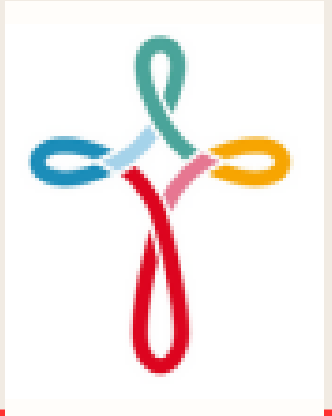


Be who God wants you to be and so set the world on fire.



St Catherine's Newsletter

Summer 1 Term 2025



A message from Mrs Partington

Another busy half term comes to an end and with it I say a fond farewell to St Catherine's. I can't believe how fast the time has gone since arriving in September! It has been a privilege and a joy to look after the school during Mrs Quiligotti's maternity leave. The children have been delightful and I will miss them all. I wish every child all the very best as they continue their journeys through St Catherine's and beyond. Thank you for all the support you have shown over this time - your kind comments have been very much appreciated and it has been a pleasure getting to know you all.

This has been a very busy half term with many exciting events enriching the curriculum. We welcomed our Spanish exchange children and staff for the 17th year. Luckily the weather was great and all the events were very successful.

Our choir continue to go from strength to strength and made a great contribution to our St Catherine's Day celebrations. There is always another event being planned for the choir and the opportunities they take to sing publicly really help to build confidence. Our GIFT and Caritas team have led in church masses as well as in school worship and are showing that they are true leaders of our faith as we continue with the Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope.

We have partied this half term! Celebrating St Catherine's Day with refreshments and entertainment from the children; commemorating VE Day with traditional songs and finishing the half term with our Pentecost Party where we were joined by The Barlow Gospel choir.

All these enrichments are greeted so enthusiastically by our children and that is wonderful to witness. None of these would be possible without the dedication of the St Catherine's staff team who truly want to build memories for the children. They have been an amazing team to work with and I am very grateful for their commitment to ensuring school is an exciting place to be.

I hope you all have a peaceful holiday.

Mrs Partington



Love

Faith

Respect

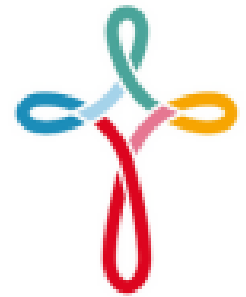
Perserverance

Compassion

Inspiration



Nursery



Our Children Say:



- I liked it when we all got to plant beanstalks! I want to climb up in when it's grown enough!
- We have been learning about 3D shapes. 3D shapes are fat and 2D shapes are flat!
- We were learning about vegetables and in Oliver's vegetables, he tries lots of different ones!
- I love everyone in our Nursery!
- We have loved playing and exploring outside in the sunshine!

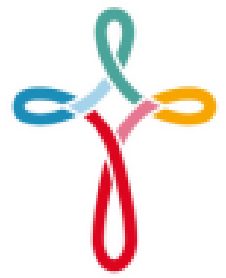


This Half-term

- This half term our topic has been 'Food & Growth'. Our first focus text was Jasper's Beanstalk and we planted our own beans (not seeds!) We watched and observed changes to our beans over a few weeks and will be bringing them home at the end of the term to continue to look after them! Our second focus text has been Oliver's vegetables. We have been talking about different vegetables and using words to describe them! We have also been drawing and labeling our favourite vegetables too and through our daily phonics, becoming more aware of rhyme, alliteration and sounds!
- In maths, we have been learning about concepts such as more and fewer, using this language to compare two groups. In addition, we have been recapping our knowledge of 2D shapes and started to look at 3D shapes.
- We had a super yellow day! We made our own sunflowers and sunshine using lots of creative materials and tried lots of yummy (and sour!) yellow foods, including melon, bananas, cheddar cheese and lemon!
- We have enjoyed joining in lots of wonderful celebrations this half term, including St. Catherine of Siena day, VE day celebrations and our Pentecost Party! What an exciting half term it has been!



Reception



Our Children Say:

- "I like it when the hen comes and lays a golden egg. Jack steals it from the Giant."
- "We've been learning different ways to make ten. 5 and 5 makes ten."
- "When you put a seed in the ground it can grow into a plant or a tree or a flower."



This Half-term:

- This half term our topic has been 'Food & Growth. We have been planting and caring for plants in our outdoor area such as a blackcurrant bush, herbs like mint and flowers such as forget me nots. The children know that plants need sunlight, water and nutrients from the soil to grow.
- In literacy we have explored the traditional tale 'Jack and the beanstalk'. We were astonished to find 'magic beans' in our classroom and planted them. The children worked in groups to retell the story in sequence using refrains and expression as the different characters.
- In the maths we have been looking at the composition of number ten using different equipment. Using counters in a specific formation on a dice or ten frame, supports our subitising and quick recognition of numbers to ten using the '5 and a bit' method. The children can express verbally number bonds to five and ten.
- This half term has been full of celebrations such as VE day. We waved flags and enjoyed dancing to war time songs. The children made peace doves to symbolise the peace we have due to the ending of the Second World War.



Love

Faith

Respect

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Inspiration

Year 1

Our Children Say:

- I loved doing our class worship to our grown-ups! We got to make flower crowns and say the Hail Mary in different languages!
- I liked it in Science when we got to go on a plant hunt around school. I didn't know we had so many different plants on the playground
- I loved being a king for the day! I felt really important.

This Half-term:

- In D&T, we have learnt about Charles Wicksteed, an engineer who designed playgrounds. We learnt about his designs and then made our own playground equipment using recyclable materials.
- In History, we have been focusing on Kings & Queens. We have learnt what the monarchy means, the role of a monarch and even received a letter from King Charles! To help King Charles, we wrote a letter about what we would do if we were a monarch for a day.
- In Art we have been learning about 'Jeff Koons' We have been inspired by his work and we have designed and made our very own 3D aliens. We used plasticine to make a prototype and air dry clay to create our masterpieces.
- In English we have been reading our new story 'Toys in space'. We have created our own descriptive stories based on the book with our very own characters.



Year 2



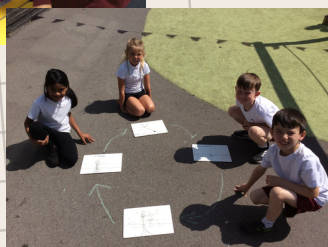
Our Children Say:

- I loved planting seeds and watching my sunflower start to grow!
- I found it hard at first to use clay but when I got used to it I could make a whole pot!
- I can read the times on the clock - o'clock, quarter past, half past, quarter to and even 25 to!

Hayley Flood

This Half-term:

- In Science this half term we have been looking at plant growth. We grew our own sunflowers from seeds and looked at the life cycle of a plant, learning new words like 'germination'.
- In Art we have been looking at the artist and sculptor Barbara Hepworth. We then worked with PlayDoh to practise some skills before making our own pinch pot made of clay!
- In Maths we have been learning to read the times on a clock - o'clock, quarter past, half past and quarter to! We enjoyed using the mini clocks to help us with this.
- This half term has been full of lots of celebrations. We enjoyed celebrating VE Day waving our flags, on St. Catherine's Day we drew some portraits of our saint. We loved being outside for our Pentecost Party.



Year 3



Our children say:

I liked looking at our English book 'Journey' and finding out about the girl's adventure.

I am enjoying finding out what numbers are in Roman Numerals and I am getting better at telling the time.



This Half-term:

· This half term, we have been using the book 'Journey' in English to help us write descriptively. Journey is a wordless book, so we have had to use our detective skills to infer lots of the information. It has helped us to create effective settings and use our imagination to add detail.

· In Religion, we have been learning about Pentecost and the Power of the Holy Spirit. We have learnt about the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and how we can put these into action in our daily lives.

· In Maths, we have just started to learn Roman numerals to 12 and how to tell the time. Telling the time is a challenging skill and we are working hard to master this!

· In Art, we have been learning how to model, shape cut and apply a variety of techniques when working with clay. Our work has been inspired by the fantastic Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama.





Year 4



Our Children Say:

Canoeing was AMAZING!
We got to go down the rapids
and we had a race! We went
pond dipping and we found
lots of fascinating
invertebrates like blood worms
and mayflies!



This Half-term:

- In Science, we have learning about living things and their habitats. We learnt the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates and classified them using a key.
- In English, we have been writing non-chronological reports about the Sloth. We have done lots of research, learnt lots of facts and will present this as an information board as if it is at the zoo.
- In maths, it's been all about fractions and decimals and learning to convert, compare and order them.
- Class 9 delivered an awesome assembly on St Catherine. Picture below!



In D&T, we have made our own easter gift box! We used word to create a net, then we learnt how to add lots of colour and detail to the box. Then we cut them out, made them and evaluated our designs!

In Geography, we have been learning all about rivers. We go to go to Venture Out in Stockport where we learnt all about rivers, did a river survey, went canoeing and did some pond dipping. We had the best day!



Year 5



This half-term:

What a busy term it has been for Year 5!

Year 5 have loved being involved in all things Spanish Exchange this half term. We have made memories and friends for life.

In Writing, we have been writing persuasive letters to Jeff Smith (MP) regarding river pollution in the River Mersey.

In History, we have been learning about the Victorians, with a particular focus on Manchester as the home of the Industrial Revolution. In Art, our current sculpture focus is the Manchester bee!

In Maths, we have been learning about fractions, decimals and percentages and learning how to order them.

We have enjoyed dissecting flowers to help us study the role of pollination in plant life cycles.

Our pupils say:

I loved writing a letter to Jeff Smith (MP) and learning about river pollution.

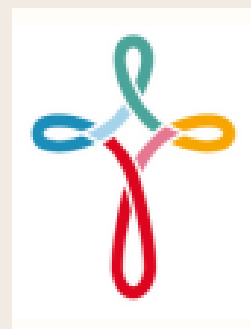
Our trip to Martin Mere was the best and seeing the flamingos.

I loved sculpting our bee design but it was quite difficult.





Year 6



This half-term:

- To celebrate the end of SATs, we had a picnic in Didsbury Park! The sun shone and we enjoyed an afternoon of having lots of fun. Mr Hollins joined us and set up some sporting activities (the cricket and rounders matches got quite competitive!)
- Our Topic in Computing this term is Creating Formulas. We learned all about spreadsheets and how to write formulas to calculate totals and work out the mean. Mrs Hartley even came to talk to us and showed us how useful spreadsheets are in her job at school!
- In Art, we have begun exploring sculpture. Our focus artist is Faith Bebbington (who creates sculptures out of recycled materials). One of Faith's pieces includes a life-size polar bear, and we are using this as inspiration when creating our own mini sculptures from modroc. We can't wait!
- In English, we have been writing our own letter of complaint to a hotel manager. It has been really fun studying Trip Advisor reviews to help us with our tone and vocabulary and our final result are very convincing!

Our pupils say:

The picnic in the park was really fun! I loved bringing my own snacks and relaxing for the whole afternoon!

I'm really excited for Art! Sculpture is really interesting and I've never used Modroc to make something before!

Computing has been really fun! I thought formulas for spreadsheet would be really difficult but once you know what to do they're really easy!



Sports



This half-term:

Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their specialist dance lessons this term, while Years 2, 3, 5, and 6 have been taking part in specialist cricket lessons with Mr. Hollins.

Last half term was a busy one for competitions, and this half term our netball and football teams have been training hard to develop their skills. Our netball team is now preparing for the citywide finals taking place next half term—good luck to them!

We are incredibly proud of our cross-country runners. We are still awaiting the official results and certificates, which we will present in worship as soon as they arrive.

Looking ahead, Sports Day is fast approaching! Please see the dates and times below and save them in your diaries:

- EYFS: Wednesday 18th June at 2:00pm – School Playground
- Year 1 and Year 2: Wednesday 2nd July, 9:15am – 10:45am – The Barlow's AstroTurf
- Year 3 and Year 4: Monday 30th July, 9:15am – 10:45am – The Barlow's AstroTurf
- Year 5 and Year 6: Wednesday 25th June, 9:15am – 10:45am – The Barlow's AstroTurf

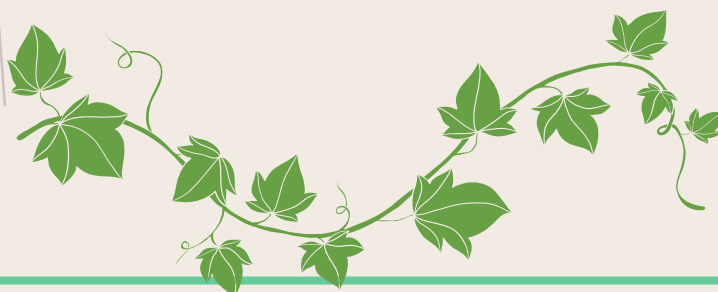
School Council

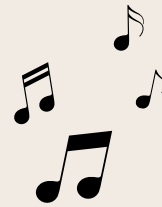


This half-term:

The School Council have continued being excellent ambassadors throughout the school this term.

They have also been tasked with judging the 'Attendance Logo' design competition which will take place next term – a very important job!





This half-term:

Nursery: Our wonderful Nursery children have been learning the song Dabbling ducks which helps them learn about how ducks move and their habitats. The children were invited to dance along as ducks as we sang the song altogether. They moved their bodies like ducks to turn upside down, their mouths like beaks for quacking, arms for flapping, bottoms for wiggling and wagging tails as they sang each verse. They were all AMAZING and enjoyed handling the variety of colourful toy ducks that I provided for their lessons.

Reception: Our musical Year one classes have been learning Up and down which is a gentle action song with a rising and falling melody for exploring pitch. In this unit, the children have sung various songs in steps using accompanying actions, for example, Hickory, dickory, dock. and 'Five, fine bumble bees.' They are continuing to compose new lyrics and play simple melodies on pitched instruments next term.

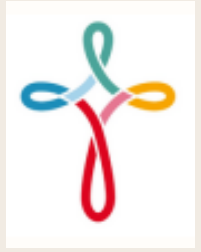
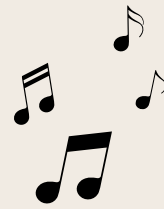
Year 1: In our topic 'Musical conversations' the children have created musical conversations on the Glockenspiel. They have invented and composed short pieces based around question-and-answer interactions/dialogue. They have also learned to take turns, to lead and follow, to read a 'score', and have created their own simple graphic scores. They have also prepared some super songs for their upcoming 'Singing Square' including 'Baby Beluga' and 'Menu Song' and always sing enthusiastically!

Year 2: Orawa (pronounced 'Arva') describes a huge river. The children have listened to the music, and imagined the journey of the river through Europe, making decisions about the scenery and events it passes on its way. They have created a huge piece of art based on the river's journey borrowing ideas from the composer, Kilar and have invented new music using vocal chants and body percussion. Children, you are fab musicians - enthusiastic, engaged, interested and energised in every single lesson!





Music



Year 3: Our ukulele players in Year 3 have been busily preparing some pieces for our Lower Key Stage Celebration in church and are making very good progress! They have been learning chords, for example, F Major, C and C7 and different strumming patterns including a Calypso Strumming pattern. They are also focusing now on preparing the music for their special Holy Communion Day!

Year 4: Year 4 children have immersed themselves with enjoyment in 'Favourite Song' - A sing-and-play song for ukuleles, in a folk-rock style, with a Verse/Chorus structure, and a fast, driving beat. They've listened to and been inspired by similar music e.g. Mumford and Sons. The song is based around the chords of A minor, C major, F major, and G major. They have added their own unique style to the song and a group of children have even accompanied the song with KAZOOS! You are an imaginative bunch and such fun to teach! Your vocals are 'Spot on' as well!

Year 5: Not only has Year 5 had the opportunity to learn rhythms during our awesome 'BUCKET DRUMMING' lessons, they have also been practising and perfecting tunes on guitars and learning chords for the forthcoming Upper Key Stage 2 Celebration in church. In addition, they have been inspired by a beautiful lullaby from the Shetland Islands - 'Baloo Baleerie' - one of the most ancient types of song. They have explored lullabies from across the globe, learned about 3/4 time, as well as sung and played an accompaniment to the lullaby on the Glockenspiel.

Year 6: Year 6 children have truly worked with great energy and commitment in their 'FINISH THIS' project. This involved working with the English National Opera to finish an unfinished composition in a creative and original way using classroom percussion.

Class 14 - Wow! A huge congratulations on your fantastic composition Serenity. Both compositions were listened to by: Dominic Haddock, ENO Director of Philanthropy and Partnerships, Development. All our children were proudly presented with a certificate and a personal thanks from Omar Shahryar, the composer.

And here is your feedback:

Ahhh - I felt the peaceful serenity shining through straightaway through your beautifully sung melodic line. This piece was full of brilliant musical ideas, I could hear the breeze whispering through the grass and I loved the 'murky swamp' section too! The constant chime of the cymbal towards the end was a wonderful addition. Great job!

Class 13 - Wow! A huge congratulations on your fantastic composition Energy

And here is your feedback: What a funky, driving vocal line - a fantastic opening to your piece. Your creativity and curiosity really shone through the piece, and I love the way you explored different sounds, words and musical ideas all giving me loads of zesty, green, zingy energy! Thank you for your brilliant work, well done composers!

Congratulations Year 6! As a school, we are so pleased and proud of you all and your amazing achievements. Enjoy celebrating your amazing work on the project, and we very much hope you are inspired to keep on composing! We are also especially excited to let you know that Class 13's composition was one of 41 (out of over 200 submitted) to be selected to be turned into an animation! Huge congratulations! Here is a link to your animated composition:

<https://youtu.be/8mYPM2pNI0g>

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Choir Notices

Our school choir is attending a very prestigious venue at the Bridgewater Hall singing 'Songs through the decades' on Monday, June 23rd with other Manchester schools. As always, it is an honour to be invited to participate in such an event. All choir members **MUST** attend one-hour rehearsals on the following dates if they wish to have the opportunity to attend: (N.B the time change)

Tuesday 10th June 3:15-4:15 pm

Tuesday 17th June 3:15-4:15 pm





Spanish Exchange

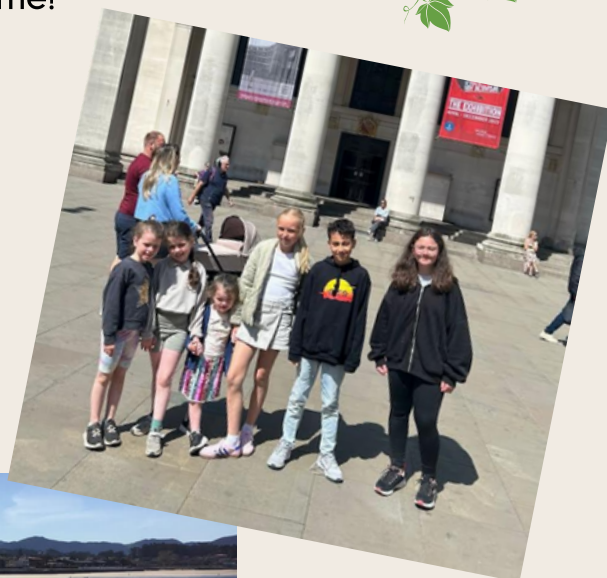


The wonderful school Spanish Exchange took place this half term and was a huge success.

At the beginning of term, Year 5 pupils travelled over to Nigrán, Galicia to spend one week getting to know their penpals and families at Mallón and Palacios schools. What an experience! In between kayaking, surfing, learning Galician, graffiti and meeting the local mayor, the children immersed themselves in school life abroad. They also travelled by boat to the Cíes Islands, which was an incredible experience!

More recently, we welcomed our Spanish friends over to Didsbury, and were thrilled when they brought the sun with them! It was an action-packed week full of activities, with carousels in school, barbecues, climbing walls, bowling, fish and chips and a trip to Martin Mere in Lancashire - to name but a few!

A huge thank you to all families for the support and hard work that went into planning and preparation for both legs of the trip. It was an unforgettable experience and one which created many wonderful memories to last a lifetime!





PTA



Dear St Catherine's families,

Another term had come to an end and we can only be grateful to the whole of St Catherine's community for their hard work and the support we give to each other. We would like to thank Mrs. Partington for being part of our school for the past year. During this time she was truly a living example of all the school's values and she will be greatly missed. We look forward to welcoming back Mrs Quiligotti.

During this term we had our Coffee Morning which, as usual, was a lovely opportunity for the families and the members of the PTA and get together to share some ideas and delicious treats!

Everyone has a special talent and all of them are wanted within the PTA! Cooking, baking, building, painting, sports, technology, promoting, etc. There are many ways in which all of you can support the PTA in whichever way you can! So please get in touch with us for oncoming events.

We would like remind everyone that most companies are open to gift matching the money that charity like our PTA rises in events and other initiatives. So please ask your employers if they would consider gift matching. Get in touch with us for more details.

We are still participating on the reward programme via the ASDA app. So please remember to nominate the PTA as your preferred charity when doing online shopping. The school lottery is another way to support us with £1 tickets to win amazing prizes every week.

We want to continue raising money in order to improve key aspects of our school that impact our children and their learning experience.

We are focusing on our next big event, the Summer Fair, for which we need the support of as many of you as possible! Please get in touch to discuss the best way to support us.

Enjoy the break and we look forward to the last term of this academic year.

Thanks for the support PTA ❤️