

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

# St. Catherine's Newsletter: Summer 1 Term 2022



## A Message From Miss Quiligotti

Dear parents and carers,

It's been another busy but certainly fun-filled term! We have been absolutely thrilled to return once again on our Spanish Exchange trip to Nigran, Northern Spain after not being able to take part since 2019. Our Spanish links, curriculum and our Spanish Exchange experiences, both in Manchester and Nigran, are an incredibly special part of our school life and I am so proud to lead a school which offers such phenomenal opportunities for our children and families. We will be welcoming our Spanish friends into our school on Thursday 16th June and they will be with us until Monday 20th June. Please give a warm welcome to all of our Spanish children, teachers and families if and when you see them!

We have also had our weekly Rosary services throughout May, the month of Mary, and we have been delighted to finally hold them in person again! We have led virtual Rosary services in May and October each year since May 2020 due to Covid-19 and it has been so lovely to invite families back into school this month.

It has also been an absolute joy to welcome families into school to watch our class worships once again. It has been a privilege to watch so many wonderful performances this half-term with many important messages to share. We have more class worships organised for next-half term too and look forward to welcoming more families back into school.

Our Year 5 and 6 girls' football team proudly represented Manchester City this month at the Premier League Primary Stars Final tournament in Watford. To get to this stage of the competition is phenomenal and we are so proud of our girls' team, and the staff leading them, for everything they have achieved this year.

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## A Message From Miss Quiligotti

Our new Deputy Headteacher starting in September, Miss Maguire, has been into school this half-term to work with our phase leaders and senior leaders in starting our plans for the next academic year. She will also be working with us for two days a week next half-term to continue our planning for next year. Miss Maguire is delighted to be working at St. Catherine's from September and has a wealth of experience to bring to our school, as well as a friendly face and a caring nature. I'm sure she will 'fit right in' with our fantastic, friendly staff team and I'm sure she will soon become a great support for our children and parents too.

We are finishing our half-term with a huge party day to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Some of our children have been working on our new 'Jubilee garden' too – see our photos below!

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable two week break and I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 13th June.

Miss Quiligotti



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

# Whole School



## This Half-Term...

We kicked off this half-term with our EYFS and KS1 Easter Bonnet parade and our KS2 children produced some fantastic Easter gardens and Easter Eggstravaganza designs. We loved celebrating all of our children's creations in school.



We also celebrated St Catherine of Siena's Feast Day on 29th April. On this day, we learnt more about St. Catherine, we met in our core value groups to get to know each other more, we wrote lyrics to a new school song and we chosen people and bible quotes to link with our core values.

Year 5 and 6 have been busy bees taking part in their Spanish Exchange experience either in Nigran or Manchester and we can't wait to welcome our Spanish friends back here! We've also all been busy preparing for our school Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

## Year 2 and Year 6 - Well Done!

Our amazing Year 2 and Year 6 children completed their national end of key stage SATS assessments this month and we are so proud of them! Our Year 2 children very much enjoyed completing their 'fun quizzes' to show off their knowledge and our Year 6 children worked so diligently and maturely to complete their formal assessments.

It's important to remember that these assessments only look at children's academic attainment in maths and reading. They don't show how caring and resilient our children are, how kind they are or how they strive to show our core values in everything they do. We are proud of each and every one of our children for everything they have achieved, especially through the adversity experienced over the past few years. There's no test that can show just how fantastic all of our children are in each and every way. We are proud of them all!



# Nursery



## This Half-Term...

Our topic this half term has been 'Animals'. We have loved our focus stories, Farmer Duck and What the Ladybird Heard. The children have enjoyed learning all about farm animals in their play and exploration within the learning environment.

In our phonics, we have started to focus on oral blending and segmenting. Segmenting is when words are separated into individual syllables or sounds, e.g. dog would be d-o-g. Blending takes place when those separate sounds and syllables are pieced together to form a word.

In maths, we have been learning the difference between 2D and 3D shapes and have been on lots of shape hunts around school to see what shapes we can find.

We have also been getting ready for a very special celebration- our Jubilee party for the Queen!

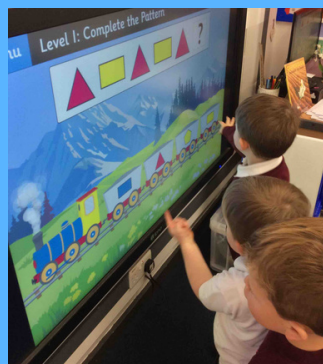
## Our children say...

·I am learning all day at Nursery. It makes me excited. 'P' is for pig you know and 'C' is for cow."

"We have learnt the tricky word 'I'. (sings) Say hello to I... I, I, I, I, I."

"The Jubilee song. It's for the Queen, that has been our Queen for a long, long time."

"The farmer stays in bed all day and the duck does all the work. The farmer says, "How goes the work?!"



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# Reception



## This Half-Term...

In number this term we have been focusing on ordering numbers to 20 and giving one more and one less than a given number to 10 and beyond. Practical maths activities, for example building and jumping along a number track, are how we learn best.

Our topic this half term has been 'Animals'. We have loved investigating and exploring wild animals. In our role play areas, we have been painting beautiful animals and built a jungle jeep to create our very own jungle in the classroom. We have enjoyed going on jungle adventures!

In literacy, we explored non-fiction texts in our reading corners. We were challenged to create animal fact files. We have many budding authors in Reception!

We have enjoyed exploring making different water ways in our outdoor environment. Effective team work was needed to ensure that the water could travel successfully without spilling.

## Our children say...

"We have been learning about jungles. Lots of wild animals live there like leopards, lemurs and parrots. I love driving the jungle jeep!"

"I know the story 'What the ladybird heard'. I like the chicken best who said 'cluck' and when the robbers fell in the pond."

"I know lots about lemurs. They are black and white with a stripy tail. They swing on trees and they eat fruit and flowers."



Love

Faith

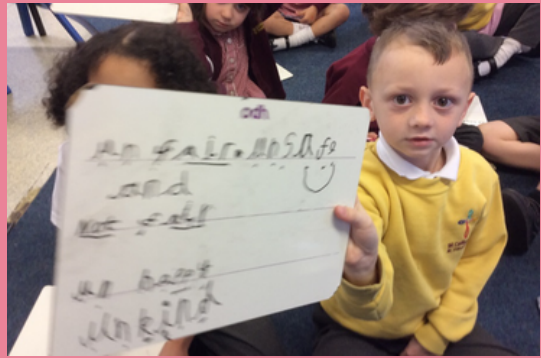
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# Year 1



## This Half-Term...

This term, Year One have been very busy with lots of enjoyable activities. Both classes have produced wonderful Class Worship Assemblies (on the oceans and friendships) where the children were able to perform in front of an audience for the very first time. They were extremely excited and all did themselves and St. Catherine's proud.

In addition, the children were involved in the Easter Bonnet Parade and participated in a whole school St. Catherine of Siena Day when they were split up into their Core Value families, taking part in lots of special activities in groups from across the Key Stages.

The children have been growing sunflower plants in Science. They have created artwork trees out of twigs and leaves to help understand the difference between deciduous and evergreen and they have designed and created their own playground equipment and used pulleys and levers.

## Our children say...

"We got to create whatever we wanted to have at the park. It took a while but was great fun!"

"We have been learning about plants. Planting the sunflower seeds was amazing."

"We did a big Writeaway about Toys in Space. We wrote lots questions sentences."

"We've learned about Queen Elizabeth and her crown. It was very interesting and very expensive."



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# Year 2



## This Half-Term...

In Maths, we have been working hard to both consolidate our existing learning but to also understand our new concept of 'data handling'. We have been learning how to read and interpret tables and how to use the information in the tables effectively.

In English, we have been reading our focus text, 'The Last Wolf'. We have been learning about endangered animals and working towards creating a persuasive letter to encourage people to stop cutting down trees and to actually take time to plant more trees and flowers to keep animals safe.

In Art, we have been learning about Paul Klee, in particular his painting 'Castle in the Sun'. We used 2D shapes to recreate our own version of this painting and our final versions are absolute masterpieces!

In phonics, we have been looking at adding different suffixes and the rules that need to be applied in order to do this successfully. We have also been looking at contracted words and learning which letters are replaced with an apostrophe as well as developing our understanding of homophones.

## Our children say...

"It was nice to talk to Father John and ask him lots of questions about the world."

"The Last Wolf has been great, it's the type of story where you stop, then you really want to know what happens next."

"Art has been so much fun. My favourite activity was painting sunflowers."



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# Year 3



## This Half-Term...

This half-term, we have studied the wordless book – ‘Journey’ by Aaron Becker. The children have loved studying the illustrations in the book, and used these to advance their understanding of setting and character. The children themselves then wrote the story for the book.

As part of this month’s study in Religion, Year 3 had a special 'away day' at the local Marist Centre. The children engaged in small group work, including role-play. The day has boosted the children’s appreciation of the sharing of The Eucharist and one child even said it was the best school trip ever!

The children have studied a couple of subjects in Maths. The children did really well with learning how to tell the time at the start of the term. More recently, they have been working on multiplication and division.

We're so proud of our children for everything they've achieved this term!

## Our children say...

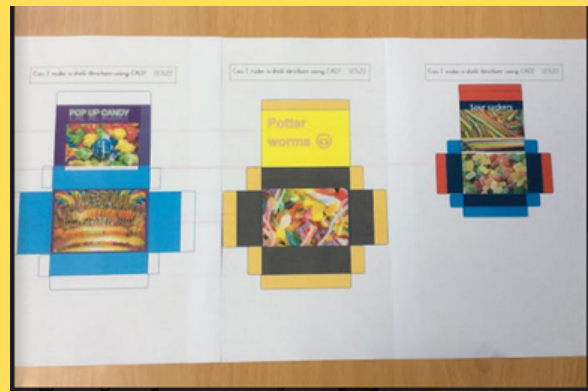
"I really loved the story settings in ‘Journey’ and how the heroine moved from one adventure to another."

"The Marist centre trip was the best trip we have ever been on!"

"I now know how to prepare myself for my Holy Communion and I feel excited to make my Holy Communion."



# Year 4



## This Half-Term...

In DT, we have been learning CAD (Computer-aided design). We designed our own 2D nets which could then be used to make 3D cuboids!

In Computing, we have been learning how to create our own leaflets using Microsoft Publisher. By the end of our unit of learning, we were able to insert pictures, text boxes and bullet points!

In English, we have been looking at non-fiction books all about the Rainforest. We read so many interest facts about the wildlife, climate and rainforest layers!

In Topic, we studied Viking Art and made our very own Viking bracelets! We learned how to plait 7 different colours of wool and make an intricate braids. We even created our own silver coins to attach – just as the Vikings did!

## Our children say...

“I have really enjoyed school this term and I have learnt so much. As I have learnt so many new things, I now know how to do a lot more than what I did before.”

“This term was very exciting as we have learnt lots of new subjects including Viking art. I have really enjoyed the different activities for Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee. I am really excited for the next term to learn more.”



# Year 5



## This Half-Term...

In Maths, we have been learning about the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages. This is always a tricky topic in Year 5 and we are really proud of the resilience and perseverance our children have shown.

In English, we have been learning all about the effects of plastic pollution on our planet – especially for wildlife.

In Topic, we have been learning about the Industrial Revolution; particularly transport, inventions and child labour. We also went on a school trip to Styal Mill which was a great way to learn more about the Victorians and the Industrial Revolution.

As well as this, we have either gone to Spain for the Spanish Exchange, applying our language skills, or completed lots of fun Spanish activities in Manchester. All of our Year 5 children had incredible experiences in both Spain and Manchester and we're all very excited to welcome our Spanish friends to our school next half-term!

## Our children say...

“I loved Bikeability and now I feel much more confident on the roads.”

“Styal Mill was a great experience. I would not have liked to be a child working in those conditions!”

“Dissecting a flower was really interesting. We have also propagated potatoes and I can't wait to see if they grow.”





# Year 6



## This Half-Term...

In Maths, we have learnt about brand new mathematical concepts such as algebra, ratio & proportion and pie charts.

In English, we have been revisiting a variety of genres & text types including: non-chronological, diary entries and adventure narratives. Our children have enjoyed writing about different topics that they've chosen themselves so that they can become really invested in their writing.

Whilst some children travelled to Spain, those in Manchester experienced Flamenco dancing, tasted Spanish food and visited the Chill Factor. Our children have had many fantastic experiences, both in Manchester and Spain, and we can't wait to host our Spanish friends in our school next half-term!

This half-term has also seen the children undertake their SATs papers. We are incredibly proud of them all!

## Our children say...

"I didn't realise how much the Spanish Exchange meant to St Catherine's until I was there."

"I was so proud of Miss Ward when she beat Mr B three times in a sledging race."

"I loved learning about the Nth term – it wasn't as scary as I thought."



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# Sporting Achievements



## Premier League Primary Stars

On Monday 16th May, the Year 5/6 girls' football team and Mr Steiner travelled down to Watford to participate in the Premier League Primary Stars National Finals Day. They were one of the last 20 teams in the whole country!

The next day, the team made the short journey to Watford's Premier League Vicarage Road Stadium, where, after a thrilling opening ceremony, the football began. The girls played four matches, winning one and drawing three, which maintained their unbeaten record throughout the whole competition. What an achievement! Well done girls! We are incredibly proud of you and we hope the experience lives long in the memory for you.



## Year 5/6 Netball

We attended a netball tournament at Co-Op North Academy, finishing third in our group.

## Year 5/6 Boys' 9-a-side Football League

The team has been progressing well, winning their last 16 match 3-1, their quarter-final match 3-2 and their semi-final match 4-1. Good luck in the final boys!

## Year 5/6 Girls' Football League

The girls have qualified for Finals Day on Wednesday 8th June. Well done!



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# Spanish Exchange - Nigran, Spain

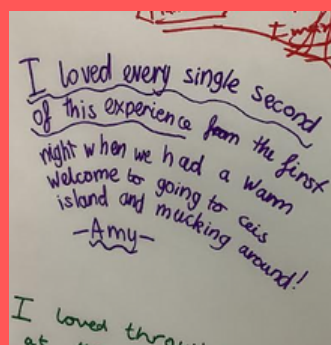


On Wednesday 18th May 2022, 96 members of staff, parents and children from St Catherine's Primary School boarded a flight to Portugal and then made their way to Nigran, Spain to partake in this year's Spanish Exchange. This particular event was not able to take place for two years due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Despite this, the event was able to take place this year, and it was well worth the wait, especially for year 6. We are extremely fortunate to have been able to participate in this exchange.

On Wednesday, we arrived at the campsite at 1:40am. Even so, we were still welcomed by heaps of Spanish school children and parents, who were excited to finally meet us. They welcomed us with open arms and made us feel at home in an unfamiliar place. During our visit to Nigran, we took part in numerous activities, such as kayaking, surfing, dancing and lots of fun games. In Nigran, there were two schools, Mallon and Palacios, where we all experienced how the Spanish children learn and develop.

Between the children, parents and staff, they all made our five days ever so memorable and we cannot wait to have them back in England so we can do the same. We cannot put into words how thankful we are for what they have done for us. We thank everyone who took the time and effort to participate on this adventure.

By Ciara ,Daisy, Jess and Clodagh



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# Spanish Exchange - Manchester



While our classmates were in Spain, we immersed ourselves into Spanish culture in school. We were visited by a Flamenco dancer and a Spanish guitarist and we learnt about the origins of Flamenco from Seville and Jerez. They taught us to “Ole” and clap in the Flamenco style. We also enjoyed dancing to the music of Carlos Vivas, Marc Anthony and Shakira. We especially loved the Macarena!!



We were able to sample the edible delights of Spain with some delicious churros made by Mr Rodriguez. We also enjoyed a taster menu of jamon, chorizo, manchego cheese and olives.



In Art, we learnt about the Cubist movement and studied the Trencadis technique of Antonio Gaudi. We also created our own self portraits in the style of Pablo Picasso. We spent time researching some of the traditions and history of Spain and we learnt about La Liga’s best players. The highlight of the week was undoubtedly a trip to the Chill Factor, where we learnt to ski and played in the snow park.



# Student Leadership



## Caritas Ambassadors

Our Caritas Ambassadors have been working diligently to improve the Peace Garden area of our school playground.

They have organised for one of their grandparents to come in and help with planting and they have been collecting in decorated pebbles to brighten up the area too. They have also organised a cake sale to hold outside the school gates to raise money to buy plants and other items to brighten up our Peace Garden.

We are so proud of their enthusiasm, drive and passion for our school and community.

Our Caritas Ambassadors have also been invited to be part of the first ever Manchester Children's Safeguarding Conference at the Museum of Science and Industry in July. Our children will be devising a performance to show to other children and adults in Manchester to identify problems within safeguarding and how and why we need to improve them. Some of our children will also be journalists for the day! As you can imagine, they are very excited and we are privileged to be asked to be part of this important event. Parents will be contacted after half-term with more information about this.

## School Council

The School Council continue to be excellent role models both as the Rights Respecting Representatives and our Mental Health Ambassadors. Every Friday they lead on the weekly Duty Bearer of the Week award, and this term totalled up a record breaking week of over 50 nomination slips!

## GIFT Team

Our GIFT team have supported in putting together and leading our weekly Rosary sessions during the month of May, as well as leading our whole school masses.

Alongside this, they have continued to produce dramas around the weekly Sunday gospel to show in our Friday worships. We are so proud of our GIFT team for continuing to lead the faith life of our school and for being such fantastic role models.



# Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



The PTA would like to start with a huge thank you for supporting a number of activities throughout the first half of the summer term. These included a Rainbow Raffle and Rainbow Own Clothes Day for which we raised a fantastic £1007!

We are also so glad to be back with a presence at Didsbury Festival and again would like to thank you all for your toy and teddy donations. A reminder that the festival will take place in Didsbury Park on June 11th from 11am-4pm so please come and say hi!

## Future events:

July: The Big Summer Raffle will also return in July. More info to follow on this, but please expect some exciting prizes!

Summer: There will be more Frozen Fridays and the ever popular Prosecco and Ice Cream 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 in last term's newsletter, 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



# Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



SAVE THE DATE FOR

## *St Catherine's* **SUMMER SOCIAL AT DIDSBURY SPORTS GROUND**



ON SATURDAY  
9TH JULY FROM  
7.30PM- EXPECT  
GREAT FOOD,  
PRIZES AND  
DANCING!

Tickets on Sale from Monday 13th  
June Via ParentMail.

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