



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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

Upcoming dates

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

Safer internet Day- 10th February

International Women in Science 11th February

Chinese New Year House Groups 13th February

Parents Evening 3rd and 4th March

World Book Day - 5th March



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we have already completed five weeks of this half term. What a fantastic week it has been in school, filled with learning, creativity and celebration.

We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating National Storytelling Week, with children immersing themselves in stories and sharing their love of reading. We ended the week on a real high with a wonderful Number Day. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the day such a success. Our assembly was a joy, and the school was buzzing with exciting and fun Maths activities throughout the day.

It was truly lovely to see the enthusiasm, smiles and engagement from our children, and to celebrate learning together as a school community.

Hope you have a enjoyable weekend.

Warmest wishes,
Miss Hoey
Headteacher





Reception - 88.3%

Year 1 - 99.5%

Year 2 - 100%

Year 3 - 97.5%

Year 4 - 93%

Year 5 - 100%

Year 6 - 95%

Year 2 & 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 - Joey Year 2

Letting your Light Shine Frame - Hamdan Year 5

Nursery - Maraim & Romeo II

Reception - Anfal & Nathaniel

Year 1 - Ahmed & Amelia

Year 2 - Drave & Ismaeel

Year 3 - Anna & Gabriel

Year 4 - Jamie & Praise

Year 5 - Denisa & Yazan

Year 6 - Bella & Zoe

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://strongerstarts.tesco.com/video/a0e7b1ba-1435-46d1-ac65-9e02b4e35a2c>

Thank you for your continued support.

Our learning

Nursery - Over the last two weeks Nursery have been continuing to learn about our topic of food by finding out about foods from around the world. At first, we went to Africa and met some cheeky African animals who stole some fruit from Handa in the book *Handa's Surprise*. The children particularly enjoyed chopping and trying some of the fruits from the book. We then moved to Italy and learned that spaghetti and pizza come from Italy, we had a great time playing with and making spaghetti and leaving it all over the Nursery in a Spaghetti explosion just like in our book *Spaghetti in my Socks*. In maths we have been learning to subitise, we began by spotting familiar characters in stories and rhymes and moved on to recognising what 1, 2, or 3 fingers look like. We then moved on to counting objects and items that cannot be moved and matching quantities to numerals. You would think with all this going on we wouldn't have time for anything else but in RE we have been exploring our new topic and finding out about things we do together and things we like to do on our own.

Reception - Over the past two weeks, we have had a wonderful time exploring our focus stories *The Snow Queen* and *Wacky Races*. The children have worked hard to develop their reading and writing skills, practising letter formation and writing short words during our daily Phonics sessions. In maths, the children have been exploring doubles, representing numbers within ten, and learning about one more and one less. In PE, they have continued to take part enthusiastically in their gymnastics sessions, further developing their fundamental movement skills and flexibility. During our Understanding the World sessions, the children have enjoyed learning about winter, polar regions, and sustainability. In RE, we were excited to begin our new topic, *Gathering*, where we explored why people gather together. We enjoyed discussing activities that we take part in both together at school and independently. In PSHE sessions, the children have explored the importance of sleep and discussed ways to regulate their emotions.

Year 1 - Year 1 have been enjoying lots of fun and engaging learning across the curriculum this week. The children have worked incredibly hard on their practice phonics check, and we are so proud of the amazing improvement everyone has made. In maths, we have been confidently adding numbers to 20, while in English we have enjoyed writing persuasive brochures about the Arctic, using exciting vocabulary to convince our readers. Our creativity has really shone in DT as we designed and created our own puppets, supported by our science learning where we explored different materials and their properties. In PE, the children have shown great energy and teamwork during fitness circuits and football, and in Geography we have been busy comparing the Arctic with Newcastle, spotting similarities and differences. Year 1 have shown fantastic enthusiasm and effort in everything they do! ☀️

Year 2 - Year 2 have had a fantastic few weeks full of hard work and brilliant achievements. The children have written wonderful descriptive narratives inspired by *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*, using rich vocabulary and imaginative detail. In maths, they have impressed us with their growing confidence in learning about money - exploring the value of different coins and notes, calculating totals and finding different ways to make the same amount. We also had a fabulous time celebrating Number Day, where everyone threw themselves into the activities with great enthusiasm. Well done, Year 2!



Year 3 - Last week, Year 3 had a lovely week. We completed our topic on journeys, discussing the journey of our lives, and in maths we practised more times tables through fun, class-friendly competitions. In English, we finished our fantastic SHINE and WRITE by creating new endings for the story, and the children shared some wonderfully creative ideas. This week, we began our new story The Gardener, developing lovely descriptive sentences. In geography, we continued our rainforest topic by creating fact files about amazing animals, and in RE we started a new topic on sharing, which has been brilliant for developing our social skills. On Friday, we enjoyed a fantastic Number Day with a times tables concert, and we also played number bingo in French.

Year 4 - This week, the children have been busy across the curriculum. In DT, they used their creative sewing skills to make book covers. In maths, we explored factor pairs and how these support multiplication. In English, the children finished writing their newspaper articles about plastic pollution in the sea. In science, we investigated pitch and created our own pan percussion flutes. In RE, we began our Eucharist topic, learning about the steps involved in preparing for Mass. Finally, in PE, the children challenged themselves to develop their cricket skills, focusing on batting and fielding.

Year 5 - This week in Year 5 has been packed with thoughtful learning and creative exploration across the curriculum. In maths, pupils have been tackling long multiplication with real determination, developing their accuracy and confidence as they applied efficient written methods to increasingly challenging calculations. Their perseverance and focus have really stood out.

In English, we have been immersing ourselves in The Highwayman, exploring the rhythm, imagery and mood of the poem. Pupils have begun creating their own Highwayman-inspired poetry, carefully choosing language to build atmosphere and suspense, and showing great creativity in shaping their ideas.

Our history lessons have sparked lively discussion as we debated whether the Vikings truly deserve their reputation as brutal raiders. Pupils used historical evidence to consider different viewpoints, developing their reasoning skills and gaining a more balanced understanding of Viking life.

In music, Year 5 have been exploring love songs, listening closely to lyrics and melodies to discuss how composers convey emotion. Pupils have shown excellent listening skills and thoughtful responses as they compared different styles and expressed their own interpretations.

Well done, Year 5, for the enthusiasm, resilience and curiosity you have shown in your learning this week.

Year 6 - Have had a busy and exciting time in their learning! In English, the children have been writing their own wartime stories and recently finished our class novel 'When the World Was Ours', which they absolutely loved. In History, we've been learning all about evacuation during World War II, bringing the past to life and linking perfectly with our writing. In maths, pupils have been getting stuck into ratio as well as converting and calculating with different measures. Over in PE, the children have been developing their skills in gymnastics before moving on to basketball, showing great teamwork and determination. It's been fantastic to see their enthusiasm and hard work across all areas of learning!



Theatre Visit

Year 5 and 6 recently enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Theatre Royal to watch 'Weird', and it was a huge hit! The children absolutely loved the performance and were a real credit to the school throughout the visit. Their behaviour was amazing, and they represented us brilliantly – truly letting their light shine. It was a memorable experience that inspired lots of smiles, laughter, and great conversations back at school.



National Storytelling Week

National Storytelling Week has been full of stories, smiles, and imagination across the school! Reception had a brilliant time exploring story sacks and sharing books in the library, chatting about why books are so special and how to look after them. Nursery children loved using story props to make up and act out their own stories. In Year 1, the focus was on spotting the difference between fiction and non-fiction, with plenty of time to enjoy non-fiction books linked to their Geography topic alongside our daily stories. It's been great to see such a growing love of reading in all its forms! One of the highlights of the week was a lovely buddy story time, where Year 6 teamed up with Reception to share stories together in the library – a magical moment for everyone involved.



Number Day

Today at St Catherine's Maths Fest, we're celebrating how maths is everywhere around us. We've been excited to welcome our headliner Mc Squared, who has shown us how we use maths every day – from music and money to time, travel and problem-solving. Maths isn't just something we do in books; it's something we live, use and enjoy. Today is about having a go, thinking hard, and remembering that mistakes help our brains grow. From next term, children will be able to earn golden guitar picks for great mathematical thinking, teamwork and perseverance. The class – and the child – who collects the most guitar picks will earn a special place in our Rock Hall of Fame. So keep rocking your maths today, and get ready to carry that excitement into next term!

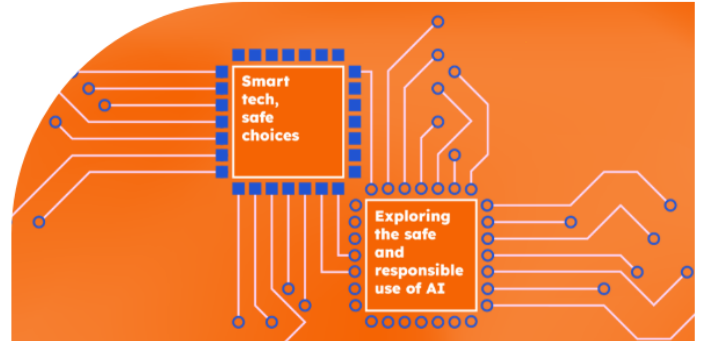


Internet Safety - 10th February

For parents and carers

Safer Internet Day – 10th February 2026

Top Tips for parents and carers



AI technology is increasingly part of all our lives, so this Safer Internet Day we are starting a conversation about how to use it safely and responsibly. Use these top tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe online.

Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family's online lives

The internet is amazing and can help us all to access information and entertainment. Spend time online with your child to understand how they are using technology and talk together about the good and the bad parts of being online. Talk about your own experiences and find other opportunities to get the conversation started, like stories in the news. Make sure your child knows they can talk to you about anything that they see or experience online.

Understand where AI technology is being used and the impact it can have

From summaries on search engines, to voice assistants and photo editing tools, AI powered features are being added to many of the apps and devices we use day-to-day. Look out for information and warnings notifying you where AI technology is in use or where content has been created using AI. Help your child to recognise these too. Remember, AI can make some tasks simpler but may also collect data about you and your family, or share unreliable information, so consider how to use it safely and responsibly.

Stay informed with free resources

Young people have told us about the incredible ways they're using AI, but also about their worries for what it means for the future. Issues such as the environmental impact of AI, what it means for job prospects, and the threat of deepfakes can seem scary but remember, you don't need to have all the answers. Stay informed using free resources like those produced for Safer Internet Day and talk to your child about their concerns about new technology - you can always work together to find more information.

Know where to go for help if something goes wrong

Like any technology, using AI comes with risks. Some AI tools, like ChatGPT, have built-in reporting features where you can raise issues such as inappropriate or harmful content. Many social media platforms also allow you to report content you suspect has been created with AI. Additionally, AI generated content can break the law. If you see illegal images that show child sexual abuse (including AI generated images), you should report these to the IWF and on the platform where they are being shared. If someone creates an image of you or your child using AI these can also be reported on the platform where they are being shared, and AI generated nude images can be reported to Stop NCII (for images of adults) and Report Remove or Take It Down (for images of under 18s).

Recognise what safe and responsible use of technology looks like

To use technology, including AI, safely and responsibly, it's important to reflect on the potential impact it can have on yourself and others. How does your use of technology make you feel? How can you use technology with kindness and respect for others? Does your use of technology benefit you or help you build skills? How might it affect you now, and in the future? Ask these questions of your own internet use, as well as your family's.



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:

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