

'Be who God wants you to be and so set the world on fire.'

St. Catherine's Newsletter: Spring 1 Term 2022



A Message From Miss Quiligotti

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a wonderful start to 2023 at St. Catherine's and we can't believe how much we've packed into this calendar year already. Our Core Value of Perseverance has been a key focus this half-term and our children have looked into the stories of other people who have persevered and showed their strength and resilience. The children even got to see my sky dive video from last summer and our Quiligotti family trip to The Cube in Manchester to show some true perseverance in action!

Our children led a beautiful Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany during our first week back at school this half-term and each child thought of what gift they would like to present to baby Jesus. Each class then formed a class gift, made up of all of their ideas and presented them during our Epiphany Mass. It was a beautiful way to continue our Christmas celebrations.

We've had a number of exciting theme days and weeks so far this year already too.

Thank you to all of our wonderful parents who came into school on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) day to work with our children. They had such a wonderful and exciting day and your support and efforts with this were fantastic – thank you!

Our children have learnt all about the faith of Hinduism during our school 'Other Faiths Week' and they loved learning about different similarities and differences between the faiths of Hinduism and Catholicism.

We have also spent the week focusing on their mental health during Children's Mental Health week. Miss Jones started off the week by leading our assemblies about the theme of this week, connections, and she gave everyone a focus challenge for each day of Children's Mental Health Week. We also started each day with Wake Up, Shake Up, including a whole school Wake Up Shake Up on the playground on Friday! Thank you to all of our parents, grandparents and community members who led one of our Wake Up, Shake Up sessions. The children absolutely loved them!

Miss Quiligotti

Whole School

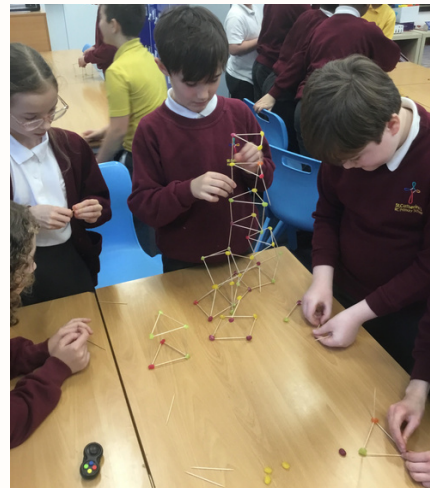


This Half-Term...

We've certainly started 2023 off with a bang with all of our fantastic learning this half-term. Our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Day was filled with so much exciting learning and we also loved watching the children's chain reaction videos that they made at home. Well done to Emily in Year 6 who is our KS2 winner and Enzo in Year 1 who is our EYFS and KS1 winner. Well done to everyone who entered – the videos were fantastic!

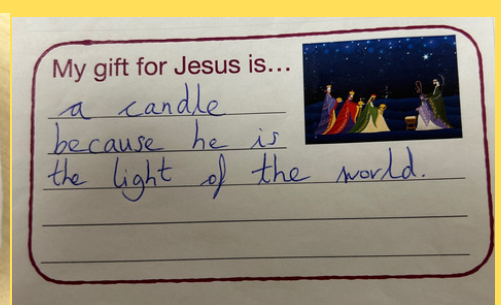
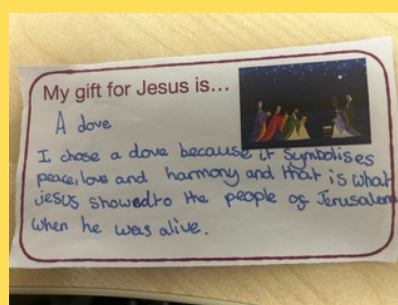
We've been focusing on our core value of perseverance this half-term and have looked at lots of examples of people who have persevered in their lives and the impact of this.

We've also been learning all about Hinduism during our Other Faiths Week and we've compared similarities and differences with the Catholic faith too.



Epiphany

We celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany on Friday 6th January and attended Mass led by Father John. Our children came up with a range of wonderful gifts to present to baby Jesus, ranging from a teddy bear to gifts like love, courage and happiness.



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Children's Mental Health Week



We celebrated Children's Mental Health Week this half-term and it has been a brilliant way to focus on the importance of our mental health and what we can do to keep our minds healthy.

We loved taking part in our daily Wake Up Shake Up sessions – what a great way to start the morning! We even had a whole school Wake Up Shake Up session with Miss Quiligotti on Friday.

Miss Jones gave us a different theme for each day of Children's Mental Health Week which helped to focus our minds on how we can keep working to improve our mental health.

Our 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' themes were:

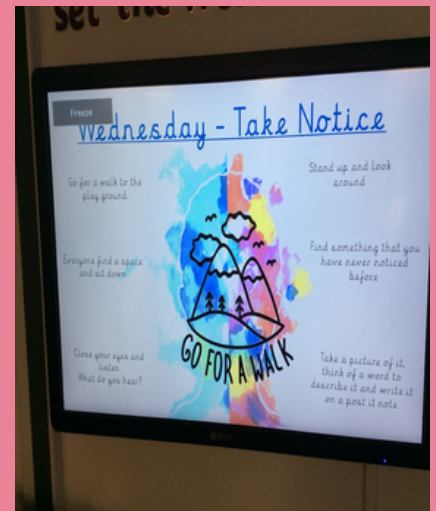
Monday – Connect

Tuesday – Be Active

Wednesday – Take Notice

Thursday – Learn New Things

Friday – Give



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Nursery



This Half-Term...

This half term, we have been learning all about dinosaurs! We had a super exciting visit from Teach Rex, who brought some baby dinosaurs and 'Jam' the T-Rex in to meet us! As part of this experience, the children learnt lots more facts about dinosaurs and even played a part in a dinosaur film! The Teach Rex team said that St. Catherine's nursery children are the best they have ever worked with!

We have been working hard at writing our names in Nursery and practising how to write some of the letters correctly. Well done everyone!

In maths, we have been consolidating our knowledge of numbers to 5. We have introduced number lines and are beginning to use these to help with our counting forwards and back!

We ended this half term with 'Green Day'. We tasted lots of different green foods, made green smoothies, learning that we mix yellow and blue to make green and even made a green frog! We have been busy!

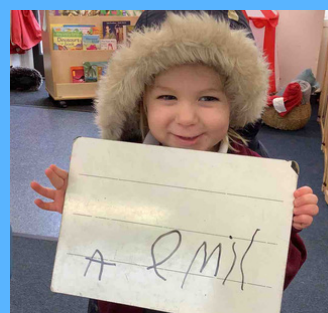
Our children say...

"Dinosaurs are extinct. That means they don't live anymore."

"I put my head in the dinosaur's mouth to get some slobber on me! The dinosaur was a pterodactyl."

"I have been practising my name and now I can write my letters the right way."

• "We learn everything. Nursery is fun!"



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Reception



This Half-Term...

Our topic this half term has focused on dinosaurs and we were lucky enough to take part in a visit from Teach Rex who showed us some amazing dinosaurs, including a T.Rex and a Pterodactyl called "Cosimo". We are still calling for Cosimo in the playground to see if he will fly back and visit us again! We have also been describing dinosaurs in our writing too and have done a great job!

In Maths we have been looking at one more and one less. We have used a range of resources to help us including number lines, number ladders and have even used our body to show if the number gets bigger or smaller.

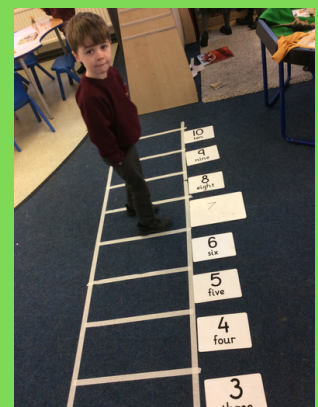
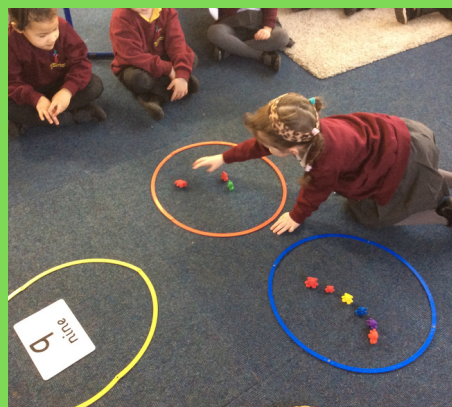
We learned more about other cultures this half term by looking at how and why Lunar New Year is celebrated across the world. We even took part in a Lion Dance!

Our children say...

"I loved the baby dinosaurs, they were so cute! Dinosaurs are extinct now which means they aren't on Earth anymore."

"If you add one it means you go up the number line and it gets bigger."

"The Lion dance was my favourite! You have to make loud noises to scare it away and it doesn't like red. People give their families red cards with money inside when it's Lunar New Year."



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Year 1



This Half-Term...

·In Topic, we have been launched into space! We have been learning about Neil Armstrong and his achievements, creating rockets, using iPads to create PicCollages and writing diary entries as astronauts. We hope to be back to earth before the start of next half-term!

·In PE, we have been developing our movements skills in dance and invasion games. Each week, we have been learning new skills such as mirroring in pairs or small groups. We have loved showcasing our dances to one another.

·In English, we have been reading a new text "The Lion Inside" which focuses on the using suffixes, using "and" to join words and clauses and becoming independent writers. We have definitely found our inner roar this half-term!

·In Maths, we have been learning about place value, adding and subtracting within 20. We have had some ActiveMaths lessons to consolidate our learning.

Our children say...

"I loved going to space - I got my rocket over the MUGA!"

"Making a raft for STEM day was so cool, my raft floated even with marbles on it."

"I loved doing my class worship and using the microphone."



Year 2



This Half-Term...

In English, we have been reading our new text 'The Dragon Machine'. The children have been working on subordination, coordination and different sentence types. We created our own flying creatures and used these to write our own version of the story.

In Maths, we have been working on 2D and 3D shapes; we have been learning all about their properties and where we would see them in everyday life. The children used small sticks to create their own 3D shapes and worked collaboratively with a partner.

• Our Topic for this half-term was all about Nurturing Nurses. Here we focused on the lives of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. As part of our Topic we had a visit from a nurse – Anna's Mummy (Siobhan). She told us all about her role and we even had an opportunity to use some of the special equipment she uses. We loved learning all about nurses and we all agree that nurses are most definitely superheroes!

This half-term we completed a sewing Design & Technology project. We learned how to use various stitches to join material together and we created our very own teddy bears. Keep your eyes peeled for our teddy bears in Hamley's in the future!

Our children say...

"I loved learning about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole and I feel truly inspired to change the world just like they did!"

"Sewing was so much fun and I can't wait to introduce my teddy bear to all my others at home. I think they will be great friends!"

"I loved our STEM day and I was so proud of my marshmallow and spaghetti structure. Although I couldn't stop licking my lips during it!"



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Year 3



This Half-Term...

• This half term, we have been learning all about volcanoes. We have recreated our own volcanoes and watched them explode! We have looked at the layers of the earth and created fun posters. We also cut up a map of the world to see where the tectonic plates met and used maps to find volcanoes located around the 'ring of fire.'

• In Design and Technology, we have learnt about the Kellogg brothers and looked at the design of their cereal boxes over the decades. We then created our own boxes and designed them too!

In Science we have investigated the process of fossilisation. We made our own cast fossils through using salt dough and plastic dinosaurs!

We ended this half term with 'Children's Mental Health Week' where we focused on movement, mindfulness, connection, learning and kindness.

Our children say...

"It was really fun mixing the salt dough together because it was so sticky!"

"I love learning about what is under our feet and all the different layers of the Earth."

"I've enjoyed the activities we did for children's mental health, especially when we gave people a really special compliment to show the importance of kindness. "



Year 4



This Half-Term...

In Topic, we have started learning all about Ancient Greece. Some of our lessons have focused on Democracy, Greek pots (and how we can learn about Ancient Greek life from them) and the role of women. It has been fascinating learning how their ways of living still influence our day-to-day lives!

For Children's Mental Health Week, we learned about the Five Ways to Wellbeing. Each Day we focused on one of the Five areas: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Learn and Give. During the 'Learn' day, we took part in a yoga session which taught us about breathing and mindfulness!

In Science, we have been learning about Electricity. We looked at the components of a simple circuit (battery, wired and a lamp) and had a go at making our own!

In Art, we have been learning about printing. We design our own prints on foam board and made a Valentine's picture using printing ink. The results were fabulous!

Our children say...

"I really enjoyed learning about Mental Health. I now have many more tools that will hopefully help me look after my own mental health."

"Electricity is so fun in Science. I loved when I used two batteries to make the bulb even brighter!"

"I have loved the non-fiction book Volcanoes in Guided Reading. Did you know Lava Lizards do push-ups to impress females?"



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Year 5



This Half-Term...

Our Victorian day was themed around Victorian inventions. The children used an electric telegraph device for Morse Code. They also used a model of Stephenson's Rocket train! A great day was had by all and the children learnt so many great things about Victorian inventions.

Our Religion lessons have been focussed on the concept of mission. For Other Faiths Week, we considered the manifestations of God in Hinduism. We have been so impressed at the beautiful Religion work the children have presented this half-term!

In Maths, we have been focusing lots on multiplication and division, ready to apply this learning to our next topic of fractions.

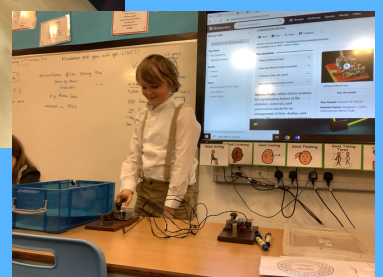
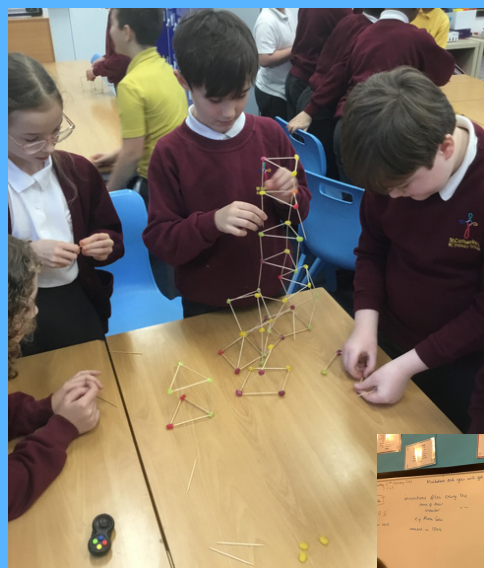
The children have really enjoyed our two English texts about Norse myths. The children have been fascinated by the connection to *Marvel Avengers!* Children have loved reading our writing text 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' and have used this to come up with lots of their own great ideas in writing lessons.

Our children say...

"I learned to control a Sphero unit in Computing – it was great fun!"

"I really enjoyed learning how bath bombs are made."

"On Victorian Day, it was fun learning Morse Code and having miniature train in school."



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Year 6



This Half-Term...

In Music, we have been learning about Paul McCartney and his music with Mrs Dewsnap. We have also been spending time improving our guitar skills, including learning to play different chords. The children have said they feel like they've learnt so much and progressed so well!

Year 6 also participated in the KS2 Singing Square which was FANTASTIC! Their performances were show-stopping and it was clear that they love the songs they'd been learning last term.

During Children's Mental Health week, we focused on drawing apples in the style of artist Paul Sezan, as part of our 'focus' task. The children produced some beautiful art work and were really proud of their focus, perseverance and final art work! During Art lessons, children have been creating digital art on Ipads and they've loved being able to use a range of different tools and strategies to create some beautiful pieces.

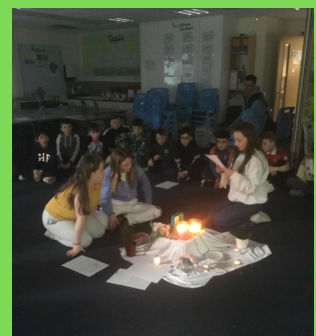
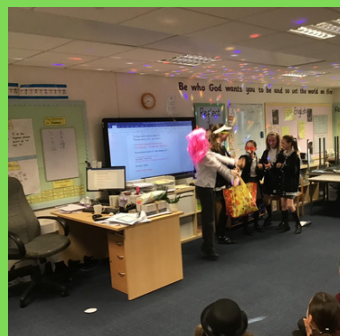
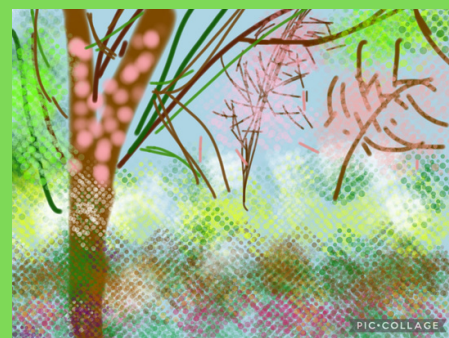
In Topic, children have been taking part in lots of map work, including learning more about the Equator and the Tropics of Cancer. They loved working together in partners to identify and label key places on maps and finding out more about their purpose.

Our children say...

"I love drawing in school because I really enjoy it. I also really like drawing on the iPad now and I like learning about the work of different artists."

"I love going to Wake Up Shake Up because I get to dance with my friends."

I really enjoy the books that we read in English and I always learn so many new things in Topic. Forest School is so fun too. I really enjoy every lesson!"



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Sporting Achievements



It has been a busy sporting half-term! Some of our Year 5 and 6 children have had the opportunity to represent St. Catherine's through playing hockey and dodgeball and competing against teams from other schools.

We have also had two teams of boys and two teams of girls from Year 5 and 6 who have been competing in the Primary Stars Premier League football competition. All of our teams have made us so proud and one of our boys' teams has made it through to the final stage for Manchester City of the Primary Stars Premier League tournament – how exciting! They will be competing after half-term and we wish them lots of luck and enjoyment for their competition.

A team of Year 5 and 6 children have also represented our school at a basketball tournament against lots of children from other schools. Just like the other teams, they represented our school so well and we are really proud of them!



Student Leadership



Laudato Si' Council

The Councillors have played a big part in helping raise awareness of Children's Mental Health. They took part in a survey for Pupil Parliament which aims to help schools across Manchester gather data about children's understanding of Mental Health. The information will then be used to promote more good practice in schools!



Caritas Ambassadors

Our Caritas Ambassadors represented our school at the Manchester Our Year event, celebrating all of the great things we have achieved as a city over the past year. The children got to listen to lots of different speakers, were interviewed by different reporters and even got to meet Lord Mayor, Donna Ludford, which they were very excited about!

Our ambassadors also received special training from Salford Diocese to help them to fulfil their important roles in our community. They have also now been awarded with their very special badges from Salford Diocese to show the important job they do and how important it is to help others.



GIFT Team

Our GIFT team have worked hard to create their very own GIFT prayer, which is now beautifully displayed on our GIFT display in school. The children and staff are now familiarising themselves with the prayer in classes and during worship. This half term, the GIFT team have continued to support with readings at Masses as well as helping Miss Quiligotti and Miss Maguire in leading their worships!



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Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



Dear parents and carers,

Like always we start with a thank you for supporting our Festive Calendar of events in December.

Our festive disco raised £2349.92 with gift matching.

The Mulled wine and hampers event raised: £1,278.01 with gift matching approved- which will reach the account later this month)

Bag2 school event this term raised £86.50

Having transferred £10k to school and funded the Festive Reindeer visit in December (£375.50), the total balance on the account is a tremendous £5943.33.

Thank you for all your support.

Upcoming events

Friday 14th February Show some Love for Pre-Loved event with Valentine's sweet treats

Friday 17th February Break the Rules Day

Friday 24th March Movie Night (Year 1 upwards)



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Ongoing events:

As mentioned in previous updates, there are a number of easy fundraising opportunities listed below in which we encourage you to participate. After all, there are pretty big prizes to be won (as in £25k!) and its a case of simply turning your online shopping into donations at no cost to you. Please see below for details:

Your School Lottery

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/st-catherines-r-c-primary-school>

Easy Fundraising

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stcatherinesdidsbury/>

Gift Matching:

Please check with your employer to see whether you are eligible for Gift Matching as part of the company benefit. Your contributions towards fundraising activities for the PTA can often be matched either in full or in part by your employer.

Few Open Asks

We were unable to hold the last PTA meeting in January due to low attendance. That also meant that we were unable to elect new committee members.

For the next meeting on 22nd March, we are going to hold this straight after school at 3pm and will accommodate for your children during this time.

Our hope is that this will work for people collecting their children and so we would ask you to stay on and attend the meeting. The more, the merrier!

Thank you!



Raise FREE funds
for us every time you
Shop online



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