

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

St. Catherine's Newsletter: Summer Term 1 2024



A Message From Mrs Quiligotti

Dear parents and carers,

Our half-term has spanned the joyous occasion of Easter Tide and it has been wonderful in school to celebrate all of the special events of our liturgical calendar during this time. A real highlight has been our Pentecost Party, celebrated today in school. Our children are well-versed on the importance and significance of this event and they had a wonderful time having a big party to celebrate the birthday of the Christian church, including dancing on the playground to music from Chip, a Christian rock singer!

This half-term, we have also held both parts of our annual Spanish Exchange experience. This is such a special part of our school life and we are incredibly grateful for our longstanding relationships with our two partner schools in Nigran, Spain. In April, a number of our Year 5 children visited Nigran and were immersed in the Galician culture. They attended school at either Palacios or Mallon, our partner schools, and had the most wonderful experiences whilst they were there. It has been a true joy to welcome our Spanish children, teachers and parents back to Manchester over the past week. Thank you to everyone who has worked hard to make this a truly memorable experience for our Spanish friends. We are so proud to facilitate such invaluable experiences for our children and our Spanish Exchange weeks are always one of the absolute highlights of our school year.

Our Year 6 children sat their KS2 SATS exams this half-term and we are so proud of them for their hard work, perseverance and great efforts. These exams only show off their learning in English and Maths and don't celebrate their other wonderful talents and skills or the way in which they show our Core Values. We are always proud of our children and their achievements, which span a wide range of areas and we congratulate them for all they have achieved so far this year.

We hope our children and our families have a great half-term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 10th June.

Mrs Quiligotti

Whole School



This Half-Term...

This half-term has been another busy but very exciting one! Our children have experienced some truly wonderful learning opportunities, including visits from farm animals and our local police, our Spanish Exchange trip to Nigran, canoeing, archery, bouldering and more!

We've also celebrated the joyous Eastertide and learning about the different key events during this liturgical season, including Jesus' Resurrection, the Ascension and Pentecost. We even hosted our very own Pentecost party where we celebrated the birthday of the church and danced along to some Christian rock music on the playground!



Love in Action

This half-term, Kath Ansley from Caritas Salford came into school to teach us all about putting our love and faith into action. She gave us lots of information about Caritas Salford and explained the importance of supporting charities, including showing us how all of the money we raise in our St Joseph's Penny appeals helps people across Salford.

Kath helped us to see how we can follow in Jesus' footsteps by putting our core values into action and helping those in our community.



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Spanish Exchange



In April, some of our Year 5 children travelled to Nigran in the region of Galicia in Spain for our fantastic Spanish Exchange trip. They had the most wonderful time experiencing the Galician culture in Nigran and spending time in our two Spanish partner schools. They visited Cies Island, learned to surf, went horse riding and more! Our other Year 5 children also had a wonderful time during their enrichment week back in Manchester, filled with lots of fun and exciting activities, including archery, bouldering, canoeing and even a bowling trip!

In May, our Spanish children and teachers came to Manchester to visit us and what a week we had! We welcomed our Spanish friends into school with our special Manchester welcome on the playground, followed by our welcome assemblies where our younger children showed off their Spanish singing. Our children got up to so many wonderful things including art lessons, sports, our singing square, reading to our younger children, a trip to Martin Mere and more! A highlight of the week was all of our children, Spanish and English, singing Oasis 'Don't Look Back in Anger.' We can't wait for next year already!



Love

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Inspiration

Nursery



This Half-Term...

This half-term, our topic has been Food and Growth. We enjoyed reading the story 'Jasper's Beanstalk'. We practised sequencing the story, the days of the week, and drawing and labelling a picture of what might be at the top of the beanstalk. We also looked at 'Oliver's Vegetables'. We had lots of vegetables in our class and we learned lots of words to describe them. We even painted with them! We also practised our letter formation by writing words from the story.

In Maths, we have been learning about shape. We learned about and drew a variety of 2D and 3D shapes. We also went on a shape hunt around the environment looking for shapes we recognised, and made a tally chart to count how many of each shape we found.

We have had lots of exciting visitors this half-term! Two police officers came to tell us all about what they do and how they help people. They even brought in their police car and we got to sit in it! Farmer David came as well, bringing a selection of animals from his farm for us to feed, hold and observe. We had so much fun!

We have enjoyed starting PE too. We have been looking at different ways of travelling and moving, practising moving like animals and different modes of transport.

Our children say...

"The police came and I drove. I want to be a policeman!"

"The farm brought some animals, we got to stroke the animals and we saw eggs. It was exciting!"

"I went on a shape hunt and we found a triangle, a circle and a rectangle."



Love

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Inspiration

Reception



This Half-Term...

This half term our topic had been 'Food & Growth'. In literacy we have focused on the key texts 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'Supertato'. We have been working hard to retell stories, ensuring there is a beginning, middle and end. We even discovered Evil pea had tied up Supertato in our small world area.

In Mathematics, we have been focusing on doubles, odd and even numbers and number bonds. In our outdoor are we had a 'Superhero Number Hunt'. Once we found our superheroes, we tried to subitise an arrangement of dots and we discussed how each number was arranged and the different compositions of each number e.g. '6 is made from 5 and one more'.

We had a lovely day with the Bowland Farm animals. First we stroked some ducks and chickens. We enjoyed learning all about how Farmer David looks after all of the animals before feeding and walking them.

Two police officers came in their police car to visit us on the Early Years playground. The traffic officers told us all about what they do to keep everybody safe. They spoke about their uniforms and how the sirens work on their cars. The children had lots of questions for them and were on their best behaviour.

Our children say...

"Supertato is my favourite. He can fly and defeat Evil Pea."

"The Police came from the station to our school. They showed us the lights and the siren in their car."

"I love the alpaca the most. I took one for a walk with Farmer David".



Love

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Year 1



This Half-Term...

This half-term, both Class 3 and 4 have completed their second worships. Class 3 delivered a worship on the Ascension and Class 4 delivered one on Pentecost. Both classes thoroughly enjoyed preparing and performing their worships.

In Science, we have started our new topic learning about plants. We have learnt the structure of a plant and have planted our own seeds. We can't wait to see how they grow over the next few weeks!

In Design & Technology, we have created our own playgrounds using recyclable materials in the style of Charles Wicksteed. We learnt how to plan, create and evaluate our designs.

In Computing, we have been developing our skills in data collection. We recently learnt how to independently use and make pictograms to gather data.

Our children say...

"I loved planting the seeds and want to be a gardener when I grow up!"

"I liked in Maths learning about fractions and I can help mum cut up a pizza now into equal parts."

"In Topic, we got to do a tour of the school. I loved seeing the big corridor and the older children."



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Inspiration

Year 2



This Half-Term...

As part of our English lessons this half-term we read, 'The Last Wolf.' We focused on endangered animals and deforestation. The children wrote letters to King Charles II and the Prime Minister and discussed changes we could make to save our wonderful planet.

We have been busy learning all about plants this half-term. We have learnt about what plants need in order to survive and we conducted a number of investigations to test various hypothesis. We even planted our own sunflowers and cared for this within class.

This half term we have been learning all about the seven continents and five oceans. We specifically looked at Antarctica and Africa and used our IT skills to create a Pic Collage on iPads with information we had learnt.

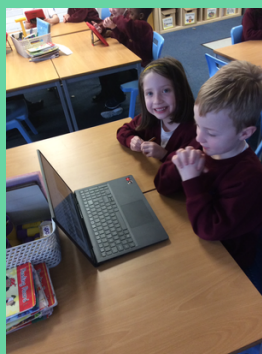
In Maths, our new topic is 'Data Handling' so as part of our discovery lesson we used some PE equipment and looked at all the different ways we could sort it and discussed how this could be represented.

Our children say...

"Learning about the different continents has been so interesting. I really loved learning different facts about Africa!"

"I loved sharing my geography project with the class and I enjoyed researching facts about Vietnam."

"I really enjoyed making my Pentecost party hat and I can't wait for our party-it will be SO much fun."



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Year 3



This Half-Term...

This half term, we have been using the book 'Journey' in English to help us write descriptively. Journey is a wordless book, so we have had to use our detective skills to infer lots of the information. It has helped us to create effective setting descriptions.

In Religion, we have been learning about Pentecost and the Power of the Holy Spirit. We have learnt about the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and how we can put these into action in our daily lives.

In Design and Technology, we have looked at levers and linkages. We have had lot of fun designing and making a card for a younger child.

In Maths, we have just started to learn Roman numerals to 12 and how to tell the time. Telling the time is a challenging skill and we are working hard to master this!

Our children say...

"I like DT a lot. I really liked pulling the lever and seeing the movement on my card."

"I have enjoyed looking at our English book the Journey and finding out about the girl's great adventure."

"I am enjoying finding out what numbers are in Roman Numerals and I am getting better at telling the time."



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Year 4



This Half-Term...

This term, Class 9 completed their second worship all about St Catherine of Siena. We spent time as a class learning about her inspiring life and thinking about how we could use our own skills and talents to spread God's word and be who God wants us to be.

In Topic, we have been learning about rivers and how pollution can impact our environment. We were lucky enough to be able to canoe down the River Mersey, complete a river investigation and go on a woodland walk on our day at Venture Out. We had so much fun!

In English, we have been researching about sloths and learning more about the features of a non - chronological report. We blew our teachers away with all of our amazing facts and beautifully written reports! We are now Sloth experts - really, ask us anything!

Our children say...

"I loved learning about sloths and watching David Attenborough documentaries all about them!"

"I liked learning about fractions and improving at the trickier parts."

"The river trip was the best, especially the canoeing!"



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Year 5



This Half-Term...

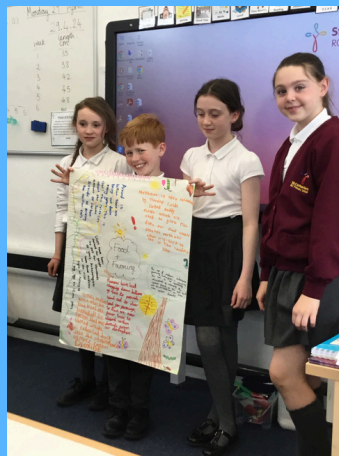
This half-term, we have engaged in our Spanish exchange programme! At the beginning of the half term, some of us had the opportunity to visit Nigran in Spain where we enjoyed many cultural activities with our Spanish pen pals. For those of us that stayed in Didsbury, we enjoyed many enrichment opportunities including canoeing, orienteering and even a visit to the cinema! Towards the end of term, our Spanish friends visited us in Didsbury and again we had a fantastic time! We have put all our Spanish speaking into practice and can't believe the experience we have had! In English, we have used the inspiration person 'Greta Thunberg' to inspire our persuasive and emotive writing all about climate change. We have written persuasive letters to political leaders as well as writing and performing emotive speeches. In Topic, we have begun to learn about São Paulo in our topic: Destination São Paulo: What do places have in common? We have learnt that São Paulo is the biggest city in the Southern Hemisphere and is known as a 'mega city'. We have had the opportunity to participate in Gaelic Football sessions this half-term. Every Wednesday, we have joined in lessons where we have learnt new skills which have helped us to play games of Gaelic Football.

Our children say...

"I have enjoyed writing a persuasive letter - I wrote to Rishi Sunak to tell him all about climate change and what we need to do to help."

"In Science, we have been learning about Earth and Space, we have learnt about the solar system - did you know that Pluto is a dwarf planet?"

"I loved the Spanish exchange. When we were in Nigran we went kayaking, we went to the beach a lot and we had so much fun!"



Love

Faith

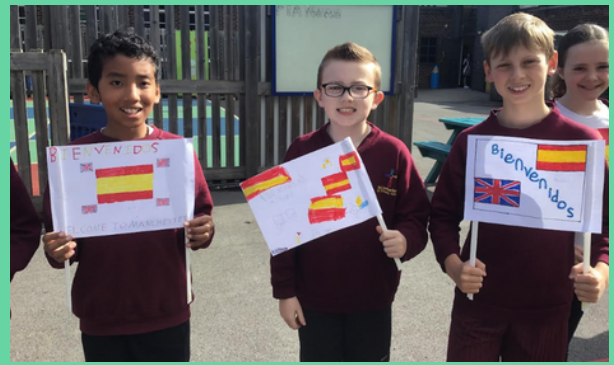
Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Year 6



This Half-Term...

Year 6 children have worked tirelessly this half-term to prepare for their SATs tests. We have tried lots of different ways to make revision fun this half-term including musical SPAG! We celebrated with an indoor picnic due to the weather not being suitable for the park. Well done to all of our children; we are so proud of all of you and we are looking forward to all of the great things still to come this term!

In Topic, we have learnt lots of interesting facts about Islamic Civilisation. We understand how Islam was formed and how Baghdad became a major hub of trade and knowledge which contributes to the world we live in today.

Our Art lessons have been focused around Nadia Janjua. She is a visual artist who is famous for her Islamic artwork, which focuses on geometric patterns and colour. A link with our History topic.

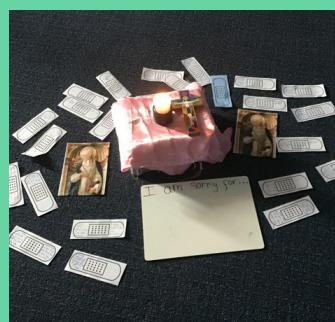
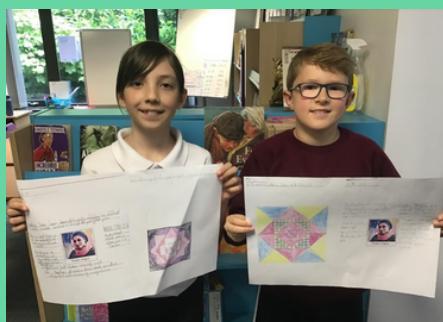
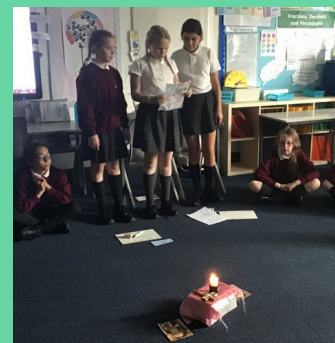
During our PE lessons with Mr Hollins, we have been working on our basketball and netball skills whilst competing in lots of mini-competitions against each other.

Our children say...

"I loved preparing for our Spanish visitors and welcoming them back. It's been a really good opportunity to practise my Spanish and use lots of phrases!"

"I'm really enjoying our Nadia Janjua unit in Art. It's been so interesting to learn how geometry can be found in Islamic Art too!"

"The indoor picnic was the best day ever after SATs finished! We had so much fun - despite the rain!"



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Music



Year 6 children have really enjoyed some time to work collaboratively to explore technology to create inspiring raps around themes such as anti-bullying and online safety,

Year 5 spent time listening to and appreciating lullabies from across the globe, learning about $\frac{3}{4}$ time as well as singing and learning to play an accompaniment to the beautiful lullaby 'Ballo Baleerie' from The Shetland Islands.

Our Year 4 children have been responding enthusiastically to the music of Spain including the rhythmic 'Habanera'. This was a great tool for them all to count, keep the pulse and dance, as well as play on tuned/untuned percussion instruments and they had the chance to compose together and individually, too.

In Year 3, they have had the opportunity to be 'reflective' in our topic about 'Sound Symmetry,' and to develop musical learning based on their understanding in Maths. They explored the structure in some familiar songs and nursery rhymes and composed symmetrical tunes.



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Music



Our fabulous and tuneful Year 2's have explored a litany of little creatures in their unit on 'Minibeasts', furthering their understanding of timbre and rhythm, using classroom percussion instruments and movement to represent the crawling, scurrying creatures in the song. Our Music lessons in Year 1 have been 'jam-packed' with energy and fun as they all enjoyed the unit 'Menu Song!' The unit is based around a fun, cumulative song with 'off beat' rhythms that present a series of tasty dishes over the course of the week. Children have continued to practise their skills in listening, keeping the beat and developing a sense of pitch by echo singing the leader and produced a very theatrical performance with percussion instruments and some great singing! Some children said it was their favourite song yet!



Music



Our fabulous Reception children respond brilliantly in their Music lessons each week. Our topic, 'Down there under the Sea' paints a musical picture of marine life and this song and unit of learning have been great for exploring a sea-themed soundscape, composing new lyrics and creating a sea accompaniment using props e.g. sea shells, sea creatures and pirate hats to enhance the singing and movement. The children loved learning some notation including notes (C,D,E) on glockenspiels and enthusiastically joined in with keeping the beat with percussion instruments to accompany the song. I always receive a cheery and smiley welcome when I enter the Nursery for Music but it maybe because they relish the opportunity to be clutching cuddly toys as part of their learning experience! The unit of learning called 'Animal Tea Party' featured a range of animals who all make a sound that fits with the music including a crocodile, lion, duck and snake but we customised the song and added our own animals, too. The children have been learning to respond to the song with words and movement, by moving their soft toys to the music. It was GREAT fun and smiles all round!



Sports



It has been another jam packed half-term for sports!

Key Stage 2 children thoroughly enjoyed an assembly with a famous netball player from Manchester Thunder Team: Shadine Van Der Merwe.

The Year 6 Boys' Football Team competed against another school in a knock out tournament. It was a tense match with extra time but unfortunately, we were beaten on penalties.

The leagues and competitions have now concluded for the year and we would like to congratulate all of the children who have participated in athletics, football, netball and gymnastics this academic year- we are so proud of you!

Next half-term, some children in Year 3 and 4 look forward to a 'Tri-Golf' competition and the whole school is excited for all of our sports day events! .



Student Leadership



Laudato Si Council

Our Councillors are always keen to listen to ideas and suggestions from their peers. Following on from previous feedback about playground provision, they have recently installed an all-weather stationery pot that can be used for the outdoor classroom. It was fun learning how to use a drill and screws under the watchful eye of Mr Rodriguez!

Planeteers

'Planeteers' is the new-founded name for our eco-group at St Catherine's! Our children have continued to work hard each week with Dr Locke from Manchester Environmental Education Network and are continuing to make our school a more sustainable place.

Our Planeteers recently presented in assemblies to our children across school, teaching them about recycling and what should go in each bin and why. They have ensured we have food bins on the playground, which are then composted on our school grounds.

Keep up the great work, Planeteers!

Caritas Ambassadors and GIFT Team

This half-term, our GIFT team and Caritas Ambassadors have continued to support the Catholic Life and Mission of the school. We have been role models to our peers through showcasing our school and our Faith. We have supported school celebrations such as St Catherine of Siena Day and our school Pentecost celebrations. We have also been thinking ahead to next half-term and how we can promote our role to the future GIFT team members and Caritas Ambassadors!

We have also had a whole school visit from Kath Ansley who works for Caritas in Action. Kath taught us all about what 'Love in Action' means and how we can make a difference by loving and giving.

We had this visit during Easter, just after we had been raising money for St Joseph's Penny during Lent and Kath let us know where the money that is raised goes to. It made us feel incredibly proud of the hard work we do to raise money for Caritas.



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Inspiration

Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



Dear parents and carers,

What a fantastic half-term it has been! We are so grateful for the support in making the events happen, we say it a lot but without your support we could not do any of it!

Our summer disco was a huge success, it was wonderful to see so many of our children enjoying it with their friends and we were delighted to welcome DJ Dom back to St Catherine's.

Many thanks to our Year 2 and 3 parents for hosting last week's coffee morning, donating cakes and helping out. It was also lovely to be able to welcome some of our Spanish families who were visiting.

Finance update:

Break the rules raised £614.77

Bag2school raised £98.40

Summer Disco raised £1,816.67

Coffee morning raised £214.10

Total raised since September – £10,888.37



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Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



Plans are now underway for our biggest event of the year – The Summer Fair, which takes place on Sunday 7th July. Please get in touch with Marian or your school rep if you would like to help in the lead up or on the day. It is guaranteed to be a fabulous day for our whole school community. See the countdown calendar on the next page and look out for more information after half-term.

Congratulations to our recent lottery local draw winners; the more people that play, the bigger our weekly guaranteed prize will be!!! The closing date for this term's big draw is tomorrow to be in with a chance of winning a summer getaway or a £1,000 cash prize. Click on the link to find out more. <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/st-catherines-r-c-primary-school>

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 and could make a big difference to our fundraising efforts.

Thank you for your continued support, have a wonderful half term.

The PTA ❤️

PTA Committee

Chair – Marian Glorioso

Co Secretaries – Tina Fitzpatrick and Daniela Bartolo Romano

Treasurer – Katie Sammonds



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Respect

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Compassion

Inspiration

Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



SUMMER FAIR COUNTDOWN

Toys and
Teddies
17th-21st June
Bring in Preloved
Toys and Teddies
ready for a new
home



Books
24th-28th June
A chance to have a
clear out of your
Children's books



Tombola
5th July
Non-uniform day in
exchange for a bottle



Gazebos
5th July/7th July am
If you have gazebos we
can borrow, please let us
know



Fair Day
7th July
Come along and enjoy all
the fun of the fair!

