of the warmer weather by spending lots of time outdoors, and they had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day on Thursday!

Year 1 - This week, Year 1 have had a fantastic time in their learning. In English, we enjoyed reading the story of Little Red Riding Hood and talked about the characters and what happens in the story. In maths, we have been practising our numbers up to 50 and working hard to count, read and write them correctly. In history, we learned about Grace Darling and why she is remembered as a hero for helping to rescue people at sea. In PE, we had lots of fun dancing with the dance coach and learning new moves. In science, we explored light and dark and talked about different sources of light. We also celebrated World Book Day and had the best day sharing our favourite stories and enjoying lots of reading together!

Year 2 - We have been busy with lots of exciting learning. In history, the children explored the Great Fire of London, learning how it started, why it spread so quickly, and how London changed afterwards. They showed great curiosity and enjoyed creating a timeline of events. In science, the class began learning about plants and what they need to grow. They planted cress seeds and will observe how light, water and temperature affect their growth over the coming weeks. In writing, linked to history, the children studied diary entries inspired by Samuel Pepys. They wrote their own first-person accounts of the Great Fire, using conjunctions and descriptive adjectives. In maths, the children focused on measurement, practising how to use rulers and meter sticks, comparing lengths and heights, and solving measurement problems. It has been a busy and productive fortnight, and we are very proud of the children's enthusiasm and engagement.

Year 3 - We have started this half term in Year 3 with busy exploring a fantastic range of learning. In science, they are investigating plants, identifying the different parts and discussing what plants need to grow healthily. In English, the class are enjoying getting creative by writing their own colour poems, using powerful vocabulary and imagery. Our DT sessions introduced key sewing skills, with pupils practising threading needles and practicing their running and cross-stitch. In maths, we continued our work on fractions, gaining confidence with recognising and comparing them. During RE, the children reflected on the theme of listening and sharing and why these values help build strong communities and why they are so important during Mass. We also had a brilliant time celebrating World Book Day - sharing favourite stories, discovering new ones, and even writing imaginative stories of our own!

Year 4 - This week the children learned about column multiplication in maths and practised how to multiply efficiently. In science, they explored electrical circuits and learned what components are needed to make a circuit work. In geography, the class discussed why some countries have limited access to food and water and began to understand the reasons behind these global differences. In PE, we started our dance unit, learning what a canon is and how it can be used in a dance sequence. In English, the children continued their writing based on the book Journey, developing their storytelling and descriptive writing skills.

Year 5 - This week has been full of creativity, curiosity and brilliant effort. In English, pupils wrote imaginative poems inspired by The Highway Rat, using humour and vivid vocabulary to retell the sneaky rat's pastry-stealing adventures. In computing, we began block coding with Micro:bits, and pupils showed great enthusiasm as they experimented with simple algorithms and debugging. In art, we explored the work of sculptor Antony Gormley, with pupils forming thoughtful opinions about his style and the ideas behind his sculptures. Their discussions showed real maturity and insight. Well done, Year 5, for your enthusiasm, creativity and determination. You continue to impress us—keep it up!

Year 6 - Year 6 have had a brilliant and busy week filled with fantastic learning across the curriculum. In English, we have been reading Tyger and using the rich imagery of the text to inspire our own descriptive writing. The children have produced some truly impressive work, carefully crafting atmosphere, character and setting through ambitious vocabulary and thoughtful detail. To deepen our understanding and support our writing, we also researched how tigers are endangered, which helped pupils write with real purpose and awareness.

In maths, we have been sharpening our understanding of decimals and decimal fractions. The class has worked hard to develop fluency and confidence, applying their knowledge to a range of reasoning and problem-solving challenges. In PE, Year 6 have been building their badminton skills, showing great focus and determination as they practised control, accuracy and rallies. We were also proud to support our World Book Day celebrations as part of our Faith in Action work, helping to lead activities and share our love of reading with younger pupils. Alongside this, pupils have continued to work extremely hard in reading and SPaG, showing strong commitment and a positive attitude towards their learning. Well done, Year 6 - keep it up!

Easter Mystery Bags

During this season of Lent, we are taking time to reflect, learn and prepare our hearts as we look forward to the joy of Easter. Please look out for your class's Easter Mystery Bag, which are making their way around classes. If you are able to, we kindly ask that you support your child in taking time to reflect and complete the activities together. Please return the Easter Mystery bag the following day, so that we can share this resource with as many families as possible.



School Council Mother's Day Sale

For our upcoming Mother's Day Sale, the School Council is kindly asking for donations of small gift items. We would greatly appreciate donations such as bubble baths, mugs, candles, bracelets, photo frames, chocolates, or any other suitable Mother's Day gifts. We are collecting items from now. All donated items will be sold during the school day on Friday 13th March. Items will be sold for £1, so children are welcome to bring in money on this date if they would like to purchase a gift. Thank you so much for your continued support - every contribution really does make a difference!



Annual Easter Raffle

Our Mini Vinnies group will be organising a special Easter raffle which will be drawn in the last week of term.

Children are invited to bring in Easter eggs as donations to help make the raffle a success.

From Monday 16th, raffle tickets will be sold on the school yard, giving everyone the chance to win some lovely Easter treats while helping the Mini Vinnies raise money for a good cause. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. 🐣 🍫



Keeping your child safe online - useful website

Children and Phone Safety - NSPCC

The NSPCC's guidance on children, mobile phones and online safety. It addresses one of the most common questions schools are asked: when is a child ready for a phone, and how can families manage the risks?

The guide offers balanced, practical advice on readiness, boundary-setting, parental controls, and ongoing conversations about safe and responsible use. Including or signposting this resource in a parent newsletter can help reinforce consistent messages between home and school, reduce anxiety, and support a shared approach to online safety.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/children-phones-online-safety/>

You won't know 'til you ask (DSIT)

The UK government has launched the 'Kids Online Safety' campaign to help parents and carers support their children to navigate the digital world safely and confidently.

The campaign brings together practical, trusted guidance on how to start meaningful conversations about online life, understand the types of content children may encounter, and build critical thinking skills so young people can question what they see and make safer choices.

It also offers advice on using tools such as parental controls, recognising potential risks, and knowing where to seek help or report concerns. The overall aim is to make online safety an ongoing, open dialogue within families rather than a one-off conversation, helping children feel supported as they explore apps, games and social media.

You can find the resources here:

<https://kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk/>



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