



June 2026 Newsletter

This month's Values Education will be based around **Hope & Faith**.

Dear Parents and Carers,



I hope you all enjoyed a restful half-term break and had the opportunity to enjoy the recent warm and summery weather. Although May has been a shorter half term, it has been an extremely busy and productive month at St Catherine's, filled with opportunities for learning, personal development, enrichment, and achievement across the school.

At the beginning of the month, our **Year 5 pupils** took part in Anti-Bullying Ambassador training in partnership with our

local cluster schools. We are proud that every Year 5 pupil is now a fully trained Anti-Bullying Ambassador. Throughout the training, pupils demonstrated maturity, empathy, and a strong sense of responsibility towards supporting the wellbeing of others. This work forms an important part of our commitment to promoting positive relationships, pupil leadership, and a safe and inclusive school environment. Pupils are now beginning to plan and lead their first ambassador projects, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact of this work across the school community.



Year 4 enjoyed a highly successful residential visit to Blackwell Adventure in Bromsgrove. The visit provided pupils with a wide range of opportunities to develop resilience, teamwork, independence, and confidence through activities such as climbing, crate stacking, high ropes, and go-karting. Staff were extremely impressed by the pupils' courage, behaviour, and willingness to challenge themselves throughout the visit. Residential experiences such as these play an important role in supporting pupils' personal development and wider life experiences.

This month, St Catherine's also participated in the KPSA Maths Competition. We would like to thank our Year 5 pupils who represented the school so positively. The children demonstrated excellent collaboration, mathematical reasoning, and perseverance throughout the competition, and they were fantastic ambassadors for our school values.



Across the school, pupils have continued to access a broad and engaging curriculum. **Reception pupils** enjoyed biscuit making as part of their learning, while **Year 3 pupils** created seasonal tarts, developing practical skills alongside their understanding of nutrition and food preparation. These opportunities support the development of independence, creativity, and real-life application of learning.

We are incredibly proud of our **Year 6 pupils**, who approached their KS2 SATs assessments with confidence, maturity, and determination. Throughout the assessment period, pupils demonstrated resilience, positive attitudes, and a strong commitment to doing their very best. Regardless of outcomes, we are exceptionally proud of the effort and progress they have shown throughout their time at St Catherine's, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements when results are shared in July.



During May, we also celebrated our **whole-school Arts Days**, which focused on exploring British Values through creativity and expression. Each year group produced thoughtful and engaging artwork linked to themes such as democracy, mutual respect, tolerance, individual liberty, and the rule of law. The high-quality outcomes are proudly displayed throughout the school and reflect pupils' understanding of these important values, as well as the strength of our wider curriculum.

To conclude the month, pupils from every year group participated in our Charity Colour Run in support of the children's chosen charity, WellChild. The event was full of energy, enthusiasm, and teamwork and provided a wonderful opportunity for the whole school community to come together. WellChild is a national charity that supports children and young people with complex medical needs and their families. We are proud of the compassion and social responsibility shown by our pupils in supporting such an important cause.



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.



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

- **Reception:** 95.7%
- **Year 1:** 95.8%
- **Year 2:** 96.4%
- **Year 3:** 95.1%
- **Year 4:** 96.3%
- **Year 5:** 96.3%
- **Year 6:** 95.5%

We are pleased that attendance across the school remains strong, with several year groups achieving above national expectations. Congratulations goes to **Year 2, Year 4 & Year 5**, who currently have the highest attendance in school.

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

Kind regards,
Amanda Cope
Headteacher

Latest Staff News



We are very pleased to announce that **Mr Medcalf** has been appointed as our permanent **Deputy Headteacher** with responsibility for Curriculum and Achievement, starting in September 2026. We are delighted that Mr Medcalf will be stepping into this role and know that he will continue to make a significant contribution to the life of the school through his dedication, leadership, and commitment to ensuring the very best outcomes for our children.

Following the recent news that **Mrs Brogan** will be taking on the role of Interim Headteacher at Ombersley Endowed First School for a one-year secondment, we have made a number of internal staffing appointments to ensure continuity and continued support for our children, families, and staff team during this period:

- **Mrs Jones** has been appointed as our Interim Inclusion Deputy and will undertake this role for two days each week.
- **Mrs Stevens** has been appointed as our Interim Deputy for Attendance and Behaviour and will carry out this role for one day per week.
- **Miss Hill** has been appointed as our Interim Early Years Leader.

These appointments reflect the strength, experience, and commitment of our staff team, and we are grateful to these colleagues for stepping into these important leadership roles.



We are also delighted to welcome two new teachers to our team in September 2026:

Ms Nickson will be joining us as our **Key Stage 2 Phase Leader** and class teacher. Ms Nickson brings with her a wealth of experience from a local primary school and has a strong understanding of what makes high-quality teaching and learning. She is passionate about ensuring that all pupils receive the very best opportunities to thrive, succeed, and achieve their full potential, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming her to our school community.

We are also very pleased that **Mr Grainger** will be joining us in September. Mr Grainger brings with him a wide range of interests, including a strong enthusiasm for sports, alongside a genuine passion for teaching and supporting children to achieve their best. We know he will make a valuable contribution to school life and quickly become an important part of our team.

We know that both our existing staff and our new appointments will continue to make a valuable contribution to school life, and we look forward to working with them in their new roles over the coming year.



St Catherine's Smart Phone and Social media parent group



We have now held two parent meetings focused on how we can work together to improve children's safety, wellbeing, and emotional health through the careful management of smartphone and social media use. Parents who attended found the sessions extremely informative and appreciated the opportunity to share experiences, concerns, and practical advice while supporting one another in navigating what can often feel like a very challenging and complex issue for families.

As part of these discussions, parents shared concerns that difficulties can arise when children are not following the school's mobile phone policy. In particular, some children are accessing, showing, or sharing content with friends before and after school on the school site. Parents/carers are asked to remind children regularly about the expectations within our mobile phone policy. School staff will also revisit these principles with pupils.

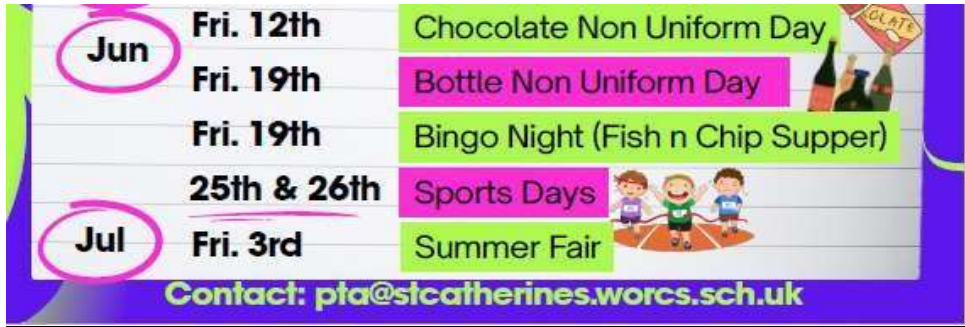
We are committed to continuing these parent support meetings and hope that even more families will join us in future. By working together as a school community, we can better support one another and help reduce the negative impact that smartphones and social media can sometimes have on children's wellbeing, relationships, learning, and safety.

Details of the next meeting will be shared shortly, and we very much hope you will be able to join us.

We would also remind you to watch out for the Digital Download newsletter sent to parents/carers each month and has the latest news about apps, games and technology and is filled with helpful advice and tips about keeping children safe around technology.

Many thanks, Mrs Brogan and Mr Mottershead

Summer Term key dates for your diary:

Parent events and celebration days this term:	Parent information sessions - Monday 8th June – New Reception parents meeting (5.00pm – 6.00pm) Summer term class parent events: - Reception – Tuesday 2nd June – (9.00am – 9.40am) - Year 1 – Wednesday 3rd June – (9.00am – 9.40am) - Year 2 – Thursday 4th June (9.00am – 9.40am) - Year 3 – Monday 15th June– (9.00am – 9.40am) - Year 4 – Tuesday 16th June – (9.00am – 9.40am) - Year 5 – Wednesday 17th June – (9.00am – 9.40am) - Year 6 – Leavers Show – Wednesday 15th July (6pm-7pm)
Sports Day	Thursday 25th June – Sports Day (Reception & Y1) - 9am – 10.30pm Thursday 25th June - Sports Day (Y2 & Y3) - 11.00am – 12.30pm Friday 26th June - Sports Day (Y4, Y5 & Y6) - 9am – 12.30pm <i>Back up Sports Day dates (in case of bad wet weather):</i> - Thursday 2nd July – Sports Day (Reception & Y1) - 9am – 10.30pm - Thursday 2nd July - Sports Day (Y2 & Y3) - 11.00am – 12.30pm - Friday 3rd July - Sports Day (Y4, Y5 & Y6) - 9am – 12.30pm
Trips and visits out of school this term:	- Reception – Acorns – Friday 26th June - Churchfields Farm - Reception – Chestnuts – Monday 29th June - Churchfields Farm - Year 1 – Tuesday 14th July - Bishops Wood - Year 2 – Wednesday 1st July - Hartlebury Castle - Year 3 – 3CB Wednesday 17th June – Stourbridge Glass Museum - Year 3 – 3NJ Wednesday 24th June – Stourbridge Glass Museum - Year 5 - Upton Warren trip – date to be confirmed - Year 6 – Wednesday 3rd June 2026 - Friday 5th June 2026 – Llanrug residential More details will follow about other year group trips and visits in due course.
Upcoming PTA Events:	 The image is a colorful PTA events calendar for June and July. It lists the following events: Jun Fri. 12th: Chocolate Non Uniform Day Fri. 19th: Bottle Non Uniform Day Fri. 19th: Bingo Night (Fish n Chip Supper) 25th & 26th: Sports Days Jul Fri. 3rd: Summer Fair At the bottom, it provides the contact information: Contact: pta@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk Information regarding PTA events will be shared via the PTA app – Class list. Classlist is completely free and it's easy to get started even before you get your invitation: 1. Download the Classlist app on iOS or Android 2. Select ("school name") 3. Sign up. You can choose what data to share with your fellow parents.
In school activities	Wednesday 8th July – Whole school transition afternoon (1.00pm – 3.00pm)
National Assessments	- Y1 Phonics Screening – Monday 8th June 2026 (2 week period) - Y4 Multiplication Tables Check – Monday 1st June – Friday 12th June 2026 Families are politely asked not to request leave of absence during the national test weeks.

Family Support - Hello, let me introduce myself...

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

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.

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

- **Call - 07881 595829**
- **Email - family@kidderminsterbaptist.com**

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

- Mrs Brogan is the Inclusion Leader at our school. 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 Brogan & 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.

Contacting Staff

Your child's class teacher should always be your first point of contact for both academic and pastoral matters. Brief messages can be shared at the start or end of the day; however, for longer conversations, please arrange an appointment via the school office: office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk or call 01562 823614

For more serious or unresolved concerns, please contact the Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher via the school office. We value your feedback and welcome your suggestions. Please share any concerns early so that we can work together to resolve them.



Children and Adolescent
Mental Health Services
Herefordshire and Worcestershire

WELLBEING AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TEAMS

Parents online Workshop

**Building resilience
in your child.**

Run by the NHS's
Wellbeing and
Emotional
Support in schools
team. (WEST)

**On the 2nd of June,
Online, on Teams:**

**From:
1pm to 2pm**

Who is it for:

Parent who want to
learn more about

How stress affects
children and young
people

How you can support
your child to build
resilience and
improve their
wellbeing.

Join on Teams

Meeting ID:
391 708 672 432 8

Passcode: T7wQ9ip7

www.camhs.hacw.nhs.uk/west

Provided by Herefordshire and Worcestershire
Health and Care NHS Trust

Attendance and Lateness

We will continue to closely monitor attendance and punctuality throughout the year. As a reminder, holidays during term time cannot be authorised due to the negative impact on children's learning.

Parents and carers should be aware that where a child has five days of unauthorised absence or repeated lateness within a term, or where holidays are taken during term time, a fixed penalty notice may be issued.

School Organisation and Reminders:

- **School gates open:** 8:30am
- **Start of the school day:** 8:40am
- **Finish times:**
Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 – 3:10pm
Year 3 to Year 6 – 3:15pm

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.

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 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

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



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



St Barnabas Church, Franche - June 2026



We are all very much looking forward to welcoming St Catherine's for their Leavers' Services later this term. These services are always a special and meaningful occasion as we gather together to celebrate the children's time at the school, reflect on their journey so far, and pray for them as they prepare for the exciting transition to the next stage of their education. As part of the services, we are especially looking forward to seeing the children's summer prayers, which will be displayed inside the church for visitors and members of the community to enjoy. Every year, people comment on how thoughtful, creative, and moving these prayers

are, and they provide a wonderful reminder of the faith, hopes, and aspirations of our young people. The church is **open every Sunday from 9:00am to 11:00am** should families wish to come along and view the displays for themselves.



We would also like to warmly invite everyone to our weekly coffee mornings, which take place every **Wednesday from 10:00am until midday**. These mornings provide a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages to meet together in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Alongside tea, coffee, biscuits, and friendly conversation, there are a range of crafts and activities available to take part in, and guests are very welcome to bring along their own knitting, sewing, or craft projects too. Whether you would simply like a chat, a warm drink, or the chance to meet new people within the community, you will always receive a warm welcome. Everything is completely free of charge, and we would be delighted to see you there.

Messy Church will be taking place on **24th July 2026 from 10:00am until midday** in St Barnabas Church Community Hall, opposite the church. Messy Church is a fun, informal, and family-friendly event designed to bring people together through creativity, crafts, games, worship, and refreshments. We always try to ensure there is something for everyone to enjoy, whether you are attending as a family, with friends, or simply curious to come along and join in. The event is completely free, and everyone is welcome.

For anyone interested in attending a service at St Barnabas Church, **services are held every Sunday at 9:30am** and usually last between 45 minutes and one hour, depending on the type of service taking place. We aim to provide worship that is welcoming, inclusive, and rooted in the local community. Further details about services and church activities can be found on the noticeboard outside the church, or by contacting us directly at stbarnabaschurchfranche@gmail.com. You can also contact Laura Betson, Team Vicar, via email at teamvicar.kwtm@gmail.com or by telephone on 07427 766054.



We would like to say thank to the children who planted bulbs & seeds, they have made a lovely show. Please see these photos!

Please do follow us on Facebook and Instagram under “St Barnabas Church” to keep up to date with news, services, and upcoming events. More information can also be found on our websites: [A Church Near You – St Barnabas Church](#) and [Kidderminster Woven Churches](#).

If you are interested in booking a wedding or christening at St Barnabas Church, please contact Laura Betson on 07427 766054 or email teamvicar.kwtm@gmail.com for further information and support in planning your special occasion.

Finally, the church hall is also available to hire at the very reasonable rate of £20 per hour. The hall is suitable for community groups, celebrations, meetings, children’s parties, and other events. To enquire about availability or to make a booking, please contact Jackie on 07583 962650 or via email at jackiewarr72@outlook.com.

Yours Sincerely,

Christopher A Beddoes
Churchwarden St Barnabas Church Franche
Lay Chair Ismere PCC

Requests for Leave of Absence - Parents must request permission in advance from the school for any leave of absence. Leave of absence forms can be obtained from the school office. For weddings, please include a copy of the invitation. **Where possible all requests for leave should be submitted at least four weeks before the date of the requested absence.** Holidays in term time should not be booked. Please note that term time holidays cannot be authorised. The local authority will be notified of any term time holidays, and this may result in a fixed penalty fine.

Term dates 2026

	Holidays - School closes on	School re-opens on
Summer mid-term		Monday 1 st June 2026 – Pupils back to school
End of summer term	Thursday 16 th July 2026	

Upcoming bank holidays in England and Wales 2026-27

Date	Day of the week	Bank holiday
31 st August 2026	Monday	Summer bank holiday
25 th December 2026	Friday	Christmas Day
28 th December 2026	Monday	Boxing Day (<i>substitute day</i>)
1 st January 2027	Friday	New Year's Day
26 th March 2027	Friday	Good Friday
29 March 2027	Monday	Easter Monday
3 rd May 2027	Monday	Early May Bank Holiday
31 st May 2027	Monday	Spring Bank Holiday
30 th 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 23 rd October 2026	Monday 2 nd November 2026 – Pupils back
	Thursday 17 th December 2026	Monday 4 th January 2027 – Pupils back
Spring mid-term	Friday 12 th February 2027	Monday 22 nd February 2027 – Pupils back
Easter	Thursday 25 th March 2027	Monday 12 th April 2027 - Pupils back
Summer mid-term	Thursday 27 th May 2027	Monday 7 th June 2027 – Pupils back
End of summer term	Tuesday 20 th July 2027	

Friday 12th June

Chocolate donations

PTA Non-uniform days
all donations for the Summer Fair

Friday 19th June

Bottle donations

Thankyou for your support

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 3rd July – Summer Fair



CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

Monday 15th June

details of how to order will be emailed to families



St Catherine's CE Primary School

REMINDER

Please check your details on Arbor and let us know if anything has changed

- emergency contact details
- your mobile number or email address
- have you got married or changed your name?
- have you moved house?
- any changes to your child's medical information

Please notify us of any relevant changes using the Arbor App or email: office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk

Thank you



St Catherine's CE Primary School

Sports Day

Thursday 25th June

Reception, Year 1, 9.00am- 10.30am
Year 2 and Year 3 11.00am- 12.30pm
on the back field

Friday 26th June

Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6
9.00am- 12.30pm on the large field

WELL DONE

