

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



St. Catherine's
RC Primary School



Summer Term / Newsletter – May 2026

A message from Mrs Quiligotti

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding half-term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many wonderful experiences and achievements that we have shared as a school family. I am incredibly proud of all our children, particularly our Year 6 pupils, who showed such perseverance, resilience and diligence during SATs week. They approached each day with determination and a positive attitude, and we are immensely proud of the way they represented themselves and our school. This half-term has also seen the exciting first stage of our Spanish Exchange programme. Half of our Year 5 children enjoyed a fantastic visit to Spain, embracing new experiences and creating memories, whilst the other half had a brilliant enrichment week here in Manchester filled with exciting opportunities, trips and activities.

We have also been blessed with many moments of faith, celebration and joy. Throughout this Month of Mary, children have led beautiful Rosary services each week, helping us to reflect and pray together. We enjoyed a wonderful celebration for St Catherine of Siena Day, where some children shared their many gifts and talents in church, and we ended the half-term in spectacular style with our Pentecost Party, dancing together on the playground whilst Chip the Christian rock singer brought great energy and excitement to our celebrations. Alongside this, children across school have enjoyed a range of memorable trips and visits, from river adventures to visits to Manchester. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping us create such rich experiences for our children. I wish everyone a happy and restful break.



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

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Whole School



This half-term...

What a wonderful and memorable half-term it has been, filled with opportunities for learning, celebration and creating lasting memories. Our children have continued to impress us with their enthusiasm and determination, from the perseverance and diligence shown during SATs week to the excitement of the first stage of our Spanish Exchange programme.

Across school, children have enjoyed fantastic trips and visits, including the Year 3 sacramental retreat, Year 4's river adventure at Venture Out, Year 2's walk to Fletcher Moss and Year 3's visit to Manchester by tram. We have loved seeing children immerse themselves in exciting Topic Launch Days, including Year 1's wonderful Kings and Queens Day, bringing learning to life in such creative ways. We were also delighted to celebrate the children's creativity through our younger pupils' colourful Easter bonnet parade and the beautiful Easter gardens created by our older children. Alongside our reverent Rosary services during the Month of Mary, our celebration of St Catherine of Siena Day and ending the half-term with our joyful Pentecost Party, it has truly been a half-term full of faith, fun and achievement.



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Our Core Values Poem



Mollie in Year 3 wrote this beautiful poem about our school's core values. She read it out in our St. Catherine of Siena Feast Day Mass in April, where some children showed off their God-given gifts and talents in school.

Well done, Mollie!



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★ Our Core Values Poem ★

Here is a poem about our school's core values and what they mean to me. Each one is different and God's way of teaching us to be the best we can be.



Inspiration

Inspiration is feeling excited by the achievements a person makes, believing we can do the same because we have just what it takes.

Bella Dela Cruz



Love

Love means showing kindness that comes from within our hearts. Being nice to one another is where love always starts.



Faith

Faith is believing God will guide us when we are having a horrible day. Faith is not worrying when things feel tricky because everything will be ok.



Perseverance

Perseverance is when we keep on going, even when times are rough. My mum says we should never give up, especially when the going gets tough.



Respect

Respect is how we are to each other, in the way we act or how we speak. We are all the same but different. God's children are all unique.



Compassion

And lastly we have compassion, what does that mean to me? Imagining myself in somebody else's shoes and how different people's lives can be.



Showing love and understanding. Always going the extra mile. Because we never really know what hides behind a smile.



It's always nice to be nice, whether we are big or we are small. If you have nothing nice to say, then just say nothing at all.



Our core values are here to teach us to do our best and always aim higher. To be who God wants us to be

AND SO SET THE WORLD ON FIRE.

Thank You
By Mollie K



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Nursery



This half-term...

We have had another amazing half-term in Nursery! We can't believe there is only one half-term left to go!

Our topic has been 'Food & Growth'. We have loved turning our role-play area into a garden centre and shop, allowing the children to play and explore with different foods and plants and act in the role of the shopkeeper and customers! We also planted our own beans and have been observing what happens to them over time!

Our focus texts have been 'Jasper's Beanstalk' and 'Oliver's Vegetables'. We have got to know these stories inside out and produced some wonderful mark making and writing using our knowledge of these texts. We even wrote our own versions of 'Jasper's Beanstalk'!

In maths, we have been focusing on position and shape and the children have become more confident in talking about 2D shapes and even naming some 3D shapes.

We have been super busy preparing for our first ever Art Show too, producing incredible paintings, pictures, prints and much more! We are so excited to share this with you.



Our children say...

"We planted a bean in a pot with some soil. They have grown!"

"Jasper had to find some giants at the top of the beanstalk!"

"A cylinder is a 3D shape. It can roll and it has two circles at the ends."

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Reception



This half-term...

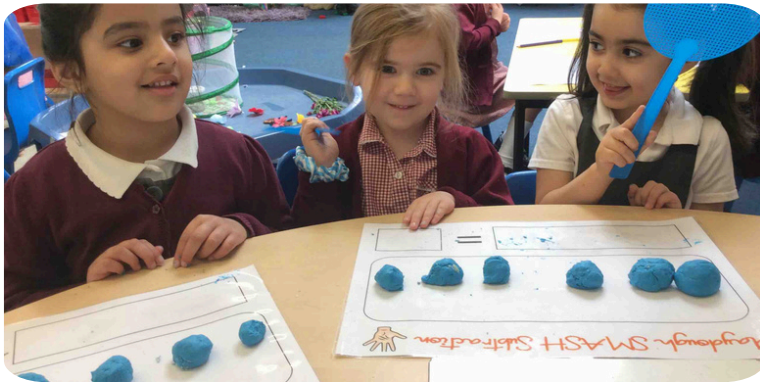
We have had a wonderful half-term in Reception learning all about our Topic, Growth! We have planted sunflower seeds and have some very hairy caterpillars in our classroom. The children love looking at how they grow, change and how to look after them.

Our focus texts have been 'Seed to plant' and 'The Woolly Bear Caterpillar'. We have learnt all about non-fiction books and we have written our own fact files about plants and caterpillars.

In Maths, we have been doing number sentences! We have been adding and subtracting numbers and solving problems.

This half-term, we launched the "ladybird spot challenges." The children have been completing challenges in the areas and becoming "Area Leaders!" We have worked extremely hard and have produced amazing pieces of work.

We have also had a lovely visit from Father John. He showed us some special symbols from the church and we asked him lots of questions.



Our children say...

"Subtraction means less. I like the pirates walking the plank."

"Caterpillars need food and sun to grow. They grow into butterflies."

"I love getting all of my Ladybird spots."



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Year 1



This half-term...

In History, we have been learning all about Kings and Queens. We have learnt about the role of a Monarch and the important role they play in looking after our country. We all loved dressing up for our Kings and Queens day and we are ready to step in should King Charles III ever need to take a day off.

In Science, we have been learning all about plants. We have learnt about the different parts of a plant and their functions. We have enjoyed learning lots of new vocabulary and we are now plant experts.

In Maths, we have been learning about fractions and finding halves and quarters. We know that a half is two equal parts and quarters are four equal parts. We have had lots of fun sorting pictures into wholes, halves and quarters!

In PE, we have been focusing on gymnastics where we have been exploring and developing our actions on the floor and using low apparatus. We have been improving our basic skills of balancing, jumping, and travelling. We even made up our own sequences!



Our children say...

"I loved learning about plants and I can't wait to help my Grandad out in the garden."

"I loved writing about being the Queen for a day and if I was in charge I would give everyone free sweets."

"I know what a half and a quarter are and how many equal parts they have!"



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Year 2



This half-term...

In Science this half-term, we have been learning all about plants and what they need to grow. We then planted our own sunflower seeds and watched how they grew over a few weeks. We even planted some 'test' seeds to see what would happen if one didn't have water, one didn't have light and one didn't have warmth.

In Maths, we have been learning how to tell the time. We are getting so good at it that we can't stop telling the teachers when it's break time and lunch time!

In literacy this half-term, we have been exploring "The Last Wolf" by Mini Grey. We have focused on using contractions and subordination to write a persuasive letter to help endangered animals like the Last Wolf whose habitat is destroyed.

In Geography, we have loved investigating the 'seven continents and five oceans' topic. We are now able to explain and compare the weather, countries, oceans, monuments and animals found in each continent.



Our children say...

"My plant grew really tall with lots of leaves because it got lots of sunlight and water!"

"I'm getting really good at telling the time, I keep practising at home and my Dad tests me on his watch."

"My favourite continent is Asia because it has some ancient temples and cool animals like a Komodo Pitviper."

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Year 3



This half-term...

In History this half-term, we have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians. We have loved discovering what hieroglyphics are and looking closely at The Rosetta Stone and Ancient Egyptian tombs.

In Art, we are focusing on the talented artist Yayoi Kusama. We have been inspired by her work and her colourful designs when making our own sculptures.

In Science this half-term, we have been learning about light and shadows. We have learnt about different light sources, light safety and reflective surfaces. It has been so much fun using torches in our experiments!

We all enjoyed a fantastic trip into Manchester city centre for a local area study. We learned all about Manchester's most iconic landmarks and loved visiting places such as Central Library, Manchester Art Gallery and the cathedral. Travelling by tram was also really fun, too!



Our children say...

"My favourite part of the Sacramental Retreat was when we got to make our crosses because we got to draw what we thought go, share and offer mean to us."

"I liked that we got to adapt our story and think of our own endings in Writing!"

"My favourite part of the trip was going downstairs to the children's library. It felt like our secret place in the middle of the city!"

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Year 4



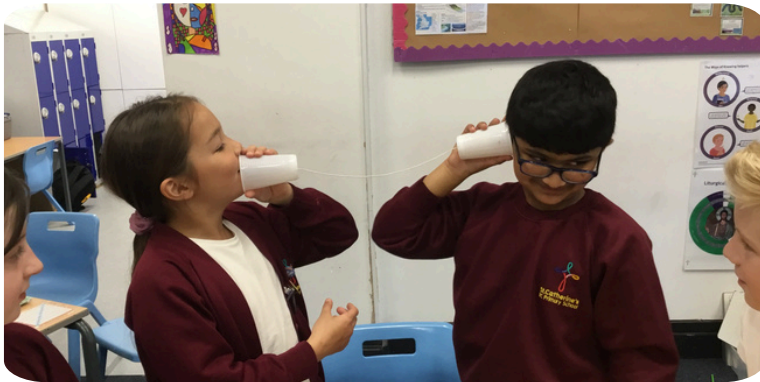
This half-term...

This half term has been all about RIVERS!

In English, we have written non-chronological reports about the River Mersey. We also learned about the Nashua River in America that was polluted due to settlers and the industrialisation of the area around the river. We learned how it regenerated after years of pollution.

As part of our Rivers topic in Geography, we went to Venture Out, along the River Mersey, to learn about the local habitat and ecosystems around the river. We went canoeing, river dipping, orienteering and did a local river study session. The instructors were wowed by the level of knowledge of all our children and we had a wet and wild time!

In Science this half-term, we have been learning all about sounds and vibration, discussing pitch, volume and even echolocation. Echo, echo, echo!



Our children say...

"I loved paddling up and down the Mersey in a canoe!"

"It was so good finding fish eggs and mayflies underneath all the stones in the river."

"Using cups and string to create telephones was my favourite part of Science."

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Year 5



This half-term...

Year 5 children have been exceptionally busy this half-term with a number of enrichment activities. Most recently, we have been learning about Cheshire for our Local Study in Geography. As part of our lessons, the children have been able to taste Cheshire cheese (with Ritz crackers)! Our enrichment weeks in Didsbury and Nigran were both action-packed and involved several new experiences for the children.

For our writing this half-term, we have written a report about the Artemis II space mission. To achieve this, we have watched a documentary about the mission and extended our skills for report-writing. These have included: writing catchy headings and using technical vocabulary.

In Maths, the focus has been converting units of measure. We would urge the children to continue to observe units of measure in the kitchen and in the supermarket! In Computing, we have looked at 3D modelling applications to design our dream home. The children continue to explore faith matters diligently in R.E., where we have been learning about how our conscience works.



Our children say...

"I enjoyed making the 3D towers in the style of Gaudi and in particular the bottom part." (Didsbury enrichment week)

"I like filling in the missing parts when working out the perimeter of shapes."

"I liked learning about how Artemis II did the 'splash-down' landing."



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Year 6



This half-term...

This half term, our main focus has been on preparing for SATs, and we could not be prouder of the children for the effort, resilience and positive attitudes they have shown. They approached the tests with maturity and determination, and should be extremely proud of the way they conducted themselves, not just during SATs week, but throughout Year 6 so far. In English, the children have been developing their persuasive writing skills by creating a holiday brochure for a European destination, while also completing lots of SPaG recap to strengthen their grammar, punctuation and spelling knowledge. In Maths, we have covered a range of important topics including statistics, area, perimeter, volume and algebra, alongside plenty of recap of the four operations and reasoning skills to build confidence and fluency. As we move into the final half-term, our attention now begins to turn towards our summer show, Gigglebox, which we are all very excited to begin working on.



Our children say...

"I've enjoyed writing our brochure because we were allowed to use the iPads to do research."

"I'm so excited for SATs to be over and I can't wait to have lots of fun in the final week of Year 6."

"I'm looking forward to working on our school play and all the art and D&T lessons!"

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Pupil Leadership



The School Council has played an important role this term in helping us gather meaningful pupil voice. Linked to Article 12 – ‘You have the right to be heard’, our councillors have been busy collecting ideas, opinions and suggestions from their classmates. Their work is helping us understand what pupils think about school life.

Our Planeteers have been busy in school, celebrating Earth Day by spending a day improving our school environment, coming up with new initiatives and planting new plants on our school playground. Take a look at the beautiful plants flowering in our flower beds!

Our GIFT and Caritas teams led our whole school Mass to celebrate St. Catherine of Siena’s Feast Day and have worked alongside our prayer leaders to lead bidding prayers each week in our Celebration of the Word assemblies. Our wonderful pupil leaders have also supported in our child-led Rosary services during the month of May.



Our Pupil Leadership Groups

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

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Spanish



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

Year 1 - children have been learning classroom instructions and vocabulary they would hear in a PE lesson

Year 2 - children have been looking at maps of Spain, locating main cities and regions and the countries around Spain.

Both Year groups have practised songs to welcome the Spanish children.

Year 3 - children have been learning animals and where to place adjectives in Spanish.

Year 4 - children have been learning how to talk about their favourite sports and pastimes.

Year 5 - children had either a great week in Spain or a great week in Manchester doing lots of different activities. They are now preparing a tour of the school and posters of welcome for their Spanish pen friends visiting Manchester.

Year 6 - children have been learning about clothes in Spanish and are preparing a fashion show.

On the Spanish Exchange front, we are now busy preparing for the return visit of our Spanish pen friends and looking forward to a week of learning in school and extra-curricular activities with our English families - and hopefully some sunshine. Many thanks to all who are helping to organise the plan for the week.



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Sports



It has been another fantastic half-term of sports!

Well done to our girls' and boys' football teams, who have trained hard and played brilliantly throughout the year. Their league season has now finished, and we are incredibly proud of the sportsmanship, determination and resilience they have shown. They have been exemplary sports ambassadors for our school.

Our Netball Team A played incredibly well at St Bede's but unfortunately missed out on the city-wide finals by just one place. We are so proud of your efforts and sportsmanship.

Congratulations to our Netball Team B, who have made it through to the city-wide finals! Whatever the result, we are incredibly proud of you all.



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Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



PTA Annual General Meeting and Summer Fair

Planning:

Wednesday 10th June at 5pm in the school hall

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