

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

St. Catherine's Newsletter: Summer 2 Term 2022



A Message From Miss Quiligotti

Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the end of the academic year, I look back so fondly on the fantastic memories our children have created over the last twelve months. It has been an absolute joy to begin to open our doors to parents, carers and families again after suffering the impacts of Covid-19 and I hope you have enjoyed coming into school for class worships and parent meetings, amongst other events. At the beginning of next year, we will be issuing a new parent calendar which will detail key events for the whole academic year. We hope that this will be of great help and will support families to be able to celebrate their children's education.

It has also been a joy to welcome our Spanish children and families back into our school community this half-term for the first time since 2019. Our Spanish Exchange programme is a truly special part of our school life and I thank our English families for everything you did to support our Spanish children and ensure they had a fantastic time on their trip to Manchester.

We have achieved many great accomplishments this academic year including becoming a Gold Rights Respecting school, a flagship school for The Literacy Company, running our Spanish Exchange trips, attending Young Voices, performing at the first ever Manchester Children's Safeguarding Conference and so much more, however, the best accomplishment has been seeing our fabulous children thrive happily in our school each and every day.

Thank you to our families for the fantastic support and positivity shown throughout this school year. Thank you to our dedicated staff for working tirelessly to ensure that our children are safe, happy and flourishing every single day. Thank you to our governing body and parish community for their support and guidance throughout a year of change. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to the heart and soul of our school – our children.

I hope you all have a happy, safe and blessed summer and I look forward to seeing you back at school in September.

Miss Quiligotti

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

St. Catherine's Newsletter: Summer 2 Term 2022



Thank You and Farewell to our Year 6 children

To our wonderful Year 6 children,

Your time at Primary School has come to an end but the memories you have created at St. Catherine's will stay with you for a lifetime. We are so incredibly proud of everything you have achieved during your time here and we are confident that you will continue to flourish in your new schools.

Remember how well prepared you are for the next stage of your life and remember that you have the values inside you to thrive throughout your life, even in challenging times.

We can't wait to hear all about your successes and achievements in the next chapter of your lives and we are so incredibly proud of the children you are. Always remember to 'be who God wants you to be' and you will be sure to set the world on fire in everything you do.



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Whole School



This Half-Term...



During our first week back in June, we welcomed our Spanish friends and teachers into our school from Nigran. We gave them a very warm welcome and they had a fantastic time at St. Catherine's!

Some of our children and staff also represented our school at Didsbury Festival, including being part of the annual procession! Our school theme was 'Go Green', to link to the festival's overall recycling theme. Thank you to everyone who attended!

Each year group held their own sports day this half-term and our children have had a fantastic time competing against each other in lots of different and fun events. We've also had many trips and visitors into school. From magicians and circuses to festivals and ice cream vans, we've certainly enjoyed ourselves over the last few weeks!

This week, our Year 1 children celebrated in festival style for our first ever 'St Cathbury's Festival', which turned out to be a fantastic event for all!

Thank you to one of our school dads, Mr McDowell, and his incredible band for providing us all with a wonderful afternoon of music and entertainment.

We even made sure our parents got a sneaky peek of the fun we had – what a great day!



Love

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Nursery



This Half-Term...

Our topic this half term has been 'Under the Sea'. The children have enjoyed learning about lots of different sea creatures and in particular, our 'under the sea' themed role play area! The mermaid tail and flippers, in particular, have gone down a treat!

We enjoyed partaking in lots of different sporting activities during our first Sports Day! The children worked together in their teams to complete running races, balancing challenges and obstacle courses too.

We have been talking lots about moving into Reception. The children have visited their new classrooms and met with their new teachers too!

We had a wonderful beach party to celebrate our time in Nursery, with lots of special treats, including a Punch & Judy show and a visit from the ice-cream man!

Our children say...

"We have been learning different sounds. 'S-a-t- sat!'"

"We have been learning about under the sea. There are narwhals, sharks, dolphins, string rays, fishes, coral. At the end of 'The hole of the bottom of the sea', the shark eats the eel and the eel eats the squid, then the squid eats the snail."

"I like it when we have play times with our mummies and daddies. My daddy came into Nursery."



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Reception



This Half-Term...

This half term we have had great fun with our topic of 'Pirates'. The children have had the chance to do lots of writing about this topic as well as lots of role play. They really enjoyed choosing their own pirate names!

Reception also had a transition morning in Year 1, meeting their new teachers and taking part in some lovely activities.

We had a great time during Sports Day. Each child had the chance to take part in team races and they particularly loved the obstacle course. It was also great for them to watch their friends and cheer them on!

We had a wonderful pirate party and everyone looked fantastic! Reception children also watched a Punch and Judy show and were so excited for their visit from the ice-cream man this week!

Our children say...

"We have been learning all about pirate ships. They have a mast and a flag and a sail!"

"I can double. You add the same numbers together."

"I'm so excited to go to Year 1. We sit at tables and do writing. We can go on the big playground!"



Year 1



This Half-Term...

This half-term we have had lots of fun! We have had new additions to our classes who have brought a lot of joy and laughter, we've created sustainable wind turbines and even had the circus in our classrooms! Year 1 have worked extremely hard and it has been a delight to see them mature into lovely, respectful and kind children ready to progress into Year 2 in September. To celebrate the end of the children's time in Year 1, they participated in the first ever "St. Cathbury Farewell Festival". For this Glastonbury-inspired festival, the children came in their best festival attire, had their faces painted, decorated biscuits and even listened to a live band! (thanks to Mr W and his talented friends).

"Deeds not Words" – the children have been learning about influential women and the effects their actions have had on society. The children learned about Emmeline Pankhurst and how she changed history. They created sashes/banners and then participated in a rally around school reminding other classes how important equality was.

Our children say...

"I loved learning about different women and shouting "Deeds not Words". It was so unfair before!"

"The circus was the best day ever – I even spun a plate on my chin."

"I liked rolling the clay and getting it all over my hands. I liked when I joined the arms and legs together."



Year 2



This Half-Term...

This half-term both classes hosted their first worship for their parents. Both worships focused on the children's time in Year Two. They all really enjoyed reading aloud and singing for their families. All of the children were fantastic and we are so proud of them.

Last week, the children took part in an African drumming workshop. This linked with our continents and oceans topic. Here the children had the opportunity to play the djembe drum. They learnt how to use the different parts of the drums to make different beats and rhythms. They also learnt some African call and response songs and created some fantastic pieces of music.

As a special end of year treat, we had a visit from a magician. Firstly, we all got to sit back and marvel at his wonderful mind-blowing tricks and then it was our turn to learn some magic. We loved learning our very own magic trick and we can't wait to share our trick with our family and friends.

Last week we celebrated Sports Day and the children had an opportunity to showcase their many sporting talents. We worked together in our core value families and took part in a variety of events such as the egg and spoon race, a relay race and an agility course to name but a few.

Our children say...

"I loved sharing our class worship with my family because they got to find out about all of the fun things which I've done this year."

"The magician workshop was hilarious and I still don't know how he made a lollypop appear from thin air, I wish I could do that!"

"I had a blast at the football tournament and I couldn't believe it when I scored a goal!"



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Year 3



This Half-Term...

Our learning this summer has featured many practical elements.

In Maths, we have been learning about Statistics and Data-Interpretation. We studied a famous statistician and considered professions where statistics are used. Part of our lessons included creating charts from traffic data collected outside St Catherine's.

Our PSHE focus has been healthy lifestyles and we learned how to assemble fruit kebabs and recalled our study of vitamins from earlier in the year.

For Sports Day, all of the Year 3 children formed their core value groups to compete as teams in a variety of traditional games.

We had so much fun during our Greek-themed day, which concluded our study of the history and geography of the Ancient Greek civilisation and a mini Olympics!

Many of our children also made their First Holy Communion which is an incredibly special occasion!

Our children say...

"I loved making fruit kebabs because I had not tried pineapple before."

"I enjoyed doing the traffic survey because it was a new experience in Maths."

"My favourite lesson has been swimming because I haven't done it before."



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Year 4



This Half-Term...

This term we have loved developing our Art skills. We studied the work of the Austrian artist Friedrich Hundertwasser and then drew familiar buildings in Didsbury in his style.

In Topic, we have been learning about our local area. We enjoyed a fantastic field trip around Didsbury where we applied our knowledge of human and physical geographical features. The picnic in the park was also great fun!

Sports Day was fantastic! We competed in our Core Value groups, trying our best in a variety of races such as the egg and spoon, a relay, hurdles and skipping.

In Science, we completed a practical investigation all about sound; we wanted to find out whether the material used for ear defenders would affect the volume of sound. There were some surprising results!

Our children say...

"I've enjoyed Topic this term. We have been learning about our local area and the difference between a village, a city and a town!"

"In English, I have loved reading the book "Blue John" – it's a fantastic story!"

"I liked learning about Time in Maths – now I can read analogue time on my watch!"



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Year 5



This Half-Term...

This half term we really enjoyed a visit to Didsbury Library to listen to a reading of Alfie's First Fight by local author – Oliver Sykes. It was a great performance with lots of boxing moves!

Each week, we have been attending ICT lessons at the Barlow R.C High School. We have been enhancing our coding skills and creating digital programmes for a Microbit.

During our PE lessons, we have been working on our bowling and fielding skills and have participated in some very competitive cricket matches – next stop, Lords!

This half term, both classes performed their first Collective Worship to parents in many years. They enjoyed the 'freedom and responsibility' of displaying their learning to a wider audience.

Our children say...

"I really loved it when the Spanish children came to visit us. It was great having them in our school."

"I liked making nets of shapes and using the polydron to create 3D shapes."

"I enjoyed the drama activities this term and especially enjoyed putting together our class worship."



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Year 6



This Half-Term...

This half-term the children have worked incredibly hard on their production of, 'Go for Gold,' and they performed with enthusiasm, passion and with smiles on their faces! There have been rave reviews across the school so the children should be very proud of themselves.

We were delighted to welcome the Spanish children into Year 6 and it was great to see all the children interact with each other. They certainly had a wonderful time with them.

The children experienced lots of different activities at Crucial Crew and this has supported them in developing their life skills.

Over the last couple of weeks, the children have enjoyed visiting their new high schools and this has been valuable as part of the transition process.

Our children say...

"I loved performing in the play, it was so much fun! Throwing a javelin into the crowd was my favourite part!"

"Getting to be part of the Spanish Exchange and not missing out made me really happy. It was great that we got to do it."

"I liked going to my new high school. It made me feel grown up but I will definitely miss primary school."



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Sporting Achievements



Year 5/6 Boys' 9-a-side Football League

The team played in the final in June at East Manchester Academy in Beswick and unfortunately lost 2-0 to Beaver Road. However, it must not be understated how proud we are as school of how much each one of you committed yourself to this team and how much you developed as a group. This was a competition that involved the whole of Manchester; over 50 primary schools entered, and we made it to the final two. It also lasted the whole academic year so your dedication to this and your pride at representing your school is commendable. Thank you, boys!

Year 1/2 Football

We attended a football tournament at Abbey Hey Primary School and won the trophy. What an experience for these young footballers! We are very proud of you.

Year 6 Football

We attended a football tournament at Abbey Hey Primary School and won the trophy. What a way for these children to end their sporting time at St Catherine's! Well done!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my pride in how every child has represented St Catherine's this year. You have been amazing and it has been a pleasure to see you grow and develop throughout the year. I would also like to thank parents for their support and help, particularly with transport. A special thanks to Mr Steiner, whom without, everything we have achieved this academic year would not have been possible. Your time, commitment and input is truly valued.

From Mr Bannister

(and we'd like to give a big shout out to Mr Bannister too for his fantastic efforts and dedication to sports at St. Catherine's!)



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Spanish Exchange - Manchester



On the evening of Wednesday 15th June, our Spanish friends from Nigran arrived and were given a warm welcome from our Year 5 and 6 English host families. Our Spanish friends then came into school the next day and were greeted by the entire school, teamed with banners and flags, ready to give them a true St. Catherine's welcome!

Over the next few days, our children participated in carousel activities, went to the Chill Factor, had a barbecue on our school playground, had fish and chips in the park, and more! We are so grateful to our fantastic English families for being such wonderful hosts and the feedback from our Spanish teachers, children and parents was absolutely fabulous.

We cannot wait to organise our trip back to Nigran for 2023 for our Year 5 children, as well as welcoming our Spanish friends back to St. Catherine's next year too. Our Spanish Exchange programme is an incredibly special part of our school life and we're so proud to provide such fantastic opportunities for our children and families.



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Student Leadership



Caritas Ambassadors

The Caritas Ambassadors held an extremely successful bake sale to raise funds for the peace garden. They raised an impressive £189 but are yet to decide on what to spend this on. Thank you to all the parents, friends and families for your support and generosity. Who knew we had so many budding sales people as well!

The children also came up with a great idea of a gardening club. Thank you to Amelia's grandad, Voitek, who kindly gave up his time to come and support our children with their planting. The children are making sure that the plants are well watered in this blistering heat.

To top the term off, our talented ambassadors were invited to attend the first safeguarding conference at the Museum of Science and Industry. They planned a presentation to highlight some of the issues children face online and delivered this to the other attendees which consisted of other schools from Greater Manchester as well as key professionals tasked to help them with their concerns. The children had a fantastic day and certainly gave the professionals lots to think about.

School Council

The School Council continue to be excellent role models both as the Rights Respecting Representatives and our Mental Health Ambassadors. Councillors continue award the Duty Bearer of the Week throughout school and winners this term have included Mr Clark, Miss Scott, Mr Bannister and Mrs Nicklin!

GIFT Team

Our Year 6 children in our GIFT Team have continued to be shining lights within our school community. They have been great role models to others and have continued to serve our school community by leading masses, raising money, helping others and more.

Our GIFT Team members will be moving onto high school and we wish them all a lifetime of success and happiness.



St. Catherine's Governing Body



Update from the Governing Body

It has been such a busy year for St Catherine's, but so fantastic to have much of school life 'back to normal' for the children, including activities, events, trips and celebrations. We wanted to give you an overview of what the Governing Body has been involved in this year.

Liz Dumbill has been elected as Chair of Governors for the next academic year and we as governors are looking forward to working alongside her to help St Catherine's be the best school it can be.

Recruitment

One of the key tasks the governors were involved in this year was appointing Miss Quiligotti as our permanent Headteacher. Although Miss Quiligotti was already our acting Headteacher at the time, she was still subjected to the same gruelling interview process as the other candidates and we were delighted to be able to offer her the position of Headteacher on a permanent basis. As part of the recruitment process, Miss Quiligotti presented her vision for the school and we felt that this would be something parents would be very interested to hear, so Miss Quiligotti will be sharing this with parents early in the Autumn Term at our Meet The Teacher events. We believe Miss Quiligotti has already made a hugely positive impact on the school.

We subsequently appointed Miss Maguire as our permanent Deputy Headteacher to replace Miss Quiligotti, and we as a Governing Body are very excited for the future of St Catherine's with our fantastic new leadership team in place. The Governing Body are also extremely grateful to Miss Jones and Mrs Burgess, who stepped into leadership roles on an acting basis during this year and both did a brilliant job in their roles.

Link Governor & Subject Leader Meetings

Every governor is assigned at least one subject area for which they are the 'link governor'. This means they take a strategic overview of how the subject is being taught in school and review feedback from the children on whether they enjoy learning the subject.

St. Catherine's Governing Body



During the course of the year, each link governor has attended a session in school with the relevant subject leader to understand more about how the subject is taught and learnt and to show examples of the children's work in that subject area. The link governors for English and Maths have also received training on good quality assurance so that they can provide the most useful possible feedback to the subject leaders.

Governor committees

As well as being part of the Full Governing Body, governors are also members of three committees which are responsible for the strategic management of key areas of the school. These committees meet once a term to cover specific topics within their remit:

- Curriculum committee: this committee looks at progress of pupils both from internal and external assessment, what is being taught and when, the quality of SEND provision and the quality of teaching.
- Finance and personnel committee: the committee reviews and approves school budgets and planned expenditure, and also reviews personnel-related matters.
- Premises and health and safety committee: this group considers any improvements that need to be made to the fabric of the school site, and ensures that the school is a safe place for the children and staff.

Key focus for next year

The key areas of focus for the Governing Body next year are to:

- Continue to support the new Senior Leadership Team as they embark on their first full school year leading St Catherine's;
- Ensure that the Catholic faith of the school continues to be at the forefront of everything that happens in school;
- Work with the Senior Leadership Team to deliver on its School Improvement and Development Plan, which identifies key areas of focus for the next academic year;
- Ensure that the wellbeing of staff and children at St Catherine's continues to be a key priority; and
- Look to secure funding to further improve the school site, including securing finance to build a kitchen on site.

Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



A note from the PTA

As we finish the academic year, the PTA would like to start with a huge thank you for supporting a number of activities and through very challenging times. These included Bag2School collections, pre-loved uniform sales, a whole calendar of Festive events, Break the Rules day, Rainbow Hamper Raffle and Rainbow Own Clothes Day, and a Toy and Teddy stall at Didsbury Festival

As a result of your generosity, and the individual efforts of parents nominating the PTA for initiatives outside of school, we have raised almost £10,000.

Monies paid to the school have gone towards important initiatives including the Festive Reindeer visit, an annual leavers contribution, a Spanish Exchange contribution and year book printing costs.

September Events

Our first PTA meeting of the new academic year will take place on September 28th at 6pm- for which details will be circulated nearer the time.

We have a number of ideas for fundraising and a schedule will be provided upon return to school this Autumn.

There is a planned non-uniform day on Friday 16th September where we will encourage children to wear Green and raise funds for the charity 'Mind', whose work touches the lives of many of us. We would like this event to also acknowledge the contributions of the late Trish McElroy (co- treasurer), who was a much loved and active member of the PTA for many years.

Over the Summer

There are a number of easy fundraising opportunities listed below in which we continue to encourage you to participate. It is a case of simply turning your online shopping into donations at no cost to you. Please see below for details:

Your School Lottery

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/st-catherines-r-c-primary-school>
£1,751.80 raised since Sept

Easy Fundraising (poster attached)

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stcatherinesdidsbury/>
£264.67 raised since Sept

Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



AmazonSmile (poster attached)
<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1165650-0>
£249.54 raised since Sept

Gift Matching:

Please check with your employer to see whether you are eligible for Gift Matching as part of the company benefit. Your contributions towards fundraising activities for the PTA can often be matched either in full or in part by your employer.

Finally if anyone has any further feedback, ideas or would like to do more with the PTA, please contact Ellie: englandelisabeth@gmail.com or the PTA email address: stcatherinesdidsburypta@gmail.com as we would love to hear from you.

With thanks and have a wonderful Summer,

The PTA

“Giving is not just about making a donation but making a difference.” Kathy Calvin.



Raise **FREE** funds
for us every time you
Shop online



Love

Faith

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Parent and Teacher Association (PTA)



St. Catherine's
RC Primary School



YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY



SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY

It's A
WIN-WIN
Situation!

★ **BOOST School Funds**
★ **WIN up to £25,000**



To start supporting, visit:

YourSchoolLottery.co.uk/play

and search for: St Catherine's

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.

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