

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

St. Catherine's Newsletter: Spring 1 Term 2022



A Message From Miss Quiligotti

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a wonderful start to 2022 at St. Catherine's and I hope by reading this newsletter you will be so proud of everything your child has achieved in the past seven weeks. For me, my first half-term as Headteacher at St. Catherine's has been an incredibly proud one. I am so proud of our children for their continued resilience and enthusiasm; it is a joy to see their smiling faces each day and the individual spark each one of them brings to our school. I am proud of our staff for their patience, positivity and incredible drive to make every day an enjoyable learning experience, even when still faced with the continued impact of Covid-19. I am proud of our parents, carers, governors and whole school community also; many of you, too, have continued to struggle in the current climate but have supported and loved your children in the best way possible and you will always be your child's first teacher. Thank you for continuing to work with us with understanding, positivity and kindness and your efforts and thoughtful actions do not go unnoticed, especially by your children.

I would like to thank children, families, governors and staff for the incredibly kind and warm response to the news of me now being the permanent Headteacher at St. Catherine's. This school and our families have had a very special place in my heart for a long time now and I am thrilled to be able to lead the school to exciting new horizons, working collaboratively at each step of the way. I have worked in a number of schools but none as special as St. Catherine's. There is a unique quality about our community and I hope you are as proud to be a part of it as I am. I will always endeavour to make every decision with the children's best interests at heart and continue to develop a learning environment that supports every member of our community to 'Be who God wants you to be and so set the world on fire'.

I hope you enjoy reading all about what our fabulous children have been up to over the past seven weeks and I wish you all a safe, relaxing and blessed half-term.

Miss Quiligotti

Whole School



This Half-Term...

We've had a busy but wonderful start to 2022! We celebrated 'Anti-Bullying Day' by delving into the theme 'one kind word' and this has helped us to understand more about the effects of bullying and what we can do to ensure we are always respectful and compassionate towards others.

Lots of children have invited their families into school to have a look through all of their exercise books to see how hard they have been working so far this year. The children have been so proud to show off their learning! There will be opportunities for the rest of our families to come into school and see children's learning after half-term.

We LOVED celebrating Children's Mental Health Week and we did so many great things, including our morning Wake-Up Shake-Up sessions. On the last day of the week, every child in Reception to Year 6 gathered on the playground for a whole school Wake-Up Shake-Up - it was brilliant! Thank you so much to our wonderful parents and grandparents who came in to lead our sessions too - you are fantastic!

Our children say...

"I love St. Catherine's because it's a friendly place and always feels safe."

"I love school because we have great equipment."

I love St. Catherine's because everyone's really kind and helps me a lot."

Next Half-Term, we can't wait for...

- Story-Telling Week
- World Book Day
- Celebrating International Women's Day
- Bed Time Stories in school
- Receiving our school reports
- Starting the season of Lent
- Our school book fair
- Many more fun learning opportunities!

Nursery



This Half-Term...

Children in Nursery have had a very exciting start to 2022! They recently celebrated Green Day where children dressed up in green clothes and took part in lots of green-themed activities. Every area of Nursery was green, including green water, green playdough and even green food for their food tasting! The children also practised mixing blue and yellow paint together to make the colour green. The children especially loved that some of the Nursery staff dressed up as frogs!

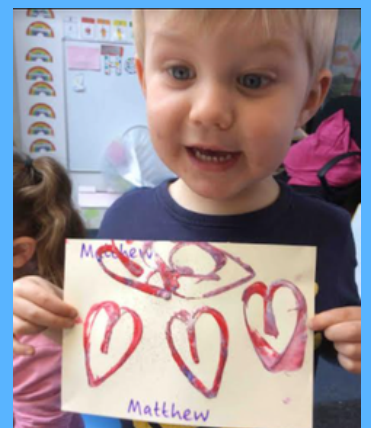
The children also celebrated Chinese New Year. They decorated rice bowls, took part in Chinese food tasting, made their own Chinese takeaway food out of playdough, had a great Chinese display and even did a dragon dance! The children also practised their fine motor skills by picking up rice and noodles with chopsticks.

Our children say...

"I loved Green Day because Mrs Rowley and Mrs Merrick dressed up as frogs!"

"I love colouring in Nursery."

I love everything about Nursery!"



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Reception



This Half-Term...

During our Class Worships, we have been thinking about what a good friend is and how we can be a good friend to everyone. We all have kind hands and use them to show love and respect to each other.

Our topic this half term has been 'Polar Animals'. As polar explorers, we have journeyed as far as the Arctic, gathering information about animals that live in cold places.

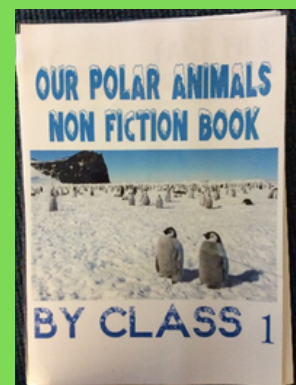
In Mathematics, we have focused on the composition of numbers to 10 and we can represent number in a variety of ways. We have also been exploring different ways to make 10 and are beginning to write this as a number sentences.

In Literacy, we have created fact files for different polar animals, which was combined to create our first class non-fiction book.

Our children say...

"I love polar animals. My favourite is polar bears. They are so big and they eat seals. Their coat is white to camouflage."

"I love doing poems for Valentine's Day and polar animals are very exciting. I like an Arctic hare the best because they are so cute and fluffy and they change colour."



Love

Faith

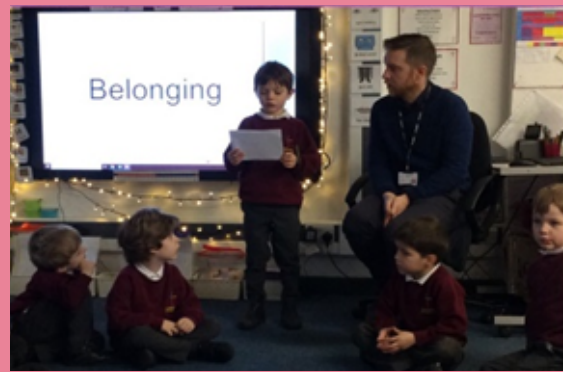
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Year 1



This Half-Term...

Children in Year 1 have been learning lots of new and exciting things and they have been working really hard! Here are some examples of our learning:

In English, we have been writing a journey story focusing on adding suffixes to our writing and using the word "and" to join sentences/clauses.

In Maths, we have been practising our addition and subtraction skills within 20.

In Religion, we have been learning about special people and special places of worship.

In Topic, we have been learning about the difference between human and physical features.

In Science, we have been finding out more about animals including humans (different species of animals/the human body and its functions).

Our children say...

"This term, we've learnt all about our senses, the church, Chinese New Year and adding 'est' endings."

"We did role play to be the lion and the mouse to see how they would feel. It was great!"



Year 2



This Half-Term...

In English, we have been reading our new text 'The Dragon Machine'. The children have been working on subordination, coordination and different sentence types. We created our own flying creatures, then used them as the impetus to write our own version of the story. The children wrote fantastic stories!

In Maths, we have been working on 2D and 3D shapes. We have been learning all about their properties and where we would see them in everyday life. We have also been learning about multiplication and arrays. Learning about multiplication has been one of the best 'times' we've had!

In Topic, we have been learning all about The Great Fire of London, how and why it started and how London changed for the better after it occurred.

In Science, we have been learning all about animals and humans. We learnt about what animals need to survive and we also conducted some experiments to investigate which exercise is the most tiring. We now know how important exercise is for us and we are going to try our very best to get more daily exercise.

Our children say...

"I loved our Topic day. It really helped me to understand what life was like in 1666."

"I have loved reading The Dragon Machine. Did you know that some dragons even laid eggs in our room?"



Year 3



This Half-Term...

Year 3 children have learned about The Stone Age in Topic lessons, which made links to computing sessions – including finding Stone Age sites on Google Earth. To complement our work on The Stone Age, the children were lucky enough to have a virtual reality session, where they were able to experience a Stone Age cave and encountered a cave bear!

In Maths, we have resumed work on 3D shapes, with a focus on the properties of different shapes. They have also been given the opportunity to create their own 3D shapes using play dough and other materials.

During English lessons this half term, the children have become more confident with editing their own work. They are beginning to recognise which areas need correcting and are amending them with greater independence. This is an essential part of the writing process, and the children are starting to grasp the importance of recognising where their work can be improved.

Our children say...

Whilst getting ready for our virtual reality session in a Stone Age cave, one child said, "I am so lucky to come to this school."

During Children's Mental Health Week, another child said, "The things that have made me happy this week are the library and Wake Up, Shake Up."



Year 4



This Half-Term...

During Music this half term, we were excited to learn to play the guitar. We are beginning to play the tune "Songbird" by Oasis.

In Science, we have planned fun investigations such as 'Does temperature effect the rate of evaporation?'

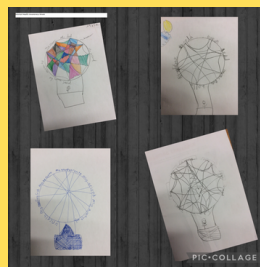
During Children's Mental Health Awareness week, we discussed people who help us grow. We designed support balloons, identifying people who we can turn to for help.

We have enjoyed the text for English this half term and learned about life in Pompeii before the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Tranio and Livia are friends caught in this disaster, but manage to escape.

Our children say...

"I've loved learning about Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius in English!"

"During Children's Mental Health Week I really enjoyed Wake Up Shake Up. It made my cheeks go red!"



Year 5



This Half-Term...

In Maths, we have been focusing on multiplication and division and have mastered the long multiplication method. We have also been improving our speed on TT Rock stars and some of us are nearly Rock Heroes!

In English, we have been learning about Vikings and the Norse Gods. Not only have children been working hard on writing myths, but taking time to write for pleasure, to entertain and to inform. Isaac, Eliza, Rose and Julian wrote an article for the Didsbury post and are now published writers. Many other children in year 5 have been writing, directing and performing their own play.

In Spanish, we have been busy preparing for the Spanish Exchange and we spoke to our pen pals on Google meets. We are getting very excited about finally meeting them this year.

In RE, we have been learning about other faiths. The faith we focused on was Judaism. We explored many different holidays celebrated in the Jewish calendar, and in particular, Purim.

Our children say...

“I’m loving learning Gymnastics in school. I’m getting really good at handstands. “

“I loved Victorian Day and how strict the teachers were. I’m glad I’m not a child in the Victorian times!”



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Year 6



This Half-Term...

In Maths, we have been focusing on fractions and there has been so much progress seen by the children. We are really proud of them.

The children participated in their Spanish Google Meet, where they asked their Spanish pen friend about their preferences. The children did a fabulous job as well.

In Science, we have been conducting lots of practical investigations and the children have demonstrated their knowledge of electricity.

In RE, the children learnt about the Jewish faith. We focussed specifically on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

We are so proud of all of the children attending boosters too and putting in such fantastic effort – well done, everyone!

Our children say...

“The Spanish Google Meet was lots of fun because I got to see my pen friend.”

“I like learning about World War because it is interesting and I have learnt lots of facts.”



Sporting Achievements



Cross Country

We are so proud of the children who took part in cross-country events this half-term. They battled through mud and cold weather but persevered and finished with big smiles on their faces. It is also brilliant to hear that children have been improving their race positions and that new children are giving cross-country a try. Well done to everyone involved – we are proud of you!

Next Cross Country event: 5th March 2022

Premier League Primary Stars

The Premier League Primary Stars tournament has begun at Manchester United's Cliff training ground and Manchester City's Etihad Campus. The Year 5/6 children who have taken part have represented the school extremely well.

Swimming Gala

Year 4/5 children enjoyed taking part in a swimming gala held at Wythenshawe Forum.

Basketball

Year 5/6 children enjoyed taking part in a tournament held at Whalley Range High School.



Student Leadership



Caritas Ambassadors

The Caritas Ambassadors have been meeting weekly to come up with ideas to improve both our school and local community. The first idea that they have come up with for school is to make the peace garden a more welcoming place. They intend to have a 'buddy bench' where children can come and make friends with someone new, or talk to someone if they feel lonely. This will be announced during worship and the children have designed posters to explain the ethos of the buddy bench. The ambassadors worked fantastically as a team and devised a rota for this to be achieved over the next half-term. They also hope to have support from volunteers to run a gardening club in the peace garden so that it can be more aesthetically appealing too.

School Council

The School Council took part in a Mental Health Workshop this half-term, led by our Caritas social worker, Michelle. They learnt all about how to support good mental health across the school and how they can be ambassadors for this in their important school leadership positions. They came up with some great ideas for improving mental health in their classrooms including 'feel good affirmations', empowering statements on display, weekly compliments, more mindfulness sessions, worry boxes/well-being wells and many more ideas too. They are also very excited for when our two new sensory rooms are complete, which our PTA has funded. The children also 'floated the idea' of a therapy dog!

GIFT Team

Our GIFT Team has been working diligently each week to prepare and perform dramas based around the weekly Gospel. Their performances are then shown to every year group in our weekly worships and are helping the children to understand the Word of God more clearly and deeply. They have also been working with Mrs Simi to come up with lots of ideas for how they can have a greater impact across the school.

Headteacher Recruitment

A number of our school leaders were also part of our Headteacher recruitment process this half-term. They certainly asked some challenging questions and they very much enjoyed playing their part in the appointment of our new headteacher. Well done to everyone involved!

Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



We have already had an active start to the year and wanted to bring an update on past and future fundraising plans as well as a recap on where parents' generous contributions are being spent.

Fundraising Update

Our festive calendar of events enabled us to raise £3165.67
Total raised since September: £4196.90
January Bag2School collection managed to raise £112

One example of where our fundraising was spent was on the very popular Reindeer Visit back in December.

We used £5k of last year's funds to go towards the sensory room and plans are now well under way. We will share some photos as soon as possible and are so excited to hear how children and staff enjoy the new facility.

This year, our focus is on supporting the school's reading scheme through the bulk purchase of books for all age groups – more details to follow on this.

Preloved Fancy Dress

Since the Fancy Dress sale couldn't go ahead, we've made a Plan B. All the available outfits can be seen on <https://bit.ly/prelovedfancydress>
Contact Jade on 07841830857 for any requests.

Future events

Whilst there are still many unknowns related to the pandemic, we remain hopeful that we will be able to resume many in-person events which have been popular in the past.

Our tentative schedule includes:

April: Break the Rules on April Fools – children's alternative non-uniform day.

May: Rainbow hamper event

July: Big Summer Raffle

We also aim to bring back the very popular Frozen Fridays and Prosecco and Ice-cream in the playground on the last day of term.

Our BIG aspiration is to hold an adult social event in the summer term at Didsbury Sports Ground with inquiries already underway.

Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



Ongoing events:

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 it's 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>
£791.20 raised since September

Easy Fundraising (poster attached)

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stcatherinesdidsbury/>
£102.54 raised since September

AmazonSmile (poster attached)

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1165650-0>
£82.24 raised since September

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.

Any Other Business:

PTA Chair:

We are seeking a chair for the PTA- Responsibilities to include:

- Charity Commission Trustee
- Organising, scheduling and chairing PTA meetings
- Sending agenda items ahead of meetings and minutes post meeting
- Signatory on the PTA bank account

We all understand how busy we are as fellow parents – we have very broad coverage over other key responsibilities therefore time commitment is greatly reduced. If interested, please email stcatherinesdidsburypta@gmail.com or contact Ellie- 07966146357.

Wishing everyone a happy half term,

The PTA.

Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY

**It's A
WIN-WIN
Situation!**

★ **BOOST School Funds**
★ **WIN up to £25,000**

**TICKETS
£1 EACH**

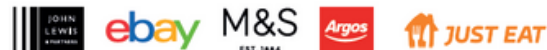


To start supporting, visit:
YourSchoolLottery.co.uk/play
and search for: St Catherine's

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.



Raise FREE funds
for us every time you
Shop online



Love

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