



Year 4



Our children say:

- i liked making the wraps because i liked eating and making it and the cucumber was my favourite.
- I've liked learning netball in PE. I like moving around fast whilst passing the ball because I have to multitask.
- I've liked doing the bus stop method in maths because it makes division efficient.

This Half-term:



- In swimming, we've been learning all about water safety, even taking on the challenge of jumping into the pool in our pyjamas! This helped us understand how it feels to be in the water with clothes on and how to stay safe in different situations.
- In reading, we have been exploring Volcanoes by Maria Gill, using our detective skills to retrieve key information from the text. We have also been investigating how non-fiction books are structured, making it easier to find fascinating facts.
- In History, we've been travelling back in time to Ancient Greece, discovering the incredible inventions that still influence our lives today. From democracy to the Olympics, the Ancient Greeks have left an amazing legacy!
- In Art, we have been inspired by the bold and expressive work of Vincent Van Gogh. We have experimented with exciting techniques like Sgraffito and Impasto, bringing texture and movement to our own masterpieces.

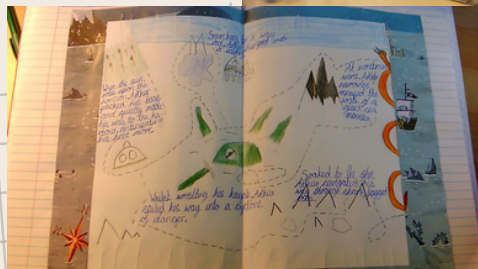


Year 5



This half-term:

- In Geography, we have continued our exploration of the connections between a place, its produce and exports with another of our tasting lessons dedicated to regional foods.
- In Spanish, our focus has turned to our partner schools in Nigran. This very week, we had our first 'Google Meet' so that the children can connect with their pen-pals.
- Our Reading and Writing lessons have both focussed on the genre of Norse mythology. We have enjoyed studying the Norse landscape and the features of Norse myths, culminating in the children writing their own myths.
- The children have enjoyed many enrichment activities, including sign-language club and our Bob Marley sing-a-long.



Our pupils say:

"We have done some cool experiments in Science - especially when we have burned things to prove you can't undo some reactions."

"I am looking forward to our Google Meet with the schools in Spain."

"Our tasting lessons in Geography have been delicious. I loved the cheese and also the maple syrup."





Year 6



This half-term:

- Our topic in Science has been Evolution and Inheritance. We've explored Charles Darwin's studies of Galapagos Finches and learned about why giraffes have long necks!
- In Maths we've learned about Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. The children have made links to real life and how these are relevant, such as in sport, cooking and even the January sales!
- For Children's Mental Health week we explored Gratitude and the importance of being thankful for everyday things. We also created a Gratitude Tree for the classroom!
- In Science, we've studied Biomes and looked at what different environments and climates there are all across the world. It's been really interesting to explore the range of conditions and climates in each continent!

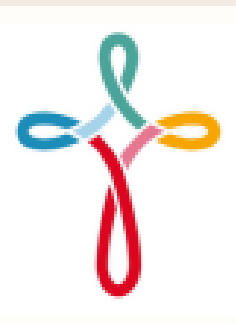
Our pupils say:

- I loved meeting Grandad Wheels! He was such a interesting person to talk to and it was good learning more about what challenges disabled people face every day.
- Dance has been really fun in PE. We have learned a whole routine, and how important it is to practise and stretch before and after.
- I really enjoyed our Science experiment all about Natural Selection where we pretended to be Galapagos Finches!





Sports



This half-term:

Another busy half term for PE!

It is amazing to see so many children committed to their extra-curricular sports clubs. Thank you for your weekly dedication and for being fantastic ambassadors of our school whilst competing offsite.

Our curriculum has also been jam-packed! Y2 have enjoyed gymnastic sessions with Mr Bourjes while Y6 have learnt new moves in dance sessions with our specialist coach. Mr Hollins has been busy outside working on invasion games with, Y1, Y3, Y5, Y6.

Next half term some of our pupils will compete in gymnastics and netball competitions while our girls and boys football league continues.



School Council

This half-term:



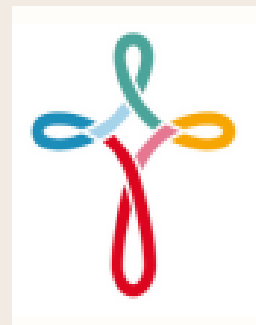
It's been a busy half term for the council. We've been conducting Pupil Voice surveys about lunchtimes and the playground equipment which has given us some really useful feedback. We'll be following up on this next term.

Then, to mark Children's Mental Health Week, we also led our very first Worship. Article 24 of the UNCRC says that all children have the right to health and health services, so it was important to explain how to look after our own wellbeing. We explored the Five Ways to Wellbeing, and gave children lots of ideas and practical tips!





Music



This half-term:

55 children from St Catherine's joined a Live Stream from the Co-op Arena to celebrate what would have been Bob Marley's 80th birthday!

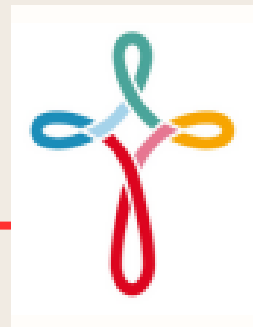
As this was a special and unique, 'one-off' event, we wanted to provide the opportunity for our School choir and Year 5 pupils who have been studying this iconic singer's life and Music, to take part in one of the largest worldwide singalong events to mark the occasion. The event brought together over 85,000 participants from Australia, Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, USA and the UK and received extensive coverage on the ITV news!

Our children were in fine voice as they enthusiastically sang some of Bob Marley's famous songs, including 'We're Jammin' and 'Three Little Birds,' 'One Love.' To add a colourful essence to occasion, the children wore the colours from The Jamaican flag and waved flags in honour of the singer.





PTA



Dear Families,

We have reached the end of another great term for our children and the whole of St Catherine's community. At the PTA we continue to work to find different ways to support our school and this will not be possible without your support and commitment. The following are the main activities and events we have had over this term

- PTA coffee morning and AGM: We got our first coffee morning of 2025, it was lovely to meet some of our families and the PTA committee:

Chair: Marian Glorioso
Vice chair: Yoke Loo
Treasure: Katie Sammonds
Co-treasure: Suzy Larkin
Secretary: Tina Byrne
Secretary: Josie Glorioso
School rep: Mrs McCormick

One the key points we discussed during the meeting is the importance to communicate the amount of money the PTA raises and where does that money go in terms of projects and programmes we directly fund within our school.

These are some examples of initiatives the PTA has historically funded:

- Spanish exchange
- Year photo books
- Reindeer visit at Christmas time
- The PTA has also funded new library books, some traffic signals to keep our children safe, refurbishment of the reception and nursery's playground, furniture and tech equipment, amongst others.

• We are committed to be as transparent as possible with the management and use of school's funds, so we will continue to work to improve the way we communicate with the whole of the St Catherine's community.

Unfortunately, we had to stop the Bags2School collection because it was not very profitable since the company that runs kept lowering the price per kilo of clothes you were donating. We are exploring other options that will result in more money being raised for the school.

A huge thank you to the parents who managed to gift match via their employers, the amount raised in our Christmas fair.

We want to continue having a positive impact in our community, be part of our children's memories and make our school shine brighter!

Many thanks



Spanish



International School Award

St Catherine's recently achieved the International School Award, one of only 54 in the country who were accredited this year. The ISA recognises schools that have shown a commitment to embedding international awareness and understanding in their school and we show this through many of our activities, such as Chinese New Year, Rights Respecting but particularly through our Spanish lessons and exchange.

Mrs Taylor and Mrs Chidgey went to the Houses of Parliament to receive the award and were also congratulated by our local MP, Jess Smith, who came to greet them at the ceremony.



Happy Birthday Harvey!

Harvey the dog has been busy in school this half term, visiting classes and listening to readers! It was also his 8th birthday earlier this month. Some of the children in Reception made him birthday cards!



Librarians



Our newly appointed school librarians from Year 5 and Year 6 have been busy this half term, giving up some of their lunchtimes each week to begin our huge revamps of our two school libraries.

To begin with, we have been going through our current books, to remove any that are damaged or old and began to make lists of what books they would like to see.

The librarians were awarded their 'book worm' badges during our Friday worship last week and have also been working hard to help develop a new reading display on the corridor.



What's next?

We are putting together book lists and the librarians will soon be asking the children across school what books they would like to see in our libraries. We are also planning a visit to Waterstones next half term, as well as setting up regular book review opportunities!

