



July 2026 Newsletter

This month's Values Education will be based around **Respect & Truthfulness**.

Dear Parents and Carers,



As we approach the end of another busy and successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school community. It has been another memorable month at St Catherine's, filled with exciting learning opportunities, celebrations and achievements.

Ofsted Inspection - I would like to thank all parents and carers for your support during our recent Ofsted inspection. Your encouragement, positive feedback and continued partnership with the school are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank our incredible staff, governors and pupils, whose hard work and dedication were evident throughout the inspection process. We are extremely proud of how our whole school community represented St Catherine's. We look forward to being able to share the published inspection report with you at the beginning of the Autumn Term once it has been released.

Hot Weather - We have experienced an unprecedented spell of hot weather over the past few weeks, with forecasts suggesting that the warm conditions are likely to continue. Please continue to support us by ensuring that your child:

- Brings a named water bottle to school every day.
- Wears a sun hat or cap when outdoors.
- Has sun cream applied before arriving at school.
- Wears summer uniform.



During periods of extreme heat, we will continue to adapt the school day where necessary. This may include moving activities indoors, increasing opportunities for drinking water, using shaded areas for playtimes and making sensible adjustments to sporting activities to ensure everyone remains safe.

Thank You - I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers for your understanding and flexibility with the changes we made to our Sports Day events due to the weather. We were delighted that our delayed Sports Day events proved to be such a success. It was wonderful to see our pupils demonstrating determination, teamwork and excellent sportsmanship while families cheered them on.



Thank you also to everyone who supported our Summer Fair. Whether you attended, donated prizes, helped organise stalls or volunteered your time, your contribution made the event a tremendous success. Special thanks go to all of our PTA and volunteers, whose generosity, enthusiasm and commitment helped create such a fantastic afternoon.

A Busy Month of Learning - It has been another exciting few weeks at St Catherine's, with pupils enjoying a wide range of learning experiences beyond the classroom. Our school choir proudly represented St Catherine's at the

Three Counties Show, performing beautifully and showcasing the confidence, talent and enthusiasm of our pupils. They were wonderful ambassadors for our school, and we are incredibly proud of them.

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed their educational visit to the Stourbridge Glass Museum, where they learned about the fascinating history of glass making through engaging workshops and activities. Meanwhile, our Year 2 pupils had a fantastic day exploring Hartlebury Castle, bringing their learning to life through hands-on experiences and discovering more about local history.



Our Year 6 residential was a tremendous success. The children embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, resilience and determination, making the very most of every opportunity throughout the trip. Their behaviour, manners and positive attitudes were exemplary, and they were a real credit to St Catherine's. Staff received many compliments about the children's kindness, respect and willingness to support one another. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they challenged themselves with new experiences and created memories that will last a lifetime.

A huge thank you goes to the staff who gave up their time to make the residential possible. We are delighted that our Year 6 pupils had such

an enjoyable and memorable experience.

Welcoming Our New Reception Families - This week we are delighted to welcome our new Reception children and their families to school for our Stay and Play sessions. These visits are an important first step in helping our newest members of the St Catherine's family become familiar with their new surroundings, meet staff and begin building friendships. We look forward to getting to know each and every one of them and are excited to welcome them officially in September.



Attendance at St Catherine's CE Primary School - Strong attendance remains a key priority at St Catherine's, as we know that regular attendance has a significant impact on children's academic achievement, wellbeing, and social development. We would like to thank all families for their continued support in ensuring children attend school regularly and arrive punctually each day. This will be a continued focus and priority in 2026-27.

Transition Day - Our whole-school Transition Day will take place on Wednesday 8th July. This is always an exciting day in the school calendar as pupils spend time with their new teachers and classmates ahead of September. We know that change can sometimes feel exciting and sometimes a little worrying, but our staff work hard to ensure every child feels confident and ready for September.

These sessions help children feel confident and prepared for the next stage of their learning journey, and we know they are looking forward to meeting their new teachers and spending time in their new classrooms.

A Final Thank You

As we come to the end of another wonderful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of our St Catherine's family for the part you have played in making this such a successful year.

To our pupils, thank you for your enthusiasm, kindness and determination. You continue to amaze us with your resilience, your willingness to learn and the way you care for one another. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership throughout the year. Whether attending events, supporting learning at home, volunteering your time or simply working alongside us each day, your support makes a real difference to the life of our school.



To our dedicated staff and governors, thank you for your unwavering commitment to providing the very best education and care for every child. Your passion, professionalism and teamwork ensure that St Catherine's continues to be a place where children flourish academically, socially and spiritually.

A Special Thank You - As we come to the end of the academic year, we also say farewell to several much-valued members of our staff team.



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Miss Sian Nolan**, who leaves us to begin her first Headship. Miss Nolan has made an enormous contribution to St Catherine's through her dedication to our pupils, staff and curriculum. Her passion for teaching and learning, commitment to inclusion and inspirational leadership have helped shape our school over many years. We know she will be an outstanding Headteacher and wish her every success in this exciting new chapter.

We also wish **Mrs Catherine Brogan** every success as she takes up a Headship secondment. Mrs Brogan has been an integral part of St Catherine's for many years, serving our school community with exceptional care, compassion and commitment. Her leadership, particularly in safeguarding, Early Years and supporting families, has had a lasting impact on so many children and colleagues. We know she will be a wonderful Headteacher, and we are incredibly proud to see her embark on this well-deserved opportunity.



This year we also say a fond farewell to **Mrs Sally Shipley**, who retires after a long and successful career in education. Sally has inspired generations of children through her dedication and commitment to helping every child achieve their very best. We thank her for the many years she has devoted to education and wish her a long, healthy and happy retirement filled with new adventures.

Finally, we say goodbye to **Mrs Julie McNeill**, who is also retiring this summer. Mrs McNeill has been a valued member of our support staff, making a difference every day through her kindness and unwavering care for our children. We thank her for everything she has given to St Catherine's and wish her every happiness and good health as she begins this exciting new chapter.

Although we will miss each of these wonderful colleagues enormously, they leave with our deepest gratitude, warmest wishes and the love of the entire St Catherine's family. We hope they will always remain part of our school community and look forward to hearing about their future successes.

Congratulations, Miss Arnold!

We would like to wish Miss Arnold our very best wishes as she prepares to get married this summer. We hope she and Mr Grazier have a wonderful wedding day and a very happy future together. Miss Arnold will return to school in September 2026 with her new married name, **Mrs Grazier**.

To Our Year 6 Pupils - To our Year 6 pupils, we wish you every success as you move on to secondary school. You leave St Catherine's with wonderful memories, lifelong friendships and the confidence, resilience and values to embrace the exciting opportunities ahead. We are immensely proud of everything you have achieved during your time with us and know that you will continue to flourish. Remember that you will always be part of the St Catherine's family, and we hope you will come back and share your future successes with us.

Wishing You a Wonderful Summer - Finally, I hope that all of our families enjoy a happy, safe and restful summer holiday. Whether you are travelling away or enjoying time closer to home, I hope you are able to spend precious time together making special memories. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Thursday 3rd September**, refreshed, ready to learn and excited for another fantastic year together. On behalf of all of the staff and governors at St Catherine's CE Primary School, thank you for another exceptional year.

Kindest Regards,
Mrs Amanda Cope
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

Every Day Counts!

Target – **96%** or above

Our current attendance figures for the 2025–2026 academic year are:



Reception

95.7%



Year 1

95.8%



Year 2

96.1%



TARGET
ACHIEVED!



Year 3

94.6%



Year 4

95.9%



Year 5

96.0%



TARGET
ACHIEVED!



Year 6

95.0%



Well done to
Year 2 and Year 5
who have reached
this year's target!



Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.



Year 4 Young Leaders Making a Difference!

Our Year 4 Young Leaders have been hard at work preparing for an exciting new play project, which will launch in September. They have successfully secured funding from the PTA and arranged for wheelie bins to be generously donated by WFDC. These bins have now been set up as a **permanent donation station** outside the **DT room**, where the school community can drop off donations for our play project throughout the year.



We hope you will support this exciting initiative by donating any suitable loose parts or play resources. We welcome a wide range of items, from old pots, pans and kitchen utensils for our mud kitchens, to dressing-up clothes, wellies, and other open-ended play resources that children can enjoy.

I hope that many of you saw our Young Leaders at the end of the school day on **Thursday 2nd July**, when they spoke to members of the school community about the issue of dog fouling on Marlpool Lane. This is a cause they feel very passionate about, and they have been working hard to raise awareness and promote positive change with the support of local councillors and WFDC. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, commitment, and determination to make a positive difference both in school and in the wider community.

Many thanks, Mrs Jones





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

Summer Term

KEY DATES

= for your diary! =



PARENT EVENTS AND CELEBRATION DAYS THIS TERM:

Summer term class parent events:

- Year 6 – Leavers Show –
Wednesday 15th July (6pm-7pm)



TRIPS AND VISITS OUT OF SCHOOL THIS TERM:

- Reception – Acorns TBC
- Year 1 – Bishops Wood – Tuesday 14th July
- Year 5 – Hartlebury water park –
Monday 13th July



IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 8th July –
Whole school transition afternoon
(1.00pm – 3.00pm)



NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

Y6 SATs results will be shared
on the last day of term –
Thursday 16th July 2026



END OF YEAR REPORTS

Reports will be shared electronically
via our Arbor system on the
last week of term.



YEAR 6 LEAVERS EVENTS

- Enterprise event
- Leavers play
- Leavers afternoon celebration

Congratulations
CLASS OF
2026!

*Thank you for your continued support.
We look forward to a happy and memorable end to the school year!*



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.* 

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.



Our safeguarding team is:

- **DSL:** Mrs Brogan (Deputy Headteacher)
- **Deputy DSLs:** Mrs Cope, Miss Nolan, Mr Medcalf, Mrs Barnes & Mrs Edwards



If you are concerned about a child's welfare, please call the school office on:

01562 823614

to speak to a member of the safeguarding team
(8am – 4pm daily in term time).



Safeguarding out of school hours:

- **Worcestershire Family Front Door** – 01905 822666
(Mon–Thu 9am–5pm; Fri 9am–4.30pm)
- **Emergency Duty Team** – 01905 768020
(24hrs 7 days a week)
- Copies of our Safeguarding Policy are available on the school website.



Inclusion & SEND in September 2026

- **Mrs Jones** will be our **Inclusion Leader** from September. Her role involves working with children, staff, parents, and outside agencies to support pupils.
- **Mrs Barnes** is our **SENCO** (Special Educational Needs Coordinator). She works alongside external agencies, teachers and support staff to help meet the needs of pupils in school.
- To contact Mrs Jones & Mrs Barnes email: office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk or phone: **01562 823614**



Safeguarding and Safety:

Children should remain with their adults on site. Please do not allow children to run or ride scooters. We also ask families to follow our no-smoking, no-vaping and no-filming policies while on school grounds.



Working together to keep children safe, happy and ready to learn. 



School uniform – Summer Term 2026



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 trainers or open toe sandals)



To ensure children are fully prepared and comfortable for their lessons, please send your child to school wearing their full PE kit on their allocated PE day, as shown below:



Monday	Year 3
Tuesday	Year 6
Wednesday	Year 2 And Year 5S
Thursday	Year 1 and Year 5M
Friday	Reception and Year 4

The summer term PE kit should include:

- A plain t-shirt in house colours (with or without the school logo)
- Black shorts (these should not be lycra, e.g. cycling shorts or hot pants)
- A 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.

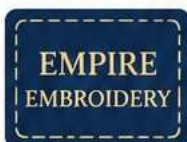


Non branded uniform can be purchased from any high street store.



For non-compulsory branded uniform:

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



Thank you for your support in helping us maintain high standards and a smart, consistent school uniform.





St Catherine's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM DATES

2026



Holidays - School closes on		School re-opens on
End of summer term	Thursday 16th July 2026	Thursday 3rd September 2026 – Pupils back Y1-Y6

Upcoming bank holidays in England and Wales 2026-27

Date	Day of the week	Bank holiday
31st August 2026	Monday	Summer bank holiday
25th December 2026	Friday	Christmas Day
28th December 2026	Monday	Boxing Day (substitute day)
1st January 2027	Friday	New Year's Day
26th March 2027	Friday	Good Friday
29 March 2027	Monday	Easter Monday
3rd May 2027	Monday	Early May Bank Holiday
31st May 2027	Monday	Spring Bank Holiday
30th August 2027	Monday	Summer Bank Holiday



Term dates 2026 - 2027

	Holidays - School closes on	School re-opens on
 Autumn term		- Thursday 3rd September 2026 – Pupils back Y1-Y6 (Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th Sept - Reception transition days) - Monday 7th September 2026 – Reception pupils full time
 Autumn half-term	Friday 23rd October 2026	Monday 2nd November 2026 – Pupils back
	Thursday 17th December 2026	Monday 4th January 2027 – Pupils back
 Spring mid-term	Friday 12th February 2027	Monday 22nd February 2027 – Pupils back
 Easter	Thursday 25th March 2027	Monday 12th April 2027 – Pupils back
 Summer mid-term	Thursday 27th May 2027	Monday 7th June 2027 – Pupils back
 End of summer term	Tuesday 20th July 2027	



*Learning together, growing in faith,
with our heads, hearts and hands.*



After School Group : Schools Out!

Best Start Family Hub Brookside

Tuesday 7th July - 3.15pm - 4.45pm



School's Out for Summer! 🎉

Join us for our Summer Send-Off Party featuring tasty food, exciting party games, and a chance to celebrate the end of the school year in style!

Come along and spend some time with your child.

This FREE group is for all Primary School aged children, younger siblings welcome.



Places MUST be booked using the QR code

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyhubs

BARNARD'S



WORCESTERSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

MASTERPIECE MAKER - Children's Festival 2026



This year's Children's Festival is called Masterpiece Maker and celebrates art, creativity, colour, and imagination as we realise that we are "God's masterpiece" (Ephesians 2.10). There will be FREE family events across our churches between 12th and 24th July.

There are tons of different events with something for different ages and interests - from a games morning, messy play, art sessions, bug hunting in the churchyard, outdoor trails or online reflections - you are really welcome to come and join the fun! EVERY festival event is FREE and will include free snacks and drinks for those attending.

Scroll down to see details of each individual festival event. Events are taking place across all of our six churches, so please note the venue as well as the time and date. The only event to require booking is the Wildlife Discovery event in St John's Churchyard on Thursday 23rd July. For all other events, you are welcome to just turn up.

Events are suitable for all ages. All events are FREE of charge; children must be accompanied by an adult.

A group of children and adults are posing in a church, some with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. They are wearing purple t-shirts with 'POP' written on them. The background shows church stained glass windows and a screen displaying text.

POP UP Church

Sunday 19 July 3pm-4pm
@ St John's Church, DY116RL
High energy family worship with singing, dancing, game, craft, snacks. FREE event.



Imagination Station

Messy Play & Craft Workshops!

Thursday 23 July 10am-12noon **FREE**
@ St John's Church, DY116RL

Sand, water, ice, playdoh, colouring, chalk, soft play, bricks, café.
Workshops: magic torch art, watercolour painting, keyring making.

Messy Church

The Snail & the Whale

Sunday 12 July 3pm-4.30pm
@ St Peter's Church, DY117EJ

Crafts, activities, games, interactive singing and stories. **FREE** event.




Little Fishes

Summer Party!

FREE event

Tuesday 21 July
9.30am-11am
@ St Peter's Church, DY117EJ

Toys for little ones, crafts for older ones, outdoor play, snacks, singing and stories for everyone!

Games Cafe

Monday 20 July 10am-12noon
@ St John's Church, DY116RL

Board games, card games, table games, bricks,
baby zone, café and colouring. FREE event.



The Praise Maze

The Potter's House!

Wednesday 22 July 1.30pm-3pm
@ Holy Innocents' Church, DY116LA

Interactive music, singing, stories, props, puppets,
bubbles, play, snacks and craft. FREE event.



Coffee Morning

PLUS CREATIVE ARTS FOR ALL AGES!

Wednesday 22 July 10.30am-12noon
@ Holy Innocents' Church, DY116LA

Enjoy coffee and cake. Join the creative arts
group or children's arts. FREE event.

Masterpiece Trail

At St Mary's!

Tuesday 21 July 1pm-3pm
@ St Mary's Church, DY102JN

Crafts, activities, and a Children's Trail to help families explore this beautiful church!



For the Imagination Station event above, messy play is suitable for all ages. The workshops are suitable for those aged 3+ due to small parts.

Wildlife Discovery

Thursday 23 July 2pm-4pm
@ St John's Church, DY116RL

Join the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust to go bug hunting in the churchyard
FREE but booking required— email
teamvicar.kwtm@gmail.com



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust



For the Wildlife Discovery event above you will need to book a place so that we have enough equipment for those attending. Please email teamvicar.kwtm@gmail.com or text 07427766054 with numbers of adults and children attending.

Outdoor Trails

FREE, self-guided "Masterpiece Maker!" trails:

19-25 July @ St John's Church, DY116RL

19-25 July @ Holy Trinity Church, DY121NZ (plus
a prayer activity in church)



YOUTube fun!

Scan for our YouTube Channel—watch the Masterpiece Maker videos from 19 July!

Questions about any event or venue? Accessibility queries? Food allergies? Email—teamvicar.kwtm@gmail.com
Tel—01562 228712



We can't wait to welcome you for a fantastic festival!

Messy Church

Workshop of Wonders!



Friday 24 July 10am-12noon
@ St Barnabas' Hall, DY115JW

Crafts, activities, art, refreshments, interactive
singing and stories. FREE event.



Join us for a Messy Church service exploring the story of creation! With crafts, activities, games, singing and story, there is something here for everyone! Come and be creative. Part of our 2026 children's festival.

There is no charge for this event, and no need to book - just come along. Everyone is welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.