

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

# St. Catherine's Newsletter: Autumn 1 Term 2023



## A Message From Miss Quiligotti

Dear parents and carers,

I always love the first half-term of a new school year; it is a joy to welcome our families back to school, to see our children's smiling faces and to start a new school year with new teachers, new classrooms and new goals and dreams. Our children have settled into their new year groups so well and we are incredibly proud of them, as always.

Some of our prestigious student leadership teams have now formed for the new academic year, including our GIFT Team, Caritas Ambassadors and Laudato Si Council. Congratulations to all children who have successfully been elected for one of these committees and thank you to all of our children who expressed an interest. Our children are the 'leaders of tomorrow' and we are already confident that they will do a fantastic job! After half-term, we will be looking at recruiting for student leader roles of play leaders (working with children in Nursery and Reception) and learning leaders (working with children in Years 1 and 2). We know we will have some fantastic candidates for the roles!

We are delighted to welcome our new sports coach Mr Hollins to St Catherine's this year, as well as other specialist sports coaches in gymnastics and dance, through our collaboration with Junior Sport Stars. We are already seeing the positive impact on sports across our school, including the addition of a new netball team, as well as competitive football teams and a development team for our Year 5 and 6 children, who will represent St Catherine's at events and tournaments throughout the school year.

Thank you to everyone who has attended our first parent meetings of the academic year this week. It is always a joy to welcome you into school and I hope you found the meetings useful and informative.

I would like to express my thanks on a personal level to all of our school community for your incredible kindness and well wishes regarding both my broken leg and my wedding at the end of September (two things that don't go too well together!). Your kind words have really meant the world to me, and the compassion shown by our children has reminded me every day just how special our school is. Thank you!

We hope you all have a fantastic half-term and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 30th October.

Mrs Quiligotti

# Whole School



## This Half-Term...

We've had a wonderful start to the new school year and lots of exciting learning opportunities already. We have celebrated Black History Month during October and each year group was assigned a Black British person to find out more about, someone who has made a difference to our country. We've also celebrated 'Other Faiths Week', where we've learnt more about the faith of Judaism. Mrs Dewsnap has also arranged African Drumming workshops which are taking place in October and November to further develop our learning of different styles of Music.

We've also celebrated the Rosary on each Friday during October, praying a decade of the Rosary each Friday morning and learning more about the luminous mysteries. Thank you to everyone who has attended and to our children who have read and participated in our services.



## Manchester Corinthians

Our girls' football team visited Fog Lane Park to witness the unveiling of a special plaque to commemorate the Manchester Corinthians Women's Football team. The Manchester Corinthians were a team of local women who were brought together at a time when the FA banned women from playing on FA affiliated grounds. Established in 1949, the team trained in Fog Lane Park and toured the world promoting the sport and demonstrating what a dedicated group of players the club possessed. This was at a time when FA affiliated clubs were banned from allowing women's games on their grounds.

Our girls were so inspired and interested to hear the stories of the Manchester Corinthians and to understand the difficulties they faced as women to be able to play football at the time. Thank you to all of the trail-blazing Manchester Corinthians for paving the road for our girls to play football - what an inspirational team!



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Nursery



## This Half-Term...

It's been our first half term in Nursery! The children have settled into St. Catherine's nursery so well and we are so proud of everyone! Our topic has been 'All About Me', which has helped us all get to know one another. We have been doing lots of mark-making, drawing pictures of ourselves and our families too! We have even begun practising writing some of the letters in our name!

As part of Black History Month, we looked at the scientist (and astronaut) Mae Jemison. The children learnt that she was a very clever lady and wanted everyone to have the same opportunities. We worked together to make our own space rocket on the carpet. "It needs a pointy bit at the top," Lois told everyone, "And fire at the bottom," Freddie said. Our focus text has been, 'Happy To Be Me!' This has helped us to learn all about different parts of our bodies and what they do! In Maths, we have been doing lots of learning relating to shape, number and sorting. We have also been learning more about Jesus, his mummy Mary and why the cross is an important symbol in our school.

Finally, we held our first colour day of the year - orange day! The children loved mixing colours to make orange, collaging pumpkins, making things with orange playdough and sampling some orange only foods! We had the best day!

## Our children say...

"Mrs McCormick told me about the lady who made rockets."

"I can count to five... 1,2,3,4,5!"

"I like the water because I like looking at the stones."

"I love playing in the jungle."



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Reception



## This Half-Term...

We have had a wonderful first half term in Reception. We have been blown away with the positive start all of our children have had and how well they have settled. Our topic has been 'All About Me' and we have enjoyed sharing baby photographs and photos of our families.

In Literacy, we have explored the story 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas. This has led to in depth discussions on different emotions, how we feel and how different emotions are shown. We can identify which emotion is represented when the colour monster changes colour and have related this to our own experiences.

In Mathematics, we have been focusing on comparing, sorting and subitising numbers (recognising amounts without counting). We can match quantity to numerals for numbers to 5 and are focusing on having careful one-to-one correspondence when counting.

In our outdoor learning, we have loved exploring the Early Years playground. We have worked collaboratively to build in our large construction area, made delicious mud pies in the mud kitchen and have engaged in practical outdoor maths activities.

## Our children say...

"I like bringing home books from school. I know lots of sounds now and I can read my books."

"I have lots of friends in Reception and I love playing together with everyone."

"We saw everyone's baby photos and now we are all grown up!"



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Year 1



## This Half-Term...

This term, we have been learning about place value within 10 in Maths. The children have been developing their reasoning skills by helping Tiny solve tricky maths questions.

In PE, the children have been playing invasion games. We have developed our spatial awareness and have been working in teams.

Our focus for Religion this half-term has been families. The children have enjoyed talking about their own families during circle time and understanding how we are all part of God's family.

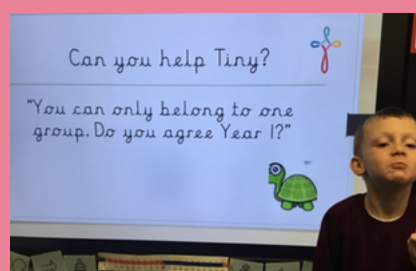
In English, we have been focusing on the story "Lost and Found" by Oliver Jeffers. The children have been developing their writing skills and have started to use adjectives to describe characters. There are some future authors in Year 1!

## Our children say...

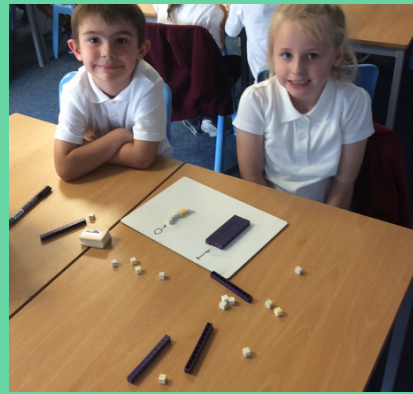
"I love when we get to help Tiny solve the questions in Maths. Tiny tries to catch us out sometimes."

"Learning about the U.K. was fun especially when we went to Scotland and learnt about the Loch Ness monster".

"I liked learning about Sislin Fay Allen for Black History Month. I want to be a police officer when I am older."



# Year 2



## This Half-Term...

Our Science topic for this term is 'materials'. Discovery Dog visited our classes and asked us to help him solve some scientific problems he was having. In order to help him, we conducted a number of fair investigations. We tested different materials to find out which material was the most absorbent and we also created a new safety jacket for Humpty Dumpty.

Our History topic this term is the Great Fire of London. As part of our launch day, we had a visit from a fire engine and some fire fighters. We got the opportunity to ask them lots of questions and we even got to use some of their equipment. As mathematicians this half-term, we have learnt about the place value of numbers. We have used different concrete resources to partition numbers and we then applied this knowledge to solve some tricky problems. We have also focused on number sequences and we have learnt how to use a 100 square to help with this.

Our focused country for International Day was Kenya. Mr. Ilagoswa visited our class and taught us some Swahili and told us some facts about Kenya. We took part in some traditional dancing and we also enjoying creating our very own necklaces using traditional patterns.

## Our children say...

"I loved when the fire engine came to visit and I was really inspired by the fire fighters."

"International Day was so much fun and I hope I get to visit Kenya someday!"

"I really enjoyed learning how to knit and I was so proud of the fish I made."



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Year 3



## This Half-Term...

We have been focusing on Place Value in Maths this term in Maths. We have used many different manipulatives to help us partition numbers and we then applied this knowledge to solve problems. We have really enjoyed 'Active Maths' lessons where we have had to find the answers to questions around the classroom and corridor.

In Topic, we have had our 'Launch Day' to introduce the Stone Age. We have focused on how the Stone Age people lived, the types of technology they had, tools they used and how they were hunter-gatherers. They found out about the role of archaeologists and the types of artefacts they excavated and the importance of them.

In Science, we have been learning about all the five different food groups and the health benefits of food. We have sorted foods into specific groups and designed a healthy balanced meal. We have explored human and animal skeletons and recently carried out an investigation to explore if taller children could jump higher.

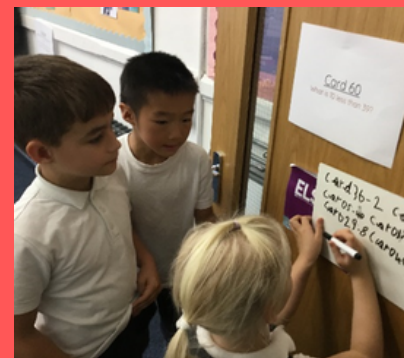
Class 8's worship focussed on Mary, our mother. Children re-enacted the annunciation scene and showed how they could be more like Mary through roleplay. They wrote prayers to say how special Mary is in their lives and linked that to their own mothers.

## Our children say...

"I loved learning about Black History and enjoyed acting in our class worship."

"I love Active Maths- it's so fun!"

"I like our Music lessons and learning the ukulele."



# Year 4



## This Half-Term...

In Science, we have been learning all about 'Animals and their Habitats'. We learnt how to classify animals using Liquorice Allsorts.

In Maths, we have been very busy! We have finished out Place Value Topic and we are now solving addition and subtraction problems. Some problems have more than one step, but we are using perseverance to help us succeed.

We have really enjoyed our swimming lessons on Mondays and Tuesdays. Not only are we having fun, but we are learning to keep safe in the water. We are gaining confidence each week.

Our focused country for International Day was India. We made beautiful Artwork inspired by the book: 'A pair of Twins'. We also tasted lots of authentic Indian food – a special thank you to the parents who provided this.

## Our children say...

"I loved learning about the Anglo-Saxons. I liked that they used to do magic"

"I liked our writing lessons this year- writing is my favourite subject."

"I love our Art lessons with Mrs Thomson – they're really fun!"





# Year 5



## This Half-Term...

At the start of the academic year, we were very lucky to visit Bramhall Hall as part of our topic on the Tudors. We had a fabulous day and learned lots of facts about a Tudor household, their clothes and their secrets!

In Maths we have learned all about Place Value, so we can go through Year 5 with a secure knowledge of number. More recently, we have been learning formal written and mental methods of adding and subtracting and applying what we know to multi-step word problems.

In English, we have just completed our story 'Queen of the Falls' and we all wrote fantastic diary entries in character as Annie. We amazed our teachers with some great Y5 standard writing, including relative clauses, complex sentences and progressive and perfect verb forms!

We have really been enjoying our music lessons with Ms Dewsnap on the guitars. We have learned lots of different chords and we are excited to learn a lot more!

## Our children say...

"I loved Bramhall Hall and seeing all of the rooms in the house. I really liked going into the priest hole!"

"I have loved our experiments in science because we have done lots of them outside."

"I really love Spanish because I want to learn as much as I can before we meet our Spanish friends."



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Year 6



## This Half-Term...

Year 6 have loved experimenting all things light in Science this half term. We have measured the height of shadows based on how far away the light source is and how mirrors can cause light to reflect.

In English, we have been working hard to write a flash back narrative, we have applied used tools like expanded noun phrases and adverbials to make our work descriptive.

In Maths, we have been learning and applying lots of new methods to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division calculations.

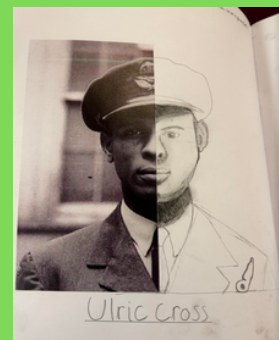
We have loved our World War Two topic this half term; it has been interesting to learn how the war began and which countries were significant. We studied daily life was impacted with rationing, gas masks, air raids and evacuation.

## Our children say...

"Science lessons have been so fun! We have had lots of practical experiments and used torches and prisms!"

"I am really loving our World World Two topic. I've learned so much about the Battle of Britain and Britain's role in the War."

"Art has really inspired me this term - especially when we used shading techniques to create a sketch of Ulric Cross."



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Music with Mrs Dewsnap



## Our School Choir

It has been a fantastic start to this academic year for our wonderful school choir having had the honour and privilege at singing at the wedding of Miss Quiligotti in September. Our Year 6 leavers joined us too, which made it even more special and many compliments were given from all the guests for their excellent singing. Mrs Chidgey and Mrs Dewsnap rewrote and personalised the words to 'Love Shone Down' especially as it was Miss Quiligotti's favourite hymn! The choir certainly did it justice and at the end of the ceremony gave the happy couple a rousing and joyous send off with 'Crazy Little Love' by Queen.

Thank you Miss Quiligotti for inviting us to sing at your beautiful wedding and many CONGRATULATIONS to you both! It was a lovely occasion that we shall never forget!

The choir are currently busily rehearsing a range of Music for future performances including:

- Carol singing for the 'The Didsbury Christmas Lights' switch on, Thursday 16th November at 7pm.  
Carol singing for 'The Christmas Nativity' outside Withington Baths on Sunday 17th December.
- 'Young Voices' Concert at Manchester AO Arena on Monday 5th February 2024.
- Singing hymns for the 'Feast of Christ the King' at 9:00am Mass at St Catherine's Church in November

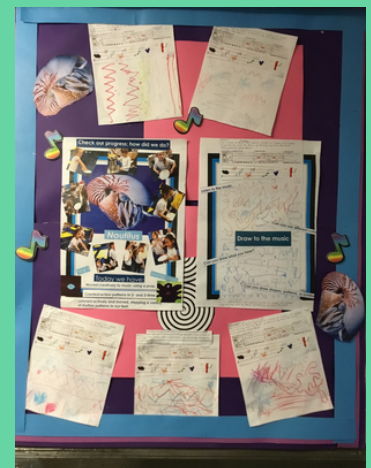
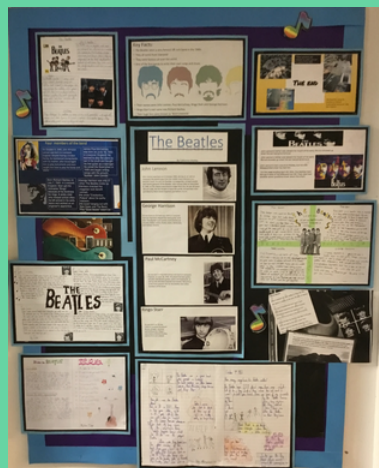
# Music with Mrs Dewsnap



## Music Lessons

Music lessons from Nursery to Year 6 are well underway in school and it is always wonderful to see the enthusiasm and interest from the children who are actively learning a range of instruments in school this term including the guitar, ukulele and glockenspiel and a variety of percussion. We have also focused on singing songs related to our themes in school including 'Black History Month' and 'Judaism' during Other Faiths Week. A BIG thanks and 'Shout out' go to the children in Year 6 who produced high quality Music homework about composers.

This term, children in Year 6 were asked to focus on researching facts and information about Sir Paul McCartney and 'The Beatles' so parents please look out for our displays on the corridor including artistic PowerPoint presentations and impressive written descriptions about the The Beatles. They have also been learning to play and sing 'Mull of Kintyre' on guitars and I am very proud of their hard work and effort so far! A GREAT start Year 6! You are always a pleasure to teach!!



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Sports



Our new sports coach, Mr Hollins, started with us at St. Catherine's in September and is already having a really positive impact on sports across St. Catherine's. We also have the benefit of two additional specialist coaches coming into school each week to teach our children gymnastics and dance. Our children are loving these specialist lessons and are other year groups are excited to take part over this academic year too.

## Cross Country

Well done to all of our fantastic runners who have been attending cross country events on Saturday mornings at Wythenshawe Park. We are really proud of your great efforts and achievements so far this year.

A special congratulations goes to Amelie and Leo in Year 6, Fin in Year 5 and Isabelle in Year 4 who have all qualified for the Manchester Citywide Finals for cross country. We are so proud of you - well done!



## Netball

We now have a netball team training weekly after school for children in Years 4, 5 and 6, as well as new netball posts! Our children are working well as a team to further develop their skills and we hope to enter children into tournaments against other schools later in the academic year.

# Sports



## Cheerleading

Our KS2 Cheerleading Team is well-established now, with last year's team coming first in a Manchester competition in July. Our new cheerleading team are off to a brilliant start, training weekly with silver world medalist cheerleading coach Becky from Electric Athletics in Salford.



## What else is on offer?

Our new sports coach collaboration with Junior Sport Stars has further developed our curriculum offer for P.E. across St. Catherine's. Over this academic year, all children will have access to specialist teaching every half-term in either outdoor sports, gymnastics or dance. This includes high-quality professional development for our teachers too. We also have a number of other great sports clubs running after school for a range of different ages including football, cheerleading, netball, dance, gymnastics and yoga.

## Football

Our team trials for our Year 5 and 6 school football teams were so popular that we now have three great teams training weekly: our girls' team, our boys' team and our football development team. The weekly football sessions take place at The Barlow are led by our sports coach Mr Hollins, with the support of other school staff and student sports leaders from The Barlow.



# Student Leadership



## GIFT Team

GIFT Team stands for the 'Growing In Faith Together' team and is an incredibly important part of our school student leadership. Our GIFT Team help to lead the faith life of our school, including Masses, special liturgical events, representing our school within our Catholic community and more.

Congratulations to our Year 6 children who are now our GIFT Team representatives:

Rose, Theo, Leo, Seth, Catherine, Orlaith, Isla, Eabha, Olivia, Chibuzor, Iris, Evie, Christopher, Jacob, Uma

## Caritas Ambassadors

Our Caritas Ambassador team is now formed and we have had some outstanding letters of application to be part of this prestigious leadership group. Caritas is all about putting our love and faith into action through helping others, especially those most in need. Our Caritas Ambassadors will particularly focus on supporting within our local community.

Congratulations to our Year 5 children who are now our Caritas Ambassadors: Joshua, Amanda, Layla, Darcey, Maisie M, Kaila, Olly, George and Siofra.

## Laudato Si Council

This term a brand new council have been elected for 2023-2024. This year, the standard and quality of presentations from all nominees was outstanding, and it was amazing to see so many children put themselves forward for such an important role in school. In our first meeting, we have discussed Article 12 of the UNCRC where children have the right to have their voice heard.

Councillors have been tasked with thinking about an area of the school they would like to improve and have promised to come back with some fantastic suggestions after half term!

Congratulations to our children who have been elected to be part of this special council:

Year 2: Hallie and Isla C      Year 3: Sadie and Archie  
Year 4: Finn and Emily      Year 5: Elijah and Elsa  
Year 6: Amelie and Aoife



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to all the new families who have joined our wonderful school community this year. We look forward to meeting you very soon.

The PTA and all the families that actively participate in our activities and initiatives, not only aim to contribute to the school but are also committed to create lovely memories for the children during their years at St Catherine's. Therefore it is very important to make every family feel welcome to take part of the PTA, share new ideas and promote donations.

If you would like to know more about the PTA or get involved in any of the upcoming events we would love to hear from you. You can get in touch with Marian on 07383010123 or email us at [stcatherinesdidsburypta@gmail.com](mailto:stcatherinesdidsburypta@gmail.com).

## RECENT EVENTS:

### Bag2school Collection

Thank you to everyone who supported this week's collection which raised £96. The next Bag2school collection will be on Friday 26th January.



### Coffee Morning

We are thrilled to have our coffee mornings back up and running. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers this morning. A huge thank you to Year 6 parents who donated delicious bakes and helped out. We raised £98.80.



easyfundraising  
feel good shopping

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



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration



# Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Costume Disco Fri 3rd November

St Catherine's Social Club

KS1 5-6pm

KS2 6.30-7.45pm

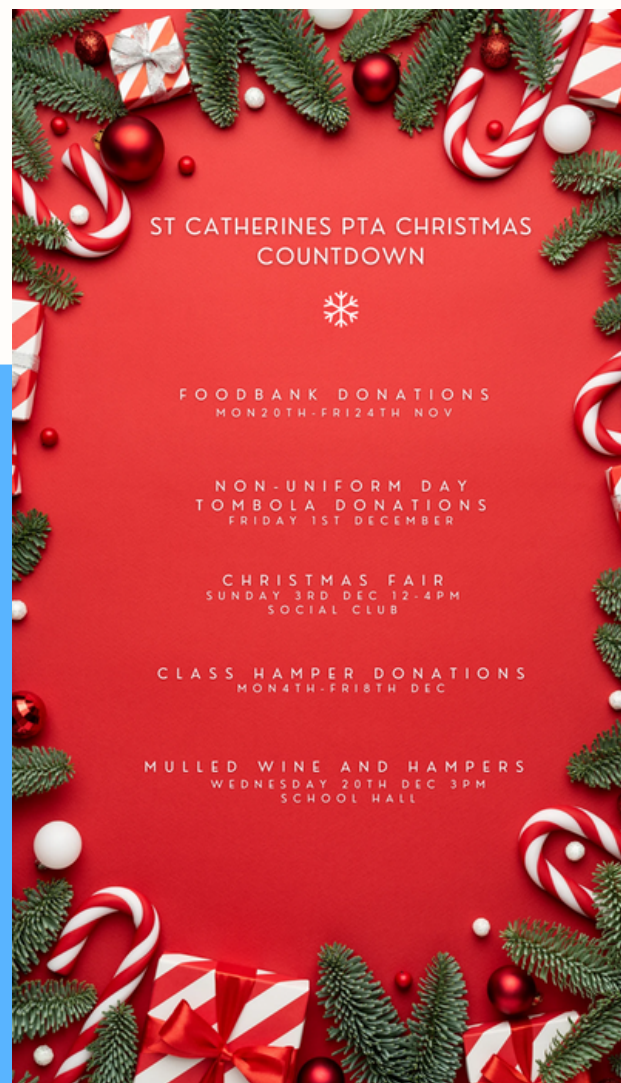
We are really excited for the 1st school disco of the year! Thank you to everyone involved in making this happen and to everyone who has volunteered to help on the night.

Limited tickets are still available via Parentmail only.



### Christmas Countdown

Plans are underway for this year's festive events (see calendar below), look out for full details after half term but for now please Save the Date for our Christmas Fair which will take place on Sunday 3rd December!



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration