



Mon 13th Jan

Beginners chess club Yrs 1-6
3-4pm

Football club Yrs 1-3
3-4pm

Tues 14th Jan

School Mass at 9.30am in Church

Intermediate Chess club Yrs 1-6
3-4pm

Year 1-4 multisports club
3-4pm

Irish Dancing 5-8pm

Wed 15th Jan

Year 3-6 Racket sports
3-4pm

Thurs 16th Jan

Yrs 3-6 Football
3-4pm

Yrs 1-3 Craft club with Miss Simmonds
3-4pm

Fri 17th Jan

No running club. Mr Doherty is away

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful having the children back after the Christmas holidays. There has been a lovely buzz in school and they have all settled back into routines quickly.

In Monday's assembly I talked to the children about 2025 being a Jubilee year for the Catholic Church.

The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. We talked about how Jubilee years were introduced by Moses thousands of years ago and were a time to get closer to God, care more for others and care for our environment. They happened every 50 years (now every 25).

This year Pope Francis is asking us to not become disheartened at the sad things that are happening in the world. We must work to change things for the better with Jesus as our example and never lose hope or despair.

Below is the 'Pilgrims of Hope' logo. See if your children can explain the symbolism in the picture.



Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Doherty

Welcome Mrs Gallagher

This week we welcomed our new SENCO, Ms Gallagher to the St Catherine team. Ms Gallagher will be working Monday to Wednesday. Please give her the warmest of welcomes if you see her in or around school.

Attendance

Attendance this week was 94.6%.

This week's top class for attendance is Year 3 with 100% attendance. Well done Year 3!





FSCS News

10th January 2025

Spring Term 2025

This term is an exciting one as we have lots of events, both in School and out.



Last year, we held a **Valentine's Disco**, and as well as raising money for the School, we also raised funds for the British Heart Foundation by wearing red on the day! Will the Valentine's Disco return for 2025.... come along to our next meeting to find out if it can be done.

Our annual **Pancake Flip / EYFS Shuttle Run** is a fun event for all the kids. Which year group can flip the most pancakes combined? The 2024 winners were Year 6, and they earned extra play time!

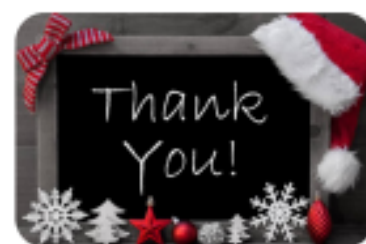


And there's always our **Easter Egg Hunt** (food allergies taken into consideration so no-one is left out). Our lovely FSCS team hide plastic Easter Eggs around the playground and the children have to find one each! They get the real treats at the end of the hunt. Great fun and gets them running around too!



Christmas Fundraising

We had a fantastic Christmas season of fundraising and can now confirm the grand total of the funds raised by you is:



Here's to a great 2025 ahead!

Coming up...

Thursday 16 January

FSCS Meeting, 7 pm, School Library

Come along and see what else we can do in 2025.

January

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

ACCENT NUTRITIONAL WORKSHOPS

Thank you to our school catering company (ACCENT) for delivering workshops this week to all of our classes on healthy eating. The sessions were focused on 'eating the rainbow' and explained how different colours help us in different ways.

Red foods are good for our heart, green foods are good providers of iron and give us energy, yellow foods help us fight infections, orange foods are good for our eyes and purple foods are good for our brains. See if your children can remember what each colour does. Let's try to eat more colourful plates of food!

I was also very proud when the ladies from ACCENT told me how delightful our children were to work with. I wasn't surprised but it was lovely to hear.





Visitor Comments Book



| Date | Name & Visit Reason | Comment |
|--------|--|---|
| 9/1/25 | Sophie Crosswhite Georgia Ridgway Eat the Rainbow Workshop | We held workshops for every year group - a wonderful school, the children are lovely and so engaged. One of the best schools we have been to! |

Comment left in our visitor book by the ACCENT team.



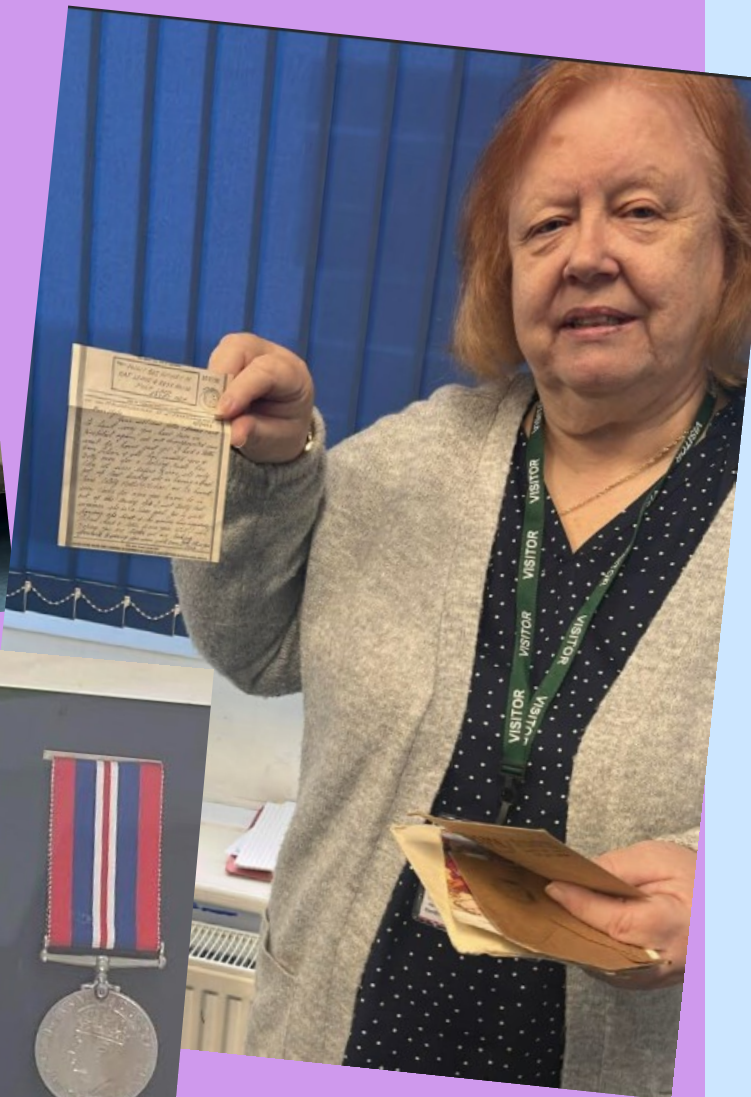
World War 2 hero

In the week before the Christmas holidays, Year 6 had a remarkable visit from Kevin Hughes and Eileen Dobbins, our wonderful volunteers. They generously shared the story of their father, who bravely fought in World War II. Their father served in the Royal Air Force (RAF) and worked in logistics during the war. He was deployed to Egypt, where he faced many dangers and was, at one point, declared Missing in Action (MIA). Thankfully, he eventually returned safely to England, but his experiences left a lasting impression on his family.

As Kevin and Eileen recounted their father's adventures, the classroom transformed into a portal to the past. They brought with them an array of fascinating artefacts, including letters he had written home during the war and the medals he earned for his service. Each item held a special significance, helping us to picture the reality of life during such a tumultuous time.

The children listened with rapt attention, captivated by the vivid stories that painted a picture of bravery and resilience. Many students asked questions, eager to learn more about what their grandfather had experienced. This visit was not just informative; it was also deeply moving and highlighted the importance of remembering those who fought for our freedom. It truly was an amazing highlight to close our history topic, leaving us all with a sense of gratitude and inspiration.

Mrs Reardon



A lovely thank you

This week I received a lovely card from the UCM (Union of Catholic Mothers) to thank us contributing over £200 to their charity collection at Christmas. This money was donated by you after our KS2 Christmas Carol concert. Thank you from me for supporting such special charities and for, once again, giving so generously. This is preferential option for the poor in action.

Dear Mr Doherty, staff & pupils,
Thank you for adding your
Carol singing money to our Christmas
appeal for The Passage and Shelter.
With your donation and the money
that we collected at church, we
raised an amazing £1,600. This meant
that we were able to send each charity
£800. So many thanks from the
Union of Catholic Mothers and St. Catherine's
Parish. Keep up the good work
Best wishes for 2025!
Maesi Murphy
President of the UCM

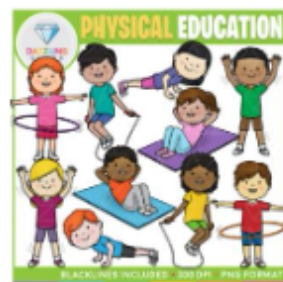
Dear parents and carers,

Please find attached PE timetable for this term. You should ensure that your child is in PE kit on the day of their PE lesson.



PE days **Spring** 2025

For the whole of the Spring Term the PE days will be:



| | |
|---|-----------|
| Nursery | Tuesday |
| Reception | Tuesday |
| <i>Children will need to come to school in trainers for PE. Same uniform as always.</i> | |
| Year 1 | Tuesday |
| | Wednesday |
| Year 2 | Tuesday |
| | Thursday |
| Year 3 | Monday |
| | Wednesday |
| Year 4 | Monday |
| | Wednesday |
| Year 5 | Tuesday |
| | Wednesday |
| Year 6 | Tuesday |
| | Wednesday |



Diary Dates

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away

Pupil attendance to date: 94.5%. Target 97%

10th January 2025

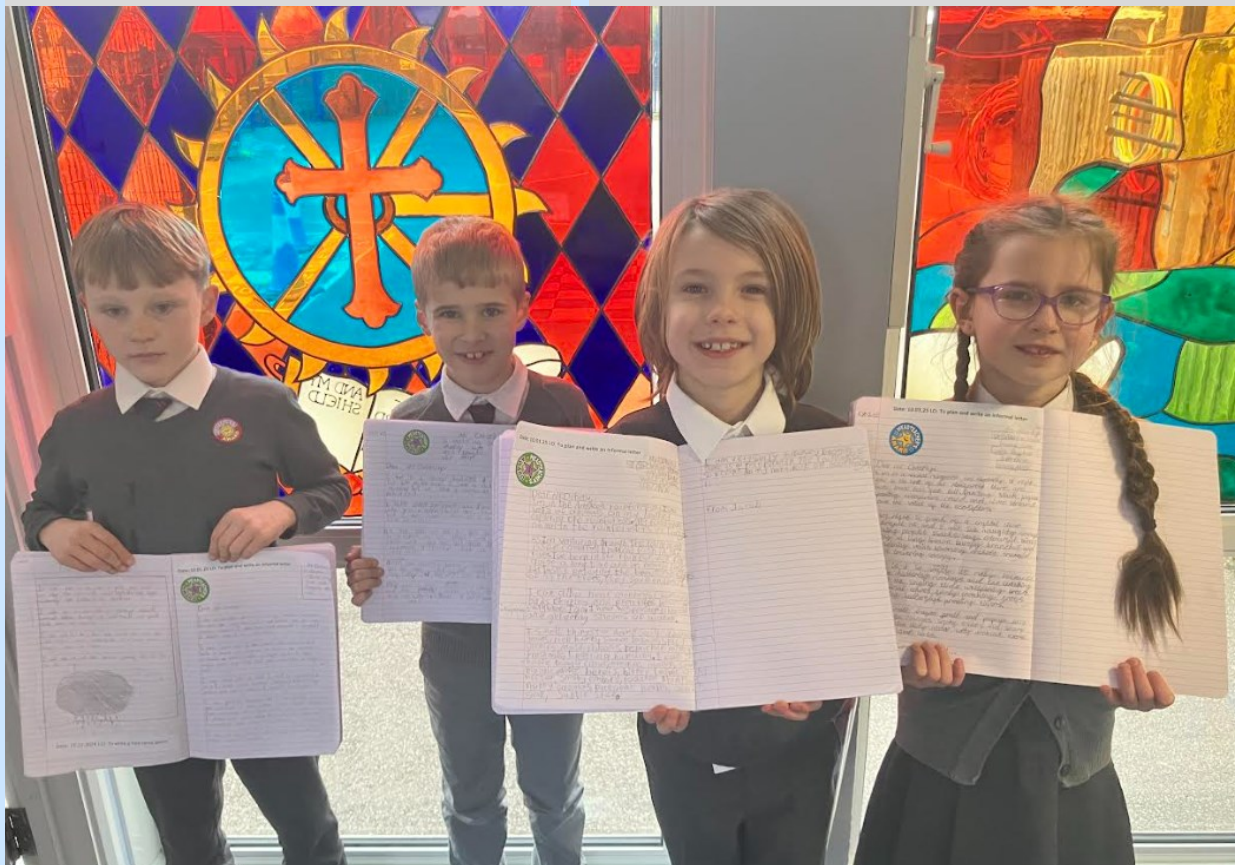
Parents' Evening dates

This year Parents' Evening will be held on April 1st and April 3rd, which is later than last year. This later meeting will enable us to share with you the results of your child's Spring term assessments in Yrs 1-6.



Fab Yr 3 rainforest writing

Well done to the children from Year 3 who were sent to see me with their wonderful letters from the Rainforest. This is linked to their current Geography topic. I was so impressed at some of the language choices made to make the rainforest come alive. Great work!



ST CATHERINE'S AMAZON WISH LIST



Dear parents and carers,

The school has opened an Amazon Wish list account to enable us to provide even more for our children in school. Please see link at bottom of page. There is also a link on the 'Quick Links' section on the homepage of the school website.

If you, or friends or family, are able to contribute please do so.

Once again your support is greatly appreciated.

Mr Doherty

<https://amzn.eu/12fuUtV>

Our prayer for January is the Jubilee prayer. Pope Francis asks us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope' who work together to make the world a better place by loving God more, loving each other more and loving creation more.

Please make this a prayer that you say with your children at home during January and throughout the year.

Whole School Jubilee Prayer (official school prayer)

God, our loving Father,
In this Jubilee year, you remind us of our call to love creation.
Help us to work together to replant, repair, and renew.

Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Jesus, our light,
In this Jubilee year, you remind us of our call to love our neighbours
and to set free those who suffer.
Help us to treat everyone with dignity; to be fair; forgiving; and kind.

Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Holy Spirit, our inspiration,
In this Jubilee year, you remind us of our call to grow in faith and love.
Help us to hear you in scripture, to see Jesus in others, and to be united as God's global family.

Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.





WOW Walk to school challenge

We are excited to take part in this year's **WOW walk to school challenge** which is an initiative from Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking, to help as many children as possible experience the benefits of walking to school.

What are the benefits of walking to school?

- Children feel happier and healthier.
- They arrive to school refreshed and ready to learn.
- Helps reduce congestion and pollution at the school gates.



Your children will self-report how they get to school every day. If they travel actively (walk/wheel, cycle, scoot or park and stride) **at least once a week for a month**, they will be rewarded with a badge.

Park and Stride – If driving, park and stride can help your child earn their WOW badges. **Park at least 10 minutes away from the school and walk the remaining journey.** If using public transport, hop off at least 10 minutes away and walk. Use the map below to see suggestions for areas to park and stride. Parking in the blue zone, where permitted, and walking the rest of the way will count as park and stride.

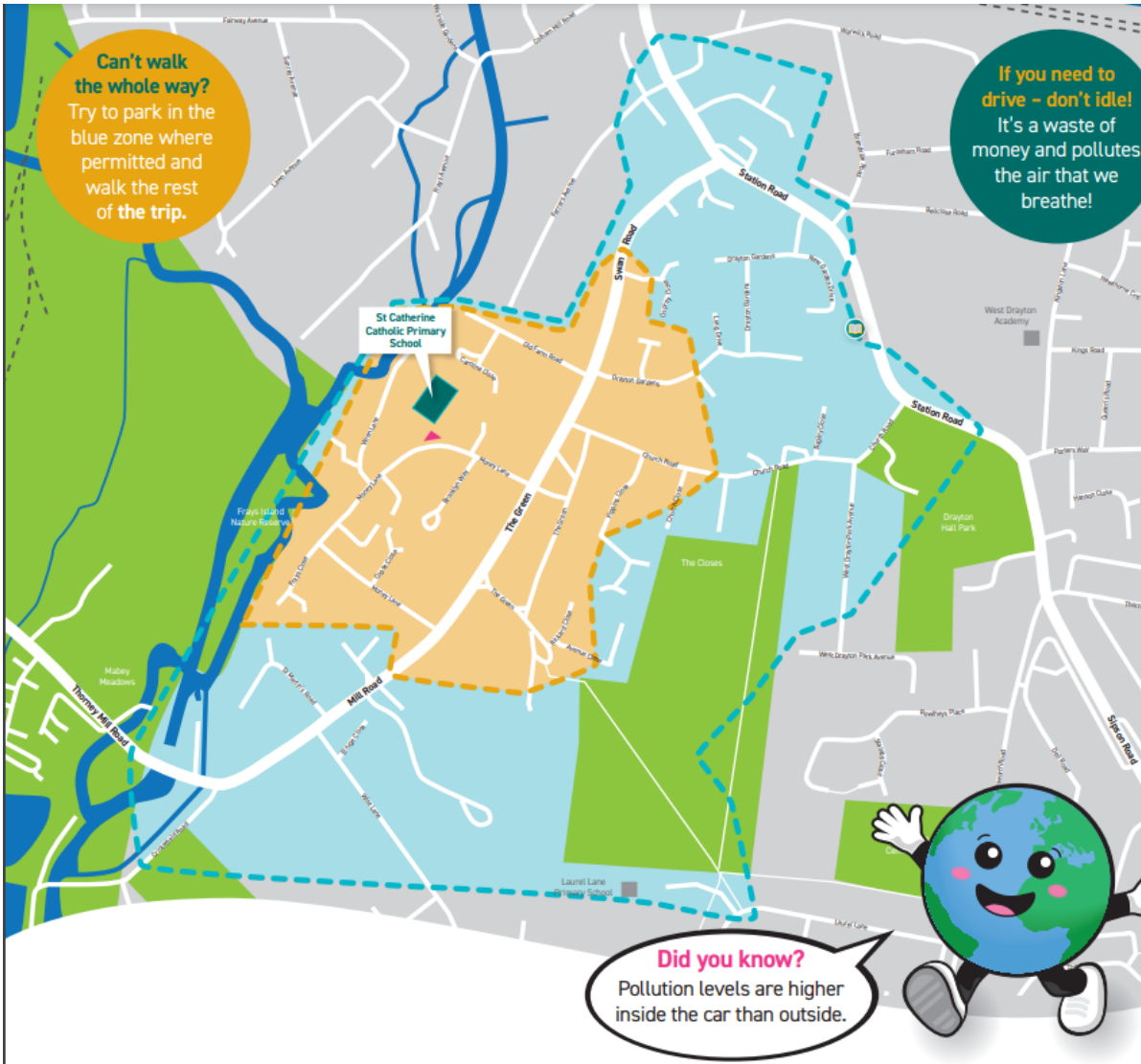
Your children have been introduced to the initiative today and are excited to get going! There are 11 badges to be earned from September 2024 – July 2025. Each badge has been designed by a pupil from across the UK as part of the annual WOW Badge Design Competition. WOW 2024/25 encourages pupils to Walk with Imagination, with a selection of badges ranging from a Bird's Eye View to Road Surfing up for grabs. The badges are made in Cornwall from material that was otherwise destined for landfill, including fridge trays, plastic plates and yoghurt pot off-cuts.

To launch this, next week we will hold a **walk to school week** where you can earn your first badge by walking to school at least once. From the following week you will need to **walk at least once a week during each month**.

Find out more about the challenge here: <https://youtu.be/op0zWJw1Hs0>

We look forward to hearing all about your travels. Happy Walking.





Can't walk the whole way?
Try to park in the blue zone where permitted and walk the rest of the trip.

If you need to drive - don't idle!
It's a waste of money and pollutes the air that we breathe!

Did you know?
Pollution levels are higher inside the car than outside.

Skip your ride, take a stride

ST CATHERINE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL WALK ZONE MAP

Let's make walking part of your daily routine!

- Key:**
- 5 minute walking zone
 - 10 minute walking zone
 - Bus stop
 - Zebra crossing
 - Pedestrian crossing
 - School entrance
 - Library



EXPLANATION OF TRAVEL MODES ON THE WOW TRAVEL TRACKER



Cycle: Select this icon if you have cycled all the way to school. 'Cycle' counts as an active journey and contributes towards earning a badge.

Other: This icon counts as an active travel trip and will contribute towards earning a badge. Choose this for any active journey that does not fit into the other categories.



Walk/Wheel: Select this icon if you have walked or wheeled all the way to school. We support disabled pupils and those with special educational needs to enjoy walking. This icon includes pupils walking with the use of mobility aids, including wheelchairs or wheeled walkers. 'Walk/ Wheel' counts as an active journey and contributes towards earning a badge.



Park and Stride: Park and Stride is a great way for pupils who live too far away from school to still earn a badge. Simply park the car at least 10 minutes away from school and complete the journey by foot, wheelchair, bike or scooter (any active mode of travel used to complete the journey counts!). 'Park and Stride' counts as an active journey and contributes towards earning a badge.



Bus: Select this icon if you took the bus (including school bus) or used public transport to get to school. 'Bus' does not count as an active journey, so it will not contribute towards earning a badge. If you choose to use public transport but still want to earn a badge, you can hop off at least 10 minutes from school and walk the rest of the way. If you choose to do so, instead of 'Bus' select 'Other'.



Scooter/Skate: Select this icon if you came all the way to school by scooter, skateboard, etc. 'Scooter/Skate' counts as an active journey and contributes towards earning a badge.

Driven: Select this icon if you drove all the way to school. 'Driven' does not count as an active journey so it will not contribute towards earning a badge.



Absent: Select this icon for any pupils who are absent (for every day of their absence). It is important absences are recorded correctly to give pupils a fair chance to earn a badge.

Delete: If you accidentally select the wrong travel mode, use the delete icon to clear it and start again.



Taxi: Select this icon if you travel by taxi the whole way to school. 'Taxi' does not count as an active journey so it will not contribute towards earning a badge.





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 15th March

10am until 12 noon

This event is open to children children
currently attending our school and children in
the local community. If you have a questions
please contact our office:

office@stcatherine.co.uk

telephone: 01895442839

Important future diary dates

Tuesday 14th January: Beginning of term school Mass at 9.30am in Church

Thursday 16th January: Year 6 trip to 2nd World War archives in London

Saturday 18th January: Chess tournament in school

Thursday 30th January: Year 3 trip to British Museum

Monday 17th February—Friday 21st Feb: Half term

Saturday 1st March—Girls Netball Rally

Thursday 6th March—World Book Day

Saturday 8th March—Mixed Netball Rally

Saturday 15th March - Community Stay and Play morning

Wednesday 19th March—Junior Citizen event at Brunel (Year 6)

Tuesday 1st April—Parents Evening (3.30pm-5.30pm)

Thursday 3rd April—Parents Evening (4pm-7pm)

Thursday 3rd April—Borough Cross Country

Friday 4th April—Last Day of term

Tuesday 22nd April—Back to school / start of Summer term

