

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

# St. Catherine's Newsletter: Spring 2 Term 2023



## A Message From Miss Quiligotti

Dear parents and carers,

Lent has spanned the length of our second spring half-term, meaning we have had lots of time to reflect on Jesus' journey through Lent and the sacrifices he made to save us. Being in school during Holy Week is always a privilege; it means our children can spend time deepening their faith further and learning about Jesus' journey through Holy Week. Our older children in Years 3 to 6 led an incredibly beautiful and reflective Holy Week Reflection on our final day of term, which was shown to all of our younger children in Nursery to Year 2. Our younger children toured our school and church, reverently watching performances and reflecting on key messages in different locations around our school and St. Catherine's church. This was a wonderful way for children to truly experience Holy Week and to learn more about Jesus' journey towards Easter.

It has, as always, been another brilliant half-term in school. Our children have continued to impress us in so many different ways, including displays of Irish dancing, World Book Day costumes, class worships, Spanish Cafes and more. We hope you are equally as impressed with your children and their fantastic learning and progress, as most parents will have recently received their child's school report. It was a joy to read these reports and comment on just how wonderful each and every one of our children are.

I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for their continued support, engagement and positivity within our school community. It has particularly been an absolute joy to read the positive feedback provided on our form posted on our Weekly Update. Your kind words really make a difference to our staff and it is so lovely to share your comments with them.

The Summer Term is quickly approaching and I know we have more fantastic learning and fun to be had this academic year. Our Spanish Exchange trip, and return visit, are close on our horizon, as are many other exciting events, including our first Pentecost Party, sports days, Healthy Schools Week, our school mission day, and more!

I hope all of our families have a restful, enjoyable and holy Easter and we look forward to welcoming you back to school with open arms and big smiles on Tuesday 18th April.

Miss Quiligotti

# Holy Week



Holy Week 2023 has been a very special and reverent time for our children. We have led a number of reflective events and activities to help our children to deepen their understanding of Jesus' journey to his crucifixion and resurrection. Children have worked 'off-timetable' this week to learn more about the Easter story and its impact on us today as God's children.

Take a look at our separate 'Holy Week' newsletter to find out more about our special few days in school at St. Catherine's.



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Whole School



## This Half-Term...

As always, it's been a jam-packed half-term with lots of fantastic learning and exciting events. We started our half-term with Storytelling Week (see the next page for more details!) which is always a much-loved time of our year and is quickly becoming an annual St. Catherine's tradition. We've celebrated St. Patrick's Day, World Book Day, our Core Value Day of Faith and more. Our Year 5 children organised their very own Spanish Cafe for parents where they set up our hall in the style of a cafe, created Spanish menus and served as waiters, providing refreshments for everyone, with plenty of Spanish language skills being practised too!

We've loved inviting our families into school for lots of different events this half-term, including Stay and Play sessions, St Patrick's Day, reading sessions, class worships, our Spanish Cafe and Reception crafts.



## St. Patrick's Day

What a fantastic day we had celebrating St. Patrick's Day! We started off with a special Mass, followed by inviting parishioners and parents into our school hall for refreshments and entertainment. Our children played and sang Irish tunes, read Irish poems, and showed us their amazing Irish dancing skills, as did Mrs Chidgey!



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Storytelling Week



What an incredible week we had for Storytelling Week 2023! There were lots of fun activities throughout the week to promote a love of reading.

Many of our children returned back to school one evening for 'Bedtime Stories' with their teachers; this was a very popular event! We think we even had a couple of children getting so comfortable that they had a little snooze.

World Book Day was a great success as always and we loved seeing everyone's fantastic costumes, especially during our morning parade.

Our children loved having the opportunity to take part in a book swap to take home a new book.

We were also super impressed with the puppet designs that came in as part of our Storytelling Week challenge. We are currently in the process of displaying them in our KS2 corridor!



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Nursery



## This Half-Term...

Our topic this half term has been Journeys and Transport. We have enjoyed listening to and learning the story, 'The Journey Home from Grandpa's'. We have been sequencing the story and, in our writing, made our own story maps too, using our increasing sound knowledge to add labels!

In maths, we have been focusing on numbers 6, 7 and 8! We have been working hard to count, recognise and order numbers and even started counting two groups of objects to find how many there are altogether!

We had a surprise visit from National Highways, who brought a 'Gritter Truck' to school. We learnt all about how this vehicle and the people who drive it, keeping our roads safe in the cold, winter months.

We loved inviting parents, grandparents and even brothers and sisters into Nursery for our Stay and Play sessions. Everyone was invited to paint a picture of a daffodil, as we have also been busy learning about spring too! We have made a wonderful 'Daffodilly Day' display as you enter Nursery. Look out for it when you drop off or collect your child!

## Our children say...

"We have been learning about the number 7. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7."

"In our story, they found loads of vehicles on the journey home. My favourite is the orange toy truck and the red fire engine."

"We have been learning about transport. I know different vehicles. A gritter came to see us at school!"

"I know shapes. Square, rectangle, circle."

"If you put two rectangles together, it makes a square."



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Reception



## This Half-Term...

Our topic this half term is 'Journeys & Transport'. We have loved exploring different types of vehicles. We know what vehicles travel on land, in the sea and air. We also compared old vehicles to new ones and discussed journeys we have been on e.g. our journey to school or on holiday.

In Religion, we have focused on Lent. We made promises which we have tried to keep during Lent. Together we wrote our promises on leaves to create 'Our Lent Tree', to remind us to keep our promises and be kind as Jesus has taught us. In Mathematics, we have been focusing on our number bonds to 5, recalling automatically how we can build the number 5. We can show this on a part-part-whole model and with numicon. We also explored using weighing scales to investigate which objects are heavier and lighter. Then we discovered we could put 5 on one side of the balance and our number bonds on the other to show they were equal.

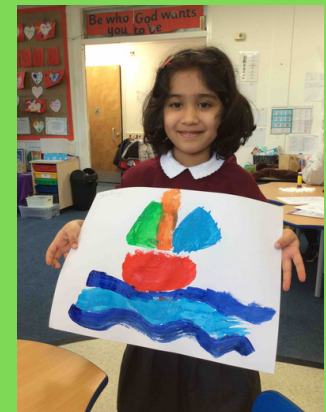
In our creative area, we have begun to access our paints independently. Look at our transport painting masterpieces!

## Our children say...

"We've been learning about the Naughty Bus. He's so cheeky. He went through the eggs and beans in the story!"

"We did a last supper together. We had to share the bread like Jesus."

"I know about lots of vehicles. They go really fast like motorbikes. The big salt spreading trucks came and I got to beep the horn."



# Year 1



## This Half-Term...

In PE this half-term, we have been working with Mr Borjis and have been developing our gymnastic skills. We have learnt about balance, using our core and how to do handstands independently!

This half-term, we were also invited to Manchester City F.C for a fun morning helping up develop our ball skills. We had a great time meeting the coaches and working in teams.

In Maths, we have been learning about measurement. We have focused on different concepts of measuring such as mass, volume, length, height and weight. We have used different units when measuring and have been developing using correct mathematical vocabulary when answering reasoning questions.

In Music with Mrs Dewsnap, we have been focusing on a project called Nautilus where we have been learning about the composer Anna Meredith. During this project, we have expressed ourselves through dance, music and discussion.

## Our children say...

"I can finally do a handstand! I know now I need to keep my arms straight to make sure I don't wobble!"

"I loved going to Manchester City, I want to be a footballer when I grow up."

"I liked in Religion when we learnt about change. It was fun seeing what I can do now and what I could do when I was a baby."



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Year 2



## This Half-Term...

In English this half-term, has been focusing on our text Major Glad and Major Dizzy. We have made our own soldier and created suitable instructions. We have also been focusing on writing in the present and past progressive tense and created fantastic diary entries in character.

In Religion, we have been learning about Mass and the different parts of it. The children also celebrated their Class Worship; they read beautifully, sang their hearts out and brought the Gospel to life. We couldn't have been any prouder of them.

In Topic, we have been learning about the five oceans and seven continents. We used salt-dough to create a map of the world and we have learnt a special rap to help us remember the different continents.

In Science, we have been learning all about habitats. We have learnt about how animals adapt to their environment and we have gone on a walk around school to explore the different micro-habitats in our area.

## Our children say...

"I loved our Worship, especially singing our songs."

"I loved World Book Day because we got to dress up in different things and have a parade."

"I love that our Worships taught us lots of new facts."



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration



# Year 3



## This Half-Term...

This half-term, we started our new topic: From Riches to Ruins, which is all about the Romans. We loved our school trip to Chester. We had great fun trying out Roman formations. Take a look at some of our photos with our Roman shields – don't we look great!

In Design and Technology, we have been making pop up pictures, using our knowledge of levers. We have been very creative with our ideas.

In English, we have been looking at the importance of looking after our oceans and the damage that plastic can sadly do to wildlife – particularly whales.

In Art, we have been focusing on Eric Carle and the wonderful art he produced. We have mixed paint to make our own paper, and cut shapes out of it to make different animals and insects.

## Our children say...

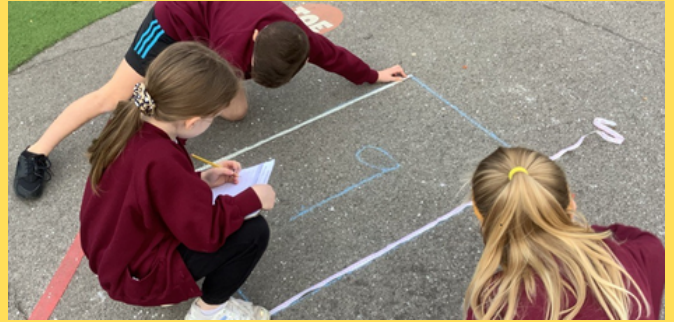
"I loved using paint to create my own paper colours!"

"Our school trip was amazing – I even enjoyed the coach ride!"

"I really enjoyed making pop up pictures. They work so well!"



# Year 4



## This Half-Term...

In Maths this half-term, we have been learning about Perimeter. As part of an Active Maths lesson we went into the playground to measure different sized rectangles.

The children had great fun working together practically to measure the angles and loved being outside!

During our Science unit on electricity, we have built our own switches using paper clips and split. We also carried out an investigation where we tested materials to find out if they were conductors or insulators.

Year 4 were lucky enough to take part in a Carbon Ruins workshop lead by Manchester Museum. We learned all about sustainability and had lots of fun being in role as museum exhibitors.

In Computing we have been learning all about Computer Aided Designs (CAD). We researched the graphic designer Rob Janoff (who designed Apple's famous logo) and used his original idea to then create our own logos for an Easter Egg gift box!

## Our children say...

"I enjoyed going outside to measure rectangles. It was great to work with the other class!"

"I really enjoyed the Carbon Ruins project. It was really interesting to discuss how our world will have changed by the year 2051."

"I really enjoyed making the switch in Science, but it took a lot of perseverance to light up the bulb!"



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Year 5



## This Half-Term...

In Maths this half term, we have been working on fractions. We have learnt to add and subtract simple fractions as well as mixed number fractions.

During one of our Science lessons about Earth and Space, we used Oreos to help us understand the phases of the moon. We loved showing off our learning whilst working with Oreos!

Our new topic this term is 'Didsbury to Nigran'. We have used atlases and digital maps to gain a better understanding of the distance and physical features of both areas as well as learning to use a scale bar on a map.

This term, Year 5 have worked extremely hard in Spanish developing menus for the Spanish Café and learning how to take orders. This was a huge success with parents/carers and even Year 4 children experiencing some Spanish flavours! Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our two wonderful Spanish Cafes. We hope you had a great time!

## Our children say...

"I found fractions a bit hard at first but now I know that I can use my times tables to help me."

"The phases of the moon lesson was my favourite; we learnt about the waxing and waning of the moon and we even got to eat the Oreos at the end!"

"The Spanish Café was so good! Everyone used our menus and we got to serve them tapas!"



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Year 6



## This Half-Term...

During our Maths lessons we have been learning about decimals. We have been partitioning, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing them, whilst developing our reasoning skills through our Donald questions.

Our English and Reading lessons have been focusing on the text 'The Explorer'; we have had lots of exciting writing opportunities and have been looking forward to reading a new chapter each day – we can't wait to find out what happens!

In Science, our topic has been 'Evolution and Inheritance'. We have learnt all about Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution, adaption, natural selection and why we look the way we do. This information has also informed our writing.

Death and New Life has been our topic in Religion lessons this half term. We have reflected and explored what the bread of life really means, as well as developing our knowledge of scripture and relating this to our own experiences.

## Our children say...

"I have enjoyed learning about biomes in Geography; it was interesting to learn about the human impact on biomes."

"Our art lessons about Roald Dahl have been really fun. I enjoyed seeing the steps he took to achieve his final outcome and then have a go myself."

"I loved our gymnastics lessons this half term. Every week, we built on our learning from the week before by learning new skills and combining them all into a sequence."



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Sporting Achievements



It's been another busy but successful half-term of sporting. Firstly, our Year 5 and 6 boys' football team won the South Manchester Excel League, meaning they've progressed to the next stage of the Manchester-wide competition. They have already played their first match and won, so they're through again to the next round!

Some of our Year 5 and 6 girls represented St. Catherine's at a Manchester Excel Netball Tournament. They played incredibly well and achieved second place, meaning they progress to the Manchester Finals. Well done, girls! Children from Years 1-6 represented St. Catherine's at the Manchester Excel Gymnastics Competition. All of our children impressed us with their skills, resilience and respect for others. Both our Year 1 and 2 and Year 3 and 4 teams came in first place, with many of them also achieving individual 1st, 2nd or 3rd place medals too!

Several of our children have continued to compete in the Manchester Cross Country events at Wythenshawe Park too. Children have received certificates for their fantastic efforts and achievements and we have been really proud of their great commitment. Well done, children!



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Sporting Achievements



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Student Leadership



## Laudato Si' Council

This term, we took part in a Rights Respecting 'Share Your Success' Event hosted by Manchester City Council. It was an opportunity for schools across Manchester came together to celebrate all the wonderful work they do to promote children's rights. Council members from Year 3, 4 and 5 attended the event and did a fantastic job to share our Rights Respecting work with others schools. They also took the opportunity to network and got some brilliant ideas to implement back at St Catherine's!

## Caritas Ambassadors

Our Caritas Ambassadors led us in our Holy Week Mass this week, helping us to reflect on the importance of Jesus' journey to his crucifixion and resurrection.

Our Caritas Ambassadors have been putting their Salford Diocese training into practice by putting their faith into action and being role models to those around them.

## GIFT Team

Our GIFT team have continued to be witnesses of Christ throughout the Lenten period. As well as continuing to lead readings in Mass and Worships, they have been handing out Lenten prayer cards and encouraging younger pupils to reflect on their Lenten Journey.

Our GIFT Team also took charge of organising and leading our younger classes around our school and church to watch our Holy Week reflection performances, created by our KS2 children. They were fantastic role models for our younger children.



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



Dear parents and carers,

The PTA wanted to provide a quick update after a really busy half term.

## Financial Update

Firstly, we wanted to start by saying a huge thank you for your generosity and support during this half term.

Please see funds raised below;

Valentines doughnuts £144.83

Preloved fancy dress + uniform £250.22

Break the Rules £635.33 (excluding approved Gift Matching)

Movie Night- £900.

This means we have raised over £10,000 since September!

We have a planned contribution of £250 for the Spanish Exchange Pupils in Year 5.

## Upcoming events

Thursday 24th May- Bag2School

Thursday 25th May - Rainbow Hampers Draw and Rainbow Own Clothes Day

Sunday 2nd July- The PTA Summer Fair. Please fill in the form- PTA 2023 Summer Fair Volunteers (google.com) if you can volunteer, help with sponsorship and/or donations. We need your help to make this event a huge success.



# Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



## 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.

Wishing you a wonderful Easter break.

The PTA



Raise **FREE** funds  
for us every time you  
**Shop online**



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration