

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

# St. Catherine's Newsletter: Spring 2 Term 2022



## A Message From Miss Quiligotti

Dear parents and carers,

What a busy but fantastic half-term it has been! We have been lucky to have so many exciting learning opportunities over past few weeks, including a Zoo Lab visit, Stone Age Day, a blow-up planetarium in school, visits to the local Jewish museum, and more! We have even had Bowlands Farm into school to visit our Early Years children and I'm not sure who enjoyed this more – the children, or the staff!

We held our United For Ukraine Day and raised a phenomenal amount of over £800 to support those affected by the current war. Alongside this, our children wrote letters to children in Ukraine, including beautiful art work and uplifting phrases. We are so proud of their brilliant efforts and their compassion for others. This is truly what it means to be a Catholic school: putting our faith into action to help those in need.

This week, our Key Stage Two children worked together to create a wonderfully immersive Easter story experience for our Reception and Key Stage 1 children.

Classes toured around the school grounds and buildings, fully immersed in different parts of the Easter story. It was a fantastic experience for all involved and was an incredibly moving way for our children to experience such an important part of the liturgical calendar.

We also held our annual Storytelling Week and WOW, what a week it was! We organised bedtime stories in school in our pyjamas, Masked Reader videos from our staff, 'Who Am I?' staff baby photos with their favourite children's book, and so much more! It really was an incredibly special and momentous week and I would like to thank all staff, parents and children for coming together to celebrate and enhance our love of reading.

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

# St. Catherine's Newsletter: Spring 2 Term 2022



## A Message From Miss Quiligotti

We have also recently appointed a new Deputy Headteacher, starting in September 2022. I am thrilled to welcome Miss Maguire to our staff team and I am sure she will become another popular member of our school community. Miss Maguire is currently a Deputy Headteacher in Salford and has a wealth of experience and passion to bring to our school. I look forward to introducing you to Miss Maguire, hopefully later next term.

My favourite part of this half-term has been starting to welcome families back into school. We had a fantastic turn out for our St Patrick's Day Mass and event in our school hall, and we've loved continuing our KS1 and KS2 Book Looks, as well as opening up our Early Years classrooms for parent stay and play sessions. We can't wait for next term to get you even more involved!

Thank you to all of our children, staff, parents and governors for everything we have achieved this half-term. I am privileged to lead such a wonderful, positive school community where our children's learning experiences remain at the core of everything we do.

I hope you all have a restful, enjoyable and Holy Easter break and we shall look forward to welcoming you back to school for the Summer Term on Tuesday 19th April, where we have many more fantastic things to look to!

Miss Quiligotti

# Whole School



## This Half-Term...



We kicked off this half-term with an AMAZING story-telling week! We loved our bed-time stories in school, World Book Day, and so much more. We learnt so many new words with our 'dress as a word' task on World Book Day and each class received lots of new books focused around culture and diversity. Our Golden Jumpers have returned too! We've loved wearing them with pride and celebrating each others' achievements.

We've also worked really hard to fundraise lots of money for people in Ukraine, as well as writing hundreds of letters for children in Ukraine to receive.

This week, we put together an immersive Easter Story performance, where our younger children toured the school, experiencing different parts of the Easter Story. We also had a KS1 and KS2 Mass this week – the most children we've had altogether for a long time!



## Lent 'Walk Against Hunger' challenge for CAFOD

This Easter, we are encouraging children to take part in CAFOD's 'Walk Against Hunger' challenge. (<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>)

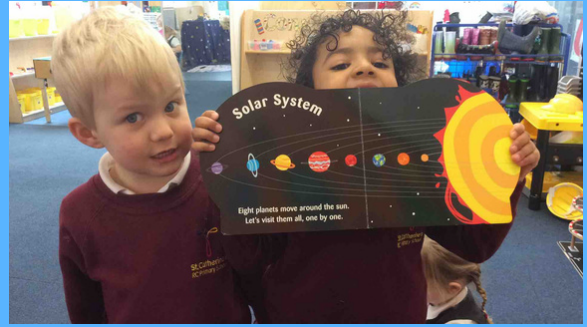
The idea is that children are sponsored to walk as many steps as possible over the holidays, raising money for children across the world whose lives are at risk of malnutrition.

Children have been given a sponsorship form to keep track of their steps and log their donations. A St Catherine's JustGiving page has also been set up: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-catherines-walk-against-hunger-fundraising>

Together, we hope to raise as much money as possible – please keep the donations coming!

Children can bring in their sponsorship form in after the Easter holidays where we will celebrate their achievements in class.

# Nursery



## This Half-Term...

Our Topic this half term has been Space! We have listened to Space stories, sang many songs and learnt about our Solar system.

In Maths, we have been learning about patterns and made our own Easter egg patterns using paint.

The children loved having visitors in our Nursery for Stay and Play. The Daffodil display is amazing!

We celebrated all things Yellow during our Yellow day. We learnt about spring, yellow foods, yellow animals and all things yellow. We even sang, 'We all live in a yellow Submarine.'

## Our children say...

"I like Yellow day the best and playing with yellow things."

"I made a Easter card and I liked painting it."

"I loved finding eggs and making Easter baskets!"



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration



# Reception



## This Half-Term...

Our topic this half term has been 'Space.' We have enjoyed investigating astronauts in the literacy text 'Man on the Moon: A day in the life of Bob'. Our role play areas became space stations and we have gathered lots of facts about space, the moon and aliens.

To celebrate the season of spring we have grown cress seeds to develop our understanding of the world. We know what a plant needs to grow and the different parts of a plant.

We were challenged to design an alien and sculpt this carefully with playdough. We needed to ensure the finished model looked like our design and labelled the different parts independently.

In our creative area, we have made cosmic collages, using different materials to create the milky way.

## Our children say...

"Aliens are from space. The moon is made of rocks, not cheese!"

"I know all about the whole world. It's called Earth this planet. Bob works on the moon. He's an astronaut'.

"I know number twelve. You need a ten and a two to make twelve.'



# Year 1



## This Half-Term...

This half-term, children in Year 1 have been working extremely hard and have learnt lots of different things. We have been learning the following in each subject:

**English:** we have been writing an adventure story focusing on adding -ed endings, punctuation such as exclamation and question marks to a sentence and writing in both the present and past tense.

**Maths:** we have been learning all about measurement.

**Religion:** we have been learning to understand the Sacrament of the Eucharist and preparing for Easter

**Topic:** we've been learning all about animals including humans (different species of animals and features animals have).

## Our children say...

"I have enjoyed Topic and how I can help whales and turtles!"

"I like the book we have been learning because it is funny and makes me laugh!"

"In PE, I can do a forward roll and I couldn't do that before".

"I love Show and Tell because I get to see things everybody in class brings in and I might not have seen somethings before".



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Year 2



## This Half-Term...

In English, we have been focusing on our book called Major Glad and Major Dizzy. We have made our own soldiers and created suitable instructions. We have also been focusing on writing in the present and past progressive tense.

In Religion, we have been looking at Mass and the different parts of it. The children celebrated Mass with Year 6 and it was a very special and important day for us as it was our first class mass since we were in Reception.

In Maths, we have been working on dividing and finding fractions of shapes and amounts. We have been using our people method to find the answers and reading our questions carefully.

In Topic, we have been learning about the five oceans and seven continents. We have been using iPads to research the different continents and creating our own fact sheets about them. We have also become rap stars, rapping along to our continents rap.

## Our children say...

"I loved making the fruit kebabs because it was so yummy that we got to eat them."

"World Book day was so much fun. I got to learn about lots of new words!"

"Making a friend for Major Glad was tricky, but it looked so cool when I finished. "





# Year 3



## This Half-Term...

In Maths this half-term, we have used objects from the real world to advance our understanding of measurement and fractions. We sorted a wide range of ingredients in order of their weight. At the end of March, we finished this term's study of fractions with our 'foodie fractions' lesson – examining fractions made from apples, cucumber, oranges and sandwich wraps!

In Science, we have just concluded our unit of study on Light. The children enjoyed their challenges to make reflections.

In Religion, we have studied a number of Saints recently. These include Saint Valentine, Mother Teresa and Blessed Oscar Romero. These lessons have inspired the children to consider the transformative nature of faith. Our chosen Saints have also been a focus for some Class Worship.

## Our children say...

"I like maths and have enjoyed learning about fractions."

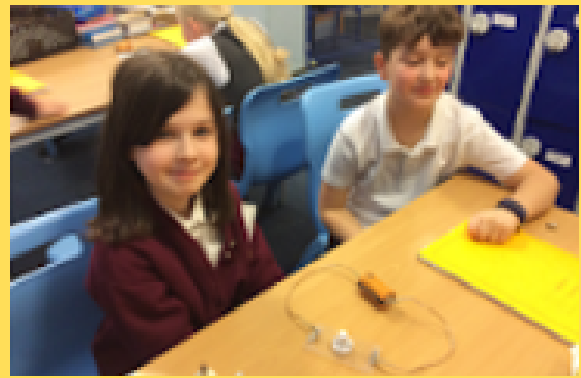
"Learning about Oscar Romero made me feel closer to God."

"I have enjoyed everything this term, but Science and Topic are my favourite lessons."





# Year 4



## This Half-Term...

Our Science unit this half-term has been 'Electricity'. We have had lots of fun making circuits with a lamp, battery, buzzer and a motor!

In Maths, we have been learning all about fractions and decimals. We have explored tenths on a number line and learnt how to divide a whole number by 10 and even 100!

During the United for Ukraine day, we wrote letters to school children in the UK. We made them as bright and colourful as possible with lots of words to encourage hope and positivity.

In Religion, we have explored 'Giving and Receiving'. We learnt about different parts of mass, including the Penitential Rite and the Communion Rite.

## Our children say...

"I have really enjoyed learning about fractions – it was fun!"

"I like reading our story in English. It's called "When the Giant Stirred" and it's about villagers on an island where there's a volcano."

"I really enjoyed writing letters during the United for Ukraine day – it was good to show support for children who are suffering. "



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Year 5



## This Half-Term...

Year 5 began their Earth and Space topic with a visit from a mobile planetarium! We really enjoyed learning about the wonders of the Universe.

In English, we read 'The Darkest Dark' by the Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, which we found really interesting. We have also written biographies about him.

In Art, we have studied the Victorian artist William Morris and we have created our own William Morris inspired wallpaper.

In P.E., we created gymnastic sequences by linking together modes of travelling, static balances and jumps with appropriate transitions.

## Our children say...

"My favourite science lesson was creating the phases of the moon with Oreo cookies!"

"The planetarium was amazing!"

"I really enjoyed making mini books on World Book day."



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Year 6



## This Half-Term...

In RE, we visited Manchester Jewish Museum, where we participated in activities to develop our knowledge of Judaism and began to make further links between this faith and Catholicism. We also got to make iMovies about what we had learnt and looked at artefacts too.

In Topic, we had a, 'Ration Bake Off,' where we had to make cakes and biscuits, that they would have made during World War Two. Therefore, we could only use food items that would have been available as well. This meant there were some very unusual sweet treats for us to try!

We had our first Mass of the year with our partner year group, Year Two, and it was so special to be able to share this with them.

Writing letters to Ukraine was really important to us, as we felt it was a way to provide them with some comfort at this time.

## Our children say...

"I loved the bake off! I am not sure whether I enjoyed the carrot cookies though!"

"The Jewish Museum was really interesting and I learnt a lot more about this faith too."

"Writing letters to Ukraine made me feel like I could give them hope, even though I am so far away."



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration



# Sporting Achievements



## Premier League Primary Stars

On Thursday 3rd March, the Year 5/6 Boys/Mixed football team attended Finals Day of the Premier League Primary Stars tournament at the Etihad Campus. The team reached the semi-finals – the last four teams in the whole of Manchester, losing on penalties. We are very proud of you; you represented our school with great pride and showed great teamwork.

The next day, the Year 5/6 Girls football team attended their Finals Day at the Etihad Campus. Showing dedication and determination, the girls won the tournament and will now represent Manchester City in the national finals, which will be held at Watford's Premier League Vicarage Road Stadium. A special assembly will take place next term, when the Manchester City kit will be given out to the team. Well done girls and good luck! Whilst at the Etihad Campus, the team bumped into Manchester City Women's team as they were setting off to play Chelsea in the Women's League Cup Final, which they won. We saw Ellen White, England's top goalscorer, and Steph Houghton, who is captain of England.



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Sporting Achievements



Year 5/6 Netball: We attended a netball tournament at St Bede's College, finishing third in our group.

Year 5/6 Boys' 9-a-side Football League: The team have qualified out of their group for the last 16 knockout round. Good luck boys!

Year 5/6 Girls' Football League: The girls played four matches at Chorlton High School, winning three and drawing one. Well done!

Reception football event at the Etihad Campus: Some Reception children experienced an extra-curricular event for the first time. They attended the Etihad Campus, taking part in some skill sessions and playing small-sided games. They had a great time!

Year 1 football event at the Etihad Campus: Year 1 children attended a football festival at the Etihad Campus. Like Reception children, this was the first time that they had attended an extra-curricular event. Lots of fun was had!

Year 2 football event at the Etihad Campus: Year 2 children also attended a football festival at Manchester City's Etihad Campus.



# Student Leadership



## Caritas Ambassadors

Our Caritas Ambassadors have been continuing to work diligently this half-term. They have continued their work to improve our Peace Garden and have collected in many beautifully decorated pebbles!

They have also represented our school community at Miss Chwastek's retirement mass this week and they did a wonderful job of preparing our unique offertory to represent Miss Chwastek's impact on St. Catherine's.

Our Caritas Ambassadors also collected in all of our Ukraine appeal money, where we raised over £800! We are so proud of everyone's wonderful efforts and thoughtfulness.

## School Council

Many of our School Council members attended Miss Chwastek's retirement mass and they represented our school so well.

Several of our School Councillors were also part of our Deputy Headteacher recruitment process and they showed off our school well by leading tours of our school and telling candidates about what makes our school so special.

Our School Councillors are still thoroughly enjoying appointing a 'Duty Bearer of the Week' each week, based on children's nominations. as part of their Rights Respecting role too. The staff are very much enjoying this as well!

## GIFT Team

This week, our GIFT team led a beautiful gospel performance with Father John and some staff members at our KS1 and KS2 Mass. They also organised and led our younger classes through our immersive Easter Story performance where children toured through our school, experiencing different parts of the Easter Story in many different ways and locations.

Our GIFT team has continued to input into our weekly worships with their fantastic drama performances of the weekly Gospel too.



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration



# Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



The PTA wanted to provide a quick update as we spring into Spring! The days are longer, the weather (somewhat) brighter and we are looking forward to the summer months ahead.

## Financial Update:

From the total monies raised since September, we have successfully transferred £5,000 to school. We also have paid for room hire for our summer social which is fast approaching. We also made a one off donation to support the Spanish Exchange this year and our intention is to make this an annual contribution, subject to funds .

This would not have been possible without your support and generosity, so we would like the opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you.

But- we are not done and have lots of exciting plans for the school and pupils...

## Sensory Rooms

Plans for two new sensory rooms in school are underway and have been funded by PTA funding from last year, as well as a contribution from School Fund. These rooms should have a really positive impact on children in our school. We are currently changing the electrical plans of the room to accommodate a number of the resources that will be used in the room and our hope is to have the rooms completed by the end of the Summer Term.

## Developing a Love of Reading Across School

PTA money this year will be used to improve developing a love of reading across the school so that reading continues to be a key focus and areas such as libraries and reading areas are a really special part of our school environment that are loved by our children.

## Break the Rules- this Friday 1st April:

The PTA marked April Fools Day (1st April 2022) with an alternative non-uniform day. Pupils had the opportunity to break up to 5 rules for one day and one day only:

We are delighted to share that Break the Rules raised a total so far (excluding gift matching) of £650.64. What a fantastic outcome and a huge thank you to everyone for getting into the spirit of the day!

# Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



## Future Events:

May: A Rainbow hamper event is planned ahead of Spring Bank holiday. Each year group will be allocated a rainbow colour and we will be asking for donations to be raffled in a big prize draw. Tickets will be on sale via ParentMail.

May 27th: In keeping with our 'Rainbow' theme, there will be a 'Rainbow' non uniform day and an invitation to come to school as colourful as possible!

July: The Big Summer Raffle will also return in July. More info to follow.

Summer: There will be more Frozen Fridays and the ever popular Prosecco and Icecream in the Playground during the summer term.

Summer Social: SAVE THE DATE July 9th – Our adult social event is booked at Didsbury Sports Ground for July 9th If anyone would like to get involved, please let us know.

## Ongoing events:

As mentioned before, 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>  
£971.20 raised since Sept

### Easy Fundraising

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stcatherinesdidsbury/>  
£221.47 raised since Sept

### AmazonSmile

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1165650-0>  
£187.88 raised since Sept

### 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.

With thanks, The PTA