



NEWSLETTER

23rd July 2025

Tues 2nd Sept

TRAINING DAY
School closed

Wed 3rd Sept

TRAINING DAY
School closed

Thurs 4th Sept

Start of Autumn
Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Tuesday we said farewell to our Year 6 children, Miss O'Callaghan Sears and Mrs Doherty. Thank you to Mrs Phaure for organising the most beautiful of send offs at our leavers assembly morning.

Sadly, this will be my goodbye to you all too. It has been the greatest of privileges for my family and I to have been a part of St Catherines over the last 11 years. We are going to miss you all so much. You have the most special of places in mine and my family's hearts.

Thank you to the amazing staff, Governors and Parish for all you have done for me and the children over the years. It has been an honour to work with you all.

Thank you to you, our families. Your unwavering support has helped create the school we have today. On behalf of myself and all the staff I would like to say how grateful we are for the kind words and gifts received over the last few days. Teaching your amazing children is reward enough but it is lovely to have it recognised in such a way.

Finally, thank you to our children. Once again you have pushed yourself to the very limits in every way this year. I cannot tell you how proud I am of each and every one of you.

You have created the memories that I will take with me forever.

Finally, may I wish Mr Booth every success as he takes over next year. You are all in the safest of hands and we have been blessed to find a new Headteacher who, I know, will give his very best to all of you.

Have a great summer everyone.

Mr Doherty




An Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at
your back.

May the sun shine warm upon
your face,

The rains fall soft upon your
fields.

And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm
of his hand.





Diary Dates

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PLATY THE PLATYUP

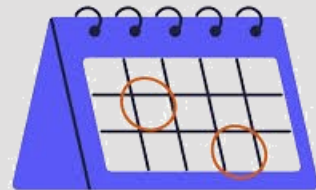
In Friday's newsletter I informed you about a children's book illustrated by B (one of our past pupils). If you are interested in purchasing the book please do so by going to the website:

www.bonkersbooks.co.uk



Return to school date

I have included next year's term dates in the newsletter but please note that school starts for the children on Thursday September 4th.



STUNNING SHIELDS

In History this term, Year 2 have been learning all about Castles and the Battle of Hastings. In Art we decided to make shields. We researched our family coat of arms, using the internet, and then designed 6 different shields. We chose our favourite designs and enlarged it. After that we copied our designs onto cardboard and did our best painting. I'm sure you'll agree they look fantastic! Well done Year 2.
Miss Simmonds.





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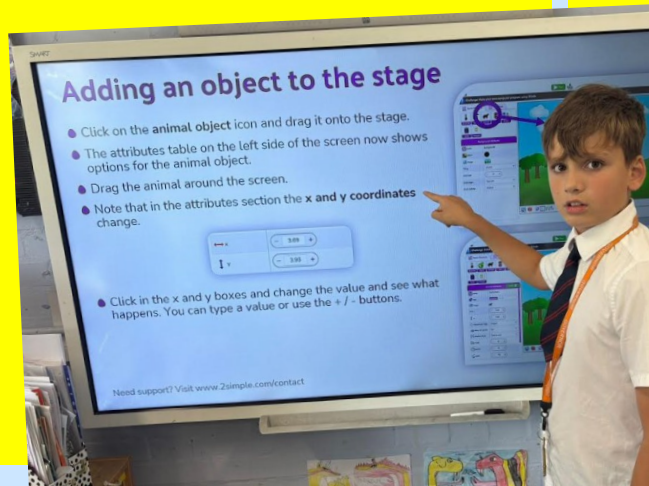
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Deivi the Computing whizzkid

During my time at St Catherines I cannot tell you how many times Deivi in Year 5 has resolved technical issues with computers around the school when I've been stuck. Look out Mr Lynam (our computing lead)! Given his reputation as a computing whizzkid, I was delighted to hear that Miss Simmonds let him lead a computing lesson on making games in Year 2 this week. Apparently he was **AMAZING!** Well done Deivi. I think a career in computers awaits!



EYFS Sports Day

On Monday it was Sports Day for the Nursery and Reception class. We were all so proud to see the children confidently taking part in a variety of activities including rocket throwing, bunny relay and the egg and spoon race. All children took part with such enthusiasm and skill, well done!. Thank you parents and family members for cheering the children on helping to create such a lovely atmosphere. Thank you also to David, Theo, Ciara, Samuel, Lukas and Natalie for helping the event to run so smoothly.



EYFS Sports Day



Summer music concert

On Monday we enjoyed the most wonderful of afternoons being entertained by our talented musicians from across the school. Thank you to Stage Talent and the Hillingdon Music Service for all of their hard work with the children. They were incredible!



Summer Reading Challenge

The greatest gift you can give your children is a love for reading. This summer please do your best to get involved with the Summer Reading Challenge being delivered by all of the libraries in Hillingdon. Visit your nearest library, to get started.

Take on the Challenge!

- Go to your library this summer to sign up and get your **Story Garden sticker booklet...**
- Read **ANYTHING** you like
- Collect **stickers** from your library and add them to the magical garden as you read more
- **Rewards** for meeting your goal!



THE READING AGENCY Summer Reading Challenge

Story Garden

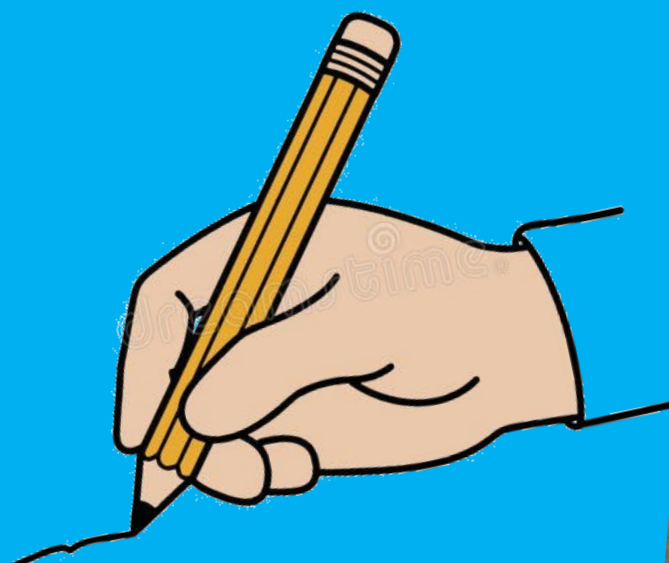
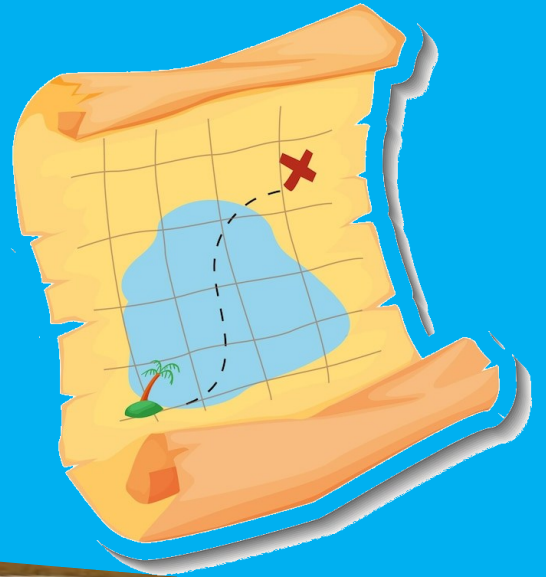
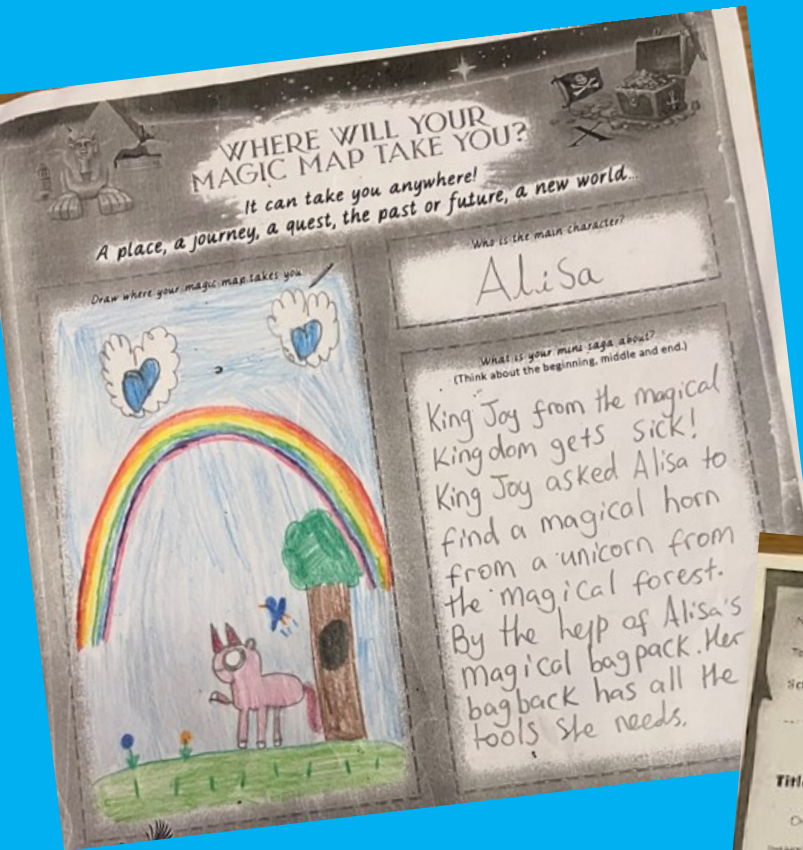
Join NOW!

Story Garden illustrations by Dapo Adeola. Illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2025

Use the following link for more information about the Summer Reading Challenge:
<https://discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/11044/Summer-Reading-Challenge-2025>

MAGIC WRITING

Well done to Alisa in Year 5 who recently entered a National writing competition and had her piece published. Well done Alisa. We are very proud of you.



Name: Alisa Surname: Popov-Higgs Age: 10
 Teacher's Name: Miss O'Callaghan, Seas
 School Name: Saint Catherine's Catholic primary school School Postcode: UB7 7NX

Write your mini saga in the 100-word grid below.
 (Punctuation does not need its own box.) Tip: Tip: Abbreviate to save words, e.g. 'is' can become 'i's'.
 One word per box. (Punctuation does not need its own box.) Tip: Tip: Abbreviate to save words, e.g. 'is' can become 'i's'.
 (File not included in 100-word limit)

Title: The magical horn.

Alisa	answered	the	phone.	"Come
here!"	said	king	joy	angrily.
Alisa	pressed	the	button	on
her	watch	and	she	teleported
"I'm	sick!	And	you	are
going	to	find	a	magical
horn	from	a	unicorn	to
make	me	better!"	He	said
again.	"It's	in	the	enchanted
forest.	And	you	have	a
magical	backpack."	he	also	added.
Alisa	teleported	to	the	forest.
"Here	are	my	tools.	A
horn	can	be	really	hard
to	find!"	Alisa	said	sadly.
"Is	that	a	unicorn	with
two	horns?"	she	said,	Alisa
cut	the	horn	off	his
head.	Alisa	came	and	gave
King	joy	the	magical	horn.

Details are required for competitive purposes only and will not be passed on to any third parties. You're marked 100 words
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Here are the term dates for next year. Please note that the children return to school on Thursday September 4th.

St Catherine Term Dates 2025/2026

Autumn Term 2025

Tuesday 2nd Sept INSET DAY

Wednesday 3rd Sept– INSET DAY

Start of term - Thursday 4th September 2025

End of term - Friday 24th October 2025

Half term - Monday 27th - Friday 31st October 2025

Start of term - Monday 3rd November 2025

End of term – Friday 19th December 2025

Christmas Holiday - Monday 22nd Dec 2025 - Friday 2nd Jan 2026

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5th January - INSET DAY

Start of Term - Tues 6th January 2026

End of Term - Friday 13th February 2026

Half Term - Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026

Start of Term - Monday 23rd February 2026

End of Term - Friday 27th March 2026

Easter Holidays - Monday 30th March- Friday 10th April 2026

Summer Term 2026

Start of Term - Monday 13th April 2026

End of Term - Thursday 21st May 2026

Friday 22nd May - INSET DAY

Half Term - Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026

Monday 1st June - INSET DAY

Start of Term – Tuesday 2nd June 2026


End of Term – Tuesday 21st July 2026

Playday 2025

Hillingdon Athletics Stadium
Wednesday 6 August, 10am to 2pm

Celebrate children's right to play at this fun packed event. A variety of activities will be on offer, including cycling, emergency vehicles, arts and crafts, health and wellbeing and lots more...

This is a free event but booking is essential via

 **discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/playday**

Booking closes at midnight on Sunday 3 August

**FREE
ENTRY**

**Booking
essential**



HILLINGDON
LONDON

discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/playday

Travel information



There are plenty of transport links to get you to Playday. Hop on the bus, walk or cycle!

Buses stop on Park Road – a short walk from the stadium.

The closest **tube** station is Uxbridge. It takes about 20 minutes to walk from the station to the stadium.

Parking (free but pre-booking is essential) is available at Hillingdon House Farm site which is accessible via Park Road (B483). Parking for visitors with disabilities is available at Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Complex.

Please check the website for unforeseen cancellations prior to attending the event.

For further information,
please contact the Public
Health team on
 [@sportandphysicalactivity](https://twitter.com/sportandphysicalactivity)
 [@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:info@hillingdon.gov.uk)

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BETTER



Hillingdon
Athletic
Stadium,
Gating Way,
Uxbridge
UB8 1ES

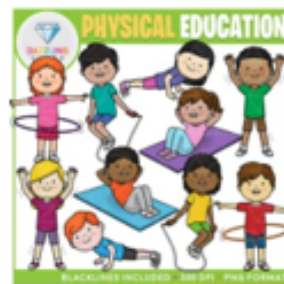
July 2025
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Below is the planned for PE days for all classes from Reception to Year 6 for next term. Children should come to school in PE kit on these days.



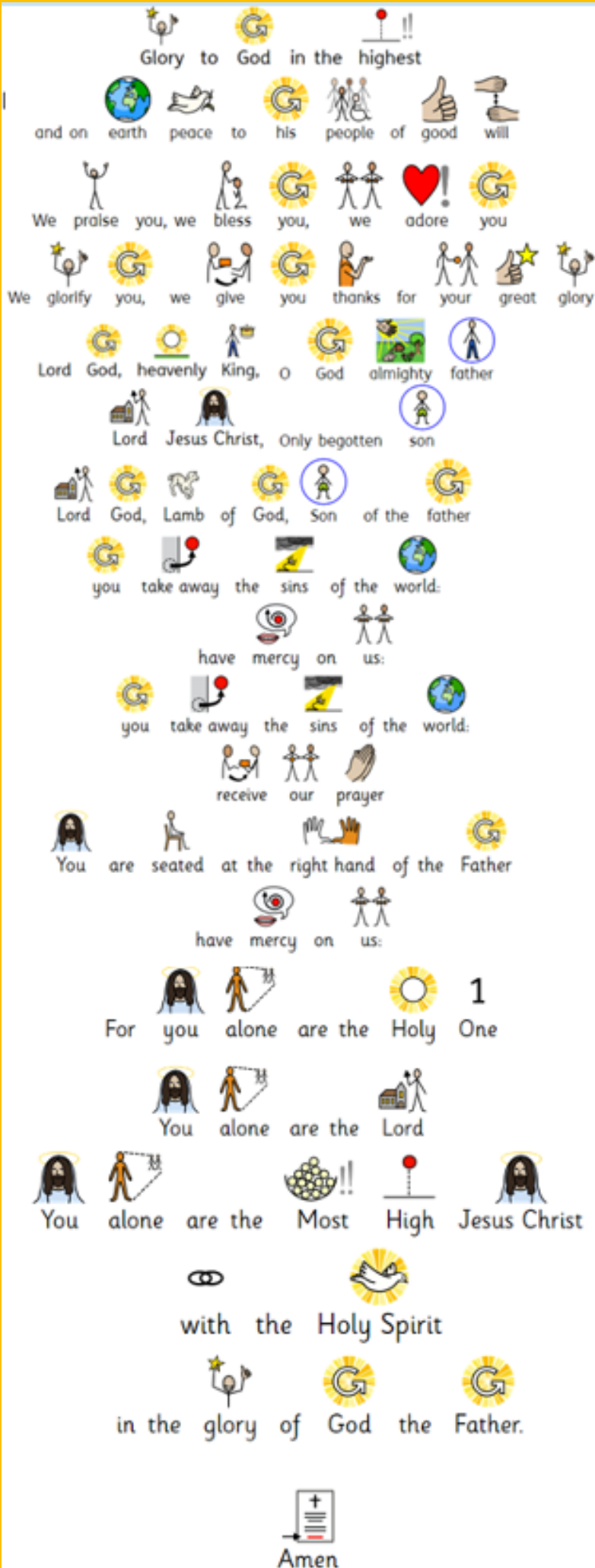
PE days **Autumn** 2025

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



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

Our school prayer for July



The Gloria

Our prayer for July is The Gloria.

It is a prayer of praise that is said at Mass each week so all of our children should try to learn it by heart.

If your child can learn it please make sure they tell their class teacher so they can receive an Headteachers award.

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>



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.

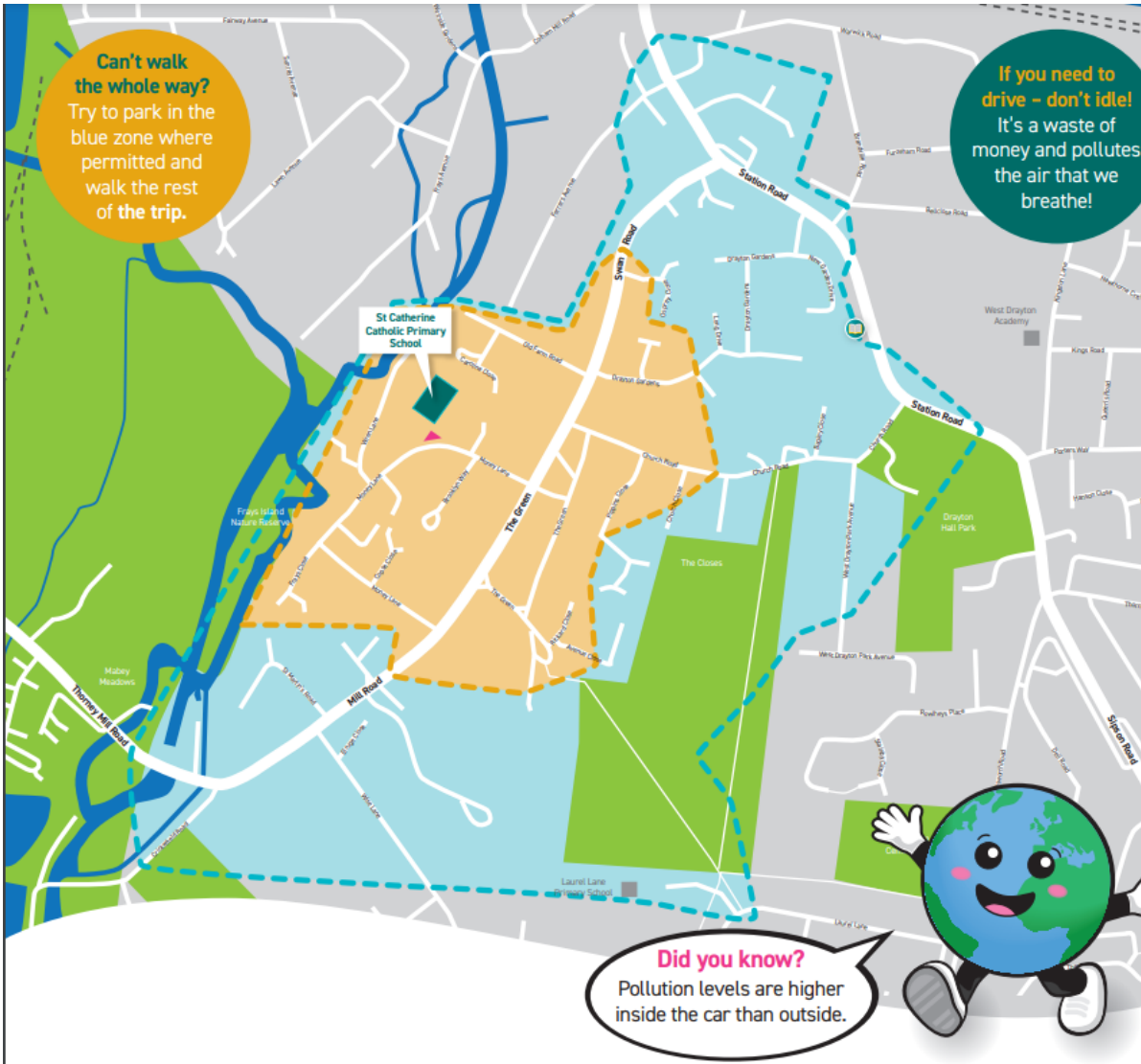
Your children have been introduced to the initiative today and are excited to get going! There are 11 badges to be earned from September 2024 – July 2025. Each badge has been designed by a pupil from across the UK as part of the annual WOW Badge Design Competition. WOW 2024/25 encourages pupils to Walk 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.



Important future diary dates

Tuesday 2nd September—Training Day

Wednesday 3rd September—Training Day

Thursday 4th September—back to school

