St Catherine Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER

15th December 2023

Pupil attendance to date: 94.8%. Target 97%

Diary Dates

Monday 18th Dec
Beginners Chess Club
3-4pm

Tues 19th Dec
Intermediate chess club
3-4pm

Tues 19th Dec
Irish Dancing school
6pm-8pm

Wed 20th Dec
Accessorize and Christmas jumper day

Wed 20th Dec
Schoool finishes at 2pm.
No after school clubs

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week the second candle was lit on the Advent wreath. This candle symbolises peace.

It has been anything but peaceful this week in school with pantomimes, Nativities, parties, Christmas dinners and concerts but I have to say that with all of the changes to routine the children and staff have been amazing.

As I sat in the pantomime this week with KS2 and saw our children so full of fun and life I couldn't help but think how lucky we are to teach them. I wish you could have seen them.

It has been an absolute joy to watch the children perform over the last two weeks, from Nursery up, culminating in Reception's INCREDIBLE production yesterday. Our children are so talented but I must also say a huge thank you to the staff, who work so hard day in day out to make these most special of events possible.

Have a lovely (peaceful) weekend!

Mr Doherty

After school club last day of term

Please note that Afterschool club on the last day of term will run between 2pm (when school finishes) and **5pm**. Please make sure your children are collected by this time.

After school clubs next week

Please note that there will be no after school activities next week, apart from chess on Monday and Tuesday.

I am writing to inform you that Mrs Subbiah, who is currently on maternity leave will not be returning to school in January. We thank Mrs Subbiah for her service and for the love and care she showed to our children during her time at St Catherines. We wish her every blessing for the future.

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Lost property

We have lots of lost property especially hats and gloves. Mrs Bryant will put the trolley of lost property out on the playground (if weather permits) otherwise it will be in our Reception area. Any lost property no claimed by the end of term will be sent to the clothing bank.

Singing in Church

The Church choir have invited the children to join them **this Sunday (17th December)** at the 11am Mass for the third Sunday of Advent. It would be great to see as many children as possible.

This weeks attendance

This weeks attendance is at 94.8%. Down 0.5% from last week. Nursery had the highest attendance rate of 97.5%. Well done Nursery!

Playtime snacks

Can I please remind you all that the children should only be consuming **fruit and/or vegetables** at breaktimes.

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More writing success

Well done Hallie and Elia in Year 3, who were informed that their entries for the BBC 500 word writing competition have made it through the First Round. We are so excited for you both!

Budding artist

Congratulations to Sofia in Year 2, who participated in Slough's Annual Winter Visual Art Exhibition. Sofia was the youngest participant! We are very proud of you Sofia. Sofia's painting is the butterfly.

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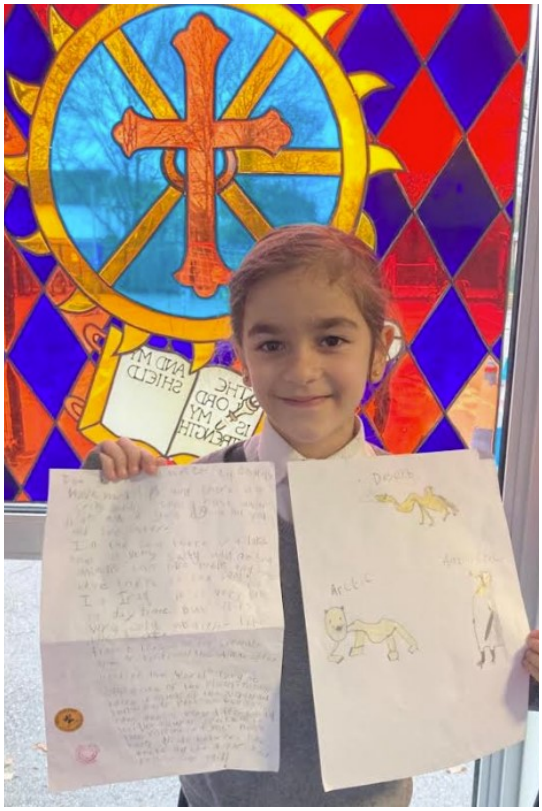
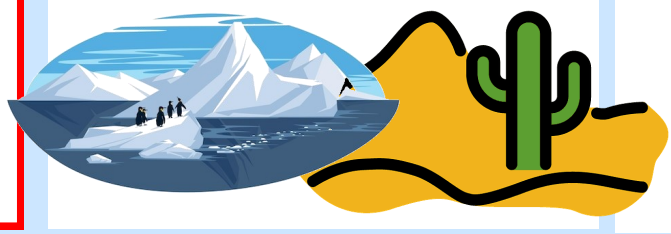
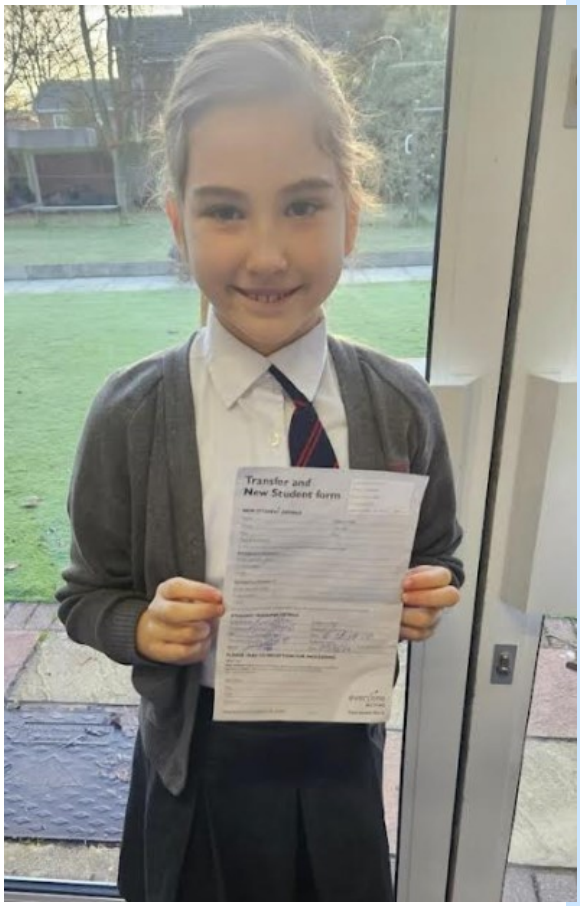


Above and beyond!

Well done Mary Claire in Year 3 who went home and did some extra research on animals that live in polar and desert regions. Year 3's current geography topic is 'extreme climates'.
It is heart warming to see children so inspired by their learning in school. Creating independent learners is the ultimate goal of any educator.





Swimming success!

Well done to Erin in Year 3 who, last week, moved up a stage in her swimming to Stage 7. This is a fabulous achievement at such a young age. We can't wait to see you swim for the school at future swimming galas Erin!

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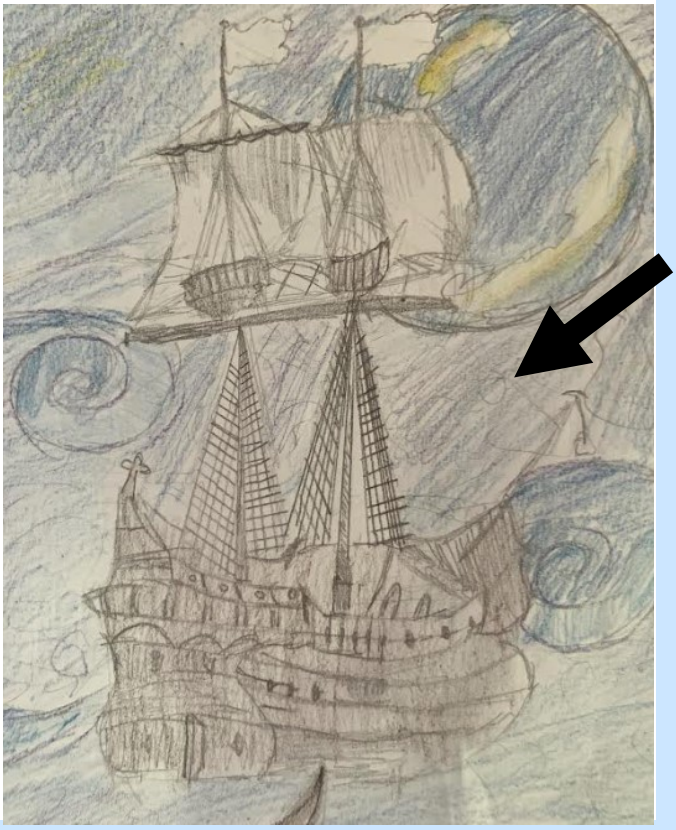
More swimming successes!

Well done Elia and Aria who have successfully achieved Level 5 in their swimming classes with learn to Swim. What a wonderful achievement girls!

Magic metaphor work

I had a lovely visit from Katalynna in Year 5 who was sharing her INCREDIBLE artwork inspired by a single metaphor in the poem 'The Highwayman' by Tennyson—'The moon was a ghosty galleon tossed upon the cloudy seas'.

Katalynna was also able to explain what a metaphor is and why they are used in writing especially poetry. Katalynna you are a shining star. There's another metaphor for you!!!



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KS2 Carol concert

Thank you to al of our families who attended the KS2 carol concert this week. Thankfully the rain held off! Well done children for a beautiful service under the stars! You were AMAZING!

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Christmas lunch

Thank you to our amazing kitchen staff and those that helped out (especially Mrs Jarvis, Sassa, Mrs Bass and Bart) at this weeks wonderful Christmas lunch. Another very special event.

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FSCS Gift Day

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's FSCS Gift Day. Thank you also to our amazing FSCS (once again) for all the effort that went into making this possible. It is wonderful for the children to experience the joy of giving to others. I often talk to the children about the joy that comes from giving and seeing other people's happiness. I think this John Lewis ad—'The Long Wait' sums it up perfectly!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lq9d5M4Sii4

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Nursery Christmas production

Thank you to al of our families who attended our nursery Christmas performance. It was lovely to see our youngest children so confident and happy on stage. They sang and acted beautifully. Well done to all of the children. Thank you also to our staff, who prepared the children so well for their moment in the limelight!

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Pantomime time

Thank you to our amazing FSCS for the pantomimes this week. The children have had the most amazing experiences. Thank you to all our parents and families for supporting their work for the school and thank you children for being such fun and a wonderful audiences. I loved joining you at the Beck Theatre KS2. Mr Andrews even went on stage!

Mr Andrews!

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Reception Christmas Nativity

Thank you to al of our families who attended Reception's Christmas Nativity. What an amazing production! We had incredible acting, singing, signing and dancing. WOW!

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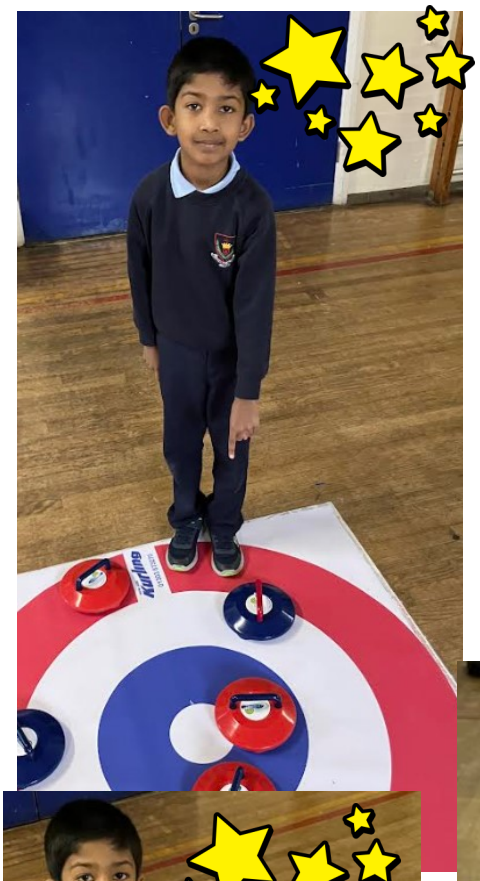
Year 2 Boccia

Our school motto is ‘living life in all its fullness’ and as such we like to expose our children to as many different opportunities as possible so they can discover their talents and passions. It was an absolute pleasure last week to introduce Year 2 to New Age Curling, which is a Paralympic sport. Jerome was the star of the show with two bullseyes! And Leon got one aswell. Amazing!



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BE ACTIVE NEW YEARS CAMP

This Christmas holiday, B-Active will be hosting a New Years camp at St Catherines on Wednesday 3rd, Thursday 4th and Friday 5th January. This is free to children entitled to means tested free school meals. Your child should have taken this leaflet home today.

Please note that the more children that attend the more money the school receives for allowing them to use our premises.

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It has been another busy Christmas week.

On Monday, the children loved their shopping at gift day.

On Wednesday, all the children enjoyed their performances , the panto at the Beck theatre, and at school. Oh yes they did!!!

Christmas Raffle tickets are still available on the playground and draw will be on Wednesday 20th at 2pm on the school playground!

Your contributions give all the children of the school extra fabulous experiences.

Merry Christmas

Friends of St Catherine's School

FSCS

Our prayer for December is the Act of Sorrow. Advent is a time when we prepare for Jesus' coming. We prepare ourselves by saying sorry for the times when we haven't been like him and ask for His forgiveness. The colour purple, used for the candles and altar cloths at this time of year, is a symbol of repentance or turning back to God.

Autumn term diary dates

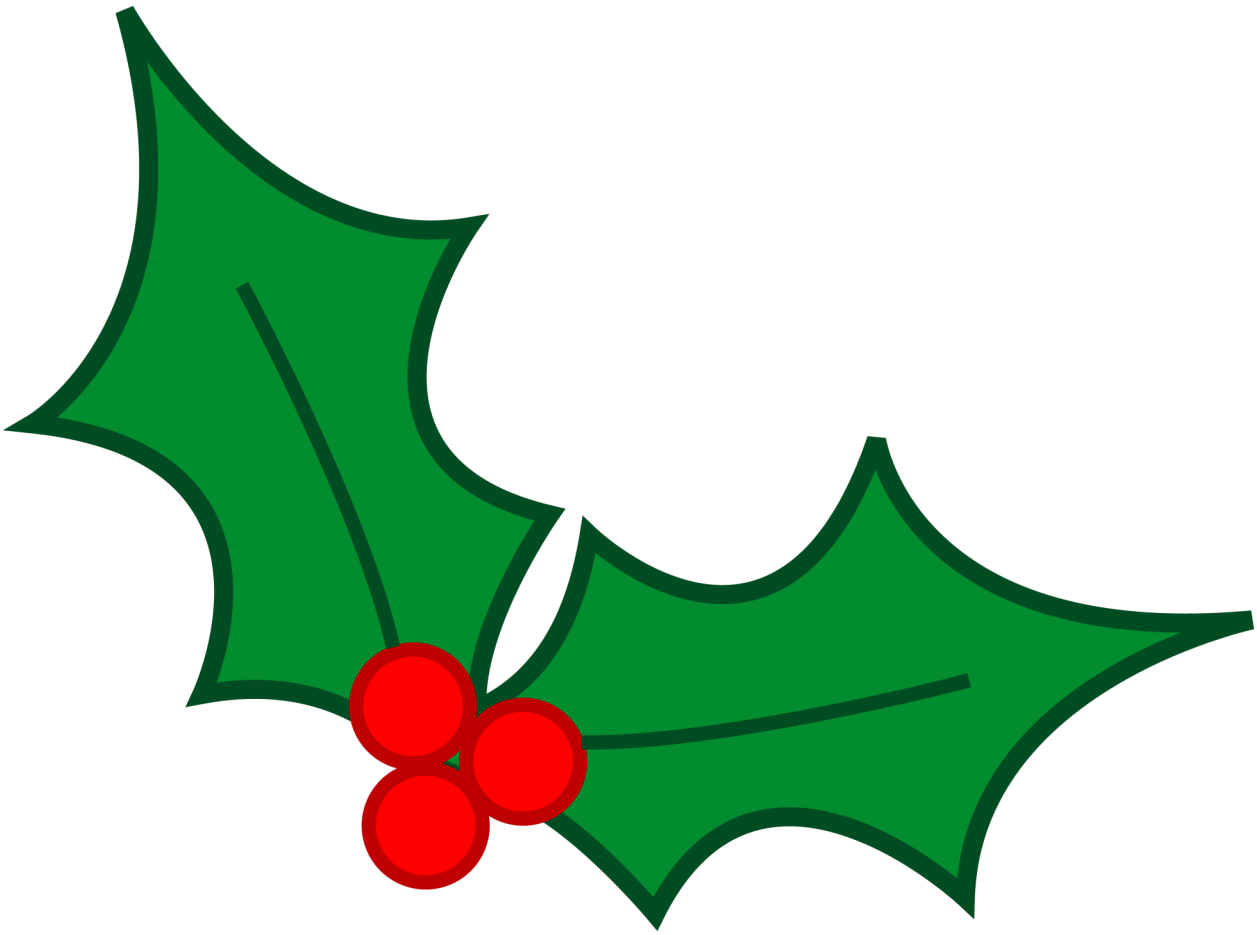
Monday 18th December: Year 1 and EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Christmas parties.
Children in Year 1, Nursery and Reception can wear own clothes

Monday 18th December: School children singing at The Burroughs Care Home

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

Wednesday 20th December: Last day of Autumn term. School finishes at 2pm (Accesorize and Christmas jumper day).

Wednesday 20th December: After School club finishes at 5pm

Monday 8th January: Staff Training day

Tuesday 9th January: First day of Spring Term