



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to all our children and families as we begin the 2026-2027 school year.

It has been wonderful to see our school filled with smiling faces, excitement and enthusiasm once again. The children have made an excellent start to the year, embracing their new learning opportunities and settling confidently into their new classes and routines. We are incredibly proud of how positive, resilient and eager they have been during these first few weeks.

This term promises to be a busy and exciting one, with lots of special events and opportunities for children to enjoy. Please take a look at the dates below to see what is coming up over the next few months.

At St Catherine's, we know that the strongest support for children comes when school and home work together. We look forward to continuing our close partnership with you throughout the year and sharing in your children's successes, achievements and growth.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are excited for the year ahead and all that we will achieve together.

Warmest wishes.

Miss Hoey
Headteacher

Ten Ten Parents Newsletter
Parent Newsletter





Reception - 82.7%

Year 1 - 87.6%

Year 2 - 98.5%

Year 3 - 89.1%

Year 4 - 93.5%

Year 5 - 100%

Year 6 - 97.7%

- Attendance Winners

Year 5

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 - Zahra Year 6

Letting your Light Shine Frame - Nathaniel Year 1

Nursery - The Whole Class

Year 1 - Zainab & Aarham

Year 2 - Eadie-mae & Ekow

Year 3 - Frankie & Drave

Year 4 - Awo & Seraphina

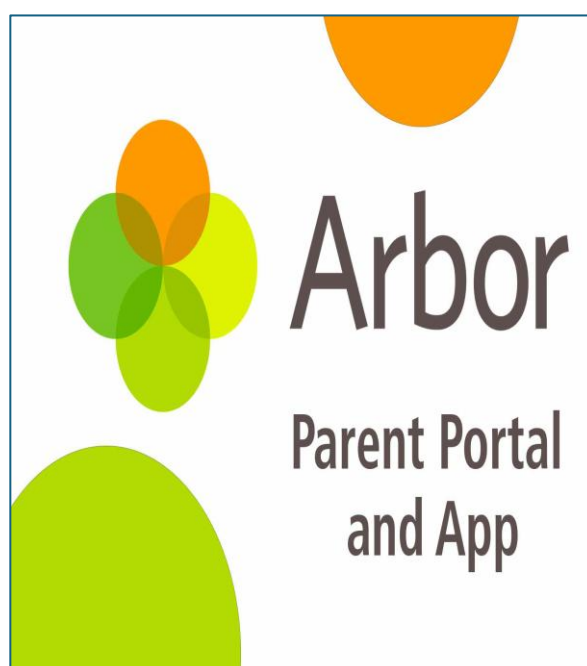
Year 5 - Alaiza & Leo

Year 6 - Borys & Abdulmuhjeeb

As we move towards September, Arbor App will become our main method of communication with families. To ensure you receive important updates, messages and notifications from school, please make sure that app notifications are switched on within the Arbor app.

Arbor is a very effective communication system and allows us to see when messages have not been read. We therefore ask that you regularly check the app and keep up to date with any messages sent by the school.

If you have any questions or need assistance with Arbor, please contact the School Office, who will be happy to help.



Reminder you can order school meals on Arbor at home

Using Arbor, you can now order your child's school meals for up to five days in advance. This will help us ensure that meals are prepared efficiently and that your child receives their preferred choice each day, you can even choose packed lunch. There are 4 options- meat option (hot meal 1), vegetarian option (hot meal 2), tomato pasta with cheese or baked potato with cheese, tuna or beans.

We encourage you to make meal ordering part of your daily or weekly routine at home and involve your child in choosing their meals. This is a great opportunity for children to discuss their preferences and make informed choices about their lunch options.

Please remember to log in to Arbor regularly and place your orders in advance.



Upcoming dates

RWI Reception Parents Meeting - 14th September 9am

Year 5 Bikeability 14th and 16th September

Year 4 Bikeability 15th September

Football trials Year 5&6 - 15th September

Nursery Teddy Toddle - 15th September

Sponsored Walk- 18th September

Fair Trade Fortnight - 21st Sept - 2nd Oct

Recycle Week - 21st - 25th September

Year 6 Macmillan Coffee Morning 22nd September 8.10-8.40am

RISE parents Workshop - 23rd September 2.15pm

Flu Vaccinations - 25th September

Year 6 Trip - 29th September

Year 5 Trip - 2nd October

Year 4 Trip - 7th October

Rec and Year 6 Buddy Stay and Pray 8th October 9am

Year 1 Trip - 19th October

Harvest Festival - 22nd October 2pm Sports Hall

School Disco 22nd October 3.30-4.30

Parents Evening 4th Nov and 10th Nov

School Book Fair 4th Nov- 10th Nov



🚫 NUT-FREE SCHOOL REMINDER 🚫

To help keep all of our children safe, St Catherine's School is a Nut-Free School.

Please do not send any foods containing nuts into school, including:

- 🥜 Peanuts
- 🥜 Tree nuts (such as almonds, hazelnuts, cashews, walnuts, and pistachios)
- 🥜 Nut-based spreads (including peanut butter and chocolate spreads containing nuts)
- 🥜 Cereal bars, cakes, biscuits, or snacks that contain nuts

Please check all packed lunches and snacks carefully before sending them to school.

Some of our pupils have severe nut allergies, and even small amounts of nuts can cause a serious allergic reaction.

✅ Please choose nut-free alternatives for lunches and snacks.

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us provide a safe environment for all children.



ST CATHERINE'S

ST CATHERINE'S
BIG
SPONSORED WALK

Our Sponsored Walk is back!

Friday 18th September 2026 - 9:00am

The 10 Sponsor Challenge!

Can you get 10 people to sponsor you?

WHY YOUR SPONSORSHIP MATTERS

Every penny raised goes straight back to our children through class funds.

This helps pay for wonderful **treats**, exciting **resources**, memorable **experiences** and support towards **school trips**.

Parents & carers - please take the sponsor form to work too!

What We Have Been Learning

Here is a look at the key ideas and skills we have explored together.

Nursery- Nursery have settled quickly into St Catherine's. We have had a wonderful week and a half getting to know all the children and they have been busy getting to know the routines and the other children. In the past week and a half they have learned how to line up in the yard to come in, sit on the carpet sensibly, and say please and thank you during snack time. We are very proud with all that our Nursery children have achieved so far and look forward to seeing how much they grow as the year goes on.

Reception - Reception have had a fantastic time getting to know each other and our classroom. We have enjoyed learning how to use both our indoor and outdoor learning environments and have settled in brilliantly. We have started our new RE topic, 'Creation and Covenant', by exploring what we already know about God's beautiful world. The children have also enjoyed participating in class worship, focusing on God's love and kindness. In PSHE, we have been learning about following school rules and discussing how we all belong to the St Catherine's Primary School family. In Understanding the World, we have begun our topic, 'All About Me', where we have enjoyed talking about our families and sharing information about ourselves. This has been a wonderful way for the children to get to know one another and build new friendships. We are very proud of how well the children have settled into Reception and look forward to all the exciting learning ahead!

Year 1 - What a fantastic first week we have had in Year 1! The children have settled brilliantly into their new classroom routines and have made an excellent start to the school year. Alongside beginning their formal learning, they have continued to develop important skills through play, exploring and learning together. In maths, we have been using a range of practical manipulatives to help us understand numbers and build confidence. In English, we have enjoyed reading Ruby's Worry and have been thinking of exciting words to describe the characters and their feelings. Our science learning has focused on animals, while in history we have begun exploring old and new toys and how they have changed over time. The children also enjoyed taking part in a creative workshop with Art K and have started developing their artistic skills. In computing, we have been practising our mouse skills, and in PE we have been developing our ball skills through fun games and activities. I am incredibly proud of how well every child has started Year 1—they have shown enthusiasm, kindness, and a real willingness to learn. We are looking forward to another exciting week ahead!

Year 2 - Year 2 have had a lovely first two weeks back! We have welcomed some new friends into our class and have jumped straight into lots of exciting new learning. In science, we have been investigating the question, "Do we all grow the same?" We made some predictions, explored our ideas and concluded that we do not all grow in the same way. It has been fantastic to see the children sharing their thoughts and observations. In history, we have started learning about some of the most famous and fantastic explorers from the past. We are already enjoying finding out about their incredible journeys and discoveries. In English, we have started reading the fantastic book Little Red Reading Hood. We have been using the story to inspire our own ideas and are beginning to develop some fantastic ideas for our own writing. In RE, we are exploring our Covenant and Creation branch. We have enjoyed some lovely lessons as part of the new curriculum, including creating our own hope rainbows and thinking about what hope means to us. It has been a wonderful start to the new school year, and we are so excited for all the learning, adventures and fun still to come!

Year 3- Year 3 have settled in incredibly well, beautifully following our classroom routines and rules. This week, they started their exciting new units of work, including mastering balances in PE and exploring nutrients in science. In art, we have been looking at surrealism and even had a go at creating our own surrealist imitations! The children have returned with a wonderfully mature attitude toward their learning and are showing great care and kindness to their friends

Year 4 - The children have settled into Year 4 really well and are becoming increasingly familiar with the routines and expectations of the classroom. They have shown great enthusiasm for their learning, worked hard to build positive relationships with their classmates, and have adapted well to the new challenges of the year group. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow already, and they should be very proud of the effort and maturity they have shown during their first few days in Year 4. This week in Year 4, the children have been learning about numbers to 1,000, including how to represent and partition them. In science, they have been exploring the digestive system, while in history they have begun learning about the Ancient Greeks. In English, the children are using the Disney short film *Feast* as inspiration for writing a narrative. In RE, we have started our Creation and Covenant topic, exploring what these concepts mean and applying them to biblical scriptures. In PE, the children have been developing their balance, running and agility through fundamental movement activities. The children have settled in brilliantly and are beginning to adjust well to the routines of Year 4. We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead! We are looking forward to an exciting year full of learning, new experiences and opportunities for everyone to succeed.

Year 5 - What a brilliant start to Year 5! The children have settled in amazingly well and have already thrown themselves into everything we have been doing. We have certainly hit the ground running! In science, we have been exploring the properties of materials and became scientists ourselves during our dissolving experiment. We have been keeping very active too, with skipping and fitness challenges in PE, as well as starting our swimming sessions. In maths, we have been tackling some BIG numbers - all the way up to 1,000,000! We have also begun our new English unit, *Lights on Cotton Rock*, which has already sparked lots of curiosity and imagination. I have been so impressed by the enthusiasm, hard work and fantastic attitudes the children have shown already. Year 5 is off to a flying start, and I can't wait to see what we achieve together this year!

Year 6 - Year 6 have made an excellent start to the new school year and have been fantastic role models for the rest of the school. The first two weeks have been really positive, with the children settling quickly into routines and demonstrating great efforts and curiosity towards their learning. In Mathematics, pupils have been developing their understanding of place value, while in English they have explored their new narrative unit based on *Kensuke's Kingdom*. The children have also engaged well with their history topic on Crime and Punishment through the Ages, where they have already compared some of the gruesome punishments used during the Roman and Anglo-Saxon eras. In science, Year 6 have started their learning on Evolution and Inheritance and are looking forward to their upcoming visit to the Great North Museum, which will help deepen and consolidate their scientific understanding. Well done, Year 6, on such a brilliant start to the year!

1. Key Concepts



- We explored the main ideas and how they connect.
- We identified important vocabulary.
- We deepened our understanding through

2. Skills Developed



- We practiced critical thinking.
- We solved problems in different ways.
- We improved our collaboration and communication.

3. Applications



- We applied what we learned to real-life situations.
- We made connections across topics.
- We saw how our learning can be used

Welcome Back from Susan Jenkins Family Support Advisor

A Fresh Start

The beginning of a new school year is always an exciting time. Children have settled into their new classes, met their teachers, and are beginning to establish routines that will support their learning and personal development throughout the year.

Our staff have been busy preparing engaging lessons and exciting opportunities for all pupils. We are committed to helping every child achieve their very best, both academically and personally.

Attendance Matters

Good attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's success at school. Every day in school counts, and regular attendance helps children build confidence, maintain friendships, and make the most of their learning opportunities.

We ask all families to support us by ensuring children attend school every day unless they are genuinely unwell.

As outlined in recent Government guidance, requests for leave of absence during term time will be considered carefully and on an individual basis. We encourage all families to arrange holidays during school holiday periods wherever possible.

Communication

We believe strong partnerships between home and school are essential. Throughout the year we will keep you informed through Arbor with newsletters, emails, text messages, and our website/social media channels.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher, the school office or Susan Jenkins our Parent Support Worker, we are always happy to help.

Uniform and Equipment

Thank you for helping children return to school looking smart and ready to learn. Please ensure that:

- All uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Appropriate footwear - black school shoes are worn every day.
- Water bottles are brought to school daily.
- Please send your child in their PE kit on their PE day.



Working Together

Our school values of kindness, respect, resilience, and aspiration continue to be at the heart of everything we do. We look forward to working together with you to make this another successful and memorable year for all our children.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Susan Jenkins

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: Ms Thomas sendco@stcatherinesnewcastle.org