



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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

Upcoming dates

Children's Mental Health week - 11th-15th May

Year 6 SATs week 11th-14th May

Year 2 Stay and Pray - 18th May

Reception visit to Pets corner- 20th May

Cultural Diversity Day 22nd May

Inset Day (school closed to pupils) - 1st June



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed another great week in school, made even brighter by the welcomed sunshine. It has been lovely to see the children enjoying the warmer weather during playtimes and outdoor learning opportunities, creating a real sense of positivity across the school.

A particular highlight this week has been seeing our Year 1 and Year 2 children extend their learning beyond the classroom with visits to two fantastic locations within our local community: Seven Stories and Ouseburn Farm. These visits brought learning to life in such a meaningful way and helped the children to make real connections with their topics. The children were a credit to St Catherine's, demonstrating excellent behaviour, enthusiasm, and curiosity throughout the visits. Thank you to all staff and volunteers who supported these trips and helped to make them such a success.

On Wednesday, we were delighted to come together as a school community to celebrate our patron saint, St Catherine of Siena. It was a truly special occasion and a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the values she inspires in us – faith, compassion, resilience, and a commitment to doing our best for others. We were very grateful to Canon Simon for celebrating such a beautiful Mass with us, and I would like to extend a big thank you to him for joining our celebration. The children played a central role in the Mass, and we were incredibly proud of them all. They read confidently, sang beautifully, and showed great reverence throughout, making the celebration both joyful and meaningful. Moments like these are a powerful reminder of the strong sense of community and shared faith at the heart of St Catherine's. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school. We value the partnership we share with our families and parish, and it is always a pleasure to celebrate these special moments together.

I hope you all have a wonderful, restful, and enjoyable bank holiday weekend, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school next week.

Warmest wishes,

Miss Hoey

Ten: Ten Parents

Newsletter

[Parent Newsletter](#)





Reception - 99.2%

Year 1 - 92.6%

Year 2 - 100%

Year 3 - 99%

Year 4 - 97.5%

Year 5 - 96.3%

Year 6 - 96.8%

Year 2

- Attendance Winners

Attendance below 90% has a drastic effect on academic achievement

91-95% is a cause for concern

96-100% is spot on!



SHINE Assembly

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

SHINE Star of the Week - Frankie Year 2

Letting your Light Shine Frame - Omar Year 5

Nursery - Eliza & Huda

Reception - Aalam & Grace

Year 1 - Ahmed & Ekow

Year 2 - Alayna & Drave

Year 3 - Anayah & Chukwuemeka

Year 4 - Clovis & Jadon

Year 5 - Jack & Olivia

Year 6 - Aloysius & Emma

School Drive - Health & Safety Reminder

We would like to remind parents and carers that parking on the school drive is not permitted during school drop-off and pick-up times. Keeping this area clear is essential to ensure the health and safety of all our children, staff, and visitors. We kindly ask that alternative parking arrangements are used and that everyone takes care around the school site at these busy times. Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support in helping us keep our school community safe.



🎪 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



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!

Our Learning

Nursery - Nursery have had a very busy first two weeks back at school. We have started our topic of 'People Who Help Us' and the children have had a great time finding out about different careers and professions. We linked our topic to the book 'You Can't Call an Elephant in an Emergency' and the children have had a great time thinking up different professions for different animals. In maths we have been learning about patterns and learning how to complete jigsaw puzzles by matching, rotating and flipping pieces over. We have started our new topic of 'Good News' in RE and the children have really enjoyed sharing their own news each day in class. On top of all this we have had some amazing enrichment days, learning about our planet for Earth Day. Learning about England and Spain on St. George's day and finding out how to care like St. Catherine for St. Catherine's day. On top of this we have been busy doing everything we normally do in a day, counting how many children are in, selecting the area in the classroom we want to play in, preparing food for snack time, building up friendships in our indoor and outdoor classrooms and learning to follow rules and routines.

Reception - The children have had a lovely two weeks back at school as we enter our Summer 1 term. In literacy, we have explored the books Katie and the Sunflowers and Bill and Ben, using them to write simple sentences and phrases. In maths, we have been developing our knowledge of teen numbers by recognising and representing numerals up to 20. The children have been exploring addition and subtraction using practical resources and number games. We have also been using mathematical language such as more, fewer and take away. We have enjoyed developing our gross motor skills in our outdoor provision area and during our weekly PE sessions with our NUFC coach, where we have been developing our ball skills. In RE, we have enjoyed starting our new topic, Pentecost. Here, the children have begun to explore what good news is by sharing their own good news with one another. We are enjoying the season of Eastertide and have been talking about things we are thankful for as a class. In our PSHE sessions, we have been talking about how we take care of our bodies on the inside and outside and discussing what we can do if we are feeling poorly. During our Understanding the World sessions, we have enjoyed starting our topic of growing things, exploring what a growing thing is and what plants need to grow. We have also enjoyed celebrating St. Catherine's day, St. George's day, and Earth Day as a class family.

Year 1 - Year 1 has been full of exciting learning and wonderful experiences across many subjects. In maths, we have been developing our understanding of multiplication and division. We have learned how to group objects, share them equally, and use simple number sentences to solve problems. In English, we enjoyed reading *The Queen's Hat*. We explored the story carefully, thinking about the characters and the journey of the hat. We also practised our writing skills by describing events and using our imagination to create our own ideas. In Geography, we learned about the importance of looking after our environment. We discussed littering and recycling, understanding how our actions can make a difference to the world around us. We talked about ways we can help keep our community clean and safe. In Year 1 RE, we explored different holy days and why they are important to people. A special highlight was our visit to church for St Catherine's Day. The children showed great respect and curiosity, making it a meaningful experience for everyone. In design and technology, we learned about wheels and axles. We investigated how they work and used our knowledge to design and make our own moving models. It was fantastic to see the children applying their skills creatively. One of the highlights of the year was our trip to Seven Stories. The children had an amazing time and were fully engaged throughout the visit. Their behaviour was outstanding, and they represented the school brilliantly. Overall, it has been a fantastic two weeks filled with learning, creativity, and memorable experiences.

Year 2 - Over the past two weeks, students have enjoyed being back at school, especially with the sunshine brightening our days. We have begun our new science topic, *Living Things and Their Habitats*, and have loved exploring our outdoor space to link to our key vocabulary. In maths, we have started learning about fractions, connecting our understanding to real-life examples such as pizza and cake. In English, our new story focuses on a young boy named Milo and his adventures. We are excited to plan and write our own "shining write" next week, using our imaginations to create our own adventures inspired by Milo. In RE, we have been learning about Pentecost, focusing on the big question: "Why should we spread good news?" As part of this, we completed a *Celebration of the Word*, reflecting on how the Holy Spirit has guided us in difficult times. Alongside our learning, we were grateful to celebrate several special days in school. For Earth Day, we took part in fun activities focused on sustainability. We also celebrated St George's day and St Catherine's day. We attended Mass at St Dominic's, enjoyed some ice lollies to celebrate the feast day, and completed another *Celebration of the Word*. We reflected on how we can be more like St Catherine and how we can encourage others to follow her example. Well done, Year 2, for continuing to let your light shine!



Year 3 - Year 3 have made a brilliant start to the term and have thrown themselves into every subject with enthusiasm. In English, the children have been crafting their own traditional tales with a twist, showing real creativity and a fantastic grasp of storytelling. This follows on from studying *The Egyptian Cinderella* and really picking apart the key features. In Maths, we've wrapped up our unit on money with great success; practising giving pocket money or working out change at home would help keep these skills sharp as we move on to learning about time next. In Geography, the class have been exploring how jobs have changed over time and learning about the four job sectors – primary, secondary, service and high-tech – and they've loved discussing the jobs their families do and imagining the jobs of the future. In PE, we're focusing on skipping, and the children are making wonderful progress; practising together as a family would be a fun way to build confidence and stamina.

Year 4 - This week we have continued working on fractions in maths. In English, we have finished writing about Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and have started writing a biography about Nikola Tesla. In science, the children have been exploring the different categories that animals can be grouped into. In history, the children have delved into World War I, learning about why the war started and what life in the trenches was like. In PE, they have started Gaelic football and have enjoyed learning a new sport and developing new skills.

Year 5 - In English, Year 5 have been developing their storytelling skills by writing a narrative inspired by the animation *One Small Step*. Pupils explored how to build atmosphere, develop characters and convey emotions through carefully chosen language. They planned and drafted their own stories, showing great creativity and thoughtfulness as they captured moments of tension, determination and hope. Their focus and enthusiasm for bringing the animation to life through words has been fantastic to see.

In maths, we have begun exploring angles. Pupils have been identifying, comparing and reasoning about different types of angles, using accurate mathematical vocabulary to explain their thinking. Year 5 showed confidence as they applied what they know and tackled new challenges, building a strong foundation for future geometry work. Our history lessons have focused on the influence of the early Islamic civilisation. Pupils learned about important achievements in areas such as science, medicine, mathematics and architecture, and discussed why this civilisation was so significant. They demonstrated curiosity and respect as they made links between the past and the world we live in today.

Well done, Year 5, for your excellent effort, positive attitudes and enthusiasm for learning this week. Your curiosity and commitment continue to impress us—keep up the fantastic work!

Year 6 - Year 6 have had a fantastic start to the summer term and have returned to school with a brilliant attitude towards their learning. In maths, the children have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their SATs, showing determination and resilience as they revisit key concepts and practise a range of skills. We are very proud of the focus and maturity they have demonstrated during this important time. In English, we have begun reading *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll, which the children are thoroughly enjoying. Alongside this, they have been exploring the features of a recount, developing their writing skills through engaging and meaningful tasks. In science, our new topic on light has sparked lots of curiosity, particularly when learning about how the eye works. The children even carried out investigations around school, observing how their pupils react in different light environments, which they found fascinating. Year 6 have also been keeping active and making the most of a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom. They have been enjoying their swimming sessions and visits to the library, as well as taking part in Gaelic football, which has been great fun. It has been wonderful to see the children so enthusiastic and positive – they have truly let their light shine!

The Year 1 class really enjoyed their trip to Seven Stories, where they explored the world of books and storytelling. They took part in fun activities, listened to stories, and used their imaginations. It was a great experience that helped build their confidence and love for reading while having fun with their friends



On Tuesday 28th April, Year 2 were very lucky to visit Ouseburn Farm and Seven Stories. We were blessed with beautiful weather, which made for a lovely walk, joined by Year 1. Along the way, we stopped for a biscuit to regain our energy and enjoyed taking in the nature around us in Ouseburn. When we arrived at the farm, we had a fantastic time. We saw cows, goats, rabbits, pigs and many other animals - even snakes! We were very lucky that the staff at Ouseburn Farm kindly allowed us to feed the ducks. At first, we were nervous, but we soon realised how gentle the animals were. Afterwards, we walked to Seven Stories, where we spent time enjoying a range of stories to enhance our love of reading, before heading back for lunch. The children were fantastic throughout the trip - so respectful and polite, and a true credit to our school. Thank you to the parents who came along to help; these trips would not be possible without your support. For families looking for places to visit, both Seven Stories and Ouseburn Farm are wonderful locations and are free to enjoy



St Catherine's Day

On Wednesday, we visited our parish church, St Dominic's, to celebrate St Catherine's day. This was a special opportunity for us to come together and honour our patron saint. The children were incredibly respectful throughout the visit and led a beautiful Mass through their readings and hymns. It was also wonderful to be joined by members of our wider community, making the occasion even more meaningful and reminding us of the strong links between our school and parish. In EYFS, the children enjoyed celebrating St Catherine's day with a class Celebration of the Word, followed by fun role play and crafts to honour St Catherine. The whole school ended the day with a delicious ice lolly, bringing a joyful close to a truly memorable celebration!



🎉 Save the Date - Family Fun Day! 🎉

We are excited to invite all our families to our Annual Family Fun Day on Friday 19th June - a full day of fun, laughter and community spirit!

The day will kick off with Sports Day, followed by a family picnic on the field. In the afternoon, the fun continues with our Summer Fun activities for children and families to enjoy together.

★ Why your support matters ★

This year, our Family Fun Day is also a fundraising event to help us raise money for a brand-new Adventure Playground for our children. Every helping hand, activity run and smile shared brings us one step closer to making this exciting dream a reality!

👥 We need your help! 👥

This fantastic day simply wouldn't be possible without the support of our families. If you are able to help out at any of the activities, please let Mrs Bank or the school office know - your support would be truly appreciated.

We can't wait to celebrate an action-packed, joy-filled day with you all!



Parent Newsletter from Susan Jenkins, Family Support Advisor

School Trips & Parent Volunteers

We are excited to be planning a range of educational school trips for the coming term. These trips support learning in the classroom and provide valuable real-life experiences for our pupils.

To make these trips possible, we rely on the support of parent and carer volunteers to help supervise groups and ensure children remain safe at all times.

What volunteers need to know:

- You may be asked to support a small group of children.
- Previous experience is not required - staff will provide guidance on the day.
- Volunteers must follow school safeguarding and behaviour policies.

If you are able to volunteer for upcoming trips, please contact the school office or your child's class teacher as soon as possible. Your support makes a huge difference and is greatly appreciated. We literally couldn't do without you!

Thank you for continuing to support our school and our children's learning beyond the classroom.

School Uniform Reminder & Donations

Please ensure that all items of school uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name. This helps us return lost items quickly and avoids unnecessary replacements.

If you have any outgrown school uniform that is still in good, clean condition, we would be very grateful if you could donate it to the school. Donated items help support families within our school community and reduce waste.

Uniform donations can be handed in to the school office. Thank you for your continued support.

Attendance and Punctuality Matter

Good attendance and punctuality are essential for your child's learning, wellbeing, and overall success at school. Being in school every day helps children build strong routines, develop friendships, and make the best possible progress.

Arriving on time is just as important. Children who arrive late can miss vital instructions at the start of the day and this can impact their confidence and learning.

We understand that occasional absences are unavoidable; however, we kindly ask families to:

- Ensure children attend school every day where possible
- Arrive on time and ready to learn
- Inform the school office promptly if your child is absent


We understand that our Early Years children in Nursery and Reception may not be of school age, which is 5, however here at St Catherine's we promote good routines at an early age.

Thank you for your continued support in helping all our pupils achieve their full potential.


Reading Character Competition Year 5

Well done to the six children who won the National Reading Character Competition at Jesmond Library. With over 50 entries, this is a fantastic achievement. Well done! We hope you enjoy reading your new book, which was your prize from Jesmond Library. Thank you to Jesmond Library for their ongoing partnership and support of reading.

National Year of Reading—March 2026 Challenge
#BookCharacter



Character's name: *Hafliid neary*
Book Title: *Hafliid neary*



Drawing by: *B0195* Age: *9*

National Year of Reading—March 2026 Challenge
#BookCharacter




Character's name: *Melita*
Book Title: *Melita by Roald Dahl.*




Drawing by: *Sahasya* Age: *10*

National Year of Reading—March 2026 Challenge
#BookCharacter



Character's name: *witch's dog*
Book Title: *witch's dog*



Drawing by: *zimo* Age: *7*

National Year of Reading—March 2026 Challenge
#BookCharacter




Character's name: *aight*
Book Title: *Wishes*




Drawing by: *addy* Age: *10*

National Year of Reading—March 2026 Challenge
#BookCharacter



Character's name: *Harry*
Book Title: *Harry Potter*




Drawing by: *OPAS* Age: *10*
St Catherine catholic Primary School

National Year of Reading—March 2026 Challenge
#BookCharacter



Character's name: *comic animal, hunt for charlie, Gooz*
Book Title:



Drawing by: *Handa* Age: *10*

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

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Safeguarding Lead: Miss Hoey 0191 232 6803

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Parent Support Advisor: Susan Jenkins 07506221429

SENCO: Alys Haddow sendco@stcatherinesnewcastle.org