

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



St. Catherine's
RC Primary School



Spring Term | Newsletter - February 2026

A message from Mrs Quiligotti

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding half-term, I am incredibly proud of all that our children have achieved. Our focus core value has been perseverance, and it has been wonderful to see this lived out across the school each and every day. From tackling challenging learning with determination, to showing resilience when things feel tricky, our children have demonstrated a fantastic attitude and a real commitment to doing their very best.

This half-term has also been filled with special moments of celebration and reflection. We marked the Epiphany, taking time to learn about its meaning and significance. During Children's Mental Health Week, we focused on this year's theme of 'This is my place' and explored more on the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing', reinforcing how we can support ourselves and one another as a caring school community. Our Storytelling Week was another highlight, with so many exciting activities taking place. It has been inspiring to see the children's enthusiasm and creativity shine through.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you enjoy reading about the many achievements and memorable experiences from this half-term. We wish all of our families a restful and happy half-term and look forward to welcoming children back to school on Monday 23rd February.



"I love school because all of the teachers are so kind and they help me if I need help."

"I love school because every day is different and interesting."

"I love school because I love seeing my class mates and teachers!"

Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

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Whole School



This half-term...

This half-term has been packed with exciting learning experiences across the whole school. Our classrooms have been buzzing with creativity, curiosity and enthusiasm as children immersed themselves in a wide range of engaging activities. Our pupil leaders took part in special workshops to help create a local community tile trail in partnership with Francis House families — a wonderful opportunity to contribute to a meaningful community project. We have also taken part in the NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe programme in Years 1-6, participating in assemblies, follow-up lessons and NSPCC-led workshops.

Storytelling Week was a particular highlight, especially our much-loved Masked Reader, where staff delighted the children by appearing as a variety of mystery characters. During Children's Mental Health Week, we explored the theme 'This is My Place', reflecting on belonging and wellbeing through the five ways to wellbeing. There have also been some fantastic year group experiences, including Penguin Day in Nursery, a T-Rex visit to Early Years, and the joyful celebration of 100 days of school in all year groups. It has truly been a half-term full of memorable moments and rich learning opportunities for all!



"The best part of Storytelling Week was the masked reader quiz! Mr Stock was so funny."

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Storytelling Week



What a jam-packed week of fun we had in school to celebrate Storytelling Week! We were delighted to welcome parents into school to read with their children, while our children also enjoyed a special Bedtime Stories event, opportunities to buddy up with different year groups to share books together, and of course our much-loved annual book swap.

Children across school also brought in their favourite stories to share and they have created some excellent book reviews and art work linking to these books!

Staff took on a Masked Reader challenge and children had to guess which teacher was reading the story!

We are now looking forward to World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. This year, we are encouraging children to dress up as a 'word' to support vocabulary development. During that week, we will also have the Book Fair in school and in addition we will be launching, '100 books to read during your time at St. Catherine's! 2026 is the Year of Reading and we have so many more exciting things to come!



"I was reading a book with the boys in Year 6 and I had to find the things. They helped me and I liked it because they played with me."

"I loved reading my book with my mummy in my classroom."

"Mrs McCormick was a potato and read The Tiger who came to tea!"

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Nursery



This half-term...

We have had a super busy half-term in Nursery learning about our topic - Polar & Pre-Historic Animals! We have had lots of specials days and visitors, including Teach Rex dinosaurs, the snow gritter vehicles and, of course, dressing as penguins for Penguin Awareness Day!

Our focus texts have been 'I Can Fly' and 'Bumpus, Jumpus, Dinosaurumpus' and the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning through these books! We have continued to develop our mark making by practising our names and even beginning to learn some Phase 2 phonics sounds.

In Maths, we have been focusing on numbers 3, 4 and 5 and the children have become really confident in recognising the different ways to make these numbers, especially using their fingers!

Throughout Storytelling Week, children all shared their favourite stories and we loved sharing these in class! From reading with our parents, the Year 6 children and of course Bedtime Stories, our love of reading is as strong as ever!



Our children say...

"I loved the dinosaurs and the big t-rex was called Jam!"

"I can make number 5 on my fingers by doing 4 on one hand and 1 on the other!"

"The big children read me a story and I really liked it!"

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Reception



This half-term...

We have had a very busy half-term in Reception learning about our topic - Artic and Pre-Historic Animals! We really enjoyed our Teach Rex dinosaur activities, being movie stars and the visit from the snow gritter vehicle.

Our focus texts have been 'The Storm Whale' and 'How to grow a Dinosaur!' The children have been enjoying acting the story with actions, hot seating characters from the books and applying their phonetic knowledge to create story maps. We have now learnt all phase 2 and 3 sounds in our phonics lessons.

In Maths, we have learnt about more than and fewer than. We have also learnt about 3D shapes and if they roll, slide or both. We have been finding 3D shapes in our learning environments.

We have started PE lessons in the hall and the children have been superstars. They have shown great independence in putting their socks and shoes on and off!

Storytelling week has been super exciting and the children loved Bedtime Stories!



Our children say...

"Look, I found a cuboid, sphere and a cube outside!"

"I love Bedtime Stories - it was so much fun being cosy in my pjs and having popcorn."

"The T-Rex was gigantic; the baby dinosaurs are cute. We got to sing to them."

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Year 1



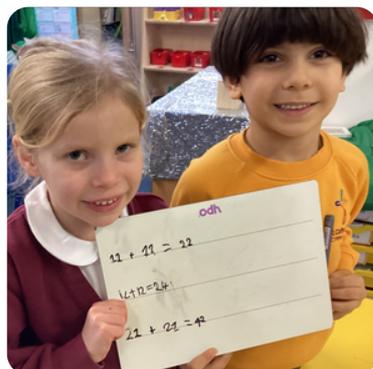
This half-term...

In English, we have written some fantastic stories based on our book "The Lion Inside" We used our creative ideas and included lots of description and suffixes within our writing!

During storytelling Week, the children brought in their favourite books and created a book review and piece of art work for the front cover of a book. Children had reading buddies come to the classroom to read them stories, they listened to stories in Spanish and also had their parents into read to them. Bedtime stories was a relaxing way to have stories with their friends.

In Geography, we have been learning all about our Capital City 'London'. We had our very own 'London day' and explored the different landmarks in London. We would make great tour guides!

In Maths, we have been focussing on addition and subtraction and using the correct symbols. We have participated in lots of practical activities to build up our recall of our number bonds and doubles.



Our children say...

"Bedtime stories was amazing and so much fun because my friends listened to stories with me."

"I really enjoyed our book "The Lion Inside" because it helped us to learn about friendships and that you don't have to be big to be strong."

"I liked learning about physical and human features of London. I want to go on the Underground train."

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Year 2



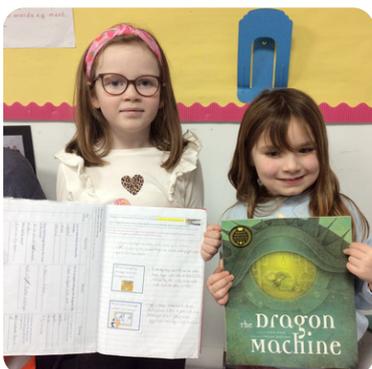
This half-term...

In English, we have been writing super stories all about our book 'The Dragon Machine'. We added lots of description and tried to use all the skills we have learnt so far this year. We even changed part of the story to include our own machine!

In computing this half-term, we have been learning how to program using Scratch Junior on the iPads. Year 2 children were very creative and picked up the skills very quickly!

In Maths, we have been learning all about money. To introduce this, we gave all of the children a red envelope (linked to Lunar New Year) which contained different coins and notes. We explored identifying the value of the coins and finding the total amount.

Storytelling Week was a fantastic opportunity to promote our love of reading! We had a 'masked reader' quiz where we need to guess which teacher was reading each story. Thank you to any parents who could attend our reading sessions in the morning and we were lucky to have older children come and be our 'Reading Buddies'.



Our children say...

"I loved reading 'The Dragon Machine' in class but I really liked writing about my own machine when we wrote our story."

"The best part of programming was making our own characters and making them move."

"There are 100 pennies in a pound. You need to look at the value not just the numbers on the coins."

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Year 3



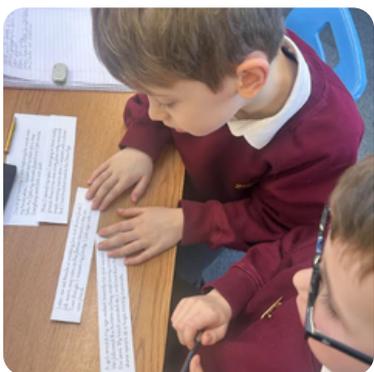
This half-term...

This half-term has been so busy! In Writing, we have been studying the book 'Stone Age Boy', which is a fantastic story set in the pre-historic era. We looked at how paragraphs work in a text and started trying to edit and re-draft our writing. The story has given us brilliant inspiration to write our own historical narratives!

In Art, we have been learning about observational drawings, which has been so fun! We took our lesson outside and spent time sketching different objects and building around us!

Our indoor PE unit has been Dance and we have loved it! Each week, we have been learning different choreography and creating a brilliant routine to perform to each other. In one lesson, we even learned some break dancing and can now do the 'helicopter' move!

In PSHE, children have explored safe relationships as well as appropriate and inappropriate behaviours. In one lesson, we did a practical activity where we made a human continuum - it was really fun and creative!



Our children say...

"I've loved reading Iron Man because the story is so cool and I couldn't wait to find out what happened next!"

"I really enjoyed learning how to measure in centimetres. It was fun using rulers and seeing how long things really are."

"Reading this half-term has been amazing. I liked Iron Man and Stone Age Boy because they made learning feel like an adventure!"

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Year 4



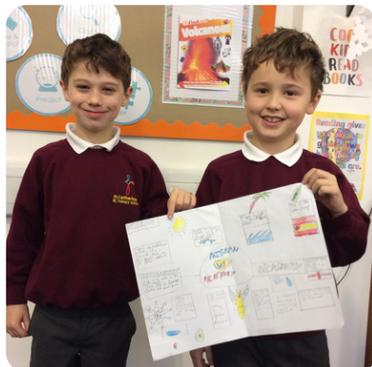
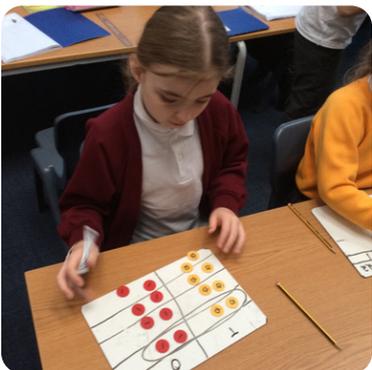
This half-term...

This half-term in Writing, we have been inspired by the book 'Escape from Pompeii' to create exciting historical narratives. Children explored the dramatic events surrounding the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and used vivid description, powerful vocabulary and dialogue to bring their stories to life.

In Science, we have been learning about states of matter. The children have explored solids, liquids and gases through a range of practical investigations. They enjoyed observing how materials change state through heating and cooling and worked scientifically by making predictions, recording results and drawing conclusions from their experiments.

In Art, we have been studying the famous artist Vincent Van Gogh. Inspired by Van Gogh's unique style, Year 4 children have been experimenting with texture and colour blending within their paintings.

In History, we have been learning about Ancient Greece. We have explored Greek city-states, daily life in Ancient Greece, democracy, mythology and the lasting impact Ancient Greece has had on the modern world.



Our children say...

"I liked learning how to pivot on one foot in netball."

"I liked the book about Pompeii because it was fascinating and cool."

"I enjoyed learning about Greek gods and goddesses."

Love

Faith

Respect

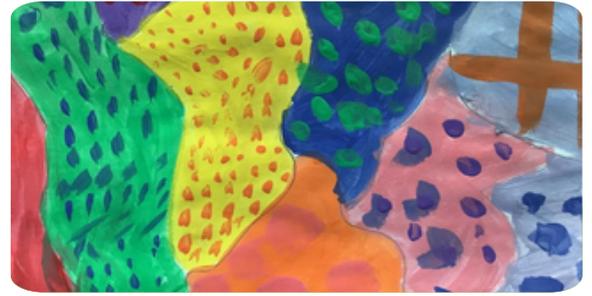
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Year 5



This half-term...

For most of this half-term, we have focussed on the genre of Norse Myth in our Reading and Writing lessons. The children have produced wonderful story-maps of quest scenes and have written their own myths to conclude the unit. In Maths, we have been working exceptionally hard on multiplication, division and fractions to lead into our current study of decimals and percentages. During Science, we have been learning about a variety of life cycles and can compare the life cycles of different types of species. We look forward to the season of spring, when the children might observe new life forms emerging around them! Painting is our current focus in Art - inspired by our focus artist, David Hockney. In PE, the children have continued to work on Gymnastics for their indoor session and have been perfecting how they present key moves. Outdoors, Year 5 have been working with Coach Josh on basketball. The children will continue their study of Victorian History after half-term, culminating in our trip to Quarry Bank Mill in March! Please continue to look out for the imprint of Victorian times around us in 'Industrial' Manchester.



Our children say...

"I liked doing the rolls, especially the straddle roll in Gymnastics."

"I liked mixing all the paint colours to make different shades."

"I can now make mixed numbers from improper fractions."

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Year 6



This half-term...

We have had a very busy half-term in Y6. Here are just a few of the many things that we have learnt over the last week weeks:

In Art, children have focused on the work of Yinka Shonibare and created striking layered portraits inspired by his use of colour and pattern.

In Guided Reading, we loved reading *The Explorer* and enjoyed exploring the characters, themes and adventurous plot.

In Writing, Year 6 children created amazing non-chronological reports all about The Amazon, showing off our research and organisational skills.

In Geography, we learnt all about biomes, discovering how different climates support different plants and animals around the world.

We're so proud of everything our children have achieved this half-term and we can't wait for another exciting and learning-filled half-term ahead!



Our children say...

"I loved creating our portraits- it was really fun!"

"The NSPCC workshops have been really important and I have learnt a lot."

"Basketball has been my favourite lesson of the half term!"

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Pupil Leadership



The School Council had a wonderful time visiting the Laudato Si' Centre at Wardley Hall! We spent the morning learning about how to look after the environment and then went foraging in the woodlands! We then did an activity in the outdoor classroom making a web and prayer card with our foraged materials. We were also given some reflection time at the end and discussed how to live out the mission statement of Laudato Si' by being who God wants us to be.

Our GIFT team, Caritas Ambassadors and Prayer Leaders have been working thoughtfully with children during lunchtime sessions to prepare for the season of Lent. Through discussion, reflection and prayer, the children have been exploring the Lenten themes of Give, Fast and Pray, and have written their own meaningful Lenten promises. These activities have encouraged pupils to think about how they can show kindness, generosity and spiritual growth in their daily lives. With Lent beginning during the half-term holidays, this preparation has helped ensure that children are ready to begin the season with understanding and purpose, rooted in our shared values and faith.

Our Caritas Ambassadors have represented our school in community workshops with Francis House Families and other members of our local community, working together to create tiles for a community tile trail. We can't wait to see the completed tile trail in action!

Our Planeteers have been working to devise a plan to decrease litter around school and have been thinking about ways to support children to collaborate more in looking after our school environment.



Our Pupil Leadership Groups

School Council
Growing in Faith Together (GIFT)
Team
Caritas Ambassadors
Planeteers
Sports Leaders
Prayer Leaders
Librarians

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Spanish



In Spanish this half-term, children have been working on the following topics:

Year 1 - learning about expressing their emotions in Spanish and hearing a Spanish story.

Year 2 - rhyming songs and hearing a Spanish story.

Year 3 - learning the months in Spanish and how to say when their birthday is.

Year 4 - learning about family and how to tell others about their own family.

In Year 3 and Year 4 during Storytelling week, children heard a Spanish story about manners and practised asking for the class teddy bears, using their Spanish please and thank you.

Year 5 - children have practised vocabulary for the Spanish café and started designing and creating menus. They have all found out who their Spanish pen friends are and have seen them on video, as well as receiving letters.

Year 6 - children have learnt Spanish numbers up to and beyond 1,000. They are now working on compass directions and learning a bit about the geography of Spain.

For our Year 5 Spanish Exchange, all children now know who their pen friend is and Year 5 will be on video, communicating their favourite films and books. Contact details for the families going to Spain and their host Spanish families will be shared after half-term.

We have held our final formal meeting before the exchange trip and full details of the meeting content has been sent home to families. We are finalising accommodation details at the moment.



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Sports



Cross Country: Well done to all of the children who took part in the cross-country race on Saturday 17th January. The final race of the academic year will take place on 7th March.

Outstanding Achievement: A huge well done to Piper in Year 4, Class 9, who performed brilliantly at The Greater Manchester Cross Country Finals at Heaton Park. Piper finished in the top 6 in Manchester and 63rd overall out of over 100 runners from across the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester, despite very hilly terrain and windy conditions! As most of the competitors were in Year 5 and 6, this is an extra special achievement and we are very proud of Piper!

Upcoming Events- Please refer to your email.

4th March: Inspire Gymnastics

5th March: Excel Gymnastics

