



October 2025 Newsletter

This month's Values Education will be based around **Generosity & Thankfulness**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back to St Catherine's



What a joy it has been to welcome everyone back to St Catherine's for the start of another school year! The autumn term is already off to a busy and exciting start, and we are so looking forward to all the learning, fun, and achievements ahead.

A very warm welcome goes to all of our new families—whether your child has just joined us in Reception or has joined another year group. We're delighted you are part of our school family and hope your children quickly feel at home and enjoy everything St Catherine's has to offer. Our new Reception children have settled beautifully and have already impressed us with their enthusiasm and positive attitudes.

We also had a very special celebration last week when the Bishop visited school to present us with the **Silver Church Schools Award**. This award recognises the wonderful partnership between St Barnabas and St Catherine's, and it was such a proud moment for our school community.

Another highlight this month has been the amazing photographs of the **Birmingham Bull**. The pictures have been wonderful to see, and I've included a selection of our staff visiting our beautiful bull in this newsletter. We are thrilled that it will soon be returned to us—what a special symbol for our school!

This term we are also celebrating the appointment of our new School Council representatives, Play Leaders, Digital Leaders, Year 6 House Captains, and Sports Captains. These children will play an important part in school life, and we can't wait to see the fantastic contributions they will make.

There's plenty more information in this newsletter, so please do take a few moments to have a read. Don't forget you can also keep up to date with school news through our regularly updated website. If you have any questions, please do come and have a chat with me or a member of the leadership team on the path at drop-off or pick-up. You can also get in touch by email at office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk.

Kindest regards,
Amanda Cope - Headteacher



St Catherine's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Bishop Martin – Presenting the Church
School Award**

**Reverend Laura – St Barnabas Church,
Amanda Cope – Head teacher & Canon Tim
Reid – Diocese Director of Education**





Tours for parents/carers of Reception pupils due to start school in September 2026

Our annual Open Events, for the parents of new pupils who are looking to start at St. Catherine's in September 2026 are continuing. If you have a preschool child who is due to start school next year, please ask at the office for a time to visit us. Visits are not compulsory, if you already know that your younger children will be coming to join us at St. Catherine's. Please note that with a lower number of school age children in the locality we are taking children who are out of catchment. If you have neighbours or friends, who have children are due to start school in September 2026, please advise them to make an appointment to visit us - thank you.

It is now time to make applications for September 2026, both for starting at St. Catherine's and for Y6 pupils who will be starting at secondary school in September 2026. Applications must be made for Secondary Schools through the Local Authority System; places are not automatically allocated. To find information about school admissions and how to apply, either come into the school office or visit: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Harvest Festivals

We are pleased to announce that this year's parent/carer Harvest events will give you a chance to have fun and work with your child! The class events will be held in the **school hall** on the below dates:



- Reception – Friday 3rd October at 2.30pm
- Year 1 - Thursday 2nd October at 2.30pm
- Year 2 – Wednesday 1st October at 2.30pm
- Year 3 - Friday 10th October at 9.00am
- Year 4 - Wednesday 8th October at 9.00am
- Year 5 - Tuesday 7th October at 9.00am
- Year 6 - Monday 6th October at 9.00am

Family members are invited to attend their child's year group for a Harvest craft session, where the children will be making Harvest crafts. Parents/carers are invited to bring food donations to the craft sessions, your donations will be gratefully received and sent to the Wyre Forest food bank.



Parking Outside of School

Please can you ensure that you park safely around school if you are driving to drop off/pick up. Neighbours are reporting obstructive parking and some unsafe driving. It is important that all children are safe coming and going from St Catherine's and we appreciate your support with this.

Attendance/Lateness

We are closely monitoring attendance and lateness and will do this over the year. A reminder; **holidays in term time will not be authorised** due to the detrimental effect that this can have on children's education. Parents/carers whose children have five days of unauthorised absence or lateness within one term or take holidays during term-time will face a **fixed penalty notice**.

Flu Vaccine

All primary school children, will be offered the flu vaccine in order of school year (starting with the youngest first). The flu nasal spray will be used this year, which is usually given at school. Most young children will not have encountered flu yet. This means they will not have built up any natural immunity to this virus, so it is particularly important for them to take up the flu vaccine this year. The allocated date this will be offered in school is Friday 21st November. You will have received an email with information regarding this. Use this link for the consent form: <https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/worcestershire>



Photographs

Individual school photographs will be taken on Friday 10th October. If you would like to have photographs taken with siblings, who are not currently in school at St Catherine's, you may arrive between 8:00am and 8:30am on this day, at the DT/Science room, for a family photograph.

Black History Month

October is Black History Month in the UK. The aims of Black History Month are to:

- Promote knowledge of black history, culture and heritage
- Share information on positive black contributions to British society

These are aspects of our PSHE and wider curriculum all year round, and we at St Catherine's CE Primary School are marking Black History Month by recognising and valuing the inspirational individuals and events that have shaped communities. During Black History Month, we remember and celebrate the important people from the past and also those who contribute to and help our society today.



World Mental Health Day



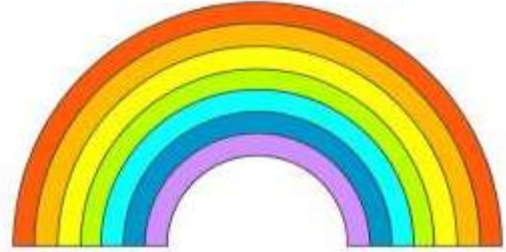
World Mental Health Day 2025 (Friday 10th October) is an opportunity for people and communities to unite behind the theme 'Mental health is a universal human right' to improve knowledge, raise awareness and take actions that promote and protect everyone's mental health.

This year's theme set by the World Federation for Mental Health is access to services - mental health in catastrophes and emergencies. The theme highlights the importance of people being able to protect their mental health whatever they're going through, because everyone deserves good mental health.

PTA - Rainbow Raffle

The PTA are hosting one event this half term. There will be a rainbow raffle collection Monday 13th October. Children are invited to come to school in non-uniform wearing either rainbow colours or the colour of their year group. Please do not buy any special clothes for this event!

Reception: **Red**
Year 1: **Orange**
Year 2: **Yellow**
Year 3: **Green**
Year 4: **Blue**
Year 5: **Purple**
Year 6: **Rainbow**



If you are able to donate any items we would be very grateful. Items welcome: sweets, chocolates, crisps, stationery, hair accessories, toiletries, soft & alcoholic drinks, books, games & new toys in the colour of your child's allocated year group.

Parent/teacher meetings

We will be holding parents' evenings in the week beginning the 20th October. These will be held on **Monday 20th October** and **Wednesday 22nd October** between **3:30pm and 6:30pm**. Bookings should be made using the Arbor App/Portal and this will go live at 7.00pm on Wednesday 1st October.

Christmas Dates 2025

We know how much some parents really appreciate knowing the Christmas dates as early as possible (to plan days off work), these will be shared with you very shortly.

Online Safety

Remember that you can subscribe to our Online Safety Hub for a wealth of resources, information and support to ensure that your children stay safe online. Visit our digital download letter for more information.

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/5haS3Spdp0PAmUOh?ref=Link>

Milk

If you would like to arrange for your child to have milk this term, please go to www.coolmilk.com. Pupils under the age of five are entitled to receive free milk in school; if your child is in reception and would like to continue receiving milk after his/her 5th birthday please visit the coolmilk website.



Message from the office staff



As you are aware we are now using Arbor. You will have received an invite to access this using the Arbor Website Portal or the Arbor App. Please contact the office if you have any queries regarding this.

We will now be using this for parent's evening bookings, trips and payments and you are able to use this to report an absence.

Could we ask you to check that the data we hold is accurate and use the App to notify us of any changes. We are communicating lots of information via email so please ensure we have the correct email address.



2026 National test dates:

Please note that pupils should not take leave of absence during test periods

Year 6 - The key stage 2 tests are timetabled:

For 2026, Year 6 Primary National Curriculum Tests (SATs) will take place from **Monday, 11 May to Thursday, 14 May 2026**.

- English grammar, punctuation and spelling on Monday 11 May,
- English reading on Tuesday 12 May,
- Mathematics on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 May.

Year 1 - Phonics screening week in Year 1 will commence on the week beginning Monday 8th June 2026

Year 4 - Multiplication Tests for Year 4 will be over a 2-week period from 1st June 2026

Year 6 Llanrug Dates and Year 4 Residential Dates

We are excited to be planning the residential trips for this academic year. The following dates have been booked:

Year 4 - Blackwell – Wednesday 6th – Friday 8th May

Year 6 – Llanrug – Wednesday 3rd – Friday 5th June

Year 4 have received an email regarding this and deposits should be paid by Monday 6th October.

Further information for year 6 will be sent home to parents/carers in due course.

Update on our recent fundraising



Thank you for support with our recent non-uniform day.

The page to make any donations is still available on the following link:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-catherines-ce-primary-school-2?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Holiday club

RB holiday camps run a holiday club provision through all school holidays except for the Christmas break. 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 8am – 5.30pm), 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.

No Smoking and No Vaping

We wish to remind parents that all schools are no smoking environments. Additionally, we respectfully ask you not to use vaporisers and electronic cigarettes on the school site. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

School Security

The safety and security of pupils, staff, and visitors is a top priority at St Catherine's. We have clear **policies and procedures in place** to ensure that the school remains a safe environment at all times.

This includes:

- Controlled access to the site during the school day.
- Regular staff training on emergency procedures.
- Clear lockdown and evacuation plans that are practised regularly.
- Close liaison with local authorities and emergency services.

While it is very unlikely that we would ever face a serious incident, such as a terrorist threat, we are fully prepared and have procedures in place to respond swiftly and effectively should this ever occur.

By working together with parents, staff, and the wider community, we can ensure that St Catherine's remains a safe, secure and supportive place for every child.

School uniform –2025-26

Autumn & Spring Term (October to March)

- White polo shirt (with or without logo)
- Royal blue jumper or cardigan (with or without logo)
- Black trousers (no leggings, no lycra)
- Black **knee length** skirt or pinafore (no lycra)
- White or black socks
- Black plain tights
- Flat black school shoes or plain black ankle boots (no knee high boots or coloured boots/trainers)

Summer & Autumn Term (April to September)

- White polo shirt (with or without logo)
- Light blue check summer dress (with or without logo)
- 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 or black closed toe low-heeled sandals (no coloured trainers or open toe sandals)

PE Kit (children to come to school in their PE kit on their PE day)

- Plain t-shirt in house colours (with or without school logo)
- Black shorts
- Black jogging bottoms (no leggings, no lycra)
- Black sweatshirt/hoodie (minimal logo showing)
- Royal blue fleece (with or without school logo) optional
- Black pumps or trainers (trainers need to be suitable for sports)
- White or black socks

	Expectations:
Hair	- Neat and tidy presentation - Long hair should be tied back - Hair bands should be discreet and in school colours - Short shaved hair should not include patterns or lines
General appearance	- No nail polish or false nails - No make-up or hair/lash extensions - Skirt length should be knee length - Shorts should be of an appropriate length for both modesty and sporting suitability
Jewellery	- Ear piercings - a single, small stud may be worn in the lobe of each ear - No tattoos or other body art (including temporary) - Where other jewellery is required for health or religious reasons we ask that you discuss this with your child's class teacher

School Uniform

Local Uniform Suppliers

We have an arrangement with the following two local services.

1. Empire Embroidery

Please use the link below for online uniform orders. Your orders can be collected from the address below or posted to your address.

<https://empireembroidery.co.uk/product-category/web-stores/>

The company's address is - Empire Embroidery Ltd, Unit 47, Meadow Mill Industrial Estate, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY10 1HH

Telephone: 01562 751270 Email: sales@empireembroidery.co.uk

Their office hours are - Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm, closed Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays



2. TM Embroidery (Midlands) Ltd

This company are able to embroider our school logo onto plain uniform that you purchase and drop off to them & then collect.

The company's address is – 26 Coppice Trading Estate, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY11 7QY.

Telephone: 01562 861064 Email: info@tmemboidery.co.uk

Their office hours are - Monday – Thursday 8am – 5pm, closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays



Online orders can still be made through School Trends using the link below:

https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/St_Catherines_Primary_School_DY11_5HP



Term dates 2025 – 2026

	Holidays - School closes on	School re-opens on
Autumn mid term	Friday 24 th October 2025	Monday 3 rd November 2025 – Pupils back
Christmas	Thursday 18 th December 2025	Monday 5 th January 2026 – Pupils back
Spring mid-term	Friday 13 th February 2026	Monday 23 rd February 2026 – Pupils back
Easter	Friday 27 th March 2026	Monday 13 th April 2026 - Pupils back
Summer mid-term	Thursday 21 st May 2026	Monday 1 st June 2026 – Pupils back
End of summer term	Thursday 16 th July 2026	

Upcoming bank holidays in England and Wales 2025 - 26

Date	Day of the week	Bank holiday
25 December	Thursday	Christmas Day
26 December	Friday	Boxing Day
1 January	Thursday	New Year's Day
3 April	Friday	Good Friday
6 April	Monday	Easter Monday
4 May	Monday	Early May bank holiday
25 May	Monday	Spring bank holiday
31 August	Monday	Summer bank holiday





St Catherine's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WORCESTERSHIRE
FAMILY HUBS

Brookside Family Hub - Autumn Term Timetable (2025)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Stay and Play 9.30 - 11 am Suitable for babies and children aged 0 - 5 years No need to book, just turn up!	Breast Buddies Peer Support Group 10 - 11.30 am To book your place email whcnhs.breastfeeding.support@nhs.net	Midwife Clinic Booked appointments	Midwife Clinic Booked appointments	Speech & Language Booked appointments
Well Child Clinic 9.30 am to 3 pm Bookable appointment with a Community Nursery Nurse To book call 01905 520032	Men United Dad's and Male Caregivers Peer Support Group every other Tuesday 1 - 3 pm No need to book, just turn up!	Birth and Beyond 9.30 - 11.30 am A 4 week preparation for parenthood group for first-time parents Running on a monthly basis A bookable programme, to book call 01562 827207	Time for Baby Stay and Play 10 - 11 am A postnatal stay and play group for newborn and non-movers and parents/carers. No need to book, just turn up!	Kinship Carers Peer Support Group 9.30 - 11.30 am Second Friday of each month
Physiotherapy Drop-in 9.30 - 11 am 1 st Monday of each month For parents/carers with children aged 0 - 5 years with concerns around their child's motor skills	Find us on Facebook...  Family Hubs - Wyre Forest  	SEND Peer Support Group 1 - 2.30 pm For parents/carers of children and young people with additional needs 2 nd and 4 th Wednesday of the month	Understanding Your Child A bookable group for parents 12 - 2 pm 18/09/25 - 23/11/25 (not including half term)	You can book onto any bookable course using the link and QR code: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/groups 
Understanding Your Child / Teen A bookable group for parents 5 - 7 pm 03/11/2025 - 02/02/2026 (not including Christmas holidays)		Twin Time 1 - 2.30 pm A group for twins and multiples, every other Wednesday	Some groups and services are provided by external partners / agencies and are subject to change www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyhubs	

Healthy Steps

Starting 31st October 2025
Fridays 10 - 11.30 am
Brookside Family Hub

WORCESTERSHIRE
FAMILY HUBS



- Session 1 - Eating Well
- Session 2 - Cooking Well
- Session 3 - Children's oral health
- Session 4 - The importance of sleep
- Session 5 - Getting active



5 week rolling programme.
No need to book all sessions just the one of interest.

For more information and to register your interest call 01562 827207 or ask in reception.

 Find us on Facebook... Family Hubs - Wyre Forest

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/FamilyHubs





Understanding your Child/Teen

3rd November 2025 to 2nd February 2026
5.00pm - 7.00pm

WORCESTERSHIRE
FAMILY HUBS



This group is suitable for families with children and young people aged 8 to 19 years old.

10 weekly sessions, covering development needs, having fun, communication, parenting styles, attachment, sleep, behaviour difficulties, bullying, relationships and why your teenage behaves the way they do.

Venue: Brookside Family Hub, Bonington Road, Kidderminster, DY10 3ED

To book your place please scan the QR code or visit
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EZIU>. For any queries please email admin.wyreforest@barnardos.org.uk or call 01562 827207.



www.worcestershire.gov.uk/FamilyHubs







St Catherine's
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TREAT or TREAT!



Alternative Halloween Event



Book your place using QR code or
on our website -
www.kidderminsterbaptist.com

Activities - Refreshments - Hot Dogs - Games - Crafts
31st October - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. (Drop in anytime)



St Catherine's
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WYRE FOREST
FoodBank

St Catherine's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Please join us for our **HARVEST** Class Craft Events

Parents or family members are invited on:

- YEAR 2 - WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2.30PM
- YEAR 1 - THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2.30PM
- RECEPTION - FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2.30PM

- YEAR 6 - MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER 9.00AM
- YEAR 5 - TUESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 9.00AM
- YEAR 4 - WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 9.00AM
- YEAR 3 - FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER 9.00AM

**PLEASE BRING ANY
DONATIONS WITH YOU**

**SUGGESTED ITEMS INCLUDE: TINNED FOOD (POTATOES,
VEGETABLES, SPAM, CORNED BEEF, PIES)
PASTA OR CURRY SAUCES**

**THANK
YOU**