

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

St. Catherine's Newsletter: Autumn 1 Term 2022



A Message From Miss Quiligotti

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a wonderful start to the new academic year in school and it has been so lovely to see our children settling in so well to their new classes and year groups. We have also welcomed a number of new children into our school community this academic year, including in Nursery and Reception.

We hope that all new families and children are enjoying their time at St. Catherine's and know that they are a part of a great and caring school community.

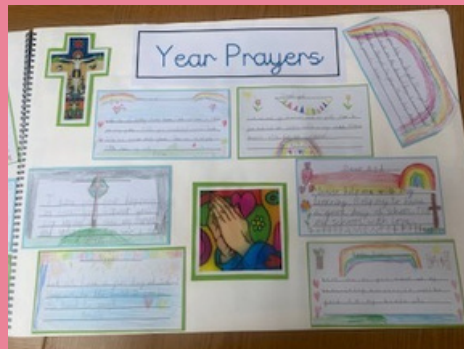
Learning throughout school this half-term has been as exciting and engaging as ever, as you will see by reading the rest of our newsletter. We've had some great visitors to our school too as part of our learning, including Sally Penni, MBE (local author and barrister), Alex Williams, MBE (former Manchester City player) and we've even had a fire engine on our playground (planned!)! We have started implementing 'launch days' each time we begin a new topic in Geography and History and our children have absolutely loved these exciting days to really hook into their new learning.

The Catholic life of our school continues to go from strength to strength and is now evidenced in our special and beautiful Catholic Life books – take a look at some of the photos on the next page!

We hope your children have had a wonderful school start to the new school year and we hope you all have a safe, enjoyable and restful half-term.

Miss Quiligotti

Catholic Life Books



Love

Faith

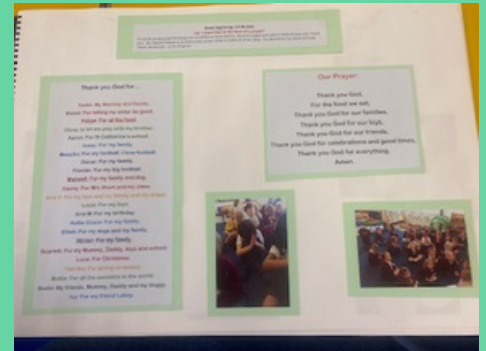
Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

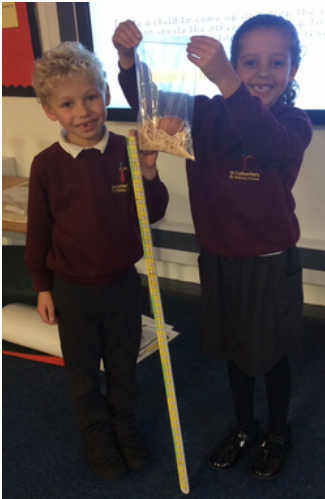
Catholic Life Books



Whole School



This Half-Term...



It's been a busy but fantastic start to the year! We've achieved so much in school already – we've had some school trips, our Meet The Teacher events, Parent Meetings, Languages Day, Black History Month, the Month of the Holy Rosary, class worships, Other Faiths Week, whole school and year group masses, and more! We are so proud of how well our children have settled into their new classes and everything they have achieved so far already this year. Keep up the great work, children!

Take a look at our individual year group pages to see some of the wonderful things our children have been up to – they really have had an amazing start to the year! From farm trips and Topic launch days to fun science experiments and fire engines on the school playground, it's been a brilliant first few weeks of the new school year. I wonder what else our fabulous children will achieve this year?

Celebrating the life of Queen Elizabeth II

After the sad passing of Our Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, we held a school reflection in the playground where we prayed for Queen Elizabeth II and placed 10 roses into our Jubilee Garden – one rose for each decade of the Queen's life to commemorate her life and dedication to our country.



Love

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Nursery



This Half-Term...

The children in Nursery have settled so well into their new learning environment and we are so proud of everyone! They have been getting to know their new setting and new routines and have taken everything in their stride. We have been learning our prayers and welcome song to start each day. We have been learning all about ourselves and our families! The children have been drawing their self-portrait and using a family photo and have drawn their families too! Our focus text has been '10 Little Fingers and 10 Little Toes'... the children should be able to tell you all about it!

We had a super music lesson with Ms Dewsnap. We tapped parts of our body to the beat of the music, sang songs and even played some musical instruments too!

In Maths, we have started to learn about a different number each week. So far, we have learnt about number 1 and number 2! Ask your child what they know about these numbers!

Our children say...

"I love it at big school!"

"The number one goes down like a stick."

"Good sitting, good looking and good listening. They are our carpet time rules."

"I love playing with my friends."



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Reception



This Half-Term...

Our topic this half term has been 'All About Me'. In Literacy, we have explored the stories 'My Friends and Me' and 'It's ok to be different'. To help us get to know one another, we brought in pictures of our families and discussed what was the same and what was different about our families.

In Mathematics, we have been focusing on a number a week. We can represent numbers to 5 in lots of different ways using numeral cards, numicon and physical objects.

We have begun to make observations about the changes in season. Look at our autumn tree masterpieces!

We love the story 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas. The colour monster changes colour to display different emotions. In groups we discussed what feeling each colour might represent and when we have felt each emotion. We worked in teams to collage an emotions jar for each feeling.

Our children say...

"The yellow colour monster is happy. I'm happy when my Mummy hugs me."

"At autumn the colours go red, yellow and orange. The leaves change. All the pine cones go down on the ground and it opens up conkers."

"Five is the number of the week! I'm 5 and I can give high fives. When we count it goes 1,2,3,4..5!"



Year 1



This Half-Term...

This half-term we have been on our first school trip in Year 1 to Smithills farm. We loved seeing all the different animals and riding on donkeys and tractors! It was a lovely way to end a fantastic first half-term in Year 1.

In English, we have been reading the book "Lost and Found" by Oliver Jeffers. We have been focusing on including our full stops, capital letters and finger spaces independently in our writing alongside including the sounds we have been learning in Phonics.

In our Religion lessons, we have been focusing on "families". In this topic, we have been learning more about our own families and our peers. Along with this, we have been understanding more deeply how families can be different and how we can show our core value of "respect" to our families.

As mathematicians, we have been learning about place value and how we can compare numbers using our greater than, less than and equal to symbols independently. We now always know that greedy croc always wants to eat the bigger number when deciding what symbol to use!

Our children say...

"I loved going to the farm and seeing the animals, they were so cute!!"

"I am now a super writer because I remember my full stops and capital letters."

"Writing my story about my seal was fun because I got to show off my curly handwriting we have been practising."



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Year 2



This Half-Term...

In English, we have read two exciting texts- 'Look up,' and 'Troll swap.' The children learnt how to use subordination and how to write different sentence types. We used drama to act out a trip to space and we wrote a diary entry based upon this. We loved reading Troll Swap and we even got to create our own trolls which we used to write our own adventure stories.

As mathematicians this half-term, we have learnt about the place value of numbers. We have used different concrete resources to partition numbers and we then applied this knowledge to solve some tricky problems. We have also focused on number sequences and we have learnt how to use a 100 square to help with this.

Our Science topic for this term is materials. Discovery Dog visited our classes and asked us to help him solve some scientific problems he was having. In order to help him, we conducted a number of fair investigations. We tested different materials to find out which material was the most absorbent and we also created a new safety jacket for Humpty Dumpty.

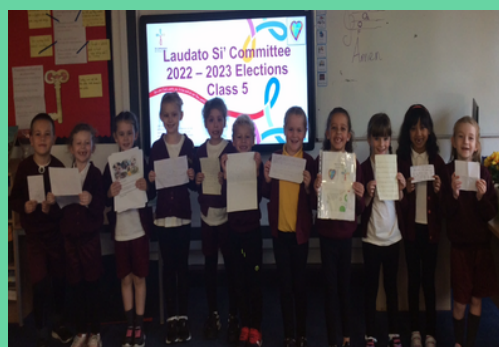
During our Art lessons this half-term, we have been learning about L.S. Lowry. We focussed on the different techniques and styles which he used and we created our own matchstick men. We also used our drawing skills to complete symmetrical drawings of some of his famous portraits.

Our children say...

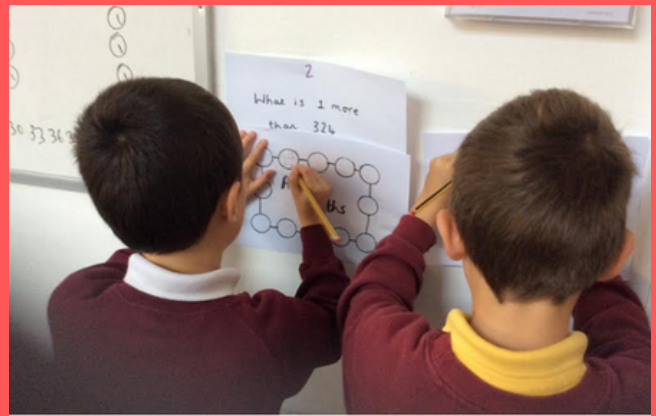
"I loved when the fire engine came to visit and I enjoyed spraying the playground with water."

"I was so proud of myself during our class worship and I loved reading aloud in front of my family."

"I loved making our Manchester bees jars and I think I could set up a stall at the makers market. I have might even do a discount for St Catherine's pupils."



Year 3



This Half-Term...

In Maths, we have been focussing on Place Value. We have used many different resources to help us partition numbers and we then applied this knowledge to solve problems. We have also enjoyed 'Active Maths' lessons where we have had to find the answers to questions around the classroom.

In Topic, we have had our 'Launch Day' to introduce the Stone Age. We have practised how to be a hunter-gatherer and the whole class played an online game of how to survive during the Stone Age. We also created cave animal paintings.

In Science, we have been learning about all the different food groups and the health benefits of food. We have sorted foods into specific groups and designed a healthy balanced meal. We are now exploring human and animal skeletons.

Class 7's worship focused on Black History and discrimination. We have also been exploring Black History and learning about the defining figures who have stood up against racism and led the way. We have also discovered what Ruby Bridges faced in order to have an education.

Our children say...

"I loved learning about Black History and enjoyed acting in our class worship."

"I love Active Maths- it's so fun!"

"I like our Music lessons and learning the Ukulele."



Year 4



This Half-Term...

In PE this half-term, we have worked with Mr Callaghan learning all about invasion games. We developed our overarm throwing and accuracy skills which we then applied when playing games such as Handball and Dodgeball. It was great fun! In English, we have been reading the book Gorilla by Anthony Brown. It's a fabulous story about a little girl called Hannah who gets a toy gorilla for her birthday. As well as developing our writing skills, we've also learned lots about gorillas along the way!

In Maths, we have been focussing on place value. Some of our lessons involved comparing numbers; we related this to real-life situations in supermarket adverts where there were price comparisons. It really helped with our using and applying skills!

In Computing, we have been really lucky to work with Mrs Copley from MGL. In our lessons, she taught us all programming an animation using Scratch. We also used Logo to create geometric shapes; we were even given the challenge to write the correct code for a hexagon. Our creations were fabulous!

Our children say...

"I loved our Big Questions with Father John - we asked so many interesting questions and he was able to answer them all!"

"Computing with Mrs Copley was great fun and we learned new skills."

"Our Topic lessons have been amazing - I really enjoyed the Launch Day which gave us clues about the Anglo Saxons!"



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Year 5



This Half-Term...

In Religion, we have been understanding how we are created in the image of likeness of God. We know that God has given us all gifts and talents and we are unique. We have thought about how we can use our God given gifts and talents to make a difference, just like Nelson Mandela used his gifts to make a difference for many black people in South Africa.

In Topic, we have been learning all about The Tudors and how this era has impacted upon British History. We have found out about all of Henry VIII's wives and how his first marriage to Catherine of Aragon saw the start of the Church of England and dissolution of the monasteries. We know what a tyrannical king Henry was!

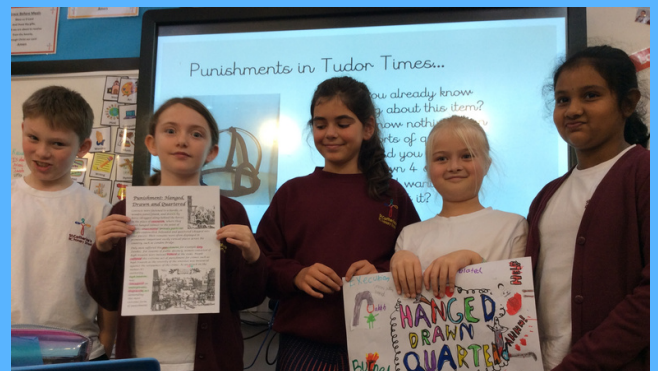
In Maths, we have been focussing on Place Value, ensuring the building blocks of future learning are well embedded. For the first time, we have encountered numbers up to 1,000,000 and have been busy: identifying the value of digits; comparing; ordering; rounding and solving problems! We have introduced a new character in maths, Mr Jelly, who often has a wobble and isn't sure of the answers. We have been developing our reasoning skills in order to explain to Mr Jelly how certain methods, rules and strategies work. It has helped us to be clearer in our understanding of why we do maths and help us to develop our maths mastery.

Our children say...

"We learn lots of exciting new things with our teachers."

"We love learning about the Tudors because we like to learn about the history of England."

"In Year 5, there are lots of sports activities to get involved in."



Love

Faith

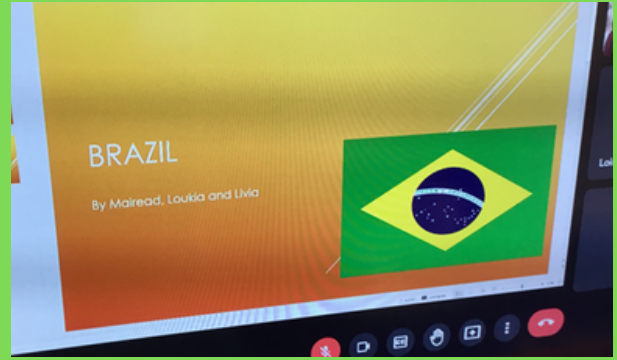
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Year 6



This Half-Term...

In Religion, we have looked at the different types of love that exist within society and how we can apply this to our everyday lives. We had a very exciting debate using the Prodigal Son and some of us even decided to become lawyers in the future!

In Topic, we have delved into World War Two, looking at the main protagonists of this historical event and how the contributing factors that led to the outbreak of this war.

In PE this term, we have been incredibly fortunate to have City in the Community working with us on our skills in Strike & Fielding. The activities that we have completed have also allowed us to work on the Four-Corner model too.

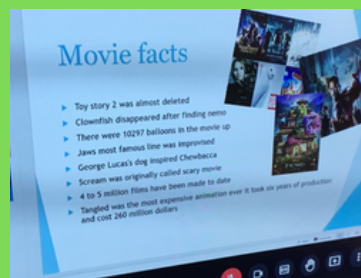
In English, we have been focussing on our SPaG and content knowledge in order to develop our writing skills for a wide range of genres. By doing this, it will then allow the children to write across the curriculum.

Our children say...

“I love PE with City in the Community – it is so much fun!”

“Topic is really interesting. I loved learning about appeasing Hitler.”

“My writing is improving because I now know the different types of clauses.”



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Sporting Achievements



It has been a fast-paced start to sports this academic year. We have participated in a range of sports this half-term.

Year 3, 4 & 5 children have been to the Etihad Campus to participate in a football event.

The Year 5/6 girls' football team is up and running, playing their games at Whalley Range High School.

The Year 5/6 boys' football team will play their first matches of the year after half-term. We are pleased to announce our home games will be played at Barlow High School this year.

Some Year 3 & 4 children participated in a badminton event at Levenshulme High School.

Some children participated in a Tag Rugby event at Dixons Brooklands Academy. Several of our KS2 children have attended two Saturday Cross Country events this half-term.

Finally, we are delighted to confirm that our new school football, tag rugby and netball kits will soon be with us. More information will follow but we thank the parents that have generously sponsored these new kits.

Well done to everyone who has been involved! We're really proud of your commitment, enthusiasm and great achievements.



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Black History Month



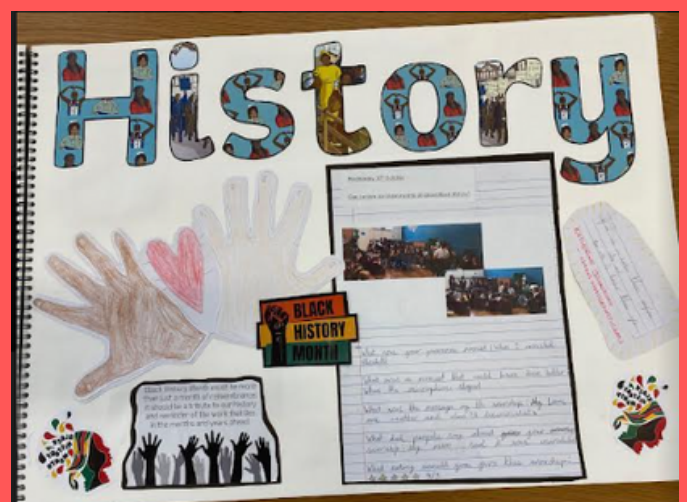
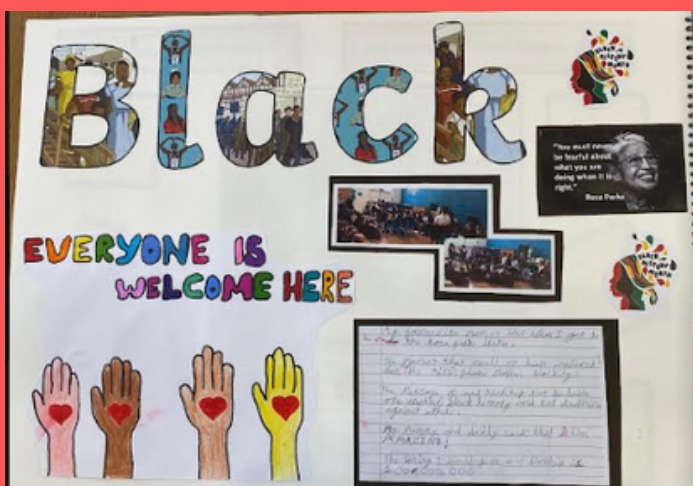
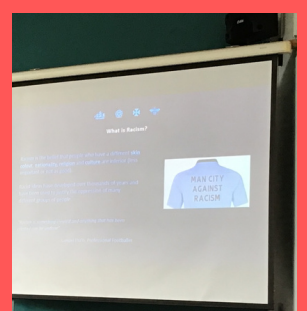
Throughout October, we have been celebrating Black History Month in a range of different ways.

Sally Penni, MBE, local author, barrister and mum, came into visit all children in Reception, KS1 and KS2 to talk about the importance of British Black History, as well as introducing some of her children's books. We also bought some of Sally's books for each class and our children loved looking at all of Sally's dolls!

Alex Williams, MBE, former Manchester City player, visited children in Year 5 and 6 to talk about discrimination within football and the work he has done with young Mancunians.

Miss Quiligotti led a school worship all about the difference between equality and equity. Our children learnt all about the fact that 'fair' doesn't mean 'the same' and why equity is important. Some children even got to put on some of Miss Quiligotti's shoes to demonstrate the difference between equality and equity!

Class 7 children also led their class worship on the theme of Black History Month and spread lots of important messages to our children and families.



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Student Leadership



Laudato Si' Council

We are thrilled to announce our newly elected Laudato Si' Committee for 2022–2023. Laudato Si' is the new name for our School Council and is named after Pope Francis's Laudato Si' (praise be) initiative that calls for action on the greatest threats facing the human family today – climate change, growing global inequality and the destruction of biodiversity. The committee is made up of 10 representatives: one per class from Years 2 – 6. The children are committed to taking their roles very seriously and endeavour to be positive role models in and around the school environment. Our first meeting has already taken place, and all members are very excited about the upcoming projects in the pipelines!

The 2022–2023 Committee are:

Year 2: Oliver and Otto

Year 3: Isabelle W and Samuel

Year 4: Darcey and Joshua

Year 5: Ana C and Isabel C

Year 6: Maddison and Emily S

Learning Leaders

Our new Learning Leaders have now been appointed from Years 5 and 6 to work with our younger children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2. Our older children have been appointed with very important roles to help our younger children with their learning in the school, as well as acting as good role models for them to learn from.

Caritas Ambassadors

Recruitment has begun for our Caritas Ambassadors and children in Year 5 have been tasked with writing a letter of application to Miss Quiligotti if they are interested in applying for one of these prestigious leadership roles. Our Caritas Ambassadors show care and compassion for our school, environment and local community and put our faith into action within these local areas.

GIFT Team

We have a brand new GIFT team ready and raring to go! Well done to: William, Isaac, Mikey, Bethany, Benny, Paige, Amelia, Eliza, Joseph, Leo and Emily who applied to the GIFT team with amazing letters outlining their skills and attributes that we will soon be putting to use! We have already begun our Faith and Love in Action work through collecting food items for Perry's Pantry and we have lots of other events planned. Mrs Simi has also been in contact with The Barlow and we have plans to meet their GIFT team to have an even bigger impact. We can't wait to see what we achieve this year.



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Music at St. Catherine's



We now have a specialist music teacher, Mrs Dewsnap, in place to teach Music each week to many of our year groups throughout school. Take a look below at what our children have been up to with Mrs Dewsnap!

We're off to a good start this term with Music lessons actively taking place throughout the school and it's a pleasure and a privilege to see the children excited and enjoying the thrill of singing, listening to music and playing the variety of instruments we have on offer in school!



Year 6 have had great fun getting into the swing of composing music using 'Quick beats' on our Creative Apps



Our Year 5 children have been learning some new chords on the guitar whilst singing along to 'He's got the Whole World in his hands!'



Year 4 in action with the 'THUMBRUSH STRUM!' and our new ukulele players in Year 3!



All smiles in the Nursery as the children had fun exploring the sounds of our percussion instruments.

Our enthusiastic Year 2's are currently learning 'London's Burning' on their Glockenspiels and have already mastered the notes for 'Baby Shark.' I am SO proud of them all for their efforts!

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Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



Dear parents and carers,

The PTA wanted to provide a quick update after a really busy half term.

Financial Update:

Firstly, we wanted to start by saying a huge thank you for your generosity and support last academic year. We were able to raise almost £10k which has enabled us to make a meaningful difference to the children and school community.

Already this half term, our fantastic fashion show raised £1419.55. A special thanks to Caroline and our wonderful parents and staff who modelled for us on the evening. They did us proud and looked gorgeous :)

Green Day also raised £567 and 100% donations went to MIND. Both sums have been approved for gift matching- what a great start- thank you!

Upcoming events

We have shared a full calendar of events via ParentMail so you know what to expect from us.

Upcoming dates include:

Wednesday 9th November: Bag2School- a chance to have a clear out, give back to the community AND raise funds for our school

Monday 21st- Friday 25th November: Wood Street Mission Christmas Appeal with a weeklong donation window.

Monday 28th November- Friday 2nd December Christmas Hamper and Foodbank Donations

Friday 9th December- School Disco!! Time to get into the Festive Spirit and invite our children to dance the evening away!

INFANTS (Reception-Year 2: 5-6pm)

JUNIORS Year 3 - year 6 (6.30-7.45pm)

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 its a case of simply turning your online shopping into donations at no cost to you. Please see the next page for details.

Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



Your School Lottery

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/st-catherines-r-c-primary-school>

Easy Fundraising

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stcatherinesdidsbury/>

AmazonSmile

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1165650-0>

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.

Few Open Asks:

Roles: You will see that we are still recruiting for a few open roles. Thank you to those who have already stepped forward to support. The more parents involved, the better work we can do, so please get in touch with us should any formal roles (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Pre-loved uniform) be of interest or simply, if you want to support in any way. We would love to hear from you.

Next Meeting: The PTA Annual General Meeting will be held on 30th November at 6pm in the school hall. We hope to see you there!

With thanks

The PTA.



Raise **FREE** funds
for us every time you
Shop online



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