

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

St. Catherine's Newsletter: Summer Term 2 2024



A Message From Mrs Quiligotti

Dear parents and carers,

As we look back on another academic year completed, it's a great time to reflect on everything that has been achieved within our school community. We are proud of our children, each and every day, for their achievements, perseverance, kindness, for learning from their mistakes and for always striving to follow in Jesus' footsteps. Our children are the heartbeat of our school and they bring joy to our lives every school day. I always say that being on the school gate each morning is my favourite part of the school day as it's the most lovely opportunity to see our children skip into school, smiles on their faces, 'good mornings' on their lips, ready for another exciting school day. Our children are an absolute credit to our families and we hope you are proud of everything they have achieved this year too.

We're so incredibly proud of everyone in our school family who has contributed to helping shape young minds and create lasting, engaging and fun education for our children. Parents, you are our children's first educators and you pave the way for their learning and create the foundations for them to gain new knowledge and skills. Thank you for continuing to champion our school and our successes and celebrate how truly wonderful our children are. We appreciate all that you do and the kindness and support that you show to our school community – thank you!

To our hardworking and inspirational staff team, thank you for always going 'above and beyond' in your quest to make every day a happy, engaging and fulfilled learning experience for each and every child in our care. Thank you for taking on every challenge with positivity and determination and 'shaping the whole child' in everything you do. I feel so lucky to work with such a fantastic, supportive, positive and inspiring staff team and I hope that each one of our staff know the wonderful difference they make to St. Catherine's and our children.

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

St. Catherine's Newsletter: Summer Term 2 2024



A Message From Mrs Quiligotti

To our governors, your ambition for our school and our children helps us to 'strive for excellence' in all we do and we are so grateful for your strategic leadership. To our parish, our flourishing links benefit our children's faith journey vastly and we are so grateful to all who are involved, especially Father John who welcomes our children with love and compassion.

To our children, you bring smiles and joy to our school community every single day and we are so incredibly proud of the people you are and how you are learning to 'set the world on fire' in all you do by being who God wants you to be.

We are excited already for the next year ahead and to continue to take this journey together with all members of our school family. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Partington and Mrs Wilson to St. Catherine's next academic year to cover both mine and Mrs Glennon's maternity leaves and it has been a delight to work with them both already throughout this term. I'm sure our school community will welcome them both with open arms and show them how special our school is.

We have also recently been awarded capital funding from Salford Diocese to build a school kitchen. This is absolutely tremendous news and something that our leaders and governors have been working towards for a number of years now. We know that this will have a really positive impact on our school in many ways!

As we bid farewell to another school year, let's embrace the future with courage, knowledge, and an unwavering belief in our children's potential. "Every ending is a new beginning; as we leave behind what was, we step into the vast possibilities of what could be."

To those of our staff, children and parents leaving St. Catherine's this year, know that you have a special place in our hearts and you will always be a part of our St. Catherine's family. May your futures be filled with joy, success and happiness and we are proud to have been a part of your journey.

We wish all of our families a joyful summer and we can't wait to see you in September 2024! I will genuinely miss seeing our wonderful children and families every day for part of the next academic year but I look forward to visiting and saying hello to everyone!

Mrs Quiligotti

Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Whole School



This Half-Term...

It has been a busy half-term of sports days, end of year worships, school trips, parties and more! Our younger children took part in their annual 'Singing Square' and loved presenting their songs to each other. Our sports day events were all a great success and our children showed great determination, perseverance and sportsmanship.

Year 5 children had the opportunity to enter The Historical Association's Talking History competition. Two of our children made the final of this prestigious competition and then our wonderful Maisie in Class 12 won the national final! We are so proud of all of the children who entered - well done!



Visit from Bishop John

This month, we had a very special visitor to St. Catherine's - Bishop John! He came to join our school for the morning and visited all of our children, including joining our Reception and KS1 worship, leading a question and answer session with our eldest children, visiting classes and meeting with our Planeteers pupil group to find out what they have been doing to live out Pope Francis' Laudato Si message.

Our GIFT Team also gave Bishop John a tour of our school and told Bishop John lots of things about our school family. Each year group also made something special for Bishop John to take away to remind him of our wonderful school.

We loved our visit from Bishop John - thank you for coming!



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Our Year 6 Leavers



We are so incredibly proud of every single one of our Year 6 children who will be moving onto high school in September. Children, you have brought us such joy and pride during your years at St. Catherine's and we know you will do the same at your high schools. We are so proud of everything you have achieved and of all the different ways you are learning to 'set the world on fire' through being who God wants you to be.

As you leave our school, remember that you will forever be a part of our St. Catherine's family and you will always have a special place in our hearts. We will continue to support and cheer you on as you spread your wings and soar to new heights. Remember to believe in yourselves, just as we do in you.

As you embark on the next phase of your educational journey, carry with you the knowledge that your abilities are limitless, and your potential knows no bounds. May your futures be filled with joy, success, and happiness. May you always remember the lessons learned and the friendships forged during your time here and may your spirits remain forever bright as you embark on the exciting journey that awaits you.

"Every ending is a new beginning; as we leave behind what was, we step into the vast possibilities of what could be."



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Nursery



This Half-Term...

This half-term, our topic has been Minibeasts! Whilst reading one of our focus texts *Superworm*, we have had a worm world in our classroom, to support us with our learning. We have been watching the worms very closely, observing how they move up and down in the soil, mixing the coloured sand as they travel!

In Maths, we have been expanding our knowledge of numbers 1-5 ready for Reception! We have been making patterns using colours and shapes. Through our other focus text *Walter's Wonderful Web*, we have been recapping shapes and their properties.

We have been investigating symmetry too and used pipettes to put paint on one side of a butterfly, folded the paper and pressed down, before revealing our beautiful, symmetrical butterflies!

We have enjoyed lots of other wonderful events, such as Sports Day, Blue Day, Singing Square and our first ever class Worship. And how could we forget our end of year beach party! We have had so much fun!

Our children say...

"We have worms on our desk! They wiggle and they eat the soil. I like to look at them."

"We did Sports Day. We did obstacle course and throwing bean bags. I loved the egg and spoon race!"

"We went in the hall. Mummies and Daddies were there. We singing. Mummy said 'Wowee.'"



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Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Reception



This Half-Term...

This half-term, we have so enjoyed our topic of 'Minibeasts and Life Cycles'. A Guinea pig called Christopher from the story 'Christopher's Caterpillars' gave us caterpillars to look after as class pets. The children were amazed to see our caterpillars changed into butterflies which we released in our playground.

We really enjoyed Sports Day this year. The children showed exemplary sportsmanship, encouraging their friends and putting forward their best effort.

The children worked so hard to prepare for their worships this term. We hope that all parents and carers who could attend enjoyed their performance. It was wonderful to look back at all of their favourite memories from Reception. What a year we have had!

The Early Years Summer Party was a great success! The children had such a brilliant time filled with outdoor games, dancing, puppet shows and, of course, an ice cream from the ice cream van!

Our children say...

"Beach day was lots of fun. I loved the ice cream and the puppet show was very funny."

"I loved seeing our new Year One classroom. It's been good going on the big playground to get ready to go!"

"I loved the egg and spoon race at Sports Day. It was such a hot day."



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Respect

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Compassion

Inspiration

Year 1



This Half-Term...

This half-term, we have learnt about 'Our School' as part of our Topic focus. We have conducted several interviews with past and present staff/pupils such as footballer Emilio Lawrence and Mr Chidgey. We have loved learning about it!

In Art, we have created and moulded our own bears to link to our English book 'Goldilocks and Just the One Bear'.

In Maths, we have learnt about time and money – two very important key life skills! We have been able to recognise how to use time and money in various scenarios.

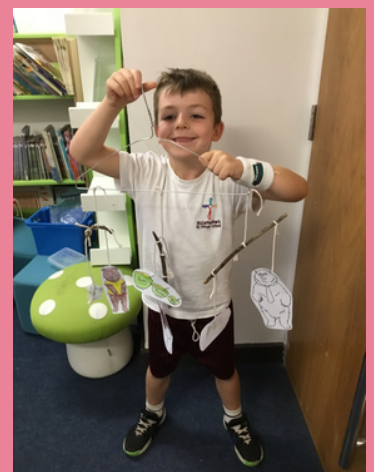
This half-term, we had our annual 'Singing Square' performance. We enjoyed learning different songs and performing them to the other year groups, as well as hearing our year groups' songs. It was a brilliant event!

Our children say...

"I loved Sports Day and doing different races. I want to be a runner when I'm older."

"Making mobiles was so fun. I even got to help my friend do the knots."

"I have liked playing cricket. I almost hit the ball onto the roof!"



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Compassion

Inspiration

Year 2



This Half-Term...

Class 5 celebrated their final worship this half-term. Our worship was all about our time in Year 2. We talked about what we had learnt and our proudest achievements this year. We also displayed some of our many talents during, 'Class 5's Got Talent!' It was so much fun and we loved sharing our learning and talents with our families. We even got the golden buzzer!

As part of our Science topic about animals, we went on a trip to Knowsley Safari Park. Here we went on a safari drive with one of the park rangers and learnt all about the animals. We also watched a birds of prey display and a sealion show. It was so much fun and it really helped to bring our topic to life.

In Class 6, we also celebrated our final class worship in Year 2. We talked all about God's world, giving facts about continents and oceans which we had learnt in Geography. We even took the audience on a coach tour through Kenya and learnt to sing a song using Makaton!

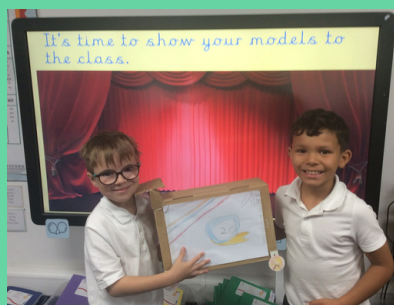
Our Design Technology topic this half-term was all about moving mechanisms. We worked in small groups to design and make our own car. We used Hot Wheels car designs as our inspiration. Our cars looked amazing and we are awaiting a call from Formula One!

Our children say...

"I loved our school trip to the safari park and my favourite part was watching the sealion show."

"I loved making a car in DT and I think I could get a job working for Tesla!"

"We used ScratchJr to make our own moving animations and to recreate our trip to the zoo. It was so much fun!"



Love

Faith

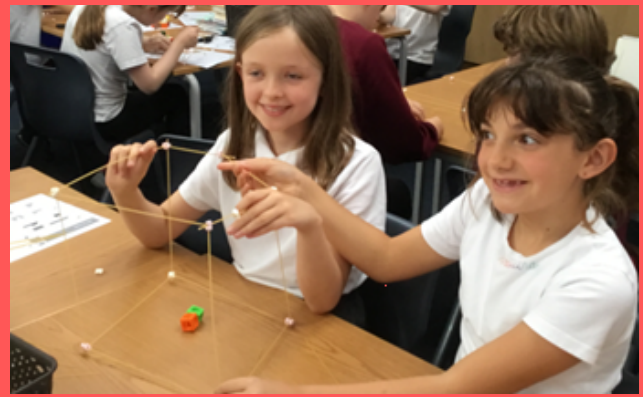
Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Year 3



This Half-Term...

In PE, we have had a dance teacher in school to teach us some street dance moves! We have been lucky to put the different moves together into a dance sequence. It has been lots of fun keeping in time with the music.

Our DT Project for this term has been themed around textiles. We have enjoyed sewing a purse/wallet and have been very creative with our designs. Sewing has been a mindful and fun activity!

In Maths, we have been looking at shape and even had a go at making our own 3D shapes using spaghetti and marshmallows. It was challenging, but we persevered!

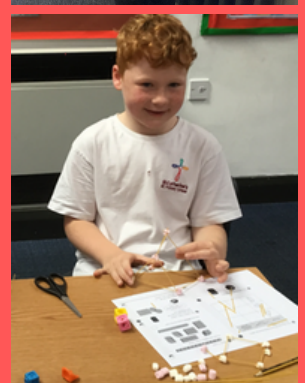
In Topic, we have been learning all about our local environment of Didsbury. We have been finding out about all the human and physical characteristics and even managed a trip to Didsbury Village, the River Mersey and Didsbury Park.

Our children say...

"I have enjoyed sewing the materials using the blanket stitch. It was tricky sometimes when the thread was knotting but I persevered!"

"I have loved learning new dance moves and skills and getting better the more I practise."

"I have found it interesting learning about why people choose Didsbury to live in and why they like being here because there are lots of parks and places to stay."



Love

Faith

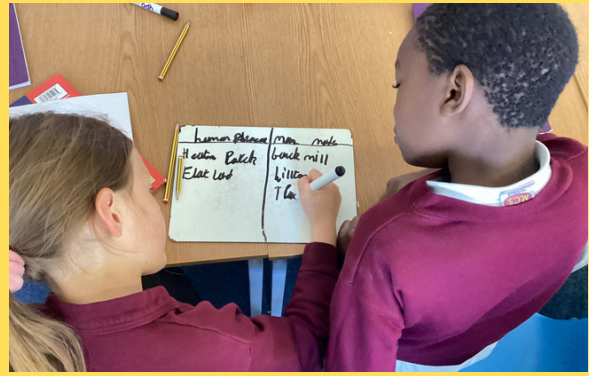
Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Year 4



This Half-Term...

This half-term, Year 4 children have learnt more about the general election and a number of political parties in lead up to the election. We had a fantastic opportunity to take part in a mock election at Barlow, which we loved! In Topic, we have been learning about our wonderful city of Manchester. We have explored Manchester during the Industrial Revolution and discussed significant figures in Manchester such as Emmeline Pankhurst, Marcus Rashford and Oasis. In English, we have been learning about the formation of caves and their features, particularly Blue John Cavern. We have been reading 'Blue John', a story of a young boy, Blue John, who was made from the blue of the glacier and the hot yellow light of the sun. In Science, we have been learning about teeth - how they are formed, what they are called and their different roles. We also completed an experiment to discover which drinks causes the most decay of our teeth and we were shocked to find that orange juice caused more decay than coke!

Our children say...

"I have enjoyed cricket because it has been really fun working as a team, especially in our new classes."

"I liked reading the Blue John book as a class and learning about Blue John Cavern."

"I liked the teeth investigation and seeing how our enamel can decay on our teeth like the egg's shell."



Love

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Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Year 5



This Half-Term...

This half-term, Year 5 pupils have had the opportunity to visit the Barlow High School to participate in computing lessons. The lessons have enabled pupils to design and create a web page all about one of our topics – Sao Paulo. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and made some fantastic websites jam packed with information all about visiting Sao Paulo.

In reading and writing this half-term, we have been studying the text 'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson. Set in the Amazon, the main character Maia travels to live with distant relatives and embarks on a great adventure. We have used the text to help us write setting descriptions and persuasive, informal letters.

In Religion, our topic of 'Freedom and Responsibility' has made us think about how we often need rules even when we are given freedom. We have been thinking about the Ten Commandments and The Beatitudes and how we are blessed by God.

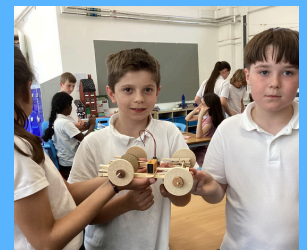
In Maths, we have explored converting measure with practical lessons involving measuring ingredients and comparing scale. This then helped us to enjoy pancakes and Angel Delight! The children have worked incredibly hard in maths this half-term – we hope this continues over the summer with the TT Rockstars tournament that has been set up by Mrs Connelly!

Our children say...

"We have really enjoyed this term's PE, where we have been taught cricket and gymnastics by specialists in these sports."

"We have learned a lot of new things in Science, including that plants can reproduce in different ways and that some mammals do lay eggs!"

"I think everybody enjoyed going to Barlow to do our lessons on web-page design."



Love

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Compassion

Inspiration

Year 6



This Half-Term...

This-half term, the children have worked incredibly hard on our Year 6 production: 'I'm an 11 year old...get me out of here!' From learning lines and choreographing songs to making props and designing art work, the children put on fantastic performances.

We have had lots of opportunities to be creative by completing our Islamic Art work inspired by Nadia Janjua.

The children learnt some crucial life skills on our school trip to 'Crucial Crew' where we were involved in sessions led by: Greater Manchester Police, First Aid, Co2 Crew, Transport for Greater Manchester and North West Electricity.

The children had an amazing time at their leavers party. They definitely 'dressed to impress' and danced away to the sounds of DJ Daly and DJ Jones!

Our children say...

"Crucial Crew was really fun! We learned about keeping safe in different situations and it made me think about what sort of job I'd like to do when I'm older."

"I've really enjoyed Art, especially the relief printing where we used Styrofoam and poster paint to create our own stamps."

"I can't wait to perform the play! It's really funny and we've worked hard on the singing and dancing."



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Inspiration

Music



Here are some photos of some of the great music events we have had this half-term... what a fun-filled few weeks of music we've had!

Thank you to Mrs Dewsnap, our music teacher, for all of her passion, enthusiasm and hard work in really bringing music to life across all year groups in St. Catherine's!



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Inspiration

Sports



This half term has been jam-packed with sporting activities:

- As a school, we have been working hard in our athletics lessons to develop our skills in preparation for sports day.
- Year 5 have enjoyed gymnastics with Mr Borjus.
- Year 3 have loved their specialist dance sessions with Sally.
- Years 1-6 had fantastic sports days over at The Barlow while EYFS used the big playground at school. Well done to all the children for their participation and sportsmanship for these events.
- Some of our children in Year 3 and 4 competed in a tri-golf event.
- Lancashire Cricket Foundation have delivered weekly cricket sessions to lots of classes this half term, which have been a huge hit!

Congratulations to all of our sports teams and children for their wonderful successes this academic year. We are so proud of how you have strived for excellence, whilst also showing the wonderful qualities of teamwork, perseverance and compassion. We are really proud of you!



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Student Leadership



Laudato Si Council

The School Council have been encouraging children to learn sign language with our new 'Learn, Sign and Play' posters in the playground.

The posters are designed to encourage more children to include and interact with their classmates who use signs in their communication. Some of the signs include "welcome", "thank you", "play" and "stop". They've already been a huge hit at playtime!

Caritas Ambassadors

Our Caritas Ambassadors have continued to put their faith into action in all they do. They have acted as key role models in our school community, showing our Core Values and supporting others in following in their example. We are really proud of all they have achieved this year – well done, Caritas Ambassadors!

Planeteers

Our Planeteers have had another busy half-term! They have continued to work with Manchester Environmental Education Network to make further improvements to our school to develop our sustainability.

Our Planeteers also had a session with Bishop John to tell him all about their work this year and how they are living out Pope Francis' Laudato Si message.

Our Planeteers have also been awarded the 'golden cap award' by Mr Clarke for being the group of children to have the most positive impact on our school environment over the past academic year – well done, children!

GIFT Team

Our GIFT Team had the important job of meeting and greeting Bishop John this half-term, as well as giving him a tour of our school and explaining why our school community is so special to us. Our GIFT Team also led us in our final Mass of this academic year, celebrating all of our great successes and achievements.



Governors



The governors have had a busy year continuing to support the leadership team and staff to make St Catherine's the best school it can be.

It was fantastic finally to have our long-awaited visit from Ofsted in November, following on from our successful Catholic Schools Inspection in the summer term of 2023. The positive outcomes from both inspections have provided St Catherine's with a fantastic platform from which to build.

The governing body were delighted to welcome Rory Quinn and John Hanley as new parent governors this year, as well as Mrs Chidgey who was re-elected as staff governor in November. We are now in the very fortunate position of having a full governing body, which many schools struggle to achieve. The diverse mix of skills, experience and perspectives within our governing body means we are well-placed to provide the support and challenge that the school needs.

The governors continue to monitor progress against the Five Year Plan which was developed alongside staff, parents and children in May 2023. Some of the progress made against the Plan this year has included:

Shape the whole person

- Significant improvements have been made to sports provision for the children, including a wider programme of extracurricular activities.
- The music provision within school has gone from strength to strength, including more opportunities for the children to showcase their musical learning and talents.
- The Spanish exchange continues to be a key part of our school life, and school is currently re-applying for the International Schools Award.

Strive for excellence

- Research-led changes to methods of teaching and learning have been introduced as we look to ensure the highest quality of education for the children in our school.
- The school's provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has continued to be a key area of focus to ensure that all children receive the support they need to excel.
- Resources continue to be invested into improving the quality of writing, an area particularly impacted by COVID, and this will continue to be a key focus going forwards.

Governors



Creating inspiring learning spaces

- The 'Planeteers' group have worked hard to help our community become more sustainable.
- Work is ongoing to ensure that the best possible use is made of our school site, with the aim of a new school kitchen still a key priority.

Build community

- Representatives from Caritas, the charity of the Diocese of Salford, have visited school to assist the children in understanding how to put their faith into action.
- There have been many opportunities during the year for parents to come into school to see their children's work and to attend events.

We look forward to seeing the continuing progress against the Five Year Plan in the coming year.

During the next academic year, the governors are delighted to be able to welcome Mrs Partington and Mrs Wilson to our school community while Mrs Quiligotti and Mrs Glennon are on maternity leave. Mrs Partington and Mrs Wilson have spent a significant amount of time in school already getting to know the staff and children so that they are ready to hit the ground running in September. We wish Mrs Quiligotti and Mrs Glennon all the very best, and while they will be missed by our whole community, we are confident that the school will be in safe hands with Mrs Partington and Mrs Wilson, alongside the existing leadership and staff teams.

Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



Dear parents and carers,
A Message from our Chair

This has been a fantastic school year, plenty of great opportunities to learn as a team, funds raised for our amazing school, being involved in our community and growing with our kids memories. Socialising with other parents and making our school shine brighter. None of it could happen without this incredible school community. Parents, grandparents, school staff, teachers and friends many thanks for the trust and belief in the hard work that all of the pta members put into every event. It has all been worthwhile.

Looking forward to continue shining with our school

Thanks, Marian ❤️

A message from Mrs Quiligotti

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to the success of our Parent and Teacher Association this year. The amount of money raised is phenomenal and this is down to the hard work, passion and dedication of everyone who has supported our wonderful PTA. A special thanks goes to our PTA committee who have worked tirelessly to organise events, raise funds and communicate with our school community for the benefit of our children. We are incredibly grateful for all that you do – thank you!

The money raised this year will really make a big difference to our school and to our children. We have further plans to improve both school playgrounds as well as continue to improve our school technology for children and funds raised will be a huge support towards these plans. Thank you to everyone involved in our PTA and everyone who has attended events – we are so blessed to have such a wonderful and active PTA. Thank you!



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



Finance update:

Summer Fair raised £4,581

Bag2school raised £92

Total raised since September:
£15,837.74 with more to come!



Given to school since September – £10K, paid for Reindeer visit, contribution to Spanish exchange, printing of leavers year books and contribution to leavers party.

Over the Summer you can continue to raise money for our school by joining our School Lottery!!! Con-gratulations to our recent local draw winners

<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.

Have a wonderful Summer!!

The PTA ❤️

PTA Committee

Chair – Marian Glorioso

Co Secretaries – Tina Fitzpatrick and

Daniela Bartolo Romano

Treasurer – Katie Sammonds



Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



2023-2024

MONEY RAISED

£15,837.74



 Summer Fair
£4,581.86

 Discos
£3,248.31

 Christmas Fair
£2,367.25

 Rainbow Day
£217.55

 Bedtime Stories
£139.79

 Break the Rules
£614.77

 Coffee Mornings
£457.05

 Your School Lottery
£1,218.80

 Mulled Wine & Hampers
£1,504.07

 Bag2School
£436.40

 Gift Match
£1,866.78



THANK YOU!

Love

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