



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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

Upcoming dates

Year 6 Holocaust Assembly - 27th January 9am Sports Hall

First Confession for Year 4 children - 29th January 3.30 School

Year 5 and Year 6 Theatre visit - 30th January

Internet Safety week 2nd- 6th February

Year 1 trip to the Great North Museum - 9th February

Year 6 at St Mary's High School- Creative Writing and Charlie and Chocolate Factory Performance - 9th February



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now halfway through the half term, and it has been wonderful to see how much the children are enjoying their new learning. They have settled in well and are showing great enthusiasm and curiosity across the curriculum.

This week, the children also had a fantastic morning working in their house groups, where they learned about the importance of sustainability. They thoughtfully explored ways we can make positive changes in school to help create a more sustainable environment, and it was encouraging to see their ideas and commitment to looking after our world.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you all have a lovely weekend and that we don't get too much rain!

Warmest wishes,
Miss Hoey
Headteacher



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Reception - 96.7%

Year 1 - 100%

Year 2 - 90%

Year 3 - 95%

Year 4 - 100%

Year 5 - 98.5%

Year 6 - 94%

Year 1 & Year 4

- 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 - Juanna Year 4

Letting your Light Shine Frame - Eunice Year 3

Nursery - Amari & Elia

Reception - Alam & Grace

Year 1 - Avie & Eadiemae

Year 2 - Mason & Modawi

Year 3 - Chuck & Joao

Year 4 - Ben & Etta

Year 5 - Light & Omar

Year 6 - Bella & Kirsty



We need your help! ❤️

This month, St Catherine's is taking part in the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme at the Jesmond Tesco. Tesco Stronger Starts supports thousands of local community projects across the UK, and we're delighted to be involved.

We are raising money to develop our Early Years Mud Kitchen area, which will provide wonderful hands-on learning opportunities for our children.

If you are shopping in Tesco this month, please remember to pick up a blue token at the checkout and place it in the St Catherine's box. Every token helps and your support really does make a difference.

See this video from Jessica Ennis <https://strongerstartstesco.com/video/a0e7b1ba-1435-46d1-ac65-9e02b4e35a2c>

Thank you for your continued support.

Our learning

Nursery - Over the past two weeks Nursery children have been continuing to learn about food through stories, we were invaded by the Gingerbread Man and the tiger from the Tiger Who Came to Tea. We have learned words such as mix, bake, chop, Guzzle, munch, greedy and fierce. We have had a wonderful time acting out the stories and having tea parties. In Literacy we have been continuing to carry on a rhyming string, and we have now learned the pictures that represent the sounds m, a and s. In Maths we have learned about patterns and position, the children really enjoyed taking the cuddly toys around the classroom putting them under, next to, behind, on and in different objects. Our RE lessons have been all about celebrations, we learned how people gather in a church and of the presentation of Jesus to the temple. We have been very busy outside as the weather has been a bit brighter, making obstacle courses, messing about in the mud kitchen and playing in the sandpit. We have also been developing our fine motor skills by using paint brushes, rollers and our new drawing area.

Reception - Over the past few weeks, the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring our focus texts Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Lost and Found. They have worked hard to develop their reading and writing skills, practising letter formation and short words during our daily Phonics sessions. In PE, the children have enthusiastically taken part in their new Gymnastics topic, where they have been learning to create and hold a range of different gymnastic shapes. In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of composition by grouping objects, exploring the concept of zero, and investigating weight and capacity. In our Understanding the World sessions, we began our exciting new topic on Polar Explorers. The children have learned about a variety of polar animals, discussed ways we can care for our planet, and enjoyed exploring ice and snow in our outdoor provision. In RE, we started our new topic, Celebrating. The children shared celebrations they have experienced, listened to the story The Presentation, and have begun learning about the different parts inside of a church. During PSHE sessions, we have explored a range of emotions. The children talked about good and bad feelings, discussed forgiveness, and learned how God always forgives us.

Year 1 - Since the start of the Spring term, Year 1 have made a great start to the year and have been very active in their learning. In Maths, we have been learning about numbers to 20 and practising counting, ordering and number bonds. In English, we have been using the story Grandad's Island to help us write simple sentences and talk about feelings and adventures. In Geography, we have been learning about the polar regions and finding out what they are like. In RE, we have been learning about special people and why they are important to us. In Science, we have been exploring different materials and what they are used for. In PE, we have taken part in football and fitness circuits. In DT, we are starting to design our puppets and will soon be making them using textiles. It has been a busy and positive start to the year.

Year 2 - Last week, Year 2 continued exploring our new Maths topic, shape. We drew different shapes and learned important facts about them. In English, we continued writing our "If I Were in Charge of the School" poems, where many of us chose fun ideas like having Messi or Taylor Swift as our teachers! In Art, we had an exciting lesson using clay, building on our skills of score and slip, and using our Maths knowledge to create shapes such as spheres. In RE, we began our new topic, "Why Are Books Important?", starting with a discussion about our favourite books. In PE, we had a fantastic but tiring lesson with Year 1, taking part in circuits that included lots of sit-ups and different activities, it was great fun! This week, we wrapped up our shapes unit in Maths and finished our English work by writing our open poems on "If I Were in Charge of the School", they are a brilliant read! In Art, we used clay to build our castle sculptures, using our designs and skills we have learned. In Science, we carried out an exciting experiment to test which material would be best for Elastigirl's outfit. In PE, we practised our skipping with Mrs. Banks, working on our two-foot jumps and challenging ourselves with a double bounce. What a lovely week it has been!

Year 3 - This weeks learning was full of exciting experiences across the curriculum. In English, we enjoyed an experience day focused on being a marine biologist and we explored descriptive writing techniques to help bring our ideas to life. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of the three and four times tables, building confidence and accuracy. In Art, we have been developing our still life drawing skills by carefully observing shapes, lines, and details. In Geography, we have been learning about the layers of the rainforest and identifying its physical features. In Science, we have been developing our understanding of the different types of rocks and learning how rocks are formed.

Year 4 - Last week, the children worked on developing their rhyming skills while completing their poem about the river. In Maths, they polished their knowledge of coordinates on a grid and were able to plot points and more complex polygons. In science, they explored what vibrations are and how they travel to our ears to create sound. In history, the children travelled back in time and began learning about life in Ancient Greece. In PE, they have been enjoying starting both cricket and hockey. This week, we have begun an exciting new topic in English where the children are exploring a newspaper report about sea life and the dangers of waste in our oceans. In Maths, the children have moved on to sharpening their multiplication skills and are growing in confidence each day. In science, we enjoyed learning about the different parts of the ear and how sound travels through it. In history, the children discovered what democracy means and how it has changed over time. In RE, we have been talking about community and the positive qualities we can show to help make our own community a better place.

Year 5- This week Year 5 has been full of focus, creativity and determination. In English, we have completed our work on The Nowhere Emporium and pupils have written the first drafts of their own imaginative narratives, inspired by the story. They have worked hard to develop atmosphere, structure and character, and we are really pleased with how confidently they are shaping their ideas. In Maths, Year 5 have been working tirelessly to complete our fractions unit, tackling increasingly complex fraction calculations and demonstrating a secure understanding of how fractions can be added, subtracted and manipulated. Our history lessons have seen us exploring the Vikings, with a focus on their battle techniques and the famous raid on Lindisfarne, helping pupils to understand why this event was so significant and what it tells us about life during the Viking Age. In DT, pupils have been evaluating their gear designs, reflecting thoughtfully on how well their mechanisms worked and considering what improvements they would make next time. Well done, Year 5, for the resilience and ambition you have shown across the curriculum this week!

Year 6 - Year 6 have had a brilliant couple of weeks and have been busy as always! In English, we've been really enjoying our class novel *When the World Was Ours* and the children have loved making links to our WW2 topic as we read. In Maths, they have been working incredibly hard on fractions, including adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers, showing real resilience and determination. In PE, Year 6 have made great progress in gymnastics, practising jumps and rolls and growing in confidence each lesson. In Science, we've been learning about variation in humans, inherited characteristics, and how predators and prey have adapted over time, leading to some brilliant discussions. History has been particularly exciting as we explored rationing and the Blitz – we even had our own classroom air raids to help us understand how frightening it could have been! Finally, in DT we visited our Reception buddies to find out their favourite things so we can design and make them a special stuffed toy this half term.



Monthly Message from our Family Support Advisor - Susan Jenkins

Newcastle 0-19 Children and Young People's Health Service

We would like to remind parents and carers about the Newcastle 0-19 Children and Young People's Health Service, delivered by The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and commissioned by Newcastle City Council.

The 0-19 service combines Health Visiting and School Nursing teams, providing free, confidential advice and support for children, young people, and their families.

Who is the service for?

- Health Visiting Service: Children and families from pregnancy to 5 years
- School Nursing Service: Children and young people aged 5-16 years (support available up to 19 for young people with additional needs)

What support is available?

The team can provide support and advice on:

- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Sleep, behaviour, and development
- Healthy eating and physical activity
- Continence and toileting
- Puberty and growing up
- Supporting children with additional needs
- Parenting and family health concerns



Parents and carers can contact the service directly, and young people can also access support independently.

How to contact the Newcastle 0-19 Service

- Single Point of Access: 0191 282 3319
- Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm
- Website: <https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/services/0-19-service/>
- Email: nuth.newcastle0-19service@nhs.net

More information is also available via Children and Families Newcastle.

Don't forget, that Susan Jenkins, our Parent Support Worker is available to help and support all our families. You can contact her on 0191 2326803 or at susanjenkins@stcatherinesnewcastle.org

Speech and Language Support - Newcastle University Clinics

Families may also wish to be aware of the Children's Speech and Language Clinic at Newcastle University, which offers assessment and therapy for children with speech and language difficulties.

The clinic is run by Newcastle University and provides evidence-based speech and language therapy delivered by student speech and language therapists under the close supervision of qualified, experienced clinicians. [ncl.ac.uk]

Who can the clinic support?

The clinic supports pre school and school age children aged 3-15 years who have speech and/or language difficulties, such as difficulties with understanding language, expressive language, or speech sounds. [ncl.ac.uk]

What does the service offer?

- Weekly individual or group therapy sessions during university term time
- A programme of up to 11 sessions
- Therapy delivered in clinic or via telehealth
- Parents and carers are encouraged to take an active role in sessions [ncl.ac.uk]

Referrals

Children can be referred by:

- Parents or carers
- Schools
- Health or education professionals

Parental consent is required for all referrals. [ncl.ac.uk]

Important to note

The university clinic is separate from NHS Speech and Language Therapy services. For children requiring NHS assessment or ongoing support, families should continue to access services via the Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust or the 0-19 service. [newcastle-als.nhs.uk]

More information

 Newcastle University Children's Speech and Language Clinic:

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ecls/about-us/facilities/childrens-speech-and-language/>

If you would like to speak about any worries in regards to your child's speech and language, please contact Susan Jenkins on 0191 2326803, where she will be able to give you more information.

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

