



September 2026 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families have had a wonderful summer break and have enjoyed some well-deserved time together. It is a real pleasure to welcome everyone back to St Catherine's CE Primary School for the start of the 2026–27 academic year.

A particularly warm welcome goes to all of our new Reception children and families, as well as pupils and families joining St Catherine's in other year groups. We hope that you quickly feel part of our very special school family. We are excited about the year ahead. Our staff have worked incredibly hard to prepare classrooms, plan learning and make sure that everything is ready for the children's return. September is always a time of new beginnings, and we are looking forward to seeing the children reconnect with friends, meet their new teachers and settle happily into their new classes.

At St Catherine's, our Christian vision continues to be at the heart of everything we do:

"Love like Jesus with our heads and our hearts, valuing the similarities and differences of everyone in our St Catherine's family."

Our values of Wisdom, Love, Community, Dignity and Hope help us to live out this vision every day. We want every child to feel that they belong, are valued and are encouraged to flourish.

Below are some important reminders and dates to help everyone get off to a smooth start:

Arrival and Departure

Time	What happens
7.30am onwards	Wraparound care available at St Catherine's Childcare (chargeable)
8.20am–8.40am	School Breakfast Club (chargeable)
8.30am	School gates open
8.40am	Children enter classrooms
8.45am	Registration
3.00pm	School gates open for collection
3.10pm	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 finish
3.15pm	Years 3–6 finish
After school	Clubs and wraparound provision operate as advertised

Collection Arrangements

Please let the school know in advance if someone different will be collecting your child.

Pupils in Years 4–6 may walk home independently only where parental consent has been provided. Keeping children safe is our priority, so please ensure that the school is kept up to date with any changes to your usual collection arrangements.

Meet the Teacher – Parent & Carer Drop-in Sessions

We know how important a positive partnership between home and school is. At the beginning of term, each year group will hold an informal Meet the Teacher session. These short drop-in sessions will take place from 9.00am–9.30am and will provide an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, receive the year-group handbook and hear about routines, expectations and learning for the year ahead.

Year Group	Date & Time (9am – 9.30am)
Year 1	Monday 7 th September
Year 2	Tuesday 8 th September
Year 4	Wednesday 9 th September
Year 3	Thursday 10 th September
Year 5	Friday 11 th September
Year 6	Monday 14 th September

Reception Meet the Teacher sessions took place during Summer 2026.

Autumn Parents' Evening - Please save the date for our first Parents' Evening:

Tuesday 13 October 2026 – 1.00pm – 7.00pm

1.00pm–3.00pm: Meetings in the school hall

3.30pm–7.00pm: Meetings in classrooms

Further information, including appointment arrangements, will be shared nearer the time.

After-School Clubs

Our programme of after-school clubs will begin on:

Monday 14 September 2026

Details of the clubs available and information about how to book places will be sent separately.

Wraparound Care

St Catherine's Childcare provides wraparound care from:

7.30am to 8.40am and 3.15pm to 5.30pm

For further information, please contact St Catherine's Childcare on 01562 753555 and ask for Karen Baylie.

Looking Ahead

We have another exciting year ahead at St Catherine's. As always, our aim is to provide children with a school experience where they are happy, safe, challenged and supported to achieve their very best. Thank you for the continued support that you give to our school. The partnership we have with our parents, carers, governors, church and wider community is incredibly important to us.

Please do speak to your child's class teacher or a member of the leadership team if you have any questions or concerns as we begin the new year. We are always happy to help.

On behalf of everyone at St Catherine's, welcome back! We cannot wait to see the children again and to begin another happy and successful year together.

Kindest Regards,

Mrs Amanda Cope
Headteacher



St Catherine's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Key Contacts



Here are the key people at school
who are here to help and support you.



Role	Name / contact
 Headteacher & DSL	Mrs Amanda Cope
 Deputy Headteacher – Curriculum & Achievement	Mr Thom Medcalf
 Interim Deputy – Inclusion	Mrs Jessica Jones
 Interim Deputy – Attendance & Behaviour	Mrs Lizzie Stevens
 SENCO Lead Practitioner	Mrs Rachel Barnes
 Business Manager	Mrs Kris Edwards
 School Office	01562 823614 office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk
 If you are unsure who to contact, the school office will always help direct your query to the right person.	



Teaching Team 2026-27



Year group	Class / teacher
Reception	Chestnuts - Miss Hill Acorns - Mrs Ross (4 days) & Mr Dorey (1 day)
Year 1	1SW - Mrs Stevens (Mon-Wed) & Miss Wheeler (Thu-Fri) 1B - Miss Bromell
Year 2	2R - Mrs Rankin 2W - Mrs Watson
Year 3	3N - Miss Nicholson 3W - Mrs Wharton
Year 4	4G - Mr Grainger 4MC - Mr Medcalf (Mon-Wed) & Mr Crump (Thu-Fri)
Year 5	5M - Mr Mottershead 5BS - Mrs Brown (Mon-Wed) & Mrs Stevens (Thu-Fri)
Year 6	6G - Mrs Grazier 6N - Miss Nickson
PE	Mr Lewis Dorey

★ ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS ★

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back to St Catherine's for another exciting school year!

Returning to school after the summer holidays can bring lots of different emotions. Some children will be excited and counting down the days, while others may feel a little nervous or uncertain.

Both are completely normal.

Here are a few simple things you can do to help make the return to school as happy and positive as possible.

1 GET BACK INTO A ROUTINE



Summer holidays often mean later nights and slower mornings!

Over the next few days, gradually return to your usual school routine:

- Bring bedtime back to a regular time.
- Start getting up at the normal school-day time.
- Have breakfast at a similar time each morning.
- Reduce screen time before bed.
- Prepare clothes and bags the night before.

A calm and predictable routine can make those first school mornings much easier.

2 GET SCHOOL-READY

Avoid the last-minute rush by checking that everything is ready.

Make sure your child has:

- School uniform and appropriate shoes
- PE kit
- Book bag or school bag
- Named water bottle
- Coat or waterproof for our unpredictable British weather!



Please remember to name everything! Children are remarkably talented at separating themselves from their jumpers, coats and water bottles!

3 TALK POSITIVELY ABOUT SCHOOL



Talk about the things your child can look forward to:

- Seeing their friends
- Meeting their teacher
- Exploring their new classroom
- Learning new things
- Taking part in clubs, PE, worship and special events
- Being part of our St Catherine's family

Try questions such as:

"What are you looking forward to?"

rather than:

"Are you worried about going back?"

4 MAKE TIME TO LISTEN

Some children may have worries about returning to school.

Give them time to talk and reassure them that it is okay to feel nervous about something new. Sometimes children don't need us to solve the problem – they simply need to know that someone has listened.

If your child is particularly worried about returning, please tell us. We would much rather know so that we can support them.

5 GET THOSE BRAINS MOVING AGAIN!



There is no need for lots of formal schoolwork before returning.

Instead, encourage children to:

- Read together
- Share a favourite book
- Play board games
- Practise number facts
- Write a shopping list
- Talk about places you have visited
- Ask questions and be curious

Everyday conversations and activities are brilliant opportunities for learning.

6 PRACTISE THE MORNING ROUTINE



For younger children especially, it can help to practise:



Wake up → get dressed → breakfast



teeth → shoes → bag → ready!

A practice run can make the first morning feel much more familiar.

7 KEEP GOODBYES POSITIVE



On the first few mornings, some children may find saying goodbye difficult.

Keep your goodbye warm, confident and brief.

Remind them who will collect them and reassure them that you will see them at the end of the school day.

Even if there are a few tears, our staff will be there to welcome, reassure and support them.

8 EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS



Getting back into the habit of regular, punctual attendance from the very first day helps children settle quickly, rebuild friendships and establish positive learning routines.

Unless your child is too unwell to attend, please make every effort to ensure they are in school and arrive on time.

If there is something making attendance difficult for your family, please speak to us. We want to work with you to find a solution.

9 MOST IMPORTANTLY...



Remind your child that they do not need to know everything or get everything right on their first day back.

Their job is simply to come through the doors, have a go, be kind and enjoy being back with their St Catherine's family.

We will take care of the rest.



We can't wait to see you!

We hope everyone has had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed some precious time together.

We are incredibly excited to welcome our children and families back to St Catherine's and begin another year of learning, friendship and opportunity together.





St Catherine's

CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL UNIFORM INFORMATION



Our uniform is smart, practical and affordable. Uniform with the St Catherine's logo is available from local suppliers, but branded uniform is **NOT compulsory**.



Non-branded uniform in the correct colours can be purchased from **any high street store**, supermarket or other retailer.

AUTUMN TERM UNIFORM



- White polo shirt (with or without logo)



- Light blue check summer dress (with or without logo) (until October half term only)



- Royal blue jumper or cardigan (with or without logo)



- Black trousers or shorts (no leggings, no lycra)



- Black knee length skirt or pinafore (no lycra)



- White or black socks



- Royal blue summer cap (with or without logo) **optional item**



- Flat black school shoes (no trainers or open toe sandals)

PE KIT

On your designated **PE day**, please wear the **correct PE kit**:



- Plain T-shirt in house colours (with or without the school logo)



- Black shorts or black jogging bottoms (these should not be lycra, e.g. cycling shorts or hot pants)



- Black hoodie (with or without the school logo)



- Black pumps or white trainers



- White or black socks



Branded sportswear should be kept to a minimum.



Please make sure your child is wearing the correct PE kit on their designated day.



Non branded uniform can be purchased from **any high street store**.

WHERE TO PURCHASE LOGO UNIFORM

EMPIRE EMBROIDERY

Unit 47, Meadow Mill Industrial Estate
Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY10 1HH

01562 751270

sales@empireembroidery.co.uk

Opening Hours:
Monday-Friday: 9am – 5pm
Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays: Closed

Orders can be collected from this address or posted to your address.



TM EMBROIDERY (MIDLANDS) LTD

26 Coppice Trading Estate
Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 7QY

01562 861064

info@tmembroidery.co.uk

Opening Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 8am – 5pm
Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays: Closed



Thank you for supporting our school community!





St Catherine's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

DROP OFF WHEELIE BINS



PERMANENT DROP OFF AREA



You can donate your good quality, clean, safe outdoor play items into the wheelie bins permanently!



Your donations help our children explore, create, imagine and take risks in the great outdoors every day.



Thank you for supporting play, learning and fun!



WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF:



MUD KITCHENS

Mud kitchens of all shapes and sizes.



POTS & PANS

Pots, pans, spoons or utensils that could be used for mud kitchen play.



SCOOTERS, BIKES, RIDE ONS

Scooters, bikes, ride ons and anything that gets wheels turning!



WELLIES

Wellies of all sizes up to small adult sizes.



LARGE OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT

Climbing, balancing, building and imagining big!



OUTDOOR RUGS, MATS OR SOFT FURNISHINGS

Rugs, mats, cushions or soft furnishings to make our outdoor spaces cosy and welcoming.



SMALL WORLD PLAY

Blocks, bricks, small figures and accessories to inspire imaginative small world play.



FANCY DRESS

Outgrown costumes and accessories that spark creativity and role play.



PLEASE PLACE ITEMS IN THE
WHEELIE BINS OUTSIDE THE DT ROOM.
THANK YOU!



St Catherine's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



We learn together
using our heads
and our hearts



St Catherine's Smart Phone and Social media parent group

Contacting Staff

Your child's class teacher should always be your first point of contact for both academic and pastoral matters.

Holiday club

RB holiday camps run a holiday club provision through all school holidays. Further information will be sent home during the school year. <https://www.rbholidaycamps.co.uk/>

St Catherine's Childcare

If you require 'wrap-around' care, before and after school (from 7.30am – 6.00pm), please contact Karen Baylie in the nursery on 01562 753555.

Childminder information from Worcestershire County Council

For information about other childcare providers in the area contact Worcestershire County via the website www.earlyhelphub.co.uk. Or by email at earlyhelphub@worcestershire.gov.uk. The service can also be contacted by telephone on 01905 822666.

School Hall lettings

The school hall is now available for hire on Saturdays and Sundays (£50 per hour). To enquire about booking the hall please contact Mrs Edwards, school business manager, via email: office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk



St Barnabas Church, Franche

September Newsletter



I hope you have all enjoyed your summer holidays, I have had lots of fun! We have been enjoying reading all of your summer prayers and they are all up inside the church. Visitors always comment on how lovely these prayers are. The church is open every Sunday from 9am until 11am if you wanted to come and see them for yourselves! We would love to see you come, and find yours within the St Barnabas Church.



I would like to say thank to the students who have made these lovely prayers they have made a lovely show. Please see these photos.



Thank You! 
Your prayers
brighten our church
and our hearts.
Well done – 
you are amazing!



We would like to invite any-one to come to our coffee mornings on every Wednesday morning from 10am – midday, there are different crafts to take part in and feel free to bring you own along, so come and have a drink or two and a biscuit totally free. Everyone is welcome, it will be nice to see you.



We are doing a Macmillan Coffee Morning on the 16th September 10am to 12 midday, in St Barnabas Church Community Hall, all money raised will be going to Macmillan Cancer Support, it would be lovely to see your parents there, contact Jackie Warr by email if needed at jackiewarr72@outlook.com



Our next Messy Church will be on 4th October 3pm to 4:30pm this will be our Harvest Messy Church, in St Barnabas Church Community Hall (opposite the church), this is a free event which we try to make sure there is something for everyone to enjoy, please come along and join us. It was lovely to see so many of you come and join us at the last Messy Church, at the start of summer holidays.



If anyone would like to attend a service at St Barnabas, they are every Sunday at 9.30am and last for 45 minutes to 1hour (depending on the service). Details can be found on the noticeboard by the church or by contacting us stbarnbaschurchfranche@gmail.com, our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) or Laura Betson, Team Vicar on teamvicar.kwtm@gmail.com or 07427 766054.



Please follow us on Facebook or Instagram (St Barnabas Church) and our website is <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18777/> or www.kidderminsterwovenchurches.org.uk to find out more about services and upcoming events.



If anyone would like to book a wedding or christening then please ring 07427 766054 or email teamvicar.kwtm@gmail.com
The church hall is also available for hire at a very reasonable rate of £20 per hour and can be booked by contacting Jackie 07583962650 or emailing jackiewarr72@outlook.com



We look forward to seeing you! 



St Catherine's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM DATES

2026-27

*Love like Jesus with our heads and our hearts,
valuing the similarities and differences of everyone
in our St Catherine's family.*

HALF TERM	PUPILS IN SCHOOL	ADJUSTMENTS	PUPIL DAYS
 AUTUMN 1	Thursday 3 September – Friday 23 October 2026 (TED: 1 & 2 September)	TED 1 & 2 Sept	37
 AUTUMN 2	Monday 2 November – Thursday 17 December 2026 (TED: 18 December)	TED 18 Dec	34
 SPRING 1	Monday 4 January – Friday 12 February 2027	None	30
 SPRING 2	Monday 22 February – Thursday 25 March 2027	None	24
 SUMMER 1	Monday 12 April – Thursday 27 May 2027 (Bank Holiday 3 May) (TED: 28 May)	Bank Holiday 3 May + TED 28 May	33
 SUMMER 2	Monday 7 June – Tuesday 20 July 2027 (TED: 21 July)	TED 21 July	32
TOTAL			190 DAYS



TED DAYS (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)

- Tuesday 1 September 2026
- Wednesday 2 September 2026
- Friday 18 December 2026
- Friday 28 May 2027
- Wednesday 21 July 2027



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- Half-term: 26 – 30 October 2026
- Christmas: 18 Dec 2026 – 3 Jan 2027
- Half-term: 15 – 19 February 2027
- Easter: 26 March – 11 April 2027
- Half-term: 28 May – 6 June 2027
(Bank Holiday: 31 May 2027)



UK BANK HOLIDAYS 2026-27

- Good Friday: 26 March 2027
- Easter Monday: 29 March 2027
- May Day: Monday 3 May 2027
- Spring Bank Holiday:
Monday 31 May 2027



Thank you for your continued support.
Please visit our school website or contact the school office for further information.



Family Support

Hello, let me introduce myself... 



I am a parent to two boys, who are now both at high school, so I understand that family life can bring both joys and challenges—especially in today's busy world. Sometimes, it can really help to have someone to walk alongside you during those more difficult times.



My background is in Early Years, and I have a wide range of experience supporting families with children of all ages. I am passionate about ensuring that parents and carers feel supported and empowered to be the very best they can be.



*My name is
Catherine Borlase
(although most people call me Cat).* 



I am here to offer a friendly, listening ear and a safe, supportive space to talk. I can meet with you face-to-face to discuss any concerns, offer guidance and reassurance, and help you think through possible next steps. I can also signpost you to additional services and support where needed, as well as help with making appointments or accessing advice.



*You don't
have to
do it alone.*



*Here to listen.
Here to support.
Here for
your family.*



If you would like to contact me directly, you can:



Call - **07881 595829**



Email -
family@kidderminsterbaptist.com

 *Every family matters. Every conversation counts.* 