



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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

Dear Parents, Carers, and pupils,

What a truly wonderful way to end the term. Our school has been filled with joy, celebration, and togetherness throughout the Christmas season. From the excitement of the Christmas Parties to the beautiful Carols at Grainger Market, our Christmas Mass, and Carols Around the Tree, these moments have been so special and memorable. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make these occasions so meaningful.

I would especially like to thank our incredible children, who continue to shine each and every day by living out our SHINE values. Their kindness, enthusiasm, and positive attitudes light up our school and make St Catherine's such a special place to be. We are so proud of each and every one of them.

A heartfelt thank you to our parents and families for your ongoing support, encouragement, and involvement in school life. Whether you joined us for coffee mornings, workshops, celebrations, or events, your presence and partnership mean the world to us. We truly value the strong sense of community we share with you.

I would also like to extend my thanks to our governors for their commitment, guidance, and unwavering support of the school. Your dedication plays an important role in helping St Catherine's to continue to grow and thrive.

Finally, I want to offer my deepest thanks to our wonderful staff. Their hard work, care, and commitment to our children is extraordinary. They consistently go above and beyond to support learning, nurture wellbeing, and help every child shine in their own unique way. We are incredibly blessed to have such a dedicated team.

It is an absolute privilege to be the Headteacher of such an amazing school community. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all for making this term so special.

I wish you and your families a joyful, peaceful, and holy Christmas. May God bless you during this precious time together, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.

Warmest wishes

Miss Hoey
Headteacher



Reception - 90.8%

Year 1 - 97.7%

Year 2 - 99.1%

Year 3 - 95%

Year 4 - 98.3%

Year 5 - 91.9%

Year 6 - 97.2%

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!

Christmas Performance

We were so proud of our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children during their nativity performance of 'Don't Be Afraid'. They were absolutely brilliant from start to finish and really did let their light shine brightly! The children sang their hearts out, spoke clearly and confidently, and performed with so much enthusiasm. It was lovely to see how confident they were on stage and how much they enjoyed sharing the story with everyone watching. All their hard work in rehearsals really paid off. The message of the story was shared beautifully, reminding us all about hope, kindness and being brave - something the children showed in abundance! The smiles, energy and excitement made the performance a joy to watch.

A huge well done to every child involved - you should be incredibly proud of yourselves. Thank you for putting on such a fantastic performance and helping to make our Christmas celebrations so special!



Early Years Performance

On Tuesday 9th December, Reception and Nursery shared a beautiful Nativity performance, retelling the birth of Jesus through joyful songs and heartfelt acting. Our school community came together to celebrate this special moment, reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas and God's love made present in the world. We are incredibly proud of our youngest children for confidently sharing this important message with families and staff! Well done to our fantastic Reception and Nursery children for letting their light shine and setting the world on fire! We are so proud of you!!



Year 3 Stay and Pray

Year 3 lead a beautifully thoughtful stay and pray all about Jesus being the greatest gift from God at Christmas. We asked everyone to think of how they can share hope with others, especially at this time of year. Year 3 gave examples of sharing a smile, singing carols and just spending time with loved ones to spread hope far and wide. The children had also made hopeful stars and hearts so that everyone could take some home with them; a very special and touching thought that ended our prayer with 'Away in a manger'.



Year 3 Stay and Play

After our beautiful stay and pray, parents were invited to come back to class and support children in making their very own pop-up books in our DT lesson. Children shared their designs, then taught their parents the mechanisms they had learned and practiced before constructing their books. We had so much fun and the classroom was a buzz with chatter and work - we can't wait to invite everyone back in again in the Spring Term.



Year 4 Bikeability

The children thoroughly enjoyed completing their Level 1 Bikeability course. They learned how to check their bikes for safety, practised new hand signals, and developed their cycling skills. For some, this was their first time riding a bike, and it was lovely to see their confidence grow by the end. The children were all presented with their level 1 certificate and badge in Star Awards.



Christmas Mass

On Thursday 18th December, our school community came together to celebrate our Christmas Mass. The children gathered in prayer to honour the birth of Jesus and to give thanks for the gift of life He brings to the world. During this holy season of Advent, our shared faith and sense of unity were beautifully strengthened. We extend our sincere thanks to Father Peter for leading a wonderful service, and to our fantastic children who made the Mass so joyful through their readings, hymns, and reverent participation in worship. We also offer our heartfelt thanks to our families and parish community for joining us in this special celebration.



EYFS Stay and Play Craft Morning - A Wonderful Success!

On Monday, 15th December, our Early Years Foundation Stage welcomed parents into school for a festive Stay and Play Craft Morning. The dining room was buzzing with creativity as children and their families worked together to make beautiful Christmas crafts. From sparkling decorations to handmade cards, the atmosphere was filled with laughter, teamwork, and festive cheer.

It was fantastic to see so many parents join us and share in this special experience. These events are a wonderful way to strengthen the home-school partnership and give families a glimpse into the exciting learning opportunities in EYFS.



A huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the morning so enjoyable. We look forward to more opportunities to celebrate learning together in the new year!

Year 5 trip to the Christmas Market

This term, our Year 5 shining reward celebrated pupils who consistently demonstrated excellent behaviour and outstanding effort in their learning. To mark this achievement, we enjoyed a special trip to Newcastle Christmas Market. It was a wonderful opportunity to soak up the festive atmosphere, with twinkling lights, cheerful music, and the scent of seasonal treats filling the air.

The children explored the market stalls, sampled some delicious food, and experienced the joy of the Christmas season together. It was a fantastic way to reward their hard work and positive attitude throughout the term, creating memories that will last well beyond the holidays.



Parent Newsletter: Keeping Children Safe Online

Why Online Safety Matters

Children today spend more time online than ever—whether for learning, socializing, or entertainment. While the internet offers incredible opportunities, it also comes with risks such as exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and online predators. As parents, staying informed and proactive is key to protecting your child.

Top Tips for Online Safety

1. **Set Clear Rules** – Agree on screen time limits and which apps or websites are allowed. Make sure your child understands why these rules exist.
2. **Use Parental Controls** – Tools like Qustodio, Bark, and Google Family Link help monitor activity, block harmful content, and manage screen time.
3. **Talk About Online Behavior** – Encourage open conversations about what they see online. Teach them to never share personal information or talk to strangers.
4. **Stay Involved** – Check in regularly. Ask about their favorite apps and games. Show interest—it builds trust and makes them more likely to share concerns.
5. **Educate About Cyberbullying** – Explain what it looks like and how to respond. Make sure they know they can come to you without fear of punishment.

Recommended Resources

- Childnet International: Guides for parents and children
- NSPCC Online Safety Hub: Practical advice and tools
- Thinkuknow: Age-appropriate resources for kids

Quick Checklist

- ✓ Install parental control apps
- ✓ Keep devices in shared spaces
- ✓ Review privacy settings on social media
- ✓ Encourage strong passwords and safe habits





🎄 Fun Activities in the Christmas Holidays - Spending time with family during Christmas can be both joyful and meaningful.

- Family Game Night: Board games or trivia can bring everyone together.
- Christmas Movie Marathon: Pick classics or new releases and make popcorn.
- DIY Decorations: Create ornaments or wreaths as a family project.
- Bake Together: Cookies, gingerbread houses, or festive cakes.

❤️ Meaningful Moments

- Share Gratitude: Go around and share what you're thankful for this year.
- Memory Jar: Write down favorite moments from the year and read them together.
- Volunteer as a Family: Help at a local charity or donate gifts.

☀️ Digital-Free Time

Set aside a few hours where everyone puts away devices and focuses on conversation, laughter, and connection.

Remember, it's not what's under the tree, but who is around it

