



May 2026 Newsletter

This month's Values Education will be based around **Trust and Loyalty**.

Dear Parents and Carers,



We have had an exciting and purposeful start to the summer term following the Easter break, with many opportunities for our pupils to learn and flourish.

We began the term with our Year 4 and Year 5 Bikeability programme. Congratulations to all pupils who took part and successfully achieved their Level 1 and Level 2 certificates. This is an important life skill, supporting both independence and safety on our roads.



This week, our Year 4 pupils are enjoying their residential visit to Blackwell Adventure in Bromsgrove. There is a real sense of excitement among both pupils and staff as they take part in this valuable outdoor learning experience. We hope Year 4 have a wonderful time, building confidence, resilience and lasting memories.

We were also delighted to host an Ogden Trust training day, organised by Miss Bromell and Mr Medcalf, focused on supporting teachers to deliver high-quality science teaching. This reflects our continued commitment to providing enriching and effective learning experiences across the curriculum.

A reminder that **attendance remains crucial** throughout the summer term. Class teachers will be in contact with families over the coming weeks to share attendance reports and discuss support plans where attendance falls below 95%. Every day in school truly matters and has a significant impact on children's progress and wellbeing.



Thank you to the many parents who attended our recent workshop led by Mr Mottershead and Mrs Brogan on keeping children safe, particularly focusing on the impact of social media and mobile phones. We greatly value this partnership with families and look forward to sharing this important information more widely.



We are grateful for your support with our recent non-uniform day, which successfully raised funds for the NSPCC, helping to protect children and support vital services.

We are incredibly proud of three of our Year 3 pupils, who represented St Catherine's at a science competition hosted by Offmore Primary School. They performed exceptionally well, finishing in 1st place with their strong tower design—an outstanding achievement. Well done, Year 3!

This term, we have also completed the recruitment process for our new PE teacher. Pupils enjoyed meeting the candidates as part of the process, and we are pleased to announce that **Mr Dorey** will be joining St Catherine's in September 2026. We look forward to welcoming him to our school community.

Our Year 5 pupils are taking part in Anti-Bullying Ambassador training this week with our cluster schools, led by the Diana Award. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop leadership skills and promote kindness and respect across the school.



Year 6 pupils are currently preparing for their SATs assessments, which begin on 11th May. We wish them every success and are proud of the hard work and determination they have shown.



We continue to develop our whole-school focus on handwriting, spelling and vocabulary as key drivers of pupils' communication and learning. Please refer to your child's year group newsletter to see what they are learning this month and how you can support at home.

In the final week of this half term, we are excited to hold our whole-school Arts Days on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st May. This year's theme is Celebrating British Values, and we look forward to sharing the children's creative work with you.

We are also delighted to introduce our new attendance mascots—**three toy badgers**—named by the children. This was inspired by real badgers currently living in our Forest School area. An ecologist has visited the site, and wildlife cameras are being installed so we can learn more about these fascinating animals. The children will begin this learning through an upcoming Eco Council assembly focused on badgers.



Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Amanda Cope
Headteacher

Staff News



It is with both sadness and gratitude that we share the news that two much-loved and long-standing members of staff will be retiring at the end of this academic year.

Mrs Shipley will be retiring from her teaching role at the end of the summer term. Over the years, she has shown such dedication, care and commitment to the children and families of St Catherine's. She has made a lasting difference to so many lives, and her presence in school will be greatly missed. We thank her sincerely for everything she has given to our community and wish her happiness and exciting new opportunities ahead.

Mrs McNeill, our wonderful Year 4 Teaching Assistant, will also be retiring. Mrs McNeill has devoted her career to supporting children, both here at St Catherine's and previously at Marlpool First School before St Catherine's was built. She is known for her kindness, patience and unwavering support for every child she works with. She will be deeply missed by pupils, staff and families alike.

We feel very fortunate to have had both Mrs Shipley and Mrs McNeill as part of our school family, and we look forward to celebrating their incredible contributions together at the end of the summer term.



We are delighted to be welcoming **Mrs Brown** back from her maternity leave towards the end of the summer term. She will be teaching PE across the year groups through to the end of term. It will be lovely to have her back as part of our school team.

I am delighted to share that **Mrs Rankin**, who is currently teaching in Year 2, has secured a permanent teaching position at our school. We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Rankin as a valued member of the St Catherine's team.

Summer Term key dates for your diary:

Parent events and celebration days this term:	Parent information sessions • Friday 8th May – Year 6 PSHE parent meeting (9.00am-9.30am) • Tuesday 12th May – Year 3 & 4 Smartphone meeting – open to year 5 & 6 • Friday 15th May – Year 5 PSHE parent meeting (9.00am – 9.30am) • Tuesday 19th May – Y6 Residential Trip parent meeting online (4.00pm – 4.30pm) • Wednesday 10th 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> • <i>Thursday 2nd July – Sports Day (Reception & Y1) - 9am – 10.30pm</i> • <i>Thursday 2nd July - Sports Day (Y2 & Y3) - 11.00am – 12.30pm</i> • <i>Friday 3rd July - Sports Day (Y4, Y5 & Y6) - 9am – 12.30pm</i>
Trips and visits out of school this term:	• Reception - TBC • Year 1 – Bishops Wood – Tuesday 14th July • Year 2 – Hartlebury Castle – Wednesday 1st July • Year 3 – 3CB Wednesday 17th June – Stourbridge Glass Museum • Year 3 – 3NJ Wednesday 24th June – Stourbridge Glass Museum • Year 4 - Wednesday 6th May 2026 - Friday 8th May 2026 – Blackwell residential • 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:	 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 20th May - Thursday 21st May 2026 – Whole school Arts Project days • Wednesday 8th July – Whole school transition afternoon (1.00pm – 3.00pm)
National Assessments	• Y6 KS2 SATs – Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May 2026 • Y1 Phonics Screening – Monday 8th June 2026 (2-week period) • Y4 Multiplication Tables Check – Monday 1st June – Friday 12th June 2026 Families are kindly 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

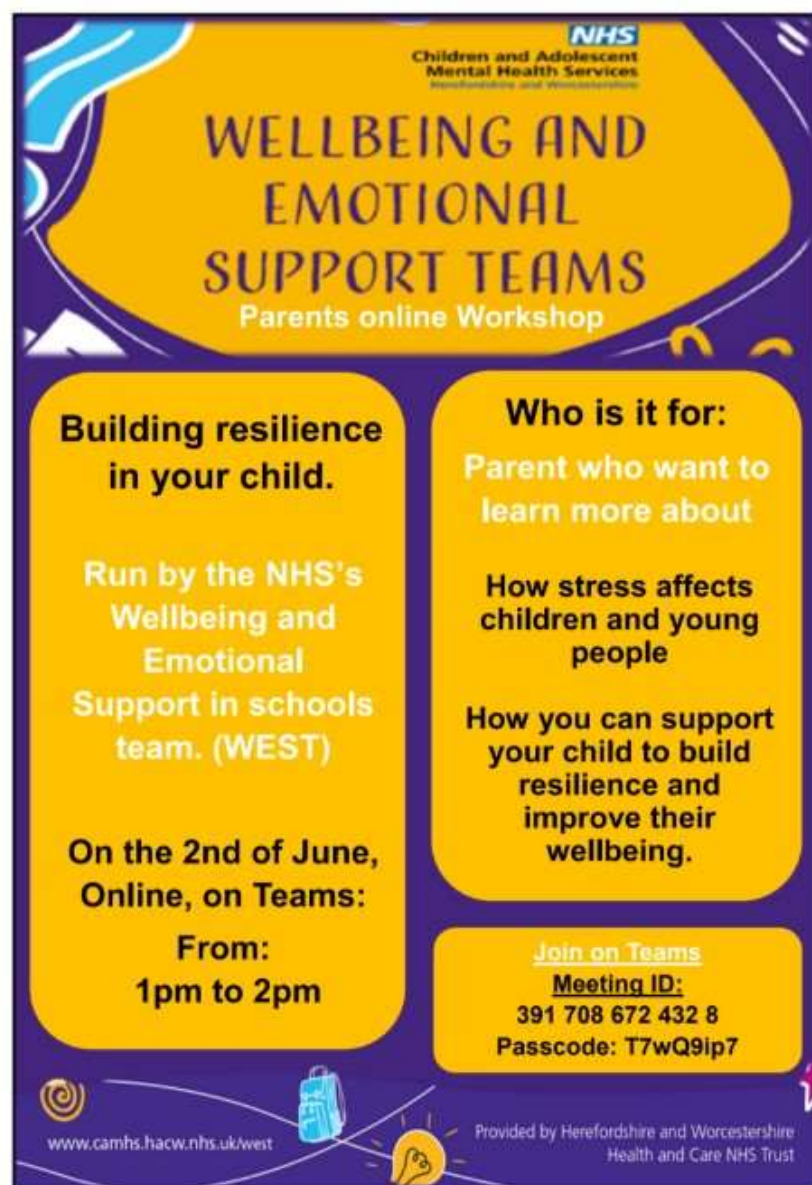
If you are concerned about a child's welfare, please call the school office on: 01562 823614 to speak to a member of the safeguarding team (8am – 4pm daily in term time).

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



The poster is for a 'WELLBEING AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TEAMS Parents online Workshop' organized by the NHS Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services. It features a purple background with yellow and white text boxes. The main title is in large, bold, white letters. Below it, the text 'Parents online Workshop' is in yellow. The poster is divided into two main columns. The left column contains the text 'Building resilience in your child.' followed by 'Run by the NHS's Wellbeing and Emotional Support in schools team. (WEST)' and 'On the 2nd of June, Online, on Teams: From: 1pm to 2pm'. The right column contains the text 'Who is it for:' followed by 'Parent who want to learn more about' and then two bullet points: 'How stress affects children and young people' and 'How you can support your child to build resilience and improve their wellbeing.' At the bottom right, there is a yellow box with the text 'Join on Teams Meeting ID: 391 708 672 432 8 Passcode: T7wQ9ip7'. The bottom left corner has the NHS logo and the website 'www.camhs.haw.nhs.uk/west'. The bottom right corner has the text 'Provided by Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust'.

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.haw.nhs.uk/west

Provided by Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

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.

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

This week we have celebrated our class attendance across school:



■ Every Day Counts! ■

■ Attendance Champions

2N – 99%
4W – 98.7%
Chestnuts – 98%

■ Gold Standard (97%+)

2R – 97%
5M – 97%
6A – 97%

■ Strong Attendance

1B – 96%
3NJ – 96%
5S – 96%
6M – 95.9%
Acorns – 95%

■ Keep Improving

1W – 94%
3CB – 94%
4S – 92%

■ Our Goal: 97%+
Every day matters – learning, friendships, success!

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
Thursday	Year 1 and Year 5
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@tmembroidery.co.uk

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



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. The local authority will be notified, and this may result in a fixed penalty fine.

Term dates 2026

	Holidays - School closes on	School re-opens on
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 2026

Date	Day of the week	Bank holiday
4 th May 2026	Monday	Early May bank holiday – school closed
25 th May 2026	Monday	Spring bank holiday – school closed
31 st August 2026	Monday	Summer bank holiday – school closed

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	

St Barnabas Church News

We would like to say thank you for the lovely Easter Prayers, they are all displayed inside the church. Visitors always comment on how lovely these prayers are, which fills us with so much joy. The church is open every Sunday from 9am until 11am if you wanted to come and see them for yourselves!



We would also like to say a huge thank to the students who planted the Spring bulbs at the church. They have made a lovely show this Spring as these photos show.



We would like to invite any-one to come to our coffee mornings on every Wednesday morning from 10am – 12 midday in the church hall.

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

We have a Confirmation Service booked for Sunday 7th June, 3.00pm at St John's Church. If you are interested in being confirmed, whatever your age, please register your name with Laura.

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 £15 per hour and can be booked by contacting Barrie Lewis on Barrie@lewis2k.co.uk

YOU'RE INVITED TO POP-UP CHURCH!

iSing
POP

Every month we hold a worship celebration for all ages. There are lots of opportunities to get involved with singing, dancing, discussion, leading, reading, games, craft and more! FREE event, all welcome!

"POP-up church has made me realise a lot of things about faith and comfort I never would have realised without coming here."

"I love singing the songs, I know them ALL."

COMING UP SOON!

Sunday 19th April

Sunday 17th May

Sunday 21st June

Sunday 19th July



**All services are at St John's Church
Kidderminster, DY11 6RL, 3pm-4pm**

Got questions? Contact Rev Laura
teamvicar.kwtm@gmail.com

Did you know:

Curriculum Newsletters for each year group can be found on the St Catherine's website at <https://www.stcatherineskidderminster.co.uk/>

If you go to Pupils - Class Pages - Curriculum newsletters

These are updated half termly and you will be able to find out what your child will be learning in the classroom. Please have a look.

Information for the Year 3 & 4 meeting – parents from Year 5 and 6 are welcome to attend if they missed the first meeting.


St Catherine's
SCHOOL

“I wish we had been talking about this when they were in year 3.”

“Parents need to hear this before their child has a phone.”

“It is really good to know we aren't the only ones standing firm on this.”

This is what some of the parents in our smartphones and social media meeting last week were saying.

All of the parents who attended were parents of year 5 and 6 children, but following the information that was shared, they said that they felt strongly that this information needs to be heard by parents before they are making decisions about whether their child should have a smartphone.

We now have a group of parents who are keen to share their experiences and draw on each other's support in making these big decisions about their children's childhoods, and they want to invite parents lower down the school to be part of this.

We are therefore inviting all year 3 and 4 parents to a meeting on Tuesday 12th May at 5.00pm in school, to discuss the impact of smartphones on childhood, and to help build a supportive parent community around this issue.

Please put this date in your diary, as it is vital that parents have a full understanding of the impact of these issues on their children.

Kind regards
Mr Mottershead and Mrs Brogan

**St Catherine's
COLOURFUL
FUN RUN**

Join us to make a difference and support
WellChild & PTA fundraising!

21 MAY, 2026
During the School Day

Walk or run as many laps as
you can in your classes
allocated time! Please wear
colourful clothes.

PLEASE RETURN SPONSORSHIP FORMS & MONEY
TO SCHOOL BY FRIDAY 5TH JUNE



REMINDER
Don't forget to
order your
child's lunches



Our focus this year is celebrating our
British Values

**ST CATHERINE'S
ARTS DAYS**
Wednesday 20th May &
Thursday 21st May

Come to school wearing old
clothes for lots of
craft & painting
activities

