



## St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

*'Let your light shine and set the world on fire'*

### Upcoming dates

**Year 3 art exhibition trip** - 17<sup>th</sup> November

**Reception visits for 2026-2027** - 18<sup>th</sup> November 10am

**Reception Vison Screening** - 20<sup>th</sup> November

**School Mass**  
20<sup>th</sup> November - 9.10am  
School hall

**Parliament Week** - 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November

**Year 3 trip Great North Museum** - 25<sup>th</sup> November

**Year 1 and Year 2 Northern Stage trip** 26<sup>th</sup> November

**Non uniform Day** - bring a bottle 28<sup>th</sup> November



Dear Parents, Carers, and pupils,

What a fantastic week we have had in school! We started the week with Odd Socks Day to show our support for Anti-Bullying Week. It was wonderful to see so many bright and unique socks around the school, celebrating kindness and individuality.

We were delighted to host a successful coffee morning for families with SEND pupils this week. It was wonderful to welcome a range of professionals who joined us to share their expertise. We hope the information and guidance provided were helpful and supportive for our families.

Thank you to everyone who attended. We look forward to our next SEND coffee morning and to continuing to work together to support our children.

Our School Council Leads have had an exceptionally busy and successful week. They led a whole-school assembly on Anti-Bullying Week, reminding everyone what bullying is, the different types of bullying, and who they can talk to if they need help. They spoke with confidence and maturity—well done to them!

We ended the week by supporting Children in Need. The School Council organised a non-uniform day and a cake sale. Thank you so much for your generous donations. The children looked fantastic in their colourful outfits and Pudsey-themed clothing, and your support helped make the day a great success.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Warmest wishes

Miss Hoey





Reception - 93.9%

Year 1 - 97.9%

Year 2 - 98.3%

Year 3 - 95%

Year 4 - 93.3%

Year 5 - 96.2%

Year 6 - 84%

Year 5

- Attendance Winners

Attendance below 90% has a drastic effect on academic achievement

91-95% is a cause for concern

96-100% is spot on!



### Star Awards

Our Star awards been handed out to the children for living out our SHINE values.

SHINE Star of the Week - Maeve Year 2

Letting your Light Shine Frame - Alan Year 5

Reception - Anfai & Zion

Year 1 - Josphe & Mia

Year 2 - Alayna & Zia

Year 3 - Nina & Salvador

Year 4 - Praise & Leo

Year 5 - Zahra & Zimo

Year 6 - Dimitra & Emma

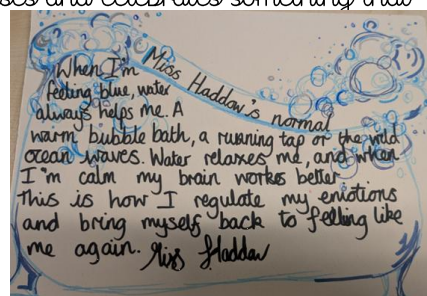
### Message from Ms Haddow - SENCO

I am reaching out to all families to engage with a task I have set the whole school - helping me to fill our dedicated SEND display board.

I have a vision to challenge 'normal'. I have held a whole school assembly - class teachers delivered a tailored version to their classes in Nursery and Reception - where we spent time talking about what the terms neurodivergent and neurodiversity mean. I gave the children space to think about what equity and equality mean and then explained my vision for our board.

I am asking children and staff to create a piece of work that showcases and celebrates something that is normal for them. I have made an example to hopefully explain a little further what I mean, but please rest assured there is no right or wrong here. So, if you would like to create some work and share it with school please feel free or just work with your child in creating a piece together. If you have any further questions, please email me via the school office.

Kind regards, Alys Haddow, SENDCo and Year 3 teacher.



## Our learning

**Nursery-** Another two busy weeks in Nursery. We came back in to find that our autumn toys had disappeared and had been replaced by Space toys. The children have been using lots of words connected to space and building up their knowledge of objects that are in the sky through our wonderful resources. We read the book 'Whatever Next' and have been designing our own space rockets to build next week. As it was bonfire night we read the book 'The quiet little firework' and created a variety of different artwork based on fireworks. In Maths we have been learning about repeats, we began by hearing repeats in songs, then we started clapping along to repeats in songs and finally we learned about putting objects into a line pattern. The children had a great time making line patterns inside and outside. In RE we have been learning about Judaism and **found** out about Hanukkah and made pancakes to celebrate. As always in Nursery, the focus is our prime areas and we have seen the children initiate lots of lovely play ideas outside they had a lovely birthday party in the mud kitchen, have been cleaning our windows and experimenting with powder paints, inside we have spent a lot of time shopping and building roads. We finished up by focusing on friendships for anti-bullying week and having a lovely day to support Children in Need.

**Reception-** In RE, Reception have enjoyed our topic 'Judaism' where we explored special days, discovered the story of the oil lamp in the temple and reflected upon how God cares for his people. In PSHE, we have delved into our topic 'Handmade by God' by exploring the story of Creation. We have also enjoyed taking part in a range of fun and thoughtful activities this week to commemorate Anti-Bullying Week and Children in Need. We have enjoyed exploring the stories Not Now, Bernard and The Nutcracker during our literacy sessions. The children have been working hard to write initial sounds and to use exciting vocabulary when discussing the texts. In Maths, we have been representing numbers using different objects, matching numerals to quantities, subitising to 3, and discovering patterns when finding one more and one less. In PE, we have been developing our balancing and ball skills through a range of fun and active games. In our Understanding the World sessions we explored Bonfire Night by making chocolate sparklers and firework artwork and we have reflected upon the importance of Remembrance Day by creating our own poppies and observing a two-minute silence. The children have begun to learn a variety of songs for our Christmas performance and enjoyed a wonderful interactive and engaging performance of 'Robbin Hood'.

**Year 1-** Over the past two weeks since returning from half term, Year 1 have been very busy with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. In Maths, the children have been working hard on subtraction, using number lines to jump backwards and practical activities with counters and cubes to help them understand taking away. In English, they have been learning how to write non-fiction reports all about sharks – researching fascinating facts, using headings and subheadings, and practising writing in full sentences with interesting vocabulary. In History, the class have been exploring toys from the past, comparing them to modern toys and investigating real artefacts from the Box of Delights loaned by the museum, which gave everyone a wonderful hands-on experience. In RE, the children have started learning about Judaism, finding out about Jewish beliefs with the focus of Moses and leaders. In Science, they have been observing seasonal changes, looking at how the weather, trees, and daylight hours are different now that autumn has arrived, and recording their observations through drawings and discussions. It's been a fantastic couple of weeks full of curiosity, creativity, and discovery!

**Year 2-** Last week we had lots of fun as we began new subjects such as history, computing and DT. We also started our wonderful new story *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* and carried out lots of research about barn owls. In history, we began learning about explorers, linking back to our previous work on Neil Armstrong. DT has been especially exciting as we have started our mechanisms project (a ferris wheel) and have completed our designs—now we can't wait to start building! This week we have had even more fun. In RE we made challah bread and then learned what happens at the end of Shabbat. In English we enjoyed the best experience day around a campfire where we sang songs, read stories, drank hot chocolate and ate biscuits, and we can't wait to use this in our writing. We also took part in lovely extra activities such as Odd Socks Day, helping us understand its meaning, Children in Need and learning who we are supporting, and celebrating that we are all unique.

**Year 3-** They have started a unit all about washing woolly mammoths in English and they are having a ball! Washing mucky Duplo, bossing each other around and learning all the key features along the way. We are into basketball and football in PE, so we are practising lots of team building exercises and communication is being developed. We are also starting our pop-up book unit and DT and very much look forward to inviting parents in to help us with our mechanisms soon. In Science we are learning about different push and pull forces and in French we are flying in learning our colours and numbers to 20. In Maths the children have been revising and furthering their knowledge and understanding of measurement and how to convert measures. In RE the children have loved learning about Judaism and how the Synagogue is a special place of worship for Jewish people. We are heading towards Christmas and look forward to our stay, pray and play at the beginning of December.

**Year 4** This week, the children have been busy exploring a variety of exciting topics across the curriculum. In Science, they deepened their understanding of the states of matter, learning more about solids, liquids, and gases, and even carried out their own experiment to investigate how runny different liquids are. In Maths, the focus has been on learning and applying the 3- and 6-times tables. In English, the children have been exploring Sicily, using descriptive language to write detailed sentences for a holiday brochure. During RE, they have been learning about Judaism, gaining an understanding of the Torah and the significance of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Finally, in PE, the children have been developing their problem-solving and teamwork skills through a fun and challenging activity where they were blindfolded and had to trust their partner to guide them through an obstacle course.

**Year 5-** This week Year 5 have been learning about David Attenborough and all his achievements as they begin work on a biographical report on his life for English. In geography we have begun studying the continent of South America and have been researching the countries of Brazil, Colombia and Peru; investigating their similarities and differences. In Maths Year 5 have been working hard to understand and learn the different strategies used to multiply and divide by 10s, 100s and 1000s as well as multiples of these numbers. In RE we have begun studying Judaism, beginning with the story of the Exodus as well as the significance of Passover, how it is celebrated and the importance of the Seder Plate. In science we are studying the life cycle of mammals including humans and have looked at the gestation periods of various mammals as well as the stages of human life. In PE Year 5 have begun working on basic skills for both cricket and netball and have begun learning about Georgia O'Keefe in art.

**Year 6 -** We have settled back into school brilliantly after half term and have been busy across all subjects! In Maths, they've been exploring prime numbers as well as squared and cubed numbers, showing great reasoning and problem-solving skills. In English, we've started reading Holes by Louis Sachar and have been learning about the features of newspaper reports in preparation for writing our own. In science, the children have been investigating microorganisms and loved carrying out the yeast and balloon experiment to see how living things can produce gas. In art, we've begun researching the incredible architect Zaha Hadid, whose futuristic designs are inspiring our own creative work. This week, Year 6 also led a beautiful and reflective Remembrance Day service for the whole school, showing great maturity and respect as they helped everyone to pause and remember those who have given their lives for others.





A huge thank you to our wonderful School Council children this week! On Tuesday 11th November, they presented a fantastic anti-bullying assembly.

Their thoughtful ideas, confident speaking, and clear messages helped the whole school understand the importance of kindness, respect, and standing up for one another. The effort they put into planning, rehearsing, and delivering the assembly truly shone through, and they should feel incredibly proud of what they achieved.

Today, our School Councillors also led a brilliant Children in Need non-uniform day and bake sale. From organising posters to helping sell the cakes, they showed great teamwork and responsibility. Thanks to their enthusiasm and leadership, the event was a huge success and brought our school community together for a wonderful cause. We are so proud of their hard work, positivity, and commitment to making our school a better place for everyone. We raised £220! THANK YOU!

Well done to Athena, Alastair, Zia, Maeve, Osawaru, Lilah, Ben, Ruth, Lin, Handen, Denzel and Haniya!

### Collection for Vinnies- Faith in Action

As part of the Faith in Action Award, our Year 6 pupils are inviting families to donate selection box for the Vinnie's Centre in Newcastle. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to support others during the Advent season and spread a little joy. We will be collecting them from now until Monday 8th December.

#Thank you, as always, for your generosity and kindness. Year 6 also have another great Faith in Action project coming soon, so watch this space!



### Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success, and it was wonderful to see so many children and families enjoying books together. The buzz around reading was fantastic, and we loved watching pupils recommend stories to each other and share their excitement for new favourites. We hope everyone who visited enjoyed the fair and found something special to take home.


Thank you for your support!




At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonslinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonslinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Publish date: 06/02/19

# What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS



If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.










## RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

### WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:

 <b>U</b> Universal, suitable for all ages	 <b>PG</b> Parental Guidance required	 <b>12</b> Suitable for people aged 12 and over	 <b>12A</b> Suitable for people aged 12 and over if accompanied by an adult
 <b>15</b> Suitable for people aged 15 and over	 <b>18</b> Suitable for people aged 18 and over	 <b>R18</b> Adult content only available in specially licensed cinemas and specialist retailers	

### WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

### LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: [www.bbfc.co.uk](http://www.bbfc.co.uk)






## RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.









### WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:

 <b>3</b> <a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>	 <b>7</b> <a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>	 <b>12</b> <a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>	 <b>16</b> <a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>	 <b>18</b> <a href="http://www.pegi.info">www.pegi.info</a>
---	--	--	--	--

PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:

							
---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---

### LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

### PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: [www.pegi.info](http://www.pegi.info)



## Our parish churches

St Dominic's Catholic Church, New Bridge Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 2TE

Mass times: Saturday 5.30pm Sunday 10.00am

Holy Name Jesmond, 7 North Jesmond Avenue Jesmond Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3JX

Mass Times: Saturday 4.00pm Sunday 10.00am



## Contact Information

Should you have any questions, please contact:

School Office: Mrs Johnson & Mrs Roberts 0191 232 6803

office@stcatherinesnewcastle.org

Safeguarding Lead: Miss Hoey 0191 232 6803

office@stcatherinesnewcastle.org

Parent Support Advisor: Susan Jenkins 07506221429

SENCO: Alys Haddow [sendco@stcatherinesnewcastle.org](mailto:sendco@stcatherinesnewcastle.org)