



February 2026 Newsletter

This month's Values Education will be based around **Courage and Perseverance**.

Dear Parents and Carers,



January has been a busy and inspiring month at St Catherine's! It has been lovely to notice the early signs of spring, with the days slowly becoming longer and brighter, reminding us of the promise of growth and new beginnings.

Our School Values – Courage and Perseverance

This month, our focus values are Courage and Perseverance. In worship and across the curriculum, we will explore these values, beginning with the story of Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. This story supports children in understanding the importance of determination, teamwork, and faith when facing challenges. By

embedding these values into lessons, assemblies, and daily interactions, we aim to nurture resilient, reflective, and confident learners.

Pupil Leadership and Community Engagement

As part of our work towards the Green Flag Award, our pupils have adopted Marlpool Lane as their community street. This month, they have already participated in litter-picking activities, demonstrating responsibility, environmental awareness, and teamwork. Thank you to Miss Bromell for coordinating this initiative.



**CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**

Our School Council have launched this term's charity fundraiser, "Do Something Silly for Charity", in support of Cancer Research. Pupils are actively leading the project, encouraging staff participation and helping to develop fundraising skills, creativity, and empathy. The event will culminate on Friday 13th February, and we look forward to celebrating the impact of their efforts.



Celebrating Staff Achievements

We are delighted to share that two members of our staff have been nominated for the Worcestershire Education Awards:

- **Mrs Edwards** – Business Manager of the Year
- **Miss Nicholson** – New Teacher of the Year

These nominations reflect the dedication, professionalism, and impact our staff have on pupil learning and school life. We wish them both the very best at the awards evening in March.

We also celebrate the contribution of **Mr Grazier, who will be leaving** at the end of this half term on Friday 13th February. He has been an exceptional Sports Coach, going above and beyond to support pupils both academically and personally, including on residential trips and school events. He is moving for promotion to a new role supporting children with additional needs, where he will lead and promote inclusion and high-quality physical education. We wish him every success in his new position.



Reception – September 2026

We were thrilled to hear that there have been over 60 first place applications for our next Reception cohort in September 2026. Showing that our school continues to be over subscribed. Thank you for your support!

Curriculum, Enrichment, and Wellbeing

February promises a variety of opportunities to enrich learning and develop pupils' personal skills:

- **National Storytelling Week** (from Monday 2nd February) – promoting literacy, imagination, and a love of reading.
- **Internet Safety Day** (Tuesday 10th February) – pupils will take part in assemblies and class activities to develop responsible and safe online behaviour.
- **Children's Mental Health Week** (Starting Monday 9th February 2026)
- **Reception 100 Days Celebration** (Monday 23rd February) – marking a key milestone in early years learning.



We also look forward to the **PTA Spring Disco** on Tuesday 10th February, providing opportunities for social development and community engagement. Tickets are available through class list.

School Organisation and Reminders

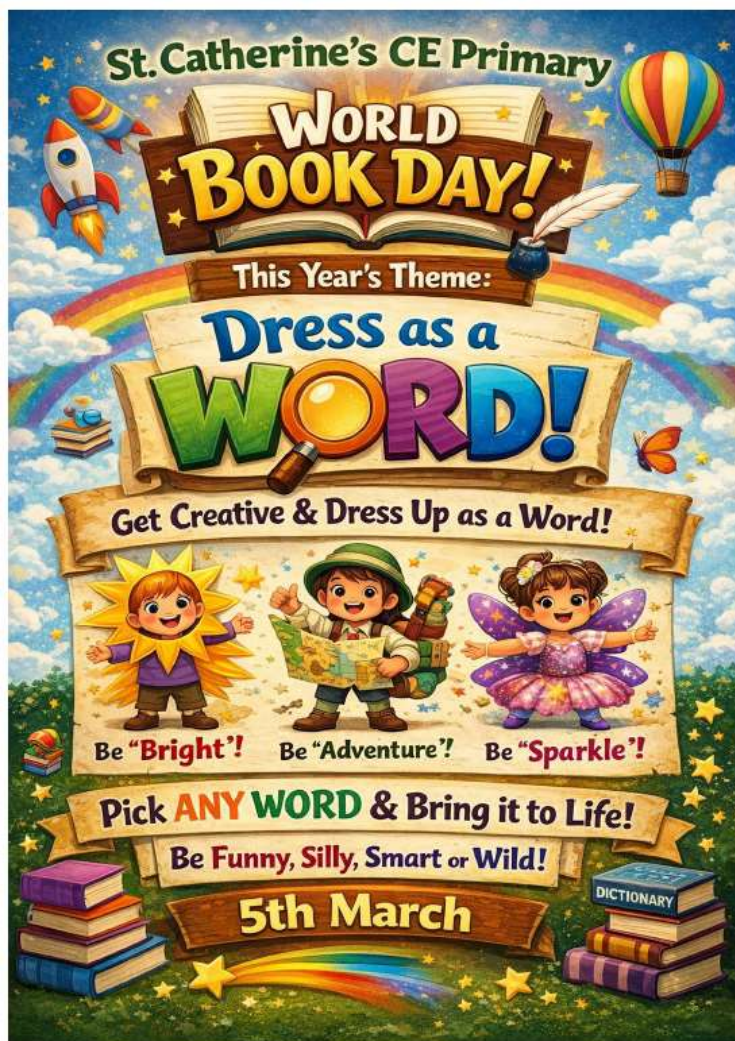
- The school gates open: **8.30am**
- Start of school: **8.40am**
- Reception, Y1 & Y2 finish: **3.10pm**
- Y3–Y6 finish: **3.15pm**
- Attendance and Punctuality: Attendance is closely monitored, and holidays in term time will not be authorised. Persistent unauthorised absence or lateness may result in a fixed penalty notice.
- Uniform, Milk, and Childcare: Details remain available via the school office and our local uniform suppliers.
- Safeguarding and Safety: Children should walk with adults, refrain from running or riding scooters, and families should observe our no-smoking, no-vaping, and no-filming policies on site.

Key Dates for the Spring Term

- Chinese New Year (Year of the Fire Horse) – 17th February
- Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) – 17th February
- World Book Day – 5th March
- Residential Trips: Year 4 Blackwell (6th–8th May), Year 6 Llanrug (3rd–5th June)
- National Assessments: KS2 SATs (11th–14th May), Phonics Screening (w/b 8th June), Multiplication Tables Check (1st–12th June)
- Parents' Evenings: 23rd & 25th March 2026

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Your partnership helps us ensure that every child thrives.

Warm regards,
Amanda Cope
Headteacher



World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2026 Dress as a Word!

We are excited to celebrate World Book Day on Wednesday 5th March at St Catherine's CE Primary School!

This year, we are inviting children to take part in a fun and imaginative theme:

Dress as a Word!

Instead of dressing as a book character, children can choose any word and create a costume that represents its meaning. This encourages creativity, vocabulary development, and lots of fun!

Examples might include:

- Bright – sunshine, stars, or bold colours
- Adventure – explorers, maps, backpacks
- Sparkle – glitter, stars, fairy lights
- Kind – hearts, smiles, helping hands
- Stormy – clouds, rain, lightning

Children are welcome to be as simple or as creative as they like. Costumes do not need to be bought; homemade ideas are perfect too!

We look forward to seeing the wonderful words come to life and celebrating reading together. Thank you for your continued support.

PTA Events 2026

Feb	Tues. 10th	Disco
Mar	Fri. 6th	Golden Ticket WonderBars
	Fri. 13th	Easter Egg Non-uniform Day
	Mon. 17th	Easter Raffle Tickets on Sale
	Thurs. 26th	Easter Raffle Prize Draw
May	Thurs. 21st	Charity Colourful Run
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

Contact: pta@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk

Contacting Staff

- Your child's **class teacher** is always the first point of contact for both academic and pastoral matters.
- Brief conversations can take place at the start or end of the day. For longer discussions, please book an appointment via the school office: office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk
- For unresolved or serious issues, please contact the Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher.
- We value your feedback and welcome suggestions – please share concerns early so we can work together to resolve them.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

- DSL: Mrs Amanda Cope (Headteacher)
- Deputy DSLs: Mrs Brogan, 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

Young Voices

The rearranged concert at BP Pulse LIVE (NEC) for young voices will now take place on Thursday 26th February 2026 – good luck to our school choir!

Church School Partnership – Easter plans & I sing pop

We are looking forward to the I Sing Pop team who are due to visit our school on Friday 13th March 2026 – they will be working with all years' groups to introduce a new set of Easter songs!

Fundraising update



The banner features a blue background. On the left is a cartoon illustration of a reindeer wearing a blue 'KEMP Hospice' tank top. In the center is a photograph of three people (two children and one adult) sitting on a green bench, holding a large white cheque. On the right is a circular logo with the text 'THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT' and an illustration of hands. At the top, the 'KEMP Hospice' logo and 'Rudolph Run' text are displayed. At the bottom, white text on a blue background reads: 'Thank you for your support with this fundraising event held in December. We raised £660.66. Last week we were able to present the cheque to Anna from the Kemp Hospice fundraising team.'

KEMP Hospice

Rudolph Run

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you for your support with this fundraising event held in December.
We raised £660.66.
Last week we were able to present the cheque to Anna from the
Kemp Hospice fundraising team.

Upcoming Fundraising

Have you got your tokens?

Our school councillors are organising a fundraiser for Cancer Research. School staff have volunteered to do something silly and our pupils will be able to vote as many times as they like at £1 a vote.

They are voting for the silly activity of their choice from the list below.

The top three will have to complete their silly challenge on Friday 13th February.

Pay for your tokens on Arbor (School Shop) – deadline Monday 9th February at 9.00am.

Thank you for your support.

St Catherine's CE Primary School

School Council Fundraiser!

CANCER RESEARCH UK

Teachers Doing Something Silly!

Vote for the silliest challenge!

☒ Miss Hill & Mrs Ross Dress up in inflatables for the day	☒ Miss Nicholson Dress up as inflatable flamingo	☒ Miss Bromell Dress up as an inflatable bee
☒ Miss Arnold & Mr Grazier Swap clothes for the day	☒ Mr Crump Pie Mr Grazier in the face with whipped cream	☒ Mr Medcalf Dress up as Spider Man for the day
☒ Mr Mottershead Dye/decorate beard	☒ Mr Tipper Wear Pjs for the	☒ Mrs Wharton & Miss Price Dress up as Elphaba & Glinda
☒ Miss Wheeler Run 3K in lunch break (children welcome to join me)		

£1 per Token!

Buy your tokens and vote!

The Top 3 Teachers with the MOST tokens will do their silly activities!

1st WHOOP! CUSHION

3rd

You can buy your tokens on Arbor!

Sports news

Multiskills Magic at Baxter High!

Some of our children had an action-packed trip to a Sporting Multiskills Event at Baxter High School — and what a fantastic time they had!

Throughout the session, the children showed brilliant teamwork, impressive accuracy, and a wonderfully positive sense of competition. They tackled a variety of exciting activities, cheered each other on, and gave every challenge their very best effort.

Most importantly, they came back absolutely buzzing with energy and big smiles, telling us all about the fun they had trying new skills and working together. We're so proud of the way they represented our school — super sports stars all around!

Splashtastic Success at the Swimming Gala!

On Friday, some of our fantastic Year 5 pupils made a big splash at an exciting swimming gala! They showed brilliant determination, super teamwork, and excellent sportsmanship across a wide range of events in the pool.



Competing against other schools from Wyre Forest, our swimmers gave every race their all and supported one another from start to finish. Their energy and enthusiasm were wonderful to see!

We are thrilled to share that St Catherine's scored 79 points, finishing an amazing 4th place out of 12 schools — a

fantastic achievement in such a competitive event. What a result! 🎉

A huge well done to all of our Year 5 swimmers for representing the school so brilliantly. Their effort, resilience, and team spirit truly shone through, and we couldn't be prouder of them!

Holiday club

RB holiday camps run a holiday club provision through all school holidays. Further information will be sent home during the school year. Please look at their website for more details. <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. To enquire about booking the hall please contact Mrs Edwards, school business manager, via email: office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk

School uniform –2025-26

Autumn & Spring Term (October to March)

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

Summer & Autumn Term (April to September)

- White polo shirt (with or without logo)
- Light blue check summer dress (with or without logo)
- Royal blue jumper or cardigan (with or without logo)
- Black trousers or shorts (no leggings, no lycra)
- Black **knee length** skirt or pinafore (no lycra)
- White or black socks
- Royal blue summer cap (with or without logo) optional item
- Flat black school shoes or black closed toe low-heeled sandals (no coloured trainers or open toe sandals)

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

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

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



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
Spring mid-term	Friday 13 th February 2026	Monday 23 rd February 2026 – Pupils back
Easter	Friday 27 th March 2026	Monday 13 th April 2026 - Pupils back
Summer mid-term	Thursday 21 st May 2026	Monday 1 st June 2026 – Pupils back
End of summer term	Thursday 16 th July 2026	

Upcoming bank holidays in England and Wales 2026

Date	Day of the week	Bank holiday
3 April 2026	Friday	Good Friday
6 April 2026	Monday	Easter Monday
4 May 2026	Monday	Early May bank holiday
25 May 2026	Monday	Spring bank holiday
31 August 2026	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	

GUITAR LESSONS

Our guitar teacher,
Mr Lewis Spencer
has spaces for 1:1 guitar
lessons in school

FOR PUPILS IN YEARS 3,4,5 &6

The charge is £11.67 for a 20 minute
lesson on a Thursday afternoon,
during school time

**IF YOUR CHILD IS INTERESTED
PLEASE CONTACT
THE SCHOOL OFFICE**

Mr Spencer's website is:
<http://www.lewisspencermusic.com/>

