



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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

Upcoming dates

Key Stage 2 Trip to
Heaton Park - 7th
July

Key Stage 1 Trip to
Heaton Park 8th July

Nursery Sport Day
and Graduation - 8th
July 1.30

Transition morning -
10th July

Leavers Mass St
Dominic's 10am 15th
July

Leavers Assembly -
9am 16th July



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another wonderful week in school. The children have continued to enjoy lots of exciting learning experiences as they come towards the end of their curriculum for this academic year.

Year 6 have had an absolutely fantastic time on their residential visit to the Lake District. They have taken part in a wide range of adventurous activities, including mountain climbing, swimming in the lakes, ghyll scrambling, wall climbing and even the trapeze. They have been an absolute credit to the school all week, showing outstanding behaviour, resilience and teamwork—well done, Year 6, we are very proud of you!

Reception had a lovely day at Northumberland Zoo, where they enjoyed seeing the animals up close and spending time together having lots of fun. Nursery also had a fantastic morning at Jesmond Dene. They did incredibly well on their long walk and were so excited to see the animals—it was a real treat for them all.

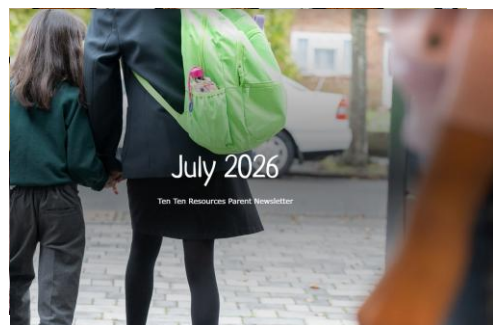
A huge thank you to all of our staff for organising these valuable experiences, which help to enrich the children's learning and create such special memories. Thank you also to the parents who kindly gave their time to support the trips—it is very much appreciated.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend. With only two weeks left of term, we have lots of exciting activities ahead—please do check the newsletter carefully for key dates and events.

Warmest wishes,

Miss Hoey

Ten: Ten Parents
Newsletter
Parent Newsletter





Reception - 98.4%

Year 1 - 99.4%

Year 2 - 100%

Year 3 - 95.5%

Year 4 - 98%

Year 5 - 98.5%

Year 6 - 98.9%

- Attendance Winners

Year 2

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 - Mason Year 2

Letting your Light Shine Frame - Borys Y5

Reception - Zainab & Aiveen

Year 1 - Lynn & Mia

Year 2 - Mohammed & Modawi

Year 3 - Anayah & Matthias

Year 4 - Charlie & Zaviyar

Year 5 - Sargundee & Abdulmuhjeeb



Staffing for 26-27

Nursery - Mrs Craggs and Mrs Terpsiadow/Mrs Langlands

Reception - Ms Calvert and Mrs Nixon

Year 1 - Ms Barnes and Mrs Kearns

Year 2 - Ms Lamb and Mrs Philips

Year 3 - Mrs Ahmed (4 days) Mrs Banks (1 day)

Year 4 - Ms Kalsi and Mrs Banks

Year 5 - Ms Murray and Mrs Behrendt

Year 6 - Ms Thomas and Mrs Watkins

Thank you to everyone for your fantastic support at our Family Fun Day. Together we raised just over £1200!

This generous contribution will go towards our new adventure playground and will also help cover the cost of the Year 6 residential bus, which was £1200.

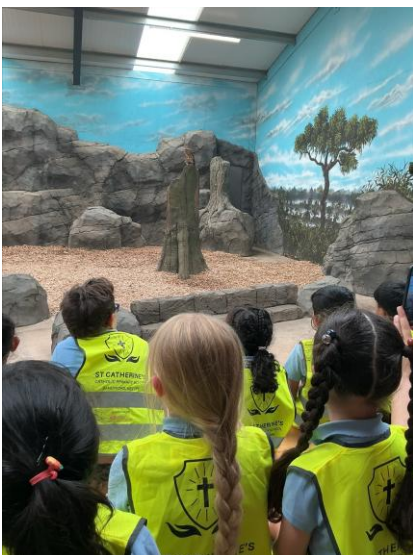
We are so grateful for the continued support of our school community.

Thank
You

Today our Trust appointed, NHS Speech and Language therapist Gemma East came in to talk a little bit more about the importance of language at home. She explained how narrating what your child is doing allows them to build up a great bank of vocabulary whilst also experiencing actions whilst you name them - for example, your child might know what a carrot is, but chopping, peeling or dicing a carrot can be harder to explain if you don't act it out. Gemma also explained what is included in these amazing free Bookstart packs for all of our nursery children - a lovely opportunity to sit down and enjoy some stories and activities with your child. There is also some extra information in there about activities you can access online.



On Wednesday Reception had a wonderful day at Northumberland Zoo! We enjoyed seeing lots of different animals, watched a brilliant bird of prey show, took part in a workshop all about different habitats and another one about monkeys. Everyone had fun exploring the adventure playground and the soft play too! Thank you to our wonderful parent helpers for supporting us through the day.



What we have been learning

Nursery - Nursery have had another two busy weeks. We have been learning all about our wonderful world and how to look after it, by not wasting water and picking up litter. The children have also noticed how hot it is at the minute and we talked about how it is due to the polar caps melting related to our book Boogie Bear. In maths we have been busy learning lots of counting rules including such as saying a number name for each item, knowing when to stop and that how many means the last number counted. In RE we learned about Islam and the children looked at prayer mats and some of their friends explained to them how their mummies and daddies pray at home. We have now moved onto our universal church topic where we are finding out about children in different places of the world and how they have to walk a long way to find water.

Reception - Over the last fortnight, Reception have been busy taking part in a variety of exciting learning activities inspired by our class texts, The Singing Mermaid and Popeye. Through daily phonics lessons and a range of literacy challenges, the children have continued to strengthen their reading and writing skills while exploring stories, characters and settings through both independent and teacher-led activities. In maths, the children have been learning about positional language and have enjoyed revisiting and applying many of the mathematical concepts covered throughout the year through practical, hands-on experiences and games. As part of our Understanding the World learning, we have been discovering more about oceans and marine life. The children discussed the importance of looking after our seas, created a variety of sea-themed crafts and enjoyed sharing stories and non-fiction books about creatures that live underwater. In RE, the children have been learning about Islam, exploring special belongings that are meaningful to them and finding out about the significance of prayer mats. We also began our new topic, Our World, where the children reflected on the many wonderful things they appreciate about God's world. In PSHE, we have focused on God's love and care for everyone through the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000, while also developing our understanding of the Holy Trinity. Alongside this, the children have continued to enjoy music, storytelling, outdoor learning and opportunities to develop their physical skills. A particular highlight was our visit to Northumberland Zoo, where the children represented the school brilliantly. They demonstrated kindness, curiosity and excellent behaviour throughout the day, making us extremely proud. As the school year comes to an end, we are so proud of everything the children have achieved and the progress they have made. It has been a joy to watch their confidence, independence and enthusiasm for learning grow throughout the year. Mrs Nixon and I have absolutely loved spending this year with such a wonderful class, and it has been incredible to see each child flourish in their own unique way. Thank you for all of your support throughout the year. We wish the children every happiness and success as they take their next exciting steps into Year 1!

Year 1 - This week, the children have reflected on all the wonderful learning they have completed throughout Year 1. In maths, they have developed their understanding of money by recognising coins and notes, adding amounts together and finding simple change. They have also learned to tell the time to the hour and half past the hour. In English, the children enjoyed reading Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers and used the story as inspiration to write their own imaginative narratives, thinking carefully about characters, settings and story structure. In history, they compared the lives and reigns of Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria, exploring similarities and differences between the two monarchs. In art, the children designed and created clay crowns, using a range of sculpting and decorating techniques. In RE, they explored the theme of neighbours, learning about kindness, respect and how people can care for others in their communities. In PE, they developed their multi-skills through activities that improved their balance, coordination, agility, throwing, catching and teamwork. The children should be very proud of everything they have achieved this year and are well prepared for the exciting challenges of Year 2.

Year 2 - I can't believe we have nearly reached the end of another academic year already! I am incredibly proud of all the Year 2 children and everything they have achieved this year. They have worked so hard, shown fantastic resilience and enthusiasm and have grown in so many ways both academically and personally.

The last few weeks have been filled with wonderful memories, including the summer fair and sports day and we are looking forward to creating more memories with our end of year Mass, talent shows and our fantastic KS1 trip to Heaton Park. It is certainly going to be a busy end to the term but it has also been a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the many successes and achievements of the children.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support throughout the year. We wish everyone a safe, happy and well-deserved summer break. Enjoy the holidays (when they come) and we look forward to hearing about your adventures in September!

Year 3 - In maths, the children have been working on statistics, learning how to read and interpret different charts and graphs, and revisiting fractions to strengthen their confidence before the end of term. They've enjoyed spotting patterns, comparing data, and explaining what the information shows. In English, we've finished our How to Grow a Strong Mind unit and have moved on to our final text, Star in the Jar - a gentle, thoughtful story with a lovely message about friendship, kindness, and looking after the people we care about. The children seemed to understand the importance - and more importantly, learned the skills - of how to grow a strong mind themselves. Our science lessons have been full of curiosity as we explore our food science unit, looking at everything from taste buds to edible plants to healthy eating. The children have loved the practical elements and have asked brilliant questions throughout.

In DT, the children have designed their own castles and are now incredibly excited to begin building them this week and next. Their designs show real imagination and a strong understanding of the key features - with some extra flare and personality thrown in for good measure! PE has been going brilliantly, with the class enjoying both rounders and gymnastics. Their teamwork, confidence, and resilience have really developed this year.

In history, we are wrapping up our unit on the Tudors - a topic the children have absolutely loved. They've been fascinated by Tudor life, the extensive family tree, and the dramatic events of the Wars of the Roses. Their enthusiasm has been wonderful to see and the trip was such a wonderful day for all. In RE, our Islam week was fantastic. The children learned all about the Mosque, exploring its features, purpose, and importance within the Muslim community. They asked thoughtful questions and showed great respect and curiosity. They now move on to their final unit, looking at special places around the world, which will give them a chance to compare and reflect on different beliefs and traditions. Reading has been a real strong point in this class, especially this last term. So many children have made great progress and moved up through the levels - thank you for all the support and all the reading you do at home. It makes such a difference. They have been a phenomenal class in so many ways, and I feel very lucky that they have been my last.



Year 4 - This week, the children have been busy across the curriculum. In maths, they have moved on to learning about shapes, with a focus on identifying and understanding different angles. In art, they have enjoyed painting their clay monsters and will soon begin evaluating their work. In English, the children have completed their shining write, a balanced argument discussing whether children under 13 should have social media and have now started writing a non-chronological report about dragons. In geography, they are continuing to explore land use and have developed a good understanding of how land is used in our local area. In PE, the children have finished their dodgeball unit and have now begun learning rounders, developing their teamwork and game skills.

Year 5 - In English, Year 5 have been completing their *Transmissions* unit, building on their skills as writers by exploring a range of narrative techniques. Pupils have focused on developing engaging characters, creating atmosphere and using ambitious vocabulary to capture the reader's attention. They showed great creativity and resilience as they planned, drafted and refined their writing, producing work that they are proud of. In maths, we have been exploring units of measure. Pupils have been converting between different units and applying their understanding to solve a range of practical problems. They have demonstrated excellent reasoning skills, using mathematical vocabulary confidently to explain their methods and justify their answers. Our Geography lessons have focused on biomes. Pupils have been exploring the characteristics of different biomes around the world, including their climates, vegetation and wildlife. They showed curiosity and enthusiasm as they compared environments and considered how physical geography influences the way living things adapt and survive. 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 have had the most incredible week on residential at Brathay Hall! We began our adventure with a hike and scramble climb up Todd Crag, where the children showed amazing determination and teamwork from the very start. Throughout the week, they have canoed on a very windy Lake Windermere, braved jetty jumping, taken on the high challenge course, enjoyed swimming in the lake and had an amazing time ghyll scrambling - climbing, scrambling and making their way through the water together! We also completed a huge hike to the 335m summit of Loughrigg Fell, walking across the peaks, back via Todd Crag and returning to Brathay after an incredible 16km and over 24,000 steps. We even squeezed in a visit to Grasmere to sample its world-famous gingerbread! The children have been absolutely amazing throughout the whole week - supporting and encouraging one another, facing every challenge with courage and making memories that we know will last a lifetime. We could not be prouder of them!





Nursery had a fantastic time on their trip to Jesmond Dene Pets corner. This trip was linked to our topic of 'Our Wonderful World' the children spent their time looking at different parts of the world around them on the way. We also got the opportunity to see some animals from different places, such as peacocks and parrots, although the children seemed to like the pigeons the best. We also got to work on our physical development skills by walking there and back and climbing on the park equipment. By the end of the morning the children were all exhausted, but were impeccably behaved throughout. We even met a lady whose dad used to be the headteacher at St Catherine's a very long time ago.

St Catherine's football team, made up of seven Year 5 boys, proudly represented the school in the Catholic Schools Cup, a competition that has been running for an incredible 32 years. Mr Seville even has fond memories of the tournament, having won the cup himself when he was in primary school! Despite competing against Year 6 pupils, our team showed tremendous heart, determination and sportsmanship throughout the competition. As their first tournament together, the boys worked brilliantly as a team, encouraging one another and never giving up, even when faced with tough opposition. Their effort, resilience and positive attitude made everyone at St Catherine's incredibly proud, and they should be delighted with how they represented the school. Well done, boys!



Warm Weather & Water Safety Newsletter

Keeping Our Children Safe During Hot Days

Dear Parents and Carers,

With warmer weather arriving, we are enjoying more outdoor learning and play. We would like to share some important information to help keep all children safe, hydrated, and prepared for higher temperatures—and to provide guidance around cold water swimming, which some families may consider during the summer months.



Staying Safe in Hot Weather

During hot days, children can become dehydrated or overheated more quickly than adults. To help keep everyone comfortable and safe:



What we are doing in school:

- Encouraging regular drinks of water
- Providing shaded areas during playtimes
- Adjusting activities to avoid the hottest parts of the day
- Promoting sun safety awareness



How you can help:

- Send your child with a named water bottle every day
- Ensure they wear lightweight, breathable clothing
- Apply high-factor sunscreen before school
- Provide a sun hat or cap



Cold Water Swimming - What Parents Should Know

With rising temperatures, outdoor swimming in lakes, rivers, and the sea becomes more appealing. While it can be enjoyable and beneficial, it is important to understand both the advantages and risks—especially for children.



Potential Benefits of Cold Water Swimming

- Can improve mood and wellbeing
- May boost circulation and alertness
- Offers opportunities for outdoor activity and family fun
- Helps children develop confidence in water (under supervision)



Safety Tips for Families

If you do choose to take part in outdoor swimming:

- Always ensure close adult supervision
- Encourage children to enter the water slowly, not jump straight in
- Use designated safe areas or lifeguarded locations wherever possible
- Avoid swimming alone
- Consider buoyancy aids or wetsuits
- Teach children to recognise when they are feeling too cold
- Dry off and warm up immediately after leaving the water

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

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NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE GAA FAMILY FUN DAY

A DAY OF FUN, GAMES & COMMUNITY
FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

**DATE & TIME**
Sunday 5th July 2026
10:00 – 14:00

**LOCATION**
Amberley Park,
Killingworth, NE12 6SE

COME ALONG AND ENJOY:

- Introduction to GAA games, including basic skills
- Fun games, challenges & matches
- Previous attendance not essential
- **Beginners welcome!**

ALSO ON THE DAY:

- Bouncy Castle
- Face Painting
- Magician/Balloon Artist
- Music
- Food & Drink for Participants

**TIME:**
10:00 – 14:00
Don't miss it!
See you there!

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Fun • Friends • Community
Memories that last!

**BRING THE FAMILY
AND A BIG SMILE!**
Let's finish the summer
with a bang!

**REGISTER:**
NewcastleGAA.eventbrite.com

CONTACT
Newcastle Upon Tyne GAA:
ChildrensOfficer.cuchulainns.yorkshire@gaa.ie


@NEWCASTLEUPONTYNEGAA

*Growing Gaelic Games Across
the Northeast*