

## Diary Dates

Pupil attendance to date: 95.1%. Target 97%

3rd November 2023

**Monday 6th Nov**  
**Be Active**  
**football club**  
(Yr 4-6)  
3-3.50pm

**Mon 6th Nov**  
**Mrs Wassef**  
**Lego club**  
(Yrs 1-3)  
3-3.50pm

**Mon 6th Nov**  
**Netball squad**  
**training with**  
**Melissa and Mrs**  
**Doherty**  
3-4pm

**Monday 6th Nov**  
**Beginners Chess**  
**Club**  
3-4pm

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**workshop at 6pm**

**Tues 7th Nov**  
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**club Year 1 & 2**  
3-3.50pm

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**Mrs Curran**  
Yrs 3-6  
3-3.50pm

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**PSD Multisports**  
Yrs 1-3  
3-3.50pm

**Tues 7th Nov**  
**Intermediate**  
**chess club**  
3-4pm

**Tues 7th Nov**  
**Irish Dancing school**  
6pm-8pm

Dear Parents and Carers,

In Monday's assembly we heard the Gospel reading from Matthew where Jesus says that the two most important commandments are to love God with all your heart and all your mind and to love your neighbour as yourself.

We talked about how love has the ability to change things for the better.

Martin Luther King famously said that 'darkness cannot drive out darkness only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.'

I told the children a story about a boy who orders an ice cream and leaves an unexpected gift for the grumpy serving staff. See if they can remember it!

We looked at people who have changed others through their acts of love from Ananias and Saul (later to be St Paul), Jesus and Zaccheus (the tax collector who gave back all he had taken) and Pope John Paul and Mehmet Ali Agca (the man who shot him).

At a time when many parts of the world seem intent on destroying one another, what a timely reminder of the power of love and its ability to change things for the better.

Have a lovely weekend everybody and stay safe on bonfire night.

**Mr Doherty**



### Year 5 class Mass

Year 5 will have their class Mass on Tuesday 21st November.

The Mass starts at 2pm and will take place in the Year 5 classroom.

Parents/carers and family are welcome to join us. Please aim to arrive at school no later than 1.50pm so that we can seat you.

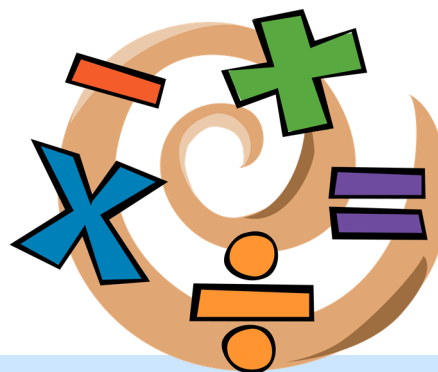
Thanking you in advance.



### Maths workshops for parents

On Monday 6th November we will be holding the last of our workshops for EYFS (Nursery and Reception) parents and carers.

The workshop will be between 6pm and 7pm in school.





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Yrs 1-3

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match at home  
vs  
St Bernadettes

Thurs 9th Nov  
6pm  
Irish Dancing  
school

Thursday 9th Nov  
FSCS AGM in school  
from 7pm

### Stay and play this Saturday

Please come along to our Stay and Play morning tomorrow from 10am. This is for Nursery and Reception aged children currently in our school or in the local community. Older and younger siblings are welcome to attend also.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Please feel free to share with friends and family.

## St Catherine Catholic Primary School and Nursery



Our next community Stay and Play morning for Nursery and Reception aged children and siblings will be held on:

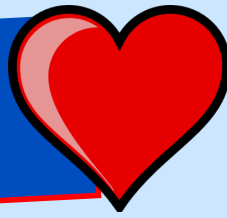


Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November  
10-11.30am

Please contact our school office if you wish to attend with your child/children. This is open to pupils currently attending St Catherine's and children in the community.

[office@stcatherine.co.uk](mailto:office@stcatherine.co.uk)

Telephone: 01895442839



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**school 6pm-8pm**

### Mrs Lakhanpal

I am writing to inform you of Mrs Lakhanpal's decision to leave us in January for new adventures.

Mrs Lakhanpal has been a dedicated and hardworking member of teaching staff for 3 years and has given so much to our school community and most importantly the children in her care.

As a work colleague and a parent of two boys who have been taught by her, I know how loved she is by the children (as well as staff). In a school where the Gospel values mean everything - I can give no higher accolade than that.

I would like to inform our Year 2 parents that we have managed to appoint a new teacher for Year 2, who will start in January. She is very experienced, has already met the children and will hopefully be spending more time with the class ahead of the end of term.

### Mrs Mikael

Next week we say goodbye to Mrs Mikael, who is moving on to new challenges.

Mrs Mikael has been a wonderful part of the St Catherine team, having worked as a teaching assistant for 6 years. She will be missed greatly.

I know that so many children have benefited from her hard work, dedication and kindness over the years.

Thank you for your service Mrs Mikael.



### New Nursery teacher

I am delighted to inform our Nursery parents that we have appointed a new Nursery teacher, who will join our wonderful EYFS team in January. She has already met the children and will hopefully get to spend more time with them before the end of term.

### This weeks attendance

This weeks attendance is at 95.1%. Up 0.1% from last week. Year 3 have the highest attendance rate of 99.3%. Well done Year 3! That is amazing!





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school from 7pm

### Visit from Steve Tuckwell MP

I am delighted to announce that Steve Tuckwell MP will be visiting the school on Friday November 17th.

Steve is an ex pupil of St Catherines so it will be lovely to invite him back and for the children to find out more about being a Member of Parliament.



### All Saints Mass

This week I invited my own Godmother to Mass to see and hear our children in prayer. She thought you were incredible by the way.

What a wonderful Mass it was once again children. You did me, Mrs Cingo, your teachers and families proud. Never stop singing like you mean every single word.

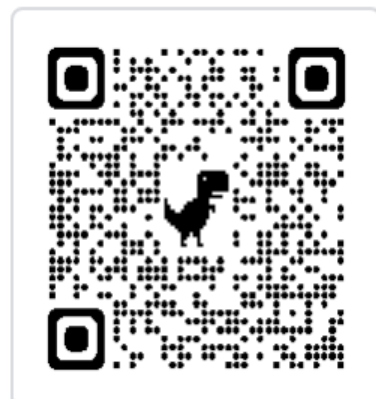


### BBC 500 word competition 2023

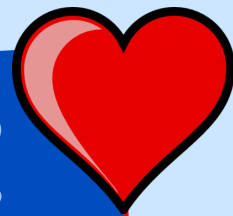


There is still time for your children to enter the BBC 500 words competition. We have already had some wonderful entries which we will be sharing on Google Classroom and via the new website. Make sure you submit your entries via the bbc

The following link will explain how to submit an entry:



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/how-to-submit/zqc8mbk>



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### 500 Word Wizard!



Nancy Flynn wrote an amazing story about a pink bat who is rejected by his friends but finds new ones on a distant planet. So impressive for Year 1! Well done Nancy.

### Super swimmer!



Elizabeth in Year 1 received a Swim School Certificate for completing a 5 metre swim. Well done Elizabeth!

### Amazing progress



Well done to Ana in Year 2, who is now counting to 20 in English having had to join a new school and learn a new language after joining us in late September. You have been a wonderful addition to the school Ana. Thank you also to our hard working staff in Year 2 (Mrs Lakharpal and Miss McCann) who have helped make this progress possible.

### Is your child too sick for school?

As we enter Autumn and Winter and there is an increase in the number of cold and flu cases, you may find the following link from the NHS is useful in deciding if your child is well enough to come to school.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>





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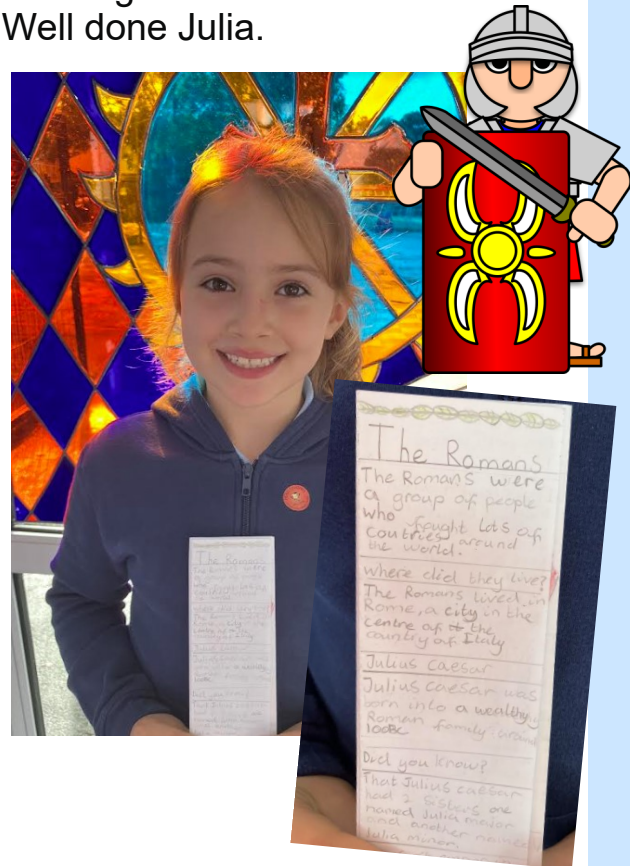
### Cool collaging



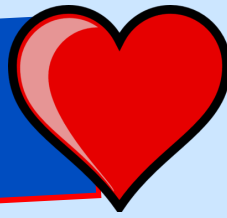
I was so impressed with the Tudor collaging in Year 5 this year. As part of our integrated curriculum the children will always finish history and geography topics with a linked Art or Design project. Pictured are Luana and Mary Ellen. Below is the incredible Year 5 corridor display.

### Roman expert

This week Julia, in Year 3, was sent to me because she had completed extra research on the Romans at home. Isn't it wonderful to see children inspired by their learning in school? Well done Julia.







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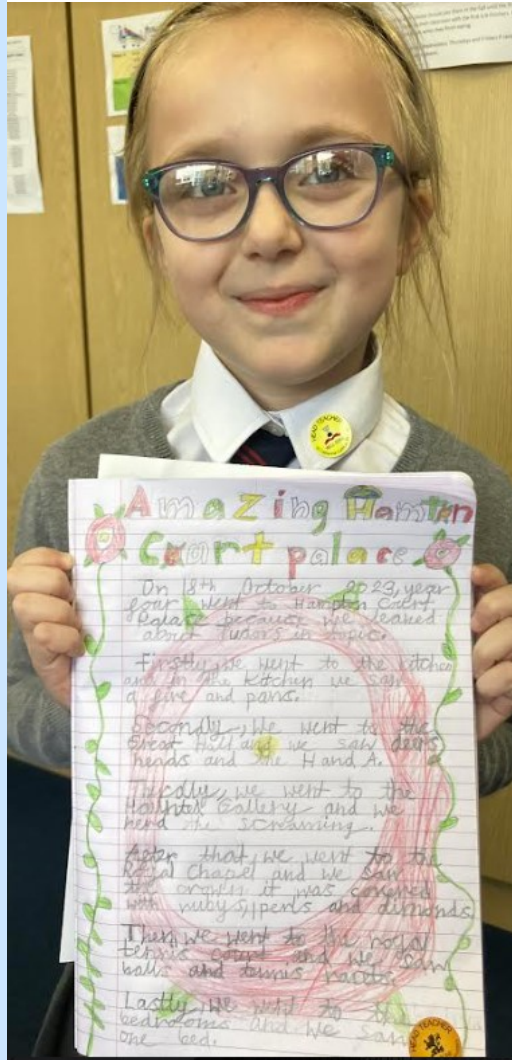
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### Hampton Court recount

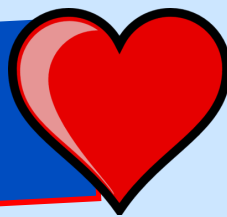
I cannot tell you how impressed I was with Alexandra's incredible recount of her trip to Hampton Court Palace last half term.

This was a wonderful piece of writing with fantastic content, great handwriting and stunning presentation. Well done Alexandra. You take real pride in your work.



### Senses

Well done Adam (in Nursery) who made a wonderful piece of work linked to the classes work on our 5 senses. Adam was able to name all 5 without looking at his work! Well done Adam.



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### Stage Talent

Book a Free one-to-one Music Lesson for children aged 4+ wishing to learn piano, guitar, ukulele or drums at our school.

Register by text :  
07782503260 and include:  
Child's Name, Age, Music  
Instrument  
or register at:  
[www.stagetalent.co.uk/register](http://www.stagetalent.co.uk/register)



### Switching on of Christmas Lights at Civic Centre

I am delighted that our school has been chosen to sing at the switching on of the Christmas Lights at the Civic Centre this year. The event will be on Friday 24th November at 4.30pm. We will be selecting 30 KS2 children to represent the school. More information will follow.



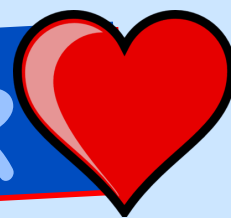
### Fab firework art

Year 1 did some fantastic firework art this week. We used crayons, washing up liquid and black paint.

We scratched off the paint to reveal the wonderful rainbow colours underneath. Here are some wonderful examples.  
Miss Hobbs







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## Christmas Arts Project for Schools

This week the children designed their own Christmas artwork for Arts Project for Schools. Within the next 2 weeks you will receive a copy of your child's artwork and will then be able to place an order, if you so wish. Please remember that the school receives a percentage of any orders made. The more orders that are placed the greater percentage we receive.



## Car parking around school

Please could I remind all parents to be considerate of others when parking around the school—particularly at drop off times. Parents should not be using the staff car park to drop off or pick up children.

## Coats and uniform policy

Our uniform policy states that children should wear coats of 1 block colour. Please avoid patterned coats or coats with large logos.

Thank you for your co-operation



## 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 for our children to become active members of our parish Church.



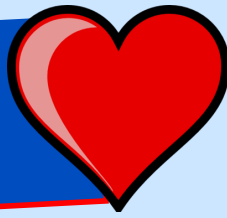
## Birthdays

Can I please remind parents that we **do not** allow sweets or cakes to be given out on children's birthdays at school. We actively promote healthy eating.

If you do wish to provide a treat for your child's classmates then fruit is the alternative we would suggest.

Many thanks for your support.





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### Work experience

Due to staffing levels and capacity within the school, we will no longer be able to accommodate past pupils (under the age of 16) in school on days when they have training days or holidays from their secondary schools.

We are happy to take post 16 children on work placements but this must be arranged formally (and through the office) by your child's secondary school.

### Flu vaccinations

The date for the flu vaccination this year is the 29th November. The Immunisation Team will offer the vaccination to all children from Reception to Year 6. We are currently waiting on the eConsent letter from the school nurses which will be circulated as soon as possible.



### Netball news

There was no netball match this week. Netball returns next week with a friendly match against St Bernadettes.



### Football news

Our match against St Marys was cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch. Next week we play in the 1st round of the Cup against Laurel Lane (away). Please come along and support us if you can.



### EYFS balance bike appeal

If you, your family or friends have any old balance bikes that are no longer being used we would love to have them in EYFS.

Please bring to EYFS before or after school.

Thanking you in advance.

Mrs Phaure and the EYFS team.







# NEWSLETTER

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## BAGS2SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who donated bags yesterday for Bags2School. We will keep you posted on how much we raised.

Well done everyone. 💰



## AGM

The AGM is on Thursday 9th November this year.

This meeting gives YOU the opportunity to become part of a friendly hardworking team, working to raise much needed funds for our school.

In the last few years we have only had a treasurer and ordinary committee members. Ideally, we would like to fill all the roles: chair, vice chair, treasurer, vice treasurer, secretary and ordinary committee members. Whether you want to stand for a role or just suggest ideas for the forth coming year, we would like to meet you at this meeting.

Letters for the applications are available in the school's office.

## CHRISTMAS FAYRE



- Fundraising Help



Christmas fayre will be on Friday 1st December 3pm-5pm at the Parish Hall!!

We are looking for volunteers to have Estate Agent boards outside their homes for a couple of weeks to advertise our school Christmas Fayre.

In exchange, Whitley estate agent will provide us with free advertising and contributions to the prizes at our event. (In the past donations have included £150, £200 vouchers!)

The amount donated very much depends on the number of houses that will display boards. The more boards the bigger the donations towards events that benefit all our children.

If you would like to help this time please send your address to [friends@stcatherine.co.uk](mailto:friends@stcatherine.co.uk) (we can only accept addressed of freehold houses)

In accordance with GDPR guidelines data will be deleted from our records once passed onto the relevant estate agent.

We will have two donation days before the Christmas fayre, children can wear their own clothes to school for a donation of chocolates or bottles.  
Dates below.

Thanks in advance for your support and for helping us raise vital funds for our school.



*St Catherine Catholic Primary School*

# NEWSLETTER

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\*Dates for the diary\*

AGM-

Thursday 9th November 7pm.

Donation days-

Chocolate donations - Friday 24th November 🍫

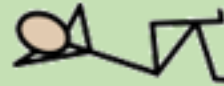
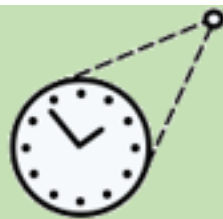
Bottle donations - Friday 1st December 🍷

Christmas Fayre-

Friday 1st December 🎄👶



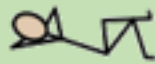
Our prayer for November is the Eternal Rest prayer. In November we remember all those who have died. This is a beautiful prayer and one with which the children should be familiar. Please try to say this prayer at home with your children during the month of November.



Eternal rest



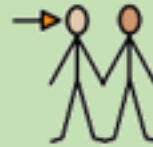
Eternal



rest



grant



them

O



Lord



And let

perpetual



light

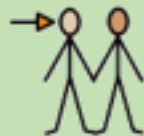


shine

upon

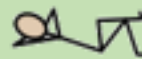


them



May

they



rest

in



peace.



Amen

# Autumn term diary dates

Saturday 4th November: Packham Football Tournament 9.15am Ryefield school

Saturday 4th November: Community Stay and Play day 10am-11.30am

Monday 6th November: EYFS Maths Workshop 6-7pm

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

Thursday 9th November: FSCS AGM at 7pm in school

17th November: Visit to school from Steve Tuckwell MP

Tuesday 21st November: Year 5 classroom Mass at 2pm

Friday 24th November: Chocolate donation day for Christmas Fayre

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

Friday 24th November: Switching on of Christmas Lights at Civic Centre

Saturday 25th November: St Catherine's Feast Day

Friday 1st December: Bottle donation day for Christmas Fayre

Friday 1st December: Christmas Fayre in the Parish Hall

Sunday 3rd December: Start of Advent

Wednesday 6th December: School Advent Penitential for children and staff only

Monday 11th December: FSCS Gift Day

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

Thursday 14th December: Christmas Lunch day in school

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

