

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

St. Catherine's Newsletter: Summer 1 Term 2023



A Message From Miss Quiligotti

Dear parents and carers,

We've come to the end of what has been a jam-packed but special half-term with so many different things to celebrate. Coming back to school after our Easter break, during the period of 'Eastertide', enabled us to teach the children that this period of time during the liturgical calendar lasts all the way up to The Ascension, 50 days after Jesus' resurrection. We've celebrated this special liturgical time in lots of different ways and we loved celebrating The Ascension with Father John in Mass last week. This week, we've learnt all about the significance of Pentecost and why it is such an important part of the church's year. We even had a 'Pentecost Party' in school today to celebrate what is often known as the birthday of the church. The children have loved deepening their learning about Pentecost and we hope they bring lots of their knowledge home to share with you!

This half-term has also been filled with love and joy from our Spanish families and friends in Nigran. Some of our Year 5 children visited Nigran, Spain whilst our other children had a fun-filled Spanish-themed enrichment week in school, and then our entire school was involved in the return visit of our Spanish children and teachers. As we said to our children, this is what our Core Values are all about; extending love and compassion to others around the world and welcoming them into our special St. Catherine's community. We are sure we have many tired children and parents but we know what special memories they will now have from these experiences. We thank all of our Year 5 and 6 families for all of the brilliant support and care shown to our Spanish friends. We can't wait for 2024 now!

Some of our children have sat their national assessments this half-term and we're really proud of their fantastic efforts. A particular shout out goes to our children in Year 6; they coped tremendously well and really did show our Core Value of perseverance in how they approached their exams. They particularly enjoyed our special SATS week breakfast club too!

Thank you to our parents for your continued support, positivity and care shown to all in our school community. Thank you to our incredible staff team too; it really has been a jam-packed half-term but, as always, they've created a wonderful learning environment for our children with so many exciting things to learn and experience. Thank you to our children too; they represent our school so incredibly well and they are the reason we do what we do. We love our St. Catherine's children dearly and they make all of our hard work worthwhile.

We hope you all have a well-rested break and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 12th June.

Miss Quiligotti

Love

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Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Whole School



This Half-Term...

If possible, we think this may have been our busiest half-term to date! Some of our children in Year 5 visited Nigran, Spain while other Year 5 children participated in a brilliant Spanish-themed enrichment week in school. Our Year 2 and Year 6 children showed our Core Value of perseverance when sitting their SATS exams this month and we are really proud of their great efforts. We have celebrated 'The Month of Our Lady' through our weekly Rosary services and a special 'Crowning of Our Lady' ceremony. We've also celebrated St Catherine of Siena's Feast Day, and started to learn our new school song which children started to write the words for last year.

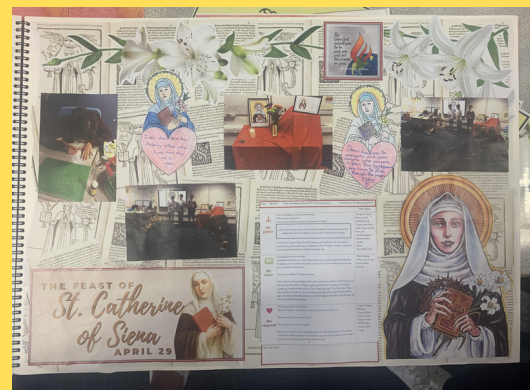
We've welcomed our Spanish friends back into school over the past fortnight, which has been a wonderful experience for the whole school.

We also celebrated The Feast of the Ascension in Mass last week with Father John. One of our Year 5 classes has completed their Bikeability sessions, with our other Year 5 class ready to take part next half-term.



St. Catherine of Siena Feast Day

Our GIFT Team and Caritas Ambassadors led our children in worship to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Catherine of Siena, our school's patron saint. Our pupil leaders also then led smaller class-based worships very reverently for all of our children across school to focus in more deeply on the life of St. Catherine and what we can learn from her. We also started to learn our new school song, inspired by St. Catherine's quote of 'Be who God wants you to be and so set the world on fire'.



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Month of Our Lady

Our weekly Rosary Services have taken place each Friday to commemorate the month of Our Lady. Thank you to all of our wonderful children who have volunteered to read and help us to pray a decade of the rosary each week. This has been a really special way to mark the month of Mary.

We also held a beautiful 'Crowning of our Lady' ceremony, where children brought in flowers to crown Mary and to remember how she is our Queen in heaven. Our GIFT Team and Caritas Ambassadors led our children in worship to learn more about Mary and why she is so special within our faith.



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Spanish Exchange

What a half-term it's been with our Spanish friends! At the beginning of the half-term, 20 of our Year 5 children visited Nigran in Spain, whilst our other Year 5 children participated in a fantastic Spanish-themed enrichment week in school. Last week, our Spanish children and teachers returned for the 'Manchester leg' of our Spanish Exchange, and what a week we had! We welcomed our Spanish friends to Manchester with a wonderful whole-school St. Catherine's welcome, where we all gathered on the playground and waved our Spanish flags and posters. Our Spanish children have then participated in lots of fun activities throughout the week, including a range of different carousel activities, reading to our younger children, Forest School, a trip to the Science and Industry Museum, our infamous Singing Square and more! Thank you to everyone who has helped us to welcome our Spanish friends into our school community with open arms. We can't wait for the Spanish Exchange 2024!



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Nursery



This Half-Term...

This half term in Nursery, our topic has been 'Food & Growth'. We set up a fruit and veg shop in our role play area and the children painted pictures of their favourite fruits and vegetables to display. We even planted cress seeds too and have been making observations about how they change and develop over time. The children have enjoyed 'shopping', using different coins to pay for the things they wanted to buy. In Maths, we have been learning lots about size and measures. We have been learning to use different language to describe height, weight and capacity and investigating measures all around our learning environment.

Our focus texts have been Jasper's Beanstalk and Oliver's Vegetables. We have used our imaginations to think about what might be at the top of a beanstalk and developed our language to describe different vegetables. Our 'Words of the Week' have been: grow, sprinkle, delighted, frustrated, crinkly and tangle.

We have absolutely loved our gymnastics lessons with Mr Borjus! The children have been learning to travel like gymnasts in lots of different ways. We cannot wait to continue our lessons in the summer 2 term!

Our children say...

"We've been measuring how big and how small they are and how light and how heavy they are."

"We've been learning about vegetables and fruit because it's healthy."

"I like playing in the playdough because it's sticky."



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Reception



This Half-Term...

This half-term we have been working hard on our topic of 'Food and Growth'. We have been busy growing cress and watching how it changes over time, painting fruits and vegetables as well as learning lots of new vocabulary associated with our topic.

To continue with this theme in English, we have been reading 'The Runaway Pea' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We even planted our own beans and we were very excited to see if they would grow into our very own beanstalks!

In Maths this half-term, we have focused a lot on subtracting numbers within 10. We have done this in lots of different ways such as a teddy bear's picnic (with one greedy bear) and we have even splatted PlayDoh to show the number being subtracted!

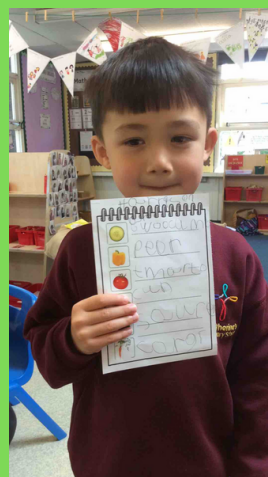
This half term, we welcomed Grandparents into our classrooms. We performed a song for them, explored the classroom with them, painted a picture of them and then presented them with medals we had made to tell them how wonderful they are!

Our children say...

"You have to put water in the soil and the seeds then you put it out in the sunshine and it will grow."

"We planted some beans and it turned into an enormous beanstalk like Jack's but it wasn't big enough to climb!"

"I painted with my Granny and showed her the reading corner and she read a nice story to me."



Year 1



This Half-Term...

This term in Computing, we have been learning about programming and coding using Scratch Junior. We have been creating our characters using Sprites, which has been really exciting!

In Science, we have been learning all about plants and have sown our own beans! We have learnt about how plants grow, what they need and are hoping they will grow into magic beanstalks!

Throughout this half-term, we have been learning about Holy days and holidays in both our Religion and Collective worship sessions. We have loved learning about Pentecost in particular.

In Maths, we have become super mathematicians this half-term! We have learnt about fractions and divisions by sharing.

Our children say...

"I loved planting my own bean. I hope so much it grows!"

"I loved writing about my own toys in my story and how the space creature took them to a cold castle."

"Music has been fun, we even got to play some instruments like a glockenspiel!"



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Year 2



This Half-Term...

In English, we have been reading our focus text, 'The Last Wolf'. We have been learning about endangered animals and working towards creating a persuasive letter to encourage people to stop deforestation and to plant more trees and flowers.

In Art, we have been learning about Paul Klee, in particular his painting 'Castle in the Sun'. We used 2D shapes to recreate our own version of this painting and our final versions are absolute masterpieces!

We have been learning all about animals and their habitats in Science and it has been lots of fun. We created our own bug hotels for some minibeasts, many of which even had a pent-house suite and we placed them in the school peace garden. To finish off our topic we had a visit from some animals – a fennec fox, an owl, chameleon, tarantula and a snake. We loved getting to learn lots of facts about the animals and we even got to hold them!

In Design Technology, we worked really hard to create our own fruit kebabs. We washed, chopped and prepared all of the fruit and we loved getting to taste the delights of our hard work.

Our children say...

"I LOVED when the animals came to class and I can't believe I was brave enough to hold a tarantula. My mummy would have passed out if she saw me."

"Our fruit kebabs were so tasty and I even got to try some new fruits."

"I was so proud of my bug hotel and I can't wait to watch all the minibeasts enjoy their new home."



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Year 3



This Half-Term...

In Maths, we have been learning all about fractions and we are fraction superstars! We can add and subtract fractions and even find a fraction of an amount.

In English, we have been using the book 'Journey' to help write descriptively. Journey is a wordless book, so we have to use our detective skills to infer lots of the information.

In Science, we have been learning about plants and have been taking part in lots of experiments to help improve our understanding, which we've really enjoyed!

In RE, we have been learning about Pentecost and the Power of the Holy Spirit. We also went to the Marist Centre, where we participated in many activities that helped us prepare for our first Holy Communion.

Our children say...

"I've really enjoyed learning all about the Romans – I loved learning about Boudica and how her army was defeated by 10,000 Romans, even though Boudica's army has 70,000!"

"I loved acting and dancing in my class worship about Pentecost– it was really fun!"

"I loved our trip to the Marist centre. I loved creating a rap all about kindness."



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Year 4



This Half-Term...

We have had the wonderful opportunity to visit our local area as part of our River study in Topic. The children spent time learning about the River Mersey: where it starts and ends; the different stages to a river; which insects can be found in rivers; the impacts flooding can have on homes, businesses, travel etc. The children LOVED their experience of canoeing down the River Mersey!

In Music, we have been learning a song for our singing square. The song the children have worked hard rehearsing with Mrs Dewsnap is 'You are one in a million'. It was an amazing experience performing this to other year groups and our Spanish visitors! Our Spanish visitors arrived and the children have had an amazing time participating in carousel activities with our Spanish friends. The children joined in art activities based on landmarks of England, PE activities, lots of games and many more!

In Maths, we have been exploring fractions and decimals. It has been tricky stuff but we've persevered and are now able to recognise tenths and hundredths! We always try to apply our Maths in every day life so have explored examples such as fractions in recipes and comparing petrol prices using our decimal point knowledge!

Our children say...

"I really enjoyed canoeing down the River Mersey. It was hard work and we were exhausted after it but it was lots of fun!"

"Welcoming our Spanish children onto the playground was really exciting! It has been an amazing week getting to know the children and the activities in the carousels have been enjoyable!"

"Maths has been tricky but fun. I really liked our Discovery lesson where we learnt about the Persian Mathematician Al-Kahwarizmi – the 'Father of Algebra!'"



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Year 5



This Half-Term...

We kicked off this half term with the Spanish leg of the Spanish Exchange. Our children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Spain. They spent time with their pen pals as well as experiencing school life in Nigran! We had an amazing week of different Spanish-themed activities for those who stayed in Didsbury, including Flamenco dancing, tennis and tapas (with very kind collaboration from El Rincon de Rafa).

The Manchester leg of the Spanish exchange has just come to an end and despite some very exhausted children, we have had a great time welcoming them at St. Catherine's and showing them what a fantastic school community we have! It has been so wonderful having the Spanish children in class with us and our children have been lucky to participate in different carousel-style activities where they've been able to learn new skills and take part in lots of fun tasks.

This term we have also worked hard on computing and have had an introduction into sorting data into spreadsheets, using Microsoft Excel.

Our children say...

"I loved meeting my pen pal in Nigran and going to their school, I learnt lots of Spanish. My favourite activity was going to the beach and surfing."

"My pen pal didn't want to leave, they want to come back to St Catherine's next year!"

"I know a bit more about how to use spreadsheets properly by using Excel. I think I could do an easy one by myself now."



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Year 6



This Half-Term...

This term, we have been reading the text 'Skychasers' by Emma Carroll, and this has contributed to both our reading and writing lessons. The children have produced some great diary entries as well as prototypes for a 'flying machine'.

In Art, we have been studying the artist David Hockney, and have used the I pads to generate electronic art in his style – the level of detail and creativity has blown us away!

In PE, we have been playing lots of rounders as well as developing our gymnastics skills. We have been working towards a 'performance piece' using all of our gymnastics knowledge to create a sequence.

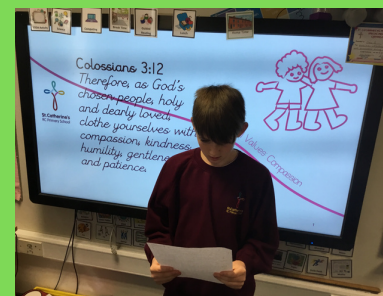
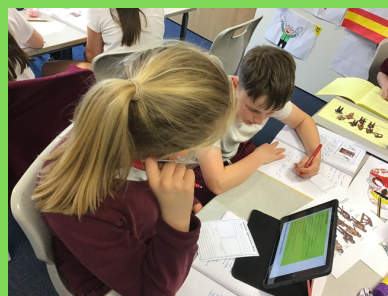
In Spanish, we have been learning how to talk about the weather in Spanish, as well as learning compass points and directions. We have also been incredibly lucky to work with our two Spanish student teachers who have taught us how to follow a Spanish recipe for chocolate cake! You might want to make this at home!

Our children say...

"I have really enjoyed learning about David Hockney in art; we have never used the I pads for art before and it was a good technique!"

"Welcoming the Spanish children into school with flags, posters and cheering was so exciting! We have enjoyed having some of the Year 6 Spanish children in our class too."

"We have enjoyed reading Skychasers in guided reading, and can't wait to find out what happens to Magpie and her pet rooster, Coco!"



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Sporting Achievements



Our Year 5 and 6 boys' football team did St. Catherine's proud when competing against other teams across Manchester this half-term after winning the South Manchester Excel League. This team are also training weekly at The Barlow to continue to develop their skills and teamwork. We are really proud of everything this team has achieved this year - well done, boys!

Our girls' netball team from Year 6 has recently found out that they have made it through to the Manchester Netball Finals, which is fantastic news! They are looking forward to competing again after the half-term break.

Our KS2 cheerleading team has been working incredibly hard to prepare for a competition against other teams in Manchester in July. We've been very impressed with their stunts and gymnastics skills and we can't wait to watch them compete later this term. Well done, cheerleaders!



Student Leadership



GIFT Team and Caritas Ambassadors

The GIFT team and Caritas Ambassadors have had an incredibly busy half-term! They have worked together to help lead our St Catherine Day celebrations. The children led our whole school worship in the morning, telling us all about the life of St Catherine and why she is so important to us. The children then led Collective worship sessions in each class across school on the theme of St Catherine, leading us in prayer and worship. Later on in the half-term, our GIFT and Caritas teams then led us in our Crowning of Our Lady service. They led us in prayer and directed us in crowning Mary with beautiful blossoms.



Laudato Si' Council

This half-term, the Council have been completing important research for our PTA. They were tasked with the mission of doing a survey throughout school to see which stalls children would like at the Summer Fair. Some of the suggestions included hook-a-duck, a toy stall and the ever-popular 'splat the teacher'! We are excited to see the results!



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Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



Dear parents and carers,

Financial Update

Firstly, we wanted to start by saying a huge thank you for your generosity and support during the first half of the Summer term. The funds we raise do make a meaningful difference to the children and school community.

Movie night raised – £675.32 (with gift matching confirmed)

Preloved uniform – £80

Coronation ice cream sale – £119.50

Rainbow events raised almost £1000!

Amount raised since Sept: £13,509.83

£5k has been transferred to school.

We also provided £600 for Year 6 leavers and £250 for the Spanish exchange contribution, as per previous years.

Upcoming events

We are gearing up to our Summer Fair– on Sunday 2nd July – our biggest event of the year.

THANK YOU to everyone who has helped identify raffle prizes already – we have a great list so far. We would like to ask if there are any more parents who would be happy to donate/ask their employers for a raffle donation or know of any companies who would like to sponsor the event. Please contact the PTA if you can help.

As per previously shared, please see the table on the next page for stalls and year group owners. You will be hearing from our wonderful volunteers shortly with donation drops starting after half term.

Please also see the next page for our wonderful Summer Fair poster.

Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



Stall	Year Group
Toy Stall	Year 1
Bar	Year 5
Books and uniform	Year 4
Sweets and ice lollies	Reception
Bake stall	Nursery
Nails, Tattoos, face paint	Year 6
Hook a duck and Lucky dip	Year 3
Splat the adult and obstacle course (supported by P4 fitness)	Year 2

St. Catherine's RC Primary School

SUMMER FAIR
Sunday 2 July • 12 noon - 4pm

ENTRY
Adults: £1
Children: 50p

Join us for all the fun of the fair...
Obstacle course • Splat the adult • Hook a duck • Tombola
Face painting • Tattoo and nail bar • Magic tricks
Balloon modelling • Little Pigs BBQ • Cake stall
Bar • DJ • and LOTS more!

St Catherine's RC Primary School, School Lane, Didsbury M20 6HS

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/>

AmazonSmile

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1165650-0>

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.

Thank you!

The PTA



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

Uswitch Currys PCWorld Boden sky

JOHN LEWIS ebay M&S Argos JUST EAT

GROUPON ASOS viking Booking.com

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