

Headteacher's Newsletter

7 May 2019

Christian Value for this half term:

Friendship



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the May newsletter.

It's always a bit of a shock when we hit the summer term as it comes round so quickly! This half term is very short and so we are cramming in a lot—which is how we like it!

Staff had a very productive training day at the end of last term. Whilst teaching assistants were exploring what outstanding support looks like teachers were learning about cognitive science and what we now know about how the brain works. Teachers are busy developing our new curriculum and identifying what knowledge and key vocabulary we want our children to know by

the time they leave at the end of Year 6. As a Church school, our vision is that children learn to live life in all its fullness. This fullness involves developing academically, physically, socially, spiritually, morally, culturally, and artistically.

Our bespoke curriculum will be the means by which we engender this development and ensure that our children receive their fair share of the rich cultural inheritance our nation and our world affords.

It aims to empower children with the knowledge they are entitled to: knowledge that will nourish both them and the society of which they are members.

This cultural inheritance includes the study and practice of artistic endeavour and social and physical skills as well as intellectual thought.

Our intention is that through this marriage of values and cultural capital, children are suitably equipped to become interested and interesting adults, able to contribute positively to the well-being of their community and to wider society.

Best wishes,

Mrs Graham

Headteacher

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Staffing Update

Mrs K Smith has made the decision to step back from teaching and so has handed in her resignation. Mrs Smith is a key member of our teaching staff, and has demonstrated over the time she has been with us a commitment to high standards and expectations. She is an exceptional subject leader of science and computing too and she will be very much missed by us all.

We have been quick off the mark to appoint a replacement for Mrs Smith and I am delighted to announce that just this morning Governors have appointed Mrs Crook as our new member of teaching staff. Mrs Crook comes from a school in Wigan and is looking forward to the new challenge of working at St. Catherine's. She is excited to get to know children, staff, parents and governors and we welcome her to our fabulous school.

Out of School Club

Following on from the letter and leaflet we sent out before Easter I would like to share a little more information with you regarding how the club will run.

Existing Happy Faces staff are joining us in September and we are looking to appoint a Head of Club to ensure that our vision for the new club is carried through. In this respect there will be consistency for the children, which is something I am sure that you have been worried about.

We are aware that Happy Faces are unable to offer ad hoc sessions at the moment. In September we will ensure that the club has as much flexibility as it always has had. We are clear that the priority has to be providing a reliable, high quality, service for parents who need childcare before and after school. In addition we are passionate that children have a club that they enjoy being in, which is fun and engaging and offers them lots of opportunities to explore a range of experiences.

We are exploring how booking sessions will take place at the moment—it is likely to be via a dedicated email. We are working with Happy Faces regarding the process of transferring staff and as yet don't have details regarding session costs. However please be assured that sessions will not cost any more than they currently do.

When we have more information we will be contacting parents so please bear with us while we make these arrangements.

It is a difficult time for Happy Faces. However we have been clear that it is our financial situation which is driving the need to access more income for our children, so that we are able to provide the same staffing and resource levels into the future.

If you have any questions regarding the provision please direct these to the school office and we will do our best to answer them. We also have a dedicated Twitter account for the club @StCatherinesCE1

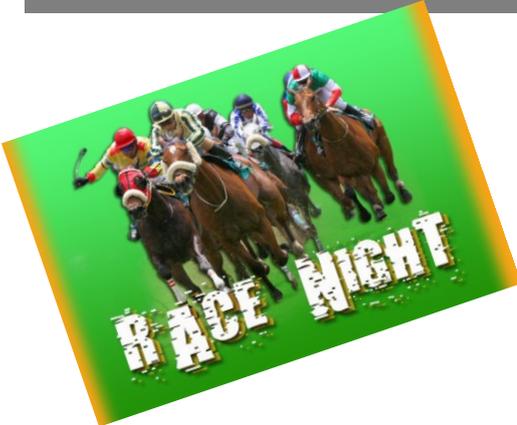
Paderborn and Bolton Twinning



Mrs English-Mather and I were delighted to be asked to visit Bolton's twin town Paderborn, Germany, over the Bank Holiday weekend in order to explore opportunities to revive the twinning between our town and their city. We spent time with a variety of Bolton representatives from the university, volunteer agencies, mayor's office and arts and culture, and their German counterparts, in order to share ideas for breathing life into the links between us.

At St. Catherine's we host a student from a Paderborn secondary school every year and we are now excited to begin exploring opportunities to link our school to a primary in Paderborn. We have a massive goal—to get some of our children over to Paderborn to visit the city and work with pupils at a link school on a shared project! Our aim is to develop skills of enquiry, empathy, awareness, and respect as well as provide opportunities for children and young people to meet, build new relationships, work together and contribute to the wider community.

PTA Race Night



Tickets are on sale for the PTA race night on Friday 17th May. If you haven't been to a race night

before then you don't know what you're missing out on—they're fantastic fun and a great way to get to know more parents. Tickets are £3 and this also gives entry into a free raffle!

All money raised will go towards the Technology project to buy a set of computers for the children of St Catherine's

Attendance

Overall attendance for April is 95.8%. April was another tough month as so many children were hit by the terrible sickness virus which is still lingering. Attendance for each class for April is as follows:

- Reception: 96.9%
- Year 1: 93.7%
- Year 2: 93.0%
- Year 3: 97.1%
- Year 4: 94.8%
- Year 5: 96.5%
- Year 6: 99.2%

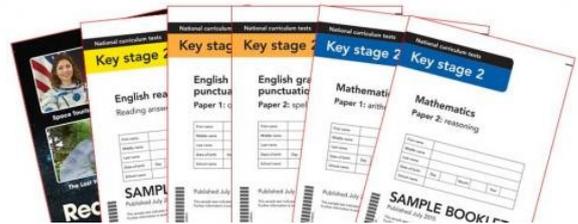


Congratulations to Year 6 who have achieved the highest attendance !!

Thank you parents and carers for ensuring that your children are in school and on time regularly—every day counts and every second matters.

Year 6 SATs

Year 6 pupils will be sitting their SATs tests next week. The class have been working unbelievably hard preparing for these. They have shown true resilience and determination to be the best that they can be. If every single one of them does that then Mrs Leather and I will be the proudest teacher and Headteacher in England.



Forthcoming events

10 May	Y4 trip to Yorkshire sculpture park
13 May	SATs week for Y6
17 May	PTA Adults Race Night
21 May	Y3 to Chester Zoo Girls' Kwik Cricket
22-23 May	Y6 Bikeability
24 May	Y1 to Blackpool Zoo Boys' Kwik Cricket Break for half term
10 June	School reopens
11 June	Reception settling in sessions start
18 June	Y2 to Blackpool Zoo
19 June	Class photos
26 June	Y6 leavers' service at Manchester Cathedral
27 June	Y5 to Lightwater Valley Y4 Dance Festival

