



April 2026 Newsletter

This month's Values Education will be based around **Forgiveness & Reconciliation**.

Dear Parents and Carers,



As we move into the Summer Term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a wonderfully busy and enriching spring term. March, in particular, was full of exciting opportunities, memorable experiences, and meaningful learning across the school.

Our Year 2 children greatly enjoyed a special visit from a train driver, which brought their learning to life in a truly engaging way. Experiences such as these help children to understand the wider world and the important roles

people play within our society.

We were also delighted to welcome families into school for a Stay and Play session with the Baptist Family Church, supported by our family support worker, Catherine Borlase. Opportunities like this strengthen our sense of community and promote mutual respect and tolerance, as we work together to support every child and family.

World Book Day was, as always, a highlight—this year with a creative twist as children came dressed as words! The imagination and effort on display were fantastic. Alongside this, our Book Fair was a great success, helping to promote a love of reading.

Keeping our children safe is always a priority, and we were pleased to deliver a whole-school road safety presentation, reinforcing important messages about keeping ourselves and others safe. This learning directly supports children's understanding of the rule of law and the importance of rules in helping us to live safely within our community.

Year 6 also benefited from coaching sessions led by Kidderminster Harriers, which inspired teamwork, resilience, and respect for others.

Our Eco Council has been hard at work, recently interviewing our school catering manager to discuss introducing a meat-free menu day—a fantastic example of democracy and pupil voice in action, where children are empowered to share their views and influence change. We are proud of their commitment to sustainability. We were also pleased to support Comic Relief, raising both awareness and funds for an important cause, reflecting our shared values of compassion, responsibility, and respect for others.

Music has also played an important role this term, with our iSingPop workshop day, where children learnt songs linked to Lent in preparation for our Easter services. These services in church were a special and reflective time for our school community.

Parents' Evenings provided valuable opportunities to celebrate progress and discuss next steps—thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in your child's education.

Looking Ahead in the Summer Term

We are excited about what lies ahead. Our Year 4 Young Leaders are beginning to plan a whole-school project focused on rejuvenating lunchtime play and activities—an excellent opportunity to further develop leadership, responsibility, and pupil voice—watch this space!

In addition, our Year 5 pupils will soon be taking part in the Diana Anti-Bullying Programme. At the start of May, they will receive training to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, empowering them to support and promote kindness, mutual respect, and inclusion across our school.

Kind regards,
Amanda Cope
Headteacher

Staff news

We are delighted to share some exciting news with you all. Our Assistant Headteacher, Miss Nolan, has been successful in her application for the position of Headteacher at Overbury CoE First School, starting in September 2026.

This is a fantastic achievement and a well-deserved next step in her career. We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Miss Nolan on this exciting new opportunity.

While we are incredibly proud of her, she will be greatly missed here at St Catherine's. Miss Nolan has made a significant impact on our school community, and we know many staff and pupils will feel her absence.

Over the coming months, we look forward to making the most of the time we have left with her and celebrating her many contributions to our school.

We would also like to offer our congratulations to Miss Watson, who got married over the Easter holiday. She will now be known as Mrs Watson! We wish her every happiness in this new chapter.

Summer Term key dates for your diary:

Parent events and celebration days this term:	Parent information sessions • Thursday 16th April – Year 4 Residential Trip parent meeting online (4.30pm – 5.00pm) • Wednesday 29th April - Year 3 – PSHE parent meeting (9.00am-9.30am) • Thursday 30th April – Year 6 SATs parent meeting online (4.00pm – 4.30pm) • Thursday 30th April - Year 4 – PSHE parent meeting (9.00am-9.30am) • Thursday 7th May - Year 6 – PSHE parent meeting (9.00am-9.30am) • Friday 8th May – Year 6 PSHE parent meeting (9.00am-9.30am) • 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 – Tuesday 15th June– (9.00am – 9.40am) • Year 4 – Wednesday 16th June – (9.00am – 9.40am) • Year 5 – Thursday 17th June – (9.00am – 9.40am) • Year 6 – Leavers Show – Wednesday 15th July (6pm-7pm)
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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:	• 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	• Monday 13th April - Tuesday 14th April 2026 – Level 1 bike ability for Y4 • Wednesday 15th April – Friday 24th April 2026 – Level 2 bike ability for Y5 • Monday 20th April – NSPCC Non-uniform day • 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

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.

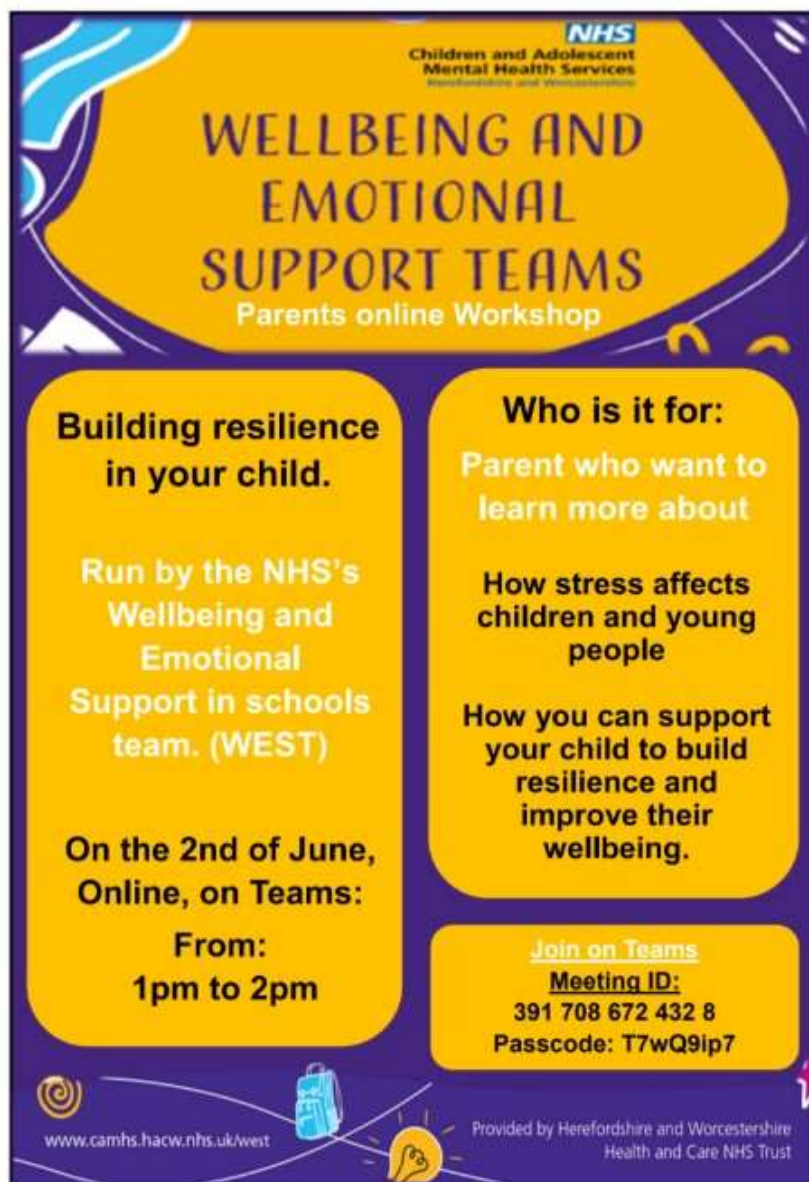
School Organisation and Reminders:

- **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

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.



NHS
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



Understanding your Child
9 week programme, term time only

Tuesday's 21/04/26 - 30/06/26
12.30 - 3.30 pm

**WORCESTERSHIRE
FAMILY HUBS**



We all know being a parent can be one of the most challenging and rewarding roles you will ever take on as an adult, and sometimes we could all use a little extra help.

Come along to this relaxed, fun group to explore issues including developmental needs, having fun, communication, sleep and behaviour difficulties.

The group is suitable for families with children aged 2- 11 years.

Venue: Best Start Family Hub - Half Crown Wood, Princess Way,
Stourport on Severn, DY13 0EL

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

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyhubs

BARNARDOS

**worcestershire
county council**

A Parent's Guide to Digital Safety & Wellbeing

The Big Question: To Social or Not to Social?

Delay is the New Advice

Experts now recommend delaying smartphones and social media until at least Year Nine or Ten.



Connection (High Benefit)

What it is: Direct messaging or calling with known, real-life friends.
Risks: Low.
Conclusion: Children need communication with friends; not public broadcasting accounts.

Broadcasting/Consumption (High Risk)

What it is: Public posting and scrolling algorithmic feeds.
Risks: Exposure to harmful algorithms, cyberbullying, predators, and addictive content.



Parental Controls for Personal Smartphones



For iPhone: Use Apple Screen Time

Go to Settings > Screen Time. Set a passcode that your child does not know.



Downtime:
Schedule device-free time.



App Limits:
Set daily time limits for apps.



Content & Privacy Restrictions: Block adult websites and prevent new app installations without approval.



Disable Account Changes:
Prevents your child from bypassing the controls.



For Android: Use Google Family Link

Download the Google Family Link app on both your phone and your child's phone.



Daily Limits:
Set a total daily screen time allowance.



App Approvals:
Approve or deny any new app your child tries to download.



Night-time Lock:
The phone locks automatically at a set time.



Content Filtering:
Block explicit content on YouTube, Chrome, and the Play Store.

Essential Family Rules & Conversations

Rule 1: The Device-Free Bedroom

All phones and Pads must charge downstairs overnight. This reduces sleep deprivation and late-night risks.



Rule 2: The "Digital Tattoo" Check

Before posting, ask: "If this was on a banner outside school, would you be happy?"



Rule 3: Talk to an Adult If You Make a Mistake

Reassure your child that the earlier you know about a problem, the more you can do to help.



Rule 4: Challenge Online "Facts"

Teach critical thinking by asking them to verify information from social media on a reputable news site.



NotebookLM

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@tmembrodery.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 Term		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 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	

Please see below some of the amazing entries for our Easter Egg Competition – well done to all the winners!

TEAMWORK EASTER EGG COMPETITION



MONDAY 20TH APRIL



St Catherine's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NON UNIFORM DAY

HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR THE NSPCC



**PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATION
ON THE ARBOR APP**

THANK YOU

Try Alpha

Curious about faith?

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. At each Alpha session, you'll be hosted in a small group and watch an episode on a different question of faith - then you have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all. Everyone's welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back.

Stay Curious Try Alpha

When & Where

Every Wednesday Evening - 7p.m to 9:30 p.m
for 11 weeks from 15th April 2026
at Kidderminster Baptist Church
(Evening meal provided)

Please do get in touch with questions or if you would like to come along.

Address - Franche Road, Kidderminster, DY11 5QB

Web - www.kidderminsterbaptist.com/alpha

Email - Alpha@kidderminsterbaptist.com

Phone - 01562 824657

Alpha

Reg Charity No: 1196300

SWAP SHOP FREE JUMBLE!

- On Friday 17th April 2026, from 9am until 12pm
- Our Swap Shop will be at Adams Lounge, St Ambrose Parish Centre, Kidderminster, DY10 1RP
- Please join us and bring along your preloved children's clothes, or just come for a freebie, and a hot drink!
- Please visit us on Facebook @HSWFswapshop



HOME START

Wyre Forest Swap Shop



CLOTHES FOR
FREE

Registered Charity Number 1120436 A
company limited by Guarantee Number 5148029



WORCESTERSHIRE
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR COMMUNITY



worcestershire
county council