



January 2026 Newsletter

This month's Values Education will be based around **Love and Justice**.

Dear Parents/Carers,



Happy New Year!

I hope you and your family enjoyed a peaceful and restful Christmas, and that the joy and hope of the season remain with you as we begin 2026.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of St Catherine's. The kind Christmas messages, cards, and generous gifts shared with staff were deeply appreciated and were a real encouragement at the end of a busy term. It was also a joy to welcome so many families into school for our Christmas performances. These celebrations of the Nativity reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas and allowed the children to share their gifts and talents with confidence, creativity, and joy.

Celebrating Christmas

Throughout the final weeks of term, our school was filled with warmth, laughter, and festive spirit. From the door-decorating competition to Christmas lunch and class parties, the children enjoyed celebrating together as one community. These shared moments reflect our Christian values of friendship, love and joy, and help to create lasting memories for our children.

Giving Thanks for our PTA

We are incredibly thankful for the commitment and generosity of our PTA, whose hard work continues to make a meaningful difference to school life. Events such as the *Elfridges Shopping* experience and the Rainbow Raffle not only brought excitement and happiness to the children but also strengthened our sense of community.

Through their fundraising efforts, we have been able to purchase new IT kit for a number of classes. We give thanks for all those who give their time, energy, and talents so generously.

If you would like to support or join the PTA, please contact **Nicky Small via the school office**. Any contribution, great or small, is always warmly welcomed.

Attendance: Working Together in the Spring Term

Despite the challenges of illness during the Autumn term, whole-school attendance finished at 95.8% an increase compared to this time last year! Thank you for your understanding and support during this time. As we look ahead, we are setting a target of 96% attendance for the Spring term. Regular attendance is vital for children's learning, wellbeing, and sense of belonging. Being present each day allows children to grow academically, socially, and spiritually.

Children who achieved 96% attendance or above during the Autumn term were recognised through a prize draw. It was wonderful to celebrate their commitment, and we hope to encourage even more children to achieve this in the coming term.

Looking ahead

The Spring term is a time of growth and renewal, and we look forward to a busy and enriching term ahead. There will be many opportunities for learning and celebration, including educational visits, themed weeks, collective worship, and special assemblies. Please continue to check the school website and your Arbor messages to stay informed.

As we begin this new term, I would like to thank you once again for working alongside us in partnership.

Kindest regards,

Amanda Cope
Headteacher



The children were treated to a very special visit from Father Christmas and Twinkle the elf on the last day of term!

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		

After School Clubs

Clubs will commence on Monday 12th January 2026. Bookings are made on a first come first served basis which has meant that some of the clubs were booked up quickly due to a high demand. Please check on Arbor as there is still some availability on a number clubs.

Start of the School Day

Please remember that classroom doors are opened for children at 8.40am. Children should be in their class by 8.45am. The gates are locked promptly at 8.45am to allow teachers to make a prompt start to the school day.

School admissions

It is now time to make applications for September 2026, for children starting in Reception at St. Catherine's. The closing date is fast approaching. To find information about school admissions and how to apply, either come into the school office or visit, www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Events and celebration days this term

We will be celebrating the following events in school this term through assemblies and in classes:

- **Big Schools' Birdwatch 2026** – 6 January to 13 February 2026
- **World Religion Day** – Sunday 18 January 2026
- **Holocaust Memorial Day (UK)** – Tuesday 27 January 2026
- **Children's Mental Health Week 2026** – Monday 9 February to Sunday 15 February 2026
- **Chinese New Year (Year of the Fire Horse)** – Tuesday 17 February 2026
- **Safer Internet Day 2026** – Tuesday 10 February 2026
- **Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)** – Tuesday 17 February 2026
- **World Book Day (UK & Ireland)** – Thursday 5 March 2026

National External Assessments - **Please note that pupils should not take leave of absence during test periods**

- **Year 6 – Key Stage 2 (KS2) SATs** - Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May 2026
- **Year 1 – Phonics Screening Check** - Week beginning Monday 8th June 2026
- **Year 4 – Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)** - Monday 1st June to Friday 12th June 2026

Year 6 Llanrug Dates and Year 4 Residential Dates

We are excited to be planning the residential trips for this academic year. The following dates have been booked:

- Year 4 – Blackwell, Bromsgrove – Wednesday 6th May 2026 – Friday 8th May 2026
- Year 6 – Llanrug, North Wales – Wednesday 3rd June 2026 - Friday 5th June 2026

Spring Term Parents' Evenings

- Monday 23rd March 2026 - 3.30pm – 6.30pm
- Wednesday 25th March 2026 - 3.30pm – 6.30pm

Bookings for your parents evening slots will be made via Arbor and more information follow in due course.

Attendance/Lateness

We are closely monitoring attendance and lateness and will do this over the year. **A reminder; holidays in term time will not be authorised** due to the detrimental effect that this can have on children's education. Parents/carers whose children have five days of unauthorised absence or lateness within one term or take holidays during term-time will face a **fixed penalty notice**.

Milk

If you would like to arrange for your child to have milk this term, please go to www.coolmilk.com. Pupils under the age of five are entitled to receive free milk in school; if your child is in reception and would like to continue receiving milk after his/her 5th birthday please visit the coolmilk website.



School site:

Whilst moving around the school site we would kindly ask that everyone is considerate of others and follow these simple guidelines:

- Children should walk with their adults
- There should be no running or riding bikes/scooters on the path
- **No dogs/animals or pets** should be brought onto the school site unless an assistance dog or there has been a prior agreement with the Headteacher
- Smoking or vaping is not permitted on school site
- The use of electronic devices to film or photograph pupils on school site is strictly prohibited unless there has been permission granted from school staff for a specific occasion

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. To enquire about booking the hall please contact Mrs Edwards, school business manager, via email: office@stcatherines.worcs.sch.uk

School Uniform:

Local Uniform Suppliers:

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@tmembroidery.co.uk

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



Online orders can still be made through School Trends using the link below:

https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/St_Catherines_Primary_School_DY11_5HP

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 term		Monday 5 th January 2026 – Pupils back
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 3 rd September 2026 – Pupils back Y1-Y6 Monday 7 th September 2026 – Reception pupils start
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	