



December 2025 Newsletter

This month's values will be based around **Compassion & Kindness**.

Dear Parents and Carers,



November has been a busy and exciting month at St Catherine's! We began with Bonfire Night, where children learned about the story of Guy Fawkes and discussed important ways to stay safe during celebrations. This was followed by Remembrance Day. We are very grateful for all the beautiful poppies that were shared with the school. These have been used to create a stunning display in the school foyer, which you are very welcome to come and see.

Some of our Year 5 pupils joined in with a singing celebration event at Comberton Primary School, part of our Kidderminster Primary Alliance. They represented St Catherine's wonderfully, and we are very proud of them.

We would like to thank all of you for your incredible support of Children in Need and the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Your generosity makes a huge difference to those in need.

This month, we also had our SIAMS (Church School) inspection. We are grateful to the parents and grandparents who kindly spoke to the inspector about the school's work. As soon as the report is published, it will be shared with all parents and carers.

We also celebrated St Catherine's Day on 25th November. We were very pleased to have our Family Support Worker, Cat, and Jane from Kidderminster Baptist Church, help with the celebrations by leading craft activities in KS1. The children had a wonderful time taking part in these creative activities!

Our Year 6 pupils have been busy visiting the Wyre Forest Foodbank, helping to package food parcels for families during the Christmas period. It has been wonderful to see our children giving back to the local community.

Looking ahead, we are excited to share our Christmas plays and concerts with you over the next few weeks as we prepare for the festive season. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to celebrating a joyful end to the year with all our pupils and families.

With best wishes,

Amanda Cope
Headteacher



St Catherine's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Christmas Tree Festival

Visit Worcester Cathedral to see the St Catherine's Christmas Tree

The children have been busy making the lovely decorations for our tree

During the festive period if you visit Worcester Cathedral you will see decorated Christmas trees from charities, schools, businesses, community groups and others from across the region to enjoy.

The Christmas Tree Festival is open to visit from Thursday 4th December 2025 until Tuesday 6th January 2026. Normal visiting hours are 10am-5pm Monday to Saturday and 12.30-3pm on Sundays. No pre-booking required.

(*Please note *Open for visiting 10am-12pm on Christmas Eve & services only, no visiting on Christmas Day*).

St Catherine's



KEMP
The Wyre Forest Hospice

RUDOLPH RUN 2025

PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATIONS ON ARBOR

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER

We are taking part in a KEMP Hospice Rudolph Run on Friday 12th December. This is a fun & festive event supporting this wonderful local charity. To take part each child should make a minimum donation of £2.00. Every child will get a pair of antlers to wear during the run. We would greatly appreciate your support with this fundraising. We can't wait to see everyone joining in, running around the school grounds, having fun and spreading some festive cheer! Thank you for your support and generosity. Together we can make a real difference this Christmas. *Children should come to school in PE kits for the day.*



Christmas Show Dates 2025

We are really pleased to be able to share the Christmas show dates with you:

Year Group	Performance date and time
Reception - Nativity	Tuesday 9 th December at 9.00am – 9.45am
Year 1 – Christmas show	Wednesday 10 th December at 9.00am – 9.45am
Year 2 – Christmas concert	Thursday 11 th December at 9.00am – 9.45am
Year 3 – Christmas sing-along	Monday 8 th December at 9.00am – 10.00am
Year 4 – Christmas sing-along	Monday 8 th December at 2.00pm - 3.00pm
Year 5 – Christmas show	Thursday 11 th December – 6pm – 7pm (Wolverley)
Year 6 Carol Concert	Tuesday 16 th December at 6pm – 7pm

Please note that there will be x3 tickets per family available for these performances.

Your allocated tickets have been sent home in the last few weeks.

For the Year 5 show at Wolverley there will be a charge of £3.00 per ticket. These have been available to purchase on Arbor and we will be notifying year 5 parents if there are any further tickets available shortly.

Upcoming events in December 2025

- **Kemp Hospice Rudolph Run** – Friday 12th December
- **Christmas services for all pupils** (in school) – Wednesday 17th December (pupils & staff only)
- **Christmas lunch** – Tuesday 16th December (Christmas jumpers/accessories optional)
- **Class visits from Father Christmas** – Thursday 18th December (afternoon)
- **Class Christmas parties** – Thursday 18th December (afternoon) (wear Christmas jumpers/accessories)



Filming and photography



As we approach the festive season, we are excited to celebrate with our children through their Christmas shows. We would like to remind you of our school's policy regarding photography and video recording during these events.

Parents and carers are welcome to take photographs and videos of the performances for personal use. We kindly ask that any images or recordings are kept for personal use only and not shared on social media.

Where parents/carers have chosen to decline consent for photography or video, we will make alternative arrangements so that families can still capture special moments from the shows. This ensures that all children and families can enjoy precious memories in a safe and respectful way.

Please check your consent settings in the Arbor app to confirm your permissions for:

- School use of photographs
- Video recording permissions for your child's inclusion in the performances

If permissions are declined for safeguarding or personal reasons, rest assured that we will take all necessary steps to protect your child while still allowing them to participate fully in the festivities. Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us create a safe and joyful environment for all children. We look forward to celebrating the season with you!

PTA Events – Thank you for your support with the PTA events this year. Here are the next PTA events:

Dec	Fri. 12th	Elfridges		
	Thurs. 18th	Father Christmas		
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

Safeguarding Concerns outside of school hours:

Parents & Carers – Safeguarding Information



Safeguarding, means keeping children and young people safe from any form of abuse or neglect.

Every child and young person has the right to be safe and we all have a duty to safeguard children.

If you have concerns about a child and need advice please contact the Family Front Door directly on 01905 822666.

The Family Front Door, Initial Contact and Referral Team is the central point for all referrals for children and young people aged 0 to 18 years and living in Worcestershire where there is safeguarding or child protection concerns for them. This team receives referrals from professionals, members of the community, family members, children and young people directly. **If you have a child protection concern outside of normal office hours please contact the out of hours emergency duty team (EDT) telephone 01905 768020.**

The Local Authority also provide information for members of the public about local services and support. This information can be located on Worcestershire County Council web site on the [Advice, Care, Health & Support](#) pages.

Attendance

We are very pleased to share that our **overall school attendance is currently 96.1%** — a fantastic achievement! We are getting ever closer to our school target of **97%**, and this reflects the commitment of our families to ensuring children make the most of their learning opportunities.

Many of our pupils are maintaining **100% attendance**, and we are so proud of them. High attendance is vital for children to make consistent progress, build friendships, and feel confident and secure in their learning.

Is My Child Too Ill for School?

We understand it can sometimes be difficult to decide whether or not to keep your child off school when they are feeling unwell.

The **NHS** provides clear guidance for parents on this question:

👉 [Is my child too ill for school? \(NHS\)](#)

These guidelines outline when children should stay home and when it's fine for them to attend school.

If your child is unwell and needs to stay home, please report this to the school on the first day of absence to let us know and share the reason. We would ask that you give detailed information on the nature of the illness for our monitoring purposes.

Thank you for working with us to keep our school community healthy and our attendance rates strong!



2026 National test dates:

Please note that pupils should not take leave of absence during test periods

Year 6 - The key stage 2 tests are timetabled: The Year 6 Primary National Curriculum Tests (SATs) will take place from Monday, 11th May to Thursday, 14th May 2026.

- English grammar, punctuation and spelling on Monday 11th May,
- English reading on Tuesday 12th May,
- Mathematics on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th May.

Year 1 - Phonics screening week in Year 1 will commence on the week beginning Monday 8th June 2026
Year 4 - Multiplication Tests for Year 4 will be over a 2-week period from 1st 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 – Wednesday 6th May – Friday 8th May 2026.

Year 6 – Llanrug – Wednesday 3rd June to Friday 5th June 2026.

Tours for parents/carers of Reception pupils due to start school in September 2026

It is now time to make applications for September 2026, for starting in reception at St. Catherine's. Our school tours, for the parents of new pupils who are looking to start in September 2026 are continuing. If you have a preschool child who is due to start school next year, please ask at the office for a time to visit us. Visits are not compulsory, if you already know that your younger children will be coming to join us at St. Catherine's. Please note that with a lower number of school age children in the locality we are taking children who are out of catchment. If you have neighbours or friends, who have children due to start school in September 2026, please advise them to make an appointment to visit us - thank you. www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Holiday club

RB holiday camps run a holiday club provision through all school holidays except for the Christmas break. 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.

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





Church News

Advent and Christmas 2025

Welcome to the journey from Advent to Epiphany 2025-2026. The Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas this year is '**JOY**' emphasizing the rejoicing of the angels in the Christmas story who bring good news of great joy to the world!

Advent Week: Monday 1st December - Friday 5th December at St Barnabas' Church

6pm Silent Prayer
6.30pm Evening prayer with reflection and opportunity to respond and discuss
All are welcome

Christmas Fairs and coffee mornings

- 10.30am-12noon Monday 1st December, coffee morning in Trimpley Village Hall
- 10am-12noon Saturday 6th December, Christmas Coffee Morning in Holy Innocents' Community hall, with stalls and tombola
- 10am-2pm Saturday 6th December, Christmas Fair at St Peter's Church, stalls, gifts, refreshments and a visit to Santa (£2/child)
- 10am-1pm Saturday 13th December, Christmas Fair at St Mary's Church, refreshments, cards and gifts

Christmas Carol Services

- 3pm Sunday 7th December, Christingle service at St Peter's Church
- 4pm Sunday 14th December, The Mayors' Carol Service at St Mary's Church
- 9.30am Sunday 21st December, *JOY!* A cafe-style Carol Service at Holy Innocents' Church - carols and refreshments with activities for children
- 11am Sunday 21st December, Cafe Church Carol Service at St Peter's Church
- 4pm Sunday 21st December, Carols by Candlelight at Holy Trinity Church
- 4pm Sunday 21st December, Carol Service at St Barnabas' Church
- 6pm Sunday 21st December, *How it all began...* Christmas Carol Service at St John's Church

Come and experience Christmas

JOY

Events, activities and services for
Advent, Christmas and Epiphany
2025-2026

Holy Innocents' Church, Foley Park, DY11 6LA
Holy Trinity Church, Trimpley, DY12 1NZ
St Barnabas' Church, Franche, DY11 5JW
St John's Church, Bewdley Road, DY11 6RL
St Mary and All Saints' Church, Kidderminster, DY10 2JN
St Peter's Church, Birchen Coppice, DY11 7EJ

This is your invitation to hope, peace, and changed life!

Come to church this Christmas!

An Advent Prayer Retreat

ST BARNABAS' CHURCH FRANCHE, DY11 5JW
MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER - FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER

6.00PM SILENT PRAYER
6.30PM EVENING PRAYER WITH REFLECTION
AND OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND OR DISCUSS



St Catherine's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SPECIAL FESTIVAL!

Merry Christmas
CHRISTINGLE



**FREE
EVENT!**

St Peter's Church,
Birchen Coppice,
DY117EJ

Crafts, activities,
singing, story, for all
ages!

3PM-4.30PM
SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER

SPECIAL FESTIVAL!



**HOW IT
ALL
BEGAN...**

A CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

**SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER
6PM**

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH,
DY116RL**

MUSIC AND READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS

FREE ENTRY
ALL WELCOME



JOY

COME TO A

CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER

9.30AM-10.30AM

HOLY INNOCENTS' CHURCH, DY116LA

CAFE-STYLE CAROL SERVICE WITH
REFRESHMENTS AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES.

NO CHARGE. ALL WELCOME!

Alternative Christmas Services

6pm Sunday 14th December, the Blue Christmas Service, taking a different look at Christmas for those who find the festive season difficult for whatever reason

7.30pm Tuesday 16th December, the Radcliffe Arms Birchen Coppice, carol singing in the pub with community awards

You are invited to a
**BLUE
CHRISTMAS**

*St John's Church, Bewdley Road
Kidderminster DY11 6RL
SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER
at 6.00pm*

A service taking a different look at Christmas for all who might be finding the festive season difficult this year, through illness, loss, bereavement or any other circumstances. Prayers, readings, music, reflection and a time to remember.

Everyone very welcome.

*We hope that you might find this service helpful.
Please do invite anyone who might also like to come.*



**CAROLS
AT THE
RADCLIFFE**

plus
our community 'Unsung
Local Heroes' Awards....

**Tuesday
16th December
7.30pm- 9.00pm**
Complimentary mince pies
All welcome



Please join us for one of our all-age

**CRIB
SERVICES**



24 DECEMBER

3PM AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, DY10 2JN
4PM AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, DY12 1NZ
4PM AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH, DY11 6RL
5PM AT ST BARNABAS' CHURCH, DY115JW

Questions? Contact 07427766054 OR
TEAMVICAR.KWTM@GMAIL.COM



First Mass of Christmas (also called Midnight Mass or Midnight Communion)

8pm at Holy Innocents' Church

11.30pm at St John's Church (please note: incense will be used at this service)

11.30pm at St Mary's Church

11.30pm at St Peter's Church



St Catherine's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



The First Mass of Christmas *Sometimes called Midnight Mass*



Christmas Eve

8pm at Holy Innocents' Church, DY116LA
11.30pm at St John's Church, DY116RL*
11.30pm at St Mary's Church, DY102JN
11.30pm at St Peter's Church, DY117EJ

Questions? Contact 07427766054 OR
TEAMVICAR.KWTM@GMAIL.COM

*please note: incense will be used during this service



COME TO CHURCH ON

CHRISTMAS DAY!

10AM EUCHARIST AT ST BARNABAS'

10AM FAMILY FRIENDLY EUCHARIST AT HOLY
INNOCENTS'

10AM FAMILY FRIENDLY EUCHARIST AT HOLY TRINITY

10AM EUCHARIST AT ST MARY'S

GOT QUESTIONS?
CONTACT 07427 766054 OR
TEAMVICAR.KWTM@GMAIL.COM

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Term dates 2025 – 2026

	Holidays - School closes on	School re-opens on
Christmas	Thursday 18 th December 2025	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 2025 - 26

Date	Day of the week	Bank holiday
25 December	Thursday	Christmas Day
26 December	Friday	Boxing Day
1 January	Thursday	New Year's Day
3 April	Friday	Good Friday
6 April	Monday	Easter Monday
4 May	Monday	Early May bank holiday
25 May	Monday	Spring bank holiday
31 August	Monday	Summer bank holiday



St Catherine's
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Christmas dates to remember

Friday 12th December

PTA Elfridges Christmas shop & gift sale

Kemp fundraising Rudolph Run in school

Tuesday 16th December

****Pupils may wear Christmas jumpers or accessories with their uniform****

Christmas lunch

(order on Kanpla by Sunday 14th December)

Wednesday 17th December

Christmas services for all pupils

Thursday 18th December

Pupils may wear Christmas jumpers or accessories with their uniform*

Class Christmas parties & visit from Father Christmas

Finish for the holidays at 3:15pm

Wishing you all a
wonderful Christmas