



## St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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

### Upcoming dates

Scholastic Book Fair -  
25<sup>th</sup> February - 11<sup>th</sup>  
March

Parents Evening 3<sup>rd</sup> and  
4<sup>th</sup> March

World Book Day - 5<sup>th</sup>  
March

Language Link Parents  
Workshop for Year 3 -  
Year 6 parents - 11<sup>th</sup>  
March 9am

Spring Disco - 13<sup>th</sup>  
March

SEND support plan  
meetings with parents -  
16<sup>th</sup> March - 27<sup>th</sup> March

18<sup>th</sup> March Stations of the  
Cross at St Dominic's

Year 5 Residential to  
Ford Castle - 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>  
March



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a truly wonderful half term it has been, and what a lovely final week to bring it to a close! Our children have dived into new learning experiences with energy and curiosity, explored exciting trips, and embraced every opportunity to grow. Their behaviour has been outstanding, and they have truly shone - lighting up our classrooms and setting the world on fire this half term!

We are thrilled to welcome Ms Thomas to our team as our new Deputy Headteacher. She has already made a wonderful impact, bringing her enthusiasm, expertise, and warmth to St Catherine's. We are so delighted to have her on board!

A huge thank you to all our amazing staff for their dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment. You continue to inspire our children every day, helping them to let their light shine brightly.

It's been a half term full of learning, laughter, and achievements—here's to continuing the journey and making the next half term even more amazing!

As we finish the half term, we would like to say a heartfelt thank you for your continued support. Your encouragement at home and partnership with school makes such a difference to the children's success and wellbeing.

We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, ready for another busy and exciting half term ahead.

With best wishes,

Warmest wishes,  
Miss Hoey  
Headteacher



Reception - 81.3%

Year 1 - 98.4%

Year 2 - 100%

Year 3 - 90%

Year 4 - 99%

Year 5 - 98%

Year 6 - 96.3%

Year 2

- 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 - Yimo

Letting your Light Shine Frame - Denzel

Nursery - Amari & Beau

Reception - Aayan and Zainab

Year 1 - Aayat & Karam

Year 2 - Ahana & Zia

Year 3 - Anayah & Jessica

Year 4 - Inaaya & Hiba

Year 5 - Borys & Madina

Year 6 - Denzel & Rohail

### We need your help! ❤️

This month, St Catherine's is taking part in the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme. 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://strongerstarts.tesco.com/video/a0e7b1ba-1435-46d1-ac65-9e02b4e35a2c>

These are the following shops that will have our school:

Newcastle Saville Row Express, NE1 8JE

Barrack Road Express, NE1 4BT

Quayside Newcastle Express, NE1 2HF

Newcastle Eldon Express, NE1 5EE

Percy Street Express, NE1 4PW



### Parents evening

This is a reminder that Parents' Evening will take place on 3rd and 4th March - 2:30pm - 3:00pm and 3:30pm - 5:30pm please remember to sign up in Arbor.

Parents' Evening is a very important opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher to discuss the progress they are making, celebrate their achievements, and talk about any areas where they may need additional support. Working together helps us to ensure that your child reaches their full potential.



### Celebrating Reception 100 first Days at St Catherine's Reception

On Wednesday, Reception celebrated their 100th day in school in style! The children had a fantastic time creating special crown hats, making and enjoying delicious chocolate buns, and taking part in a music lesson led by our specialist teachers from Piccolo. The children also planned their own class Celebration of the Word and decided to respond to the Word by making welcome cards for one another. Of course, the day wouldn't have been complete without plenty of dancing, singing, and lots of happy play! Congratulations! Miss Calvert and Mrs Nixon are having the BEST time with you all!



### Celebrating Chinese New Year! 🎉🐉

What a fantastic way to end the term! The children had a wonderful day celebrating Chinese New Year, taking part in a variety of exciting activities within their House Groups. It was lovely to see some of the children dressed in traditional clothing, adding a vibrant splash of colour to the celebrations.

The dining hall looked amazing, decorated by the children themselves to help mark the occasion. Everyone enjoyed discovering their Zodiac animal on the chart, sparking lots of conversation and laughter.

A big thank you to Kirstie and Sue, who treated us all to a delicious Chinese lunch—complete with the extra fun of fortune cookies to enjoy at the end! The day was full of smiles, creativity, and a wonderful sense of community.



## SEN Parent Newsletter – Spring Term from Susan Jenkins, Our Family Support Advisor

### This Term's Focus: Building Independence

Throughout this term, our SEN team is focusing on *developing independence skills* across school life. This includes:

- Encouraging children to make simple choices
- Supporting organisation tools like visual timetables
- Developing self-help routines
- Promoting confidence during learning tasks

If you'd like ideas for supporting independence at home, please let us know – we're happy to help.

### SEN Interventions and Support Updates

Our staff continue to deliver a range of tailored interventions, including:

- Speech and Language programmes
- Fine and gross motor skills groups
- Nurture and emotional wellbeing sessions
- Phonics and reading support groups
- Zones of Regulation activities

Your child's class teacher will be able to update you on any changes to their support plan.

### Sensory Tips for Home

Many children benefit from sensory support throughout their day. Here are some easy activities you can try at home:

- Playdough, slime, or putty for fidgeting
- A quiet corner with cushions and low lighting
- Movement breaks such as wall pushes or star jumps
- Visual timers to support transitions

### Recommended Resources

These free online tools are great for SEN families:

- Widgit Online – visual symbols for routines and communication
- NHS Speech & Language Toolkit – practical language strategies
- The Sensory Projects – sensory activity ideas using household items



## Newcastle Local Offer for SEND - At a Glance

The Newcastle SEND Local Offer brings together information about services, support, and opportunities for children and young people (0-25) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, as well as their families. It aims to provide clear, accessible, and centralised information so families know what help is available and how to access it.

This includes support whether or not a child has an EHCP. [[newcastlesend.org.uk](http://newcastlesend.org.uk)]

## What the Local Offer Includes

### 1. Education Support

- Information about schools, early years settings, and college support.
- Guidance on Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans, including assessments and annual reviews.
- Specialist SEND outreach services for:
  - Cognition & Learning
  - Communication & Interaction
  - Social, Emotional & Mental Health
  - Specific Learning Difficulties
  - Developmental Language Disorder [[newcastlesend.org.uk](http://newcastlesend.org.uk)]

### 2. Health & Wellbeing

- Support from health services related to SEND needs.
- Links to the Designated Medical Officer and Designated Clinical Officer.
- Advice on managing Autism, ADHD and SEMH needs (including resources and training). [[newcastlesend.org.uk](http://newcastlesend.org.uk)]

### 3. Activities & Community Support

- A directory of inclusive activities, groups, and events across Newcastle.
- Support for engagement, friendships, and community participation. [[childrenandyoungpeople.org.uk](http://childrenandyoungpeople.org.uk)]


### 4. Early Years & Childcare Support

- Inclusion funding to help early years providers meet SEND needs.
- Disability Access Fund for eligible children.

## Guidance on Who Can Help You?

### SENDIASS Newcastle

A friendly team who can help you understand your support and listen to your worries.

 0191 211 6255

 [SENDIASSadmin@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:SENDIASSadmin@newcastle.gov.uk)

### 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](mailto:office@stcatherinesnewcastle.org)

Safeguarding Lead: Miss Hoey 0191 232 6803

[office@stcatherinesnewcastle.org](mailto:office@stcatherinesnewcastle.org)

Parent Support Advisor: Susan Jenkins 07506221429

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