



NEWSLETTER

Pupil attendance to date: 96.2%. Target 97%

15th September 2023

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3-3.50pm

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Dear Parents and Carers,
In last Sunday's Gospel Jesus spoke about the strength of community. I am very proud of the wonderful school, parish, home community that we have created at St Catherine's.

The children were reminded about how a community supports each other and I told them about how geese are a wonderful example of community when they migrate.



See what your children can remember from the assembly about how geese work as a team. There is a lovely video you can watch at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hazitrzxhPk>

I also told the children about a famous anthropologist who was studying an Amazonian tribe. He conducted an experiment where he placed a basket of sweets on the ground and explained to a group of children that the first one to reach them could have them all. When he said 'GO!' the children joined hands and ran to the sweets together. When asked why they did this one of the children replied 'How can one of us be happy if the others are sad?'

What a wonderful way to see the world.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Doherty

Car parking

Can I please remind parents and carers that they should not be using the staff car park in the mornings or at the end of the day as we have staff and their children who are coming in and out of school. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Volunteers

Over the course of the year there will be occasions when class teachers ask for parent volunteers to assist on school trips or walking to Church. If you are able to help out please do. Your support is very much appreciated.

Beginning of term Mass

I would just like to say how very proud I was (once again) of the children's singing at Mass on Wednesday. It is my privilege to see all of your faces from the altar when you sing and your joy in worship truly shines out. Well done, also, to our Year 4 readers who read slowly and clearly.

It was Mrs Acres' first time attending St Catherine Church and you made such an impression on her. Well done children.



Dogs on the playground

Can we please ask that dogs are **not** brought onto school premises at the beginning or end of the day. Thank you for your co-operation.



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Term dates for 2023/2024

Attached to this newsletter are the term dates (including staff training days) for the academic year. We have also attached a list of upcoming dates for the Autumn term so you have advance notice. This will be added to weekly so please keep an eye on it.

2023							2024						
2023 CALENDAR							2024 CALENDAR						
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
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28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
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31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31

Chess club

Thank you to all of those parents who expressed an interest in joining our after school chess club. We will inform the children next week which day they will be able to attend.

If your child would be interested in joining but you are unable to afford the £4 weekly fee please speak to Mrs Bryant in confidence.



This week we welcomed two new children to our school. Jasmine has joined us in Year 6 and Nolan in Year 2. We hope that you and your family settle in quickly and know that you will be well looked after by everyone at St Catherine.

Altar servers

If any boys or girls, who have received Holy Communion, would be interested in training as altar servers at St Catherine's Church please speak to Mr Doherty or email the office directly. This is a wonderful way to become an active member of our parish Church.





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Pedestrian training

This week (Thursday) Year 4 and 5 will receive their annual Pedestrian training. We will need parent volunteers to support. If you are able to help out between 9am and 10am (Year 4) or 10.15-11.15 (Year 5) please let your child's class teacher or the office know. Many thanks in advance.



Year 1 parents/carers

Can I please ask that the children do not use the adventure playground climbing equipment at the end of the day. We need children to leave promptly so that we can secure the school and teachers can go back to their classrooms and after school clubs or meetings. Thank you very much in advance for your support.

Head lice prevention

We have had two confirmed cases of head lice reported to school this week. Can we please remind you that long hair must be tied back at school at all times. Thank you.

New Reception and Nursery parents reminder!

Please return your completed new parent packs as soon as possible to the school office. Thank you.

This weeks attendance

This weeks attendance is at 96.2%. A 0.1% increase from last week. We continue to move in the right direction! Well done everybody. Year 2 have the highest attendance rate of 99.2%

Homework

Homework has been set for all children on google classroom this week. They have all had time in class to set up their new accounts for the year so hopefully there won't be any issues. If, for any reason, you are unable to access google classroom please speak to your child's class teacher.

Occupational Therapy

We are so fortunate to have a close working relationship with our local University (Brunel). Last year we worked with PGCE students in updating our handwriting policy. This year we are delighted to welcome two Brunel Masters Occupational Therapy students to the school. They will be here for the next 5 weeks as part of a research project. As part of their placement they are offering an Occupational Therapy workshop for parents of children in



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It was lovely to see how well Year 4 are doing in maths this week.

They have been partitioning 4 digit numbers in different ways. I was so impressed with some of their creative solutions. Well done to Cora, Mary Ellen and Mateo who all received a Head of School sticker for their work.



It is so lovely to hear that, as well as working hard in school, the children continue their learning and pursue interests outside school hours.

This is how we will truly live life in all its fullness.

Cornelia (Year 2) is reading 'Wild Rescuers, sentinels in the deep ocean' and came to show me her amazing artwork, where she drew some of the characters from the story. She also read an extract to me. I was so impressed because the book contains lots of tricky words. Well done Corneila!



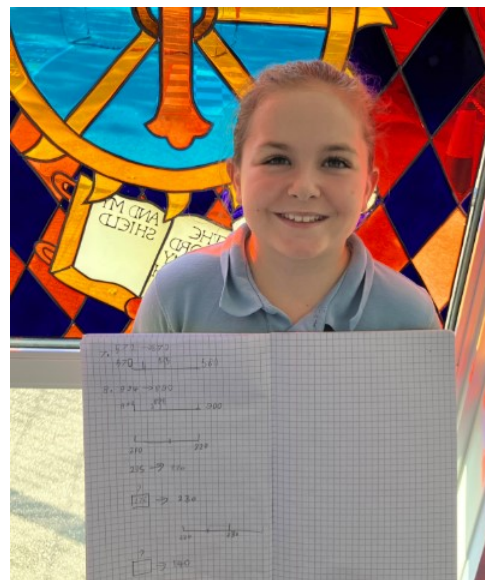


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Well done to Sienna who came to me with her wonderful rounding to the nearest ten work today. It is so lovely to see children enjoying their learning and being proud of their achievements.



The children are so lucky to have wonderful staff with a diverse skill set. This week Mrs Doherty (our British Gymnastics accredited coach) was delivering gymnastics to Year 3. It would appear we have lots of incredible talent.





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A love of reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give to our children. I was delighted to receive a visit from three very proud Year 5 children (Domas, Lily and Cailyn) who wanted to show me their Ready, Steady, Read certificates which they received for completing the Summer reading challenge at West Drayton library. At Year 1,2,3 assembly we were inundated with certificates so I had to include a group picture of all of the children! You should be very proud of yourselves. Thank you parents and carers for encouraging your children to take part this summer.





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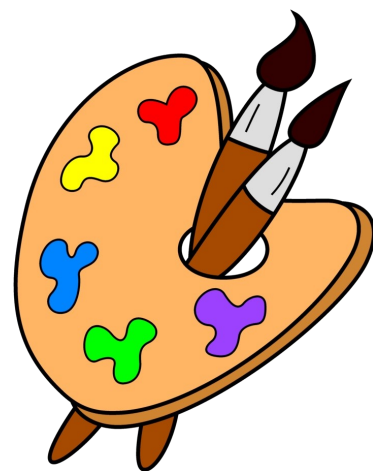
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This week I managed to visit our new library club, which is being run by Mrs Lakhanpal who is also our school subject leader in art and design. It was wonderful to see the children busy creating artwork inspired by the book 'And the Good Brown Earth'.





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I am delighted to inform you that from next Thursday (21st September) the Caulfield Academy will be providing Irish Dancing classes at St Catherines. Rubie Caulfield completed a PGCE teacher training placement at our school last year and it is wonderful to welcome her back. Please contact the Caulfield Academy directly if your child is interested in joining.

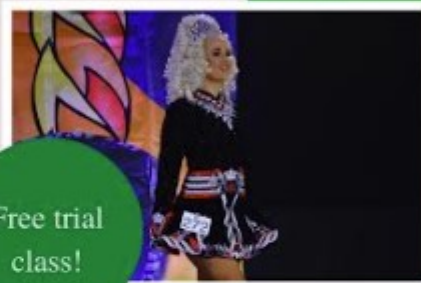


ABOUT US

🍀 Irish dance classes taught by champion dancers
Rubie and Lacey Caulfield 🍀

Dance Class Every Thursday
St Catherine Catholic Primary School
Money Lane, West Drayton, UB7 7NX
All abilities 6-8pm

DBS checked
Fully insured
Registered academy
Home to champion dancers within the academy
Age 3+



Free trial
class!

**CONTACT US TO
SECURE YOUR
SPOT**

Thecaulfieldacademy@gmail.com

07773362603

Autumn term diary dates

Autumn (1st half)

Thursday 21st September: Pedestrian Training (Years 4 and 5)

Wednesday 27th September: Verulamium School Trip (Year 3)

Thursday 5th October: Pedestrian Training (Reception and Yr 1)

Monday 9th October: 5 a side football tournament (Year 3 and under) ACS International School 3.45pm

Tuesday 10th October: Occupational Therapy Workshop 8.45am in school.

Wednesday 11th October: Individual school photos

Wednesday 11th October: Great Fire of London workshop for Yr 2

Tuesday 17th October: Parents Evening (whole school) 4-7pm

Wednesday 18th October: Year 4 trip to Hampton Court

Thursday 19th October: Parents Evening (whole school) 3.30-5.30pm

Friday 20th October: Last day of half term

Monday 23rd October-Friday 27th October: Half term

Wednesday 1st November: All Saints Mass in Church at 9.30am

Thursday 2nd November: Bag2School day

Tuesday 7th November: Year 5 and 6 Healthy eating afternoon with The Pantry (our school meals provider)

Friday 24th November: St Catherine Feast Day Mass at 9.30am in Church

Wednesday 13th December: Pantomime at Beck Theatre for Years 3-6

Wednesday 13th December: Pantomime in school for Nursery, Reception and Years 1 and 2

Tuesday 19th December: 9.30am end of term Mass in Church

Wednesday 20th December: Last day of Autumn term. School finishes at 2pm

Monday 8th January: Staff Training day

Tuesday 9th January: First day of Spring Term



St Catherine Term Dates 2023/2024

Autumn Term 2023

Mon Sept 4th - INSET DAY

Start of term - Tuesday 5th September 2023

End of term - Friday 20th October 2023

Half term - Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2023

Start of term - Monday 30th October 2023

End of term - Wednesday 20th December 2023

Thurs 21st December - INSET DAY

Christmas Holidays - Friday 22nd December 2023- Friday 5th January 2024

Spring Term 2024

Monday 8th January - INSET DAY

Start of Term - Tues 9th January 2024

End of Term - Friday 9th February 2024

Half Term - Monday 12th - Friday 16th February 2024

Start of Term - Monday 19th February 2024

End of Term - Thursday 28th March 2024

Good Friday - Friday 29th March

Easter Holidays - Friday 29th March- Friday 12th April 2024

Summer Term 2024

Start of Term - Monday 15th April 2024

End of Term - Thursday 23rd May 2024

Friday 24th May - INSET DAY

Half Term - Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May 2024

Start of Term - Monday 3rd June 2024

End of Term - Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Wednesday 24th July - INSET DAY