

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

Love

Faith

Inspiration



St Catherine's Newsletter

Spring 2 Term 2025



A message from Mrs Partington

This has been another busy half term, full of exciting events and activities.

Our preparation for the Catholic church's celebration of Easter during Lent has been very fulfilling with class based worships focused on preparation during Lent. Our whole school assemblies have focused on the weekly Gospel with a focus on hope and forgiveness.

We are celebrating the Jubilee 2025 as Pilgrims of Hope. The children can tell you how often this jubilee comes around (every 25 years) and that if you are 6 years old now, you will be 31 years old the next time! And maybe even a parent at St Catherine's! We have many celebrations planned over the next few months so please watch out for those.

Our choir have been magnificent ambassadors for us this half term, singing live at the Coop arena with Young Voices and in church. Led by Mrs Dewsnap, they are a real credit to St Catherine's and I receive so many beautiful comments about their performances.

We have celebrated many different events this half term, including World Book Day where the children's costumes were fantastic and it was a real celebration of reading in school. Thank you for those of you that have visited as secret readers - the children have eagerly anticipated each visit and thoroughly enjoyed the stories!

St Patrick's Day celebrations after mass were very well received - it always makes me very proud to see how confident the children are performing in front of a crowd - we have very proficient dancers, readers and musicians in school.

Our Spanish cafe was extended this year so that each year group put on a performance and what a great success that was. Everybody had a great time being entertained whilst eating tapas and a hot drink.

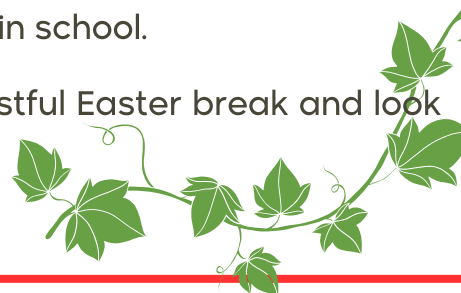
Thank you if you came to our curriculum workshop to see how each year group teaches multiplication and division. The feedback we received was very supportive with comments such as "I didn't know it was taught like that!"; "Now I can properly help with homework!" to "When are you doing this again".

We do have plans for another workshop so watch this space!

Thank you for your support this half term. It means everything to us in school.

On behalf of everyone at St Catherine's we wish you a peaceful, restful Easter break and look forward to seeing you all again on 22nd April.

Mrs Partington



Love

Faith

Respect

Perserverance

Compassion

Inspiration



Nursery



Our Children Say:

"We have been learning about space. Baby bear goes to space in a rocket."

"We went to the airport and we played in the park and we watched the aeroplanes take off."

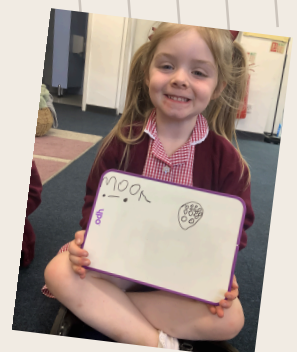
"When something is heavy the scales go down and if it is light, they go up."

"In spring we see blossom, daffodils and birds have a nest in the trees!"



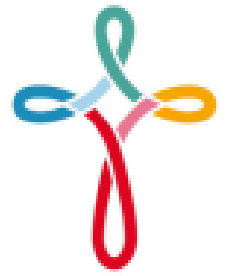
This Half-term

- This half term, our topic has been 'Journeys and Transport'. We have had lots of exciting things going on, including a trip on the tram, a visit from the Highways Agency and their snow truck and of course our visit to Manchester Airport Run way Visitor Park! The children were amazing on each of our visits and we are so very proud of them!
- Our focus texts this half term have been 'The Journey Home from Grandpa's' and 'Whatever Next'. The children have learnt these texts inside out and completed some incredible writing based on them! We also learnt about the artist, Andy Warhol and made our own pop-art with cars!
- In maths, we have been consolidating our knowledge of numbers to 6 and learning about size, height, length, weight and capacity!
- We set up a train station in our role play area and the children have loved using their imaginations to go on different journeys around the world!
- We have loved learning about spring! We have had some lovely weather which has enabled us to start to recognise the signs of spring during our spring walk and of course, enable lots of incredible outdoor learning opportunities! We invited our grown ups into Nursery to paint a spring flower and have made a beautiful display with everyone's artwork! And of course we planted our own cress seeds and watched them grow!





Reception



Our Children Say:

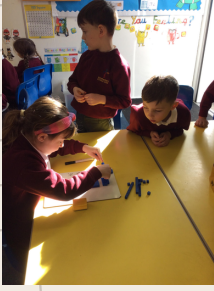


- "When one number and the other is the same that's a double. 3 and 3 makes 6. That's a double!"
- "I loved going inside the aeroplanes! I liked the Monarch one best because I dressed up as the cabin crew."
- "Naughty Bus is my favourite book. Its so funny when he knocks the dinner over so he has to go in the garden. There was a bus in the classroom that hid on the clock."

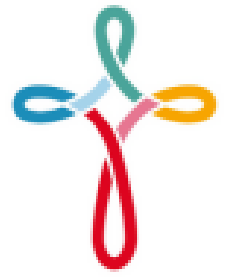
This Half-term:

- Our topic this half term has been 'Journeys & Transport'. We have explored a wide range of vehicles including those involved in space travel through our Literacy texts 'Naughty Bus' by Jan Oke and 'How to catch a star' by Oliver Jeffers. The children have created amazing story maps and books inspired by these stories.
- This half term we had a wonderful time on our Reception trip to the Airport Runway Visitors Park. The children were able to observe the airplanes take off and land from the viewing platform and participated in tours of various airplanes. We had lots of opportunities to ask questions and role play as different cabin crew/people who work at the airport. Our budding pilots also had the opportunity to use the control panel to 'fly' a plane in the flight deck. What an amazing day!
- Spring is in the air and we have been exploring the signs of spring and seasonal change. We have been on a spring walk, have explored how Christians celebrated new life at Easter and painted beautiful daffodils.
- In mathematics we have been investigating the composition of numbers to 10, how to make doubles, forming patterns and sorting based on a variety of properties. We know that a double is a number sentences where the two 'parts' are equal.





Year 1



Our Children Say:

"I dressed up as an astronaut and one day I want to go to space like Neil Armstrong."

"I love learning about animals, I can't wait to get lots of pets when I am older."

"I enjoyed using the Bee-bots, mine went all the way to the other side of the carpet."



This Half-term:



- In Maths, we have been learning about height, weight, volume and mass. We learnt through practical based activities such as seeing how far we could jump and helped Tiny the Turtle in his experiments.



- In History, we have learnt about Neil Armstrong and the significance of his achievements. We have lots of future astronauts in Year 1!

- This term in Computing, we have learnt about algorithms and used Bee-Bots to programme our own.



- In Science, we have learnt about animals including humans. We know the various animal families, their diets and how we can look after our own pets at home.



Year 2



Our Children Say:

- "I think I want to be a nurse when I'm older so that I can look after people and check they are ok like Mary Seacole."
- "Some animals have live babies and some animals lay eggs."
- "I have learnt that Lent isn't just about giving things up but also about being nice to people."

This Half-term:

- In our History topic, we have been learning all about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole but to kick off this topic we ran a teddy bear hospital to check up on some of our sick patients.
- Our latest Science topic is 'Animals including Humans' for this topic we have looked at different life cycles and worked in pairs to make our own life cycle chain for humans.
- Class 5 performed a special class worship all about Saint Patrick. We told the story of Saint Patrick and we explained how he helped to spread the Christian faith throughout Ireland. We shared some songs and also performed an Irish dance. We had lots of fun and we think we deserve the golden buzzer.
- Class 6 performed their class worship all about Lent and how it links to kindness. We read our lines beautifully and filled it with two lovely songs. Look out Hollywood, we're coming for you!



Year 3



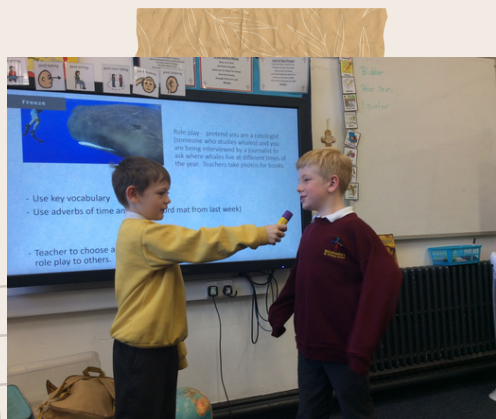
Our children say:

- "I liked taking photos of people's shoes and editing them. That was fun!"
- "My favourite lesson was when we wrote our names in Egyptian hieroglyphics!"
- "The Fun Run was my favorite part and it was nice to do something to help other in Lent."



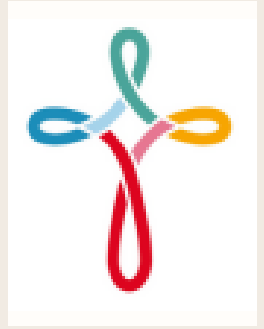
This Half-term:

- In Science, we have been learning about light and shadows. We have investigated light sources, reflections and shadows throughout the day. We also used data loggers to measure light intensity of different reflective surfaces.
- In Computing, we worked on altering digital media. Using iPads we took photographs. Then, we applied filters; cropped photos; changed backgrounds; and adjusted lighting and colour. We also discussed clues that help us identify altered images.
- In History, we have been learning all about Ancient Egypt. Some of the aspects we have looked at include: irrigation systems, the Nile river, Discovery of the Rosetta Stone and hieroglyphics. We also visited Manchester Museum and participated in a workshop led by a real Egyptologist!
- This half term, in Writing, we wrote an informative article to persuade the reader to protect blue whales.



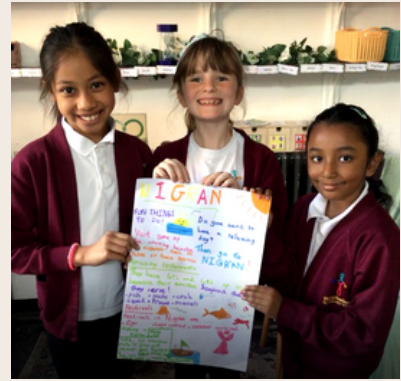


Year 4



Our children say:

- "I now know that sounds travel through solids better than gas or liquids!"
- "Nigran looks like a beautiful place to live and there are many interesting jobs there."
- "I have learnt about how to practice self-discipline at home and at school!"



This Half-term:



- In Maths, we have been learning about length and perimeter. We have also done lots of work on fractions. We now know how to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers and we are beginning to add fractions.

- In Geography, we have been learning about Nigran. We have practiced map skills like using a scale bar, longitude, latitude and compass points. We have also compared Didsbury to Nigran - we think we know where we want to live!



- This term in computing, we have learnt how to make an iMovie! Our creations were awesome!



- In Science, we have learnt about sound. We have done lots of science experiments to explore pitch and volume.
- In religion, we have learning about self-discipline and how to practice this at home and at school.
- We really enjoyed our craft afternoon making wind chimes - thanks to everyone who came!



Year 5

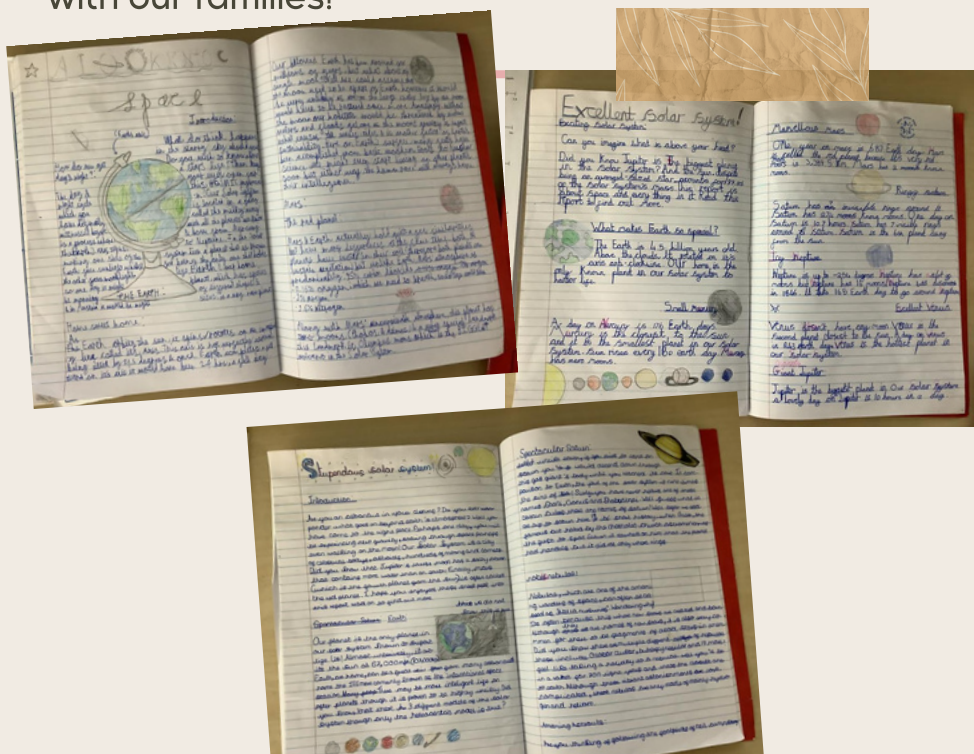


This half-term:

- In our Science topic, we have been learning about Space. We have really enjoyed this topic and have learnt lots of amazing facts! We have even taken part in stargazing challenges; look out for the International Space Station, the Moon and Jupiter close in the sky and the Moon and Mars close in the sky.
- We have continued our Space themed fun in Writing, where we have created some wonderful fact-based reports!
- Class 11 performed a very special Worship all about International Happiness Day. We all read our lines beautifully, created and performed an amazing rap and song. Well done Class 11!
- At Easter Crafts, we created some Easter themed decorations including a cross, Easter bunny or Easter egg. We used our stitching skills to sew two pieces of felt together and add details - they were beautiful and we loved sharing this time with our families!

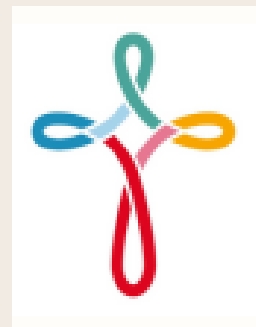
Our pupils say:

- "I loved Easter Crafts and making and decorating my egg."
- "Learning all about Space has been so fun and I have got to share my knowledge with the class and my parents."
- "It was interesting looking on websites which showed us celestial bodies in the sky and we could find out which star or planet it was and more information about it."





Year 6



This half-term:

- In Writing, children have been learning about persuasive techniques and created their own holiday brochures. The final pieces have been fabulous!
- PSHE has had a focus on money this term; children have explored what it is to be a 'critical consumer' whilst thinking about advertising and value for money.
- In Topic, we have begun learning about Islamic Civilisation. Children have studied the historical chronology starting from AD 400 and learned all about the significance of the House of Wisdom
- In Art, we completed our layered portraits, inspired by the artist Mike Barret. The children loved creating their own autobiographical portrait which were so unique!

Our pupils say:

- Learning about money in PSHE was really useful - it's made me think more carefully about my spending decisions.
- I loved Science as we got to build circuits with different components. We even made a human circuits which was so fun!
- I can't believe I'm learning about algebra in Maths - it's not as difficult as I thought it would be!



Sports

This half-term:



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🏆 Sports Round-Up 🏆

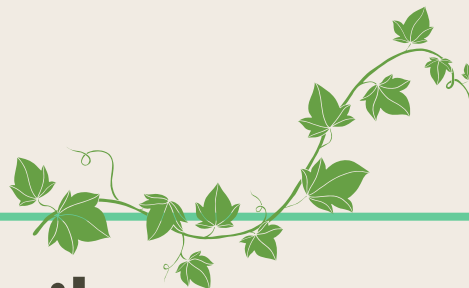
What a fantastic term of sport it's been at St Catherine's! Our students have shown excellent sportsmanship and made us incredibly proud as great representatives of our school.

⚽ Football – Both of our school football teams played with passion and teamwork in their recent matches. Well done to everyone involved!

🏐 Netball – A big shoutout to our Inspire Netball team for their brilliant efforts. Our Excel Netball team dazzled on the court and have made it through to the finals – an amazing achievement!

🤸 Gymnastics – Congratulations to the Inspire Gymnastics team, who brought home bronze and silver medals, and to the Excel Gymnastics team, with bronze, silver, and gold – what an outstanding performance!

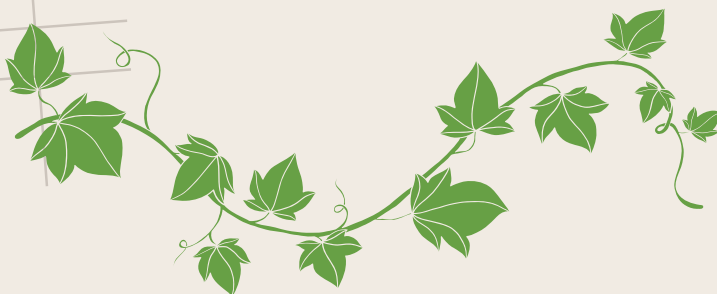
🏃 Cross Country – The season has now finished, and we want to say a huge well done to all our runners for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Final results will be revealed and presented next half-term, so stay tuned!

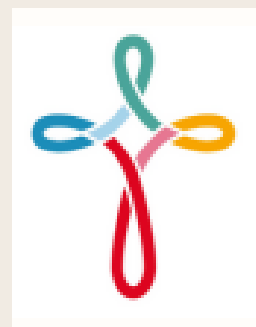


School Council

This half-term:

This term, the School Council have been part of the Pupil Voice for lunch time provision. Their views and feedback were really useful, and they have come up with some fantastic ideas for indoor alternatives at lunch. As well as many suggestions for activities, they have also been thinking of possible names ('The Cosy Club' and 'Rest and Recharge' to name but a few!) Watch this space...!





This half-term:

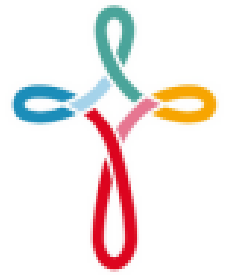
Thank you so much to all our Year 6 children for making music lessons so interesting, varied and memorable this half term! You have ALL been AMAZING COMPOSERS who have acquired new skills which you will be able to take forward in your lives.

Mrs Dewsnap





GIFT and Caritas



This half-term:



A Caritas Ambassadors ensured all members of a school had the opportunity to receive ashes blessed by Father John on Ash Wednesday.



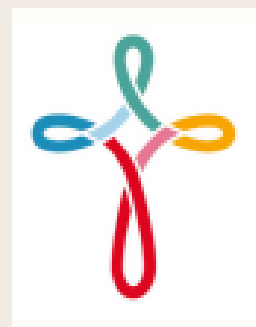
Prayer stations were set up in the hall to give opportunities for classes to relax and reflect in prayer during the Lenten period. We reflected on ways Jesus shows love to us and how we can be the best versions of ourselves through living in His path.



We have been very proud of our GIFT Team and Caritas Ambassadors for their confidence and commitment in supporting the faith life of our school through readings, leading masses and The Stations of the Cross. They also demonstrated fantastic drama skills to support the very important message of Luke's Gospel - Jesus showed God's love and forgiveness through his sacrifice for us.



Almsgiving



This half-term:

The Big Lent Walk! Each class have putting their faith into action by walking together through Lent to raise money for CAFOD supporting people as they overcome poverty. This is part of our Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope journey to be a sign of hope by working together for God's kingdom of justice, peace and love. We were tasked to collectively walk 200km over lent and we have smashed this by collectively walking a huge 1769km as a school. It is not too late to support us. Please use the QR code to sponsor us.



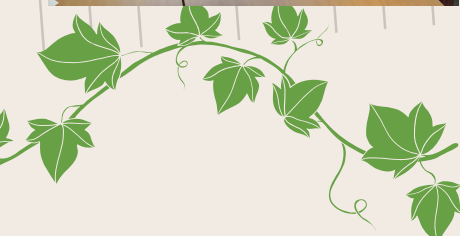
FUN RUN

Year 3&4 enjoyed their sponsored fun run. They went back to class feeling energised for the day. Thank you to Mrs Dewsnap for organising.



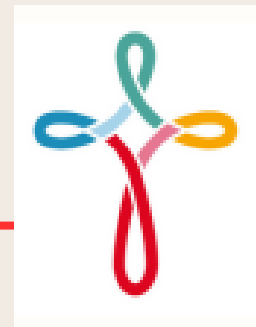
Year 5 and 6 had a fantastic last day of term enjoying their relax-a-thon. Starting of the day with herbal teas.

Thank you to everyone for your kind donations to support all year groups in their fundraising.





PTA



Dear St Catherine's families, this is the end of another term full of fun, celebrations and happy memories for the whole family.

Valentine's was a day full of sweets, love and fun. That last day of the previous term was a lovely afternoon with donuts, croissants (donated by our local bakery, Gail's) and bubbles. We are sure that parents and children are looking forward to next year's valentine already!

We also marked an early St Patrick's day celebration thanks to our lovely and super proud Irish families, who volunteered to make us all part of their celebration. We were all able to enjoy Irish coffee as well as selling lovely accessories for the children who of course enjoyed a donut or two....

We are very keen in finding new ways to support our extended community, so we managed to offer a lovely Mamma Mia Dancing Workshop thanks to the generosity of the NSDT school of dance, which few of our girls attend. Mums, aunties, grannies, teachers and few others had the time of their lives dancing and singing. This was a huge success in terms of money raised by the PTA and also for the positive feedback we had from all the people taking part in it. We cannot wait to organise the next dancing workshop!

Last but not least, this term our children enjoyed a day where rules could be broken. Break the rules day, was a huge success and a fun way for the kids to come up with ideas to impress their classmates, teachers and staff with their uniforms, snacks, accessories, nails, and so much more.

At the PTA we can't wait to keep working to make lovely memories for our children and families as well as make our school shine brighter. However, your support is fundamental and we are always open to any ideas and new initiatives.

In preparation for next term's adventures, we wish you a very happy Easter and a wonderful half term break.

PTA

Marian Glorioso

