



Welcome to our May newsletter 2024

Headteacher Message

This half term has been full of learning, SATS and inspections. I would like to thank all of the children, staff team, governors and parents for all of their support. The Catholic Schools Inspection was an extremely positive experience for our school and it was a celebration of our school community. Thank you to all of the parents who met the inspectors and for those who shared your views, it was wonderful to hear such positive feedback. The outcome will be shared with you as soon as it is available, but as a leadership team, we could not be happier with the outcome. We are very proud to lead the St Charles' community.

Year 4 Residential trip

The children in Year 4 visited Druridge Bay, Bamburgh and Holy Island during their residential trip. They took part in some lovely Celebrations of the word on the beach and enjoyed the experience with Team Challenge.

Thank you to Mrs Allen for volunteering on the trip and to Miss Greatrex and Miss Salter for accompanying the children.

Alfie: "My favourite part of the residential was all of the fun activities we did together. I enjoyed it because we all had fun together as a class and everyone looked like they were having a fantastic time!"

Flora: "I really enjoyed the liturgies because they helped us to prepare for our First Holy Communion. I felt a bit nervous for my First Holy Communion but after the residential I feel a lot braver and I am really excited for it!"



Catholic Life



Next half term, the Year 6 pupils who are working towards the Faith in Action Award are hosting a Summer Extravaganza. They have invited local residential homes to attend. The choir will be singing, there will be fun games and afternoon tea served by the children.

If you know of any parishioners who would like to attend, please contact Miss Thomas.

"Together we follow Jesus in our living and learning"
Ordinary time "People who see you at your best will thank God" Matthew 6:16



Water Safety

I am sure you will be aware of the tragic deaths of two young persons in the River Tyne recently. Please read the link below relating to water safety. Water safety is part of our Summer RSHE curriculum and we will be reminding the children of ways they can stay safe. Remember to choose your child's swimming costume colour carefully. The colour of the bottom of the pool will make a difference but neon colours – orange, green, pink and yellow will always be easier to see in a pool.

Further information can be found at: [Water Safety Hub \(swimming.org\)](https://www.swimming.org)

Mobile phones

Please remember to check your child's mobile device or tablets regularly. If you need any advice regarding online safety, you can find further information at: [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)
You can speak to the safeguarding team in school - Mrs Nealings, Mrs Binney or Miss Thomas for advice also.

Early Years News

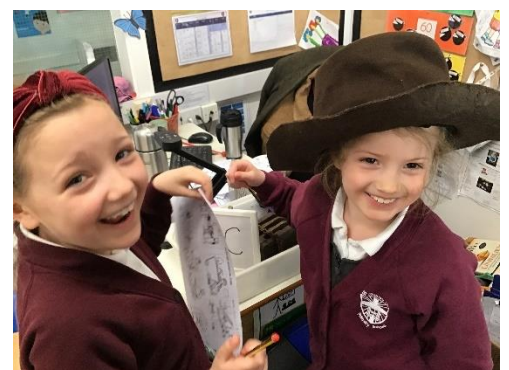
Nursery have been exploring jobs and thinking about what they would like to be when they grow up. They loved having the police and fire crews visit with their emergency vehicles. The children loved exploring the police equipment, for example handcuffs. They had fun being locked in the back of the van and hearing the siren. With the fire crew, they loved using the hose and pretending to put out a fire. They also had fun watching Miss Salter try to put on the fire fighter uniform quickly when a parent from Year 2 came to talk to us about being a fire fighter.

Reception class have been showing off their writing skills to explain what they want to be when they are older. They also wrote to Mrs Nealings to tell her all about the fire fighter and police visit. They have really enjoyed drinking tea in the communication station this term. This has encouraged eye contact and provided a lovely space for conversation in the Reception classroom.

Key Stage 1 News

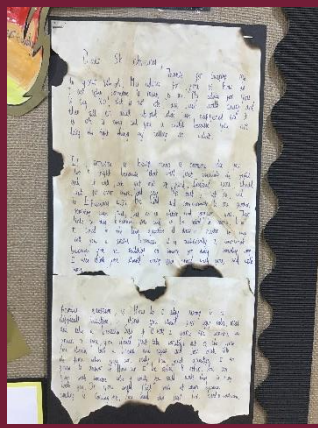
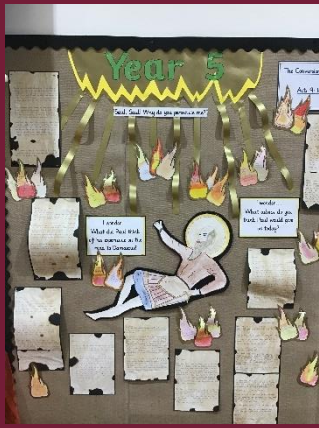
Year 1 have enjoyed Steve Backshaw themed Commando Joes day using teamwork. They have enjoyed exploring water colours inspired by Emma Burleigh. The children produced a landscape piece using their skills.

This half term Year 2 have been learning about The Great Fire of London and Newcastle/Gateshead in English and History. 'That History Bloke' came in to talk to the children and they spent a lot of time planning and writing their chronological reports about The Great Fire of London.



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Key Stage 2 News

Year 3 took part in an Ancient Egypt workshop with 'That History Bloke'. They thoroughly enjoyed learning about many aspects of Ancient Egyptian life. They dressed as pharaohs, re-enacted the mummification process and wrote hieroglyphics using ink and bamboo pens. It was a fantastic experience and great pre-learning for the start of their Ancient Egypt unit in History.

Year 5 have been learning about St Paul in RE, they discussed his behaviour before and after his conversion on the road to Damascus and realised that it is never too late to change our ways so that they can always try to become better versions of themselves. They wrote diary entries explaining what happened to us on the road to Damascus and letters, as Paul, giving advice to children in St Charles' today.

Year 6 have worked incredibly hard towards their SATs this term and we are all so proud of them all in school. The children enjoyed a rounders game and an ice-cream to celebrate their hard work! Year 6 are really looking forward to performing 'Shakespeare Rocks' on Thursday 11 July. They have held auditions and have started rehearsals. We hope you can join us for the show!

Sports News

Thank you to Mrs Mills and the Sports reporters for providing the sports updates for the term.

Whole school charity fun run in memory of Sam Ashcroft

On 1 July we will host a whole school sponsored charity fun run on the school field, and the adjacent field next to the fence. This event is being organised to remember a former pupil Sam Ashcroft, who sadly lost his life in December 2023, aged 23. The Ashcroft family were part of St Charles' for many years and although Sam left the school just before I joined St Charles', it was a privilege to know such a wonderful family. Sam's family may join us on the day. NE Immediate Care is the charity we will be supporting. NE Immediate Care intend to bring their response car and tell us more about themselves on the day. I will write to you all after half term with more details and a sponsor form.

Extra-curricular clubs parent views

Thank you for your suggestions and ideas. The leadership team will review your suggestions when trying to plan next academic year's offer.

Welcome meeting for new families

There is a welcome meeting for all new families on 25 June 2024 at 5pm. Parents will be able to meet the staff team in Early Years for September. If your child is joining us in September 2024 and may need any additional transition, please contact Mrs Binney via the school office.

Diary Dates

The diary dates for the remainder of the term are attached. Autumn dates will be published next half term for 2024-2025.

Celebration of the Word



Thank you to all of the children who have led this terms Celebrations of the Word. The children are becoming skilled at leading prayer time across the school.

Thank you to the children in Upper Key Stage 2 who lead our Praying in Paradise during lunchtime for the children. This is very popular with the young children.



Classics for All Impact Award

We are delighted to have been nominated for the Classics for All Impact Award 2024. We started teaching Latin in Key Stage 2 last September and it has been a huge success. The staff have benefited from several training sessions across the year provided by a Latin specialist. The children and staff have enjoyed learning the ancient language and it has so many links to our school curriculum.

Good Luck to Miss Thomas and Miss Greatrex, who will be representing our school at the awards. Hopefully, we will have some good news to share with you in July.

Staffing for academic year 2024 - 2025

Nursery – Miss Salter

Reception class - Mrs Bertenshaw

Year 1 – Miss Cowan

Year 2 - Miss Shaw

Year 3 – Miss Young

Year 4 – Miss Greatrex

Year 5 – Mrs Mills

Year 6 - Miss Thomas (Assistant Headteacher) and Mrs Binney (Deputy Headteacher)

Executive Headteacher - Mrs Nealings

Miss Young and Miss Shaw have just been appointed to the staff team. Both are experienced teachers and we are delighted to have them join us, they will be bringing lots of talent and strength to our team. Miss Young is currently teaching in a Bishop Bewick School and Miss Shaw currently teaches at Regent Farm school. They will be joining us for transition days before the summer break and will have the opportunity to meet their new classes.

Mrs Hague will be teaching across the school during the Autumn term before she commences maternity leave in November. Congratulations to her and her husband, we are delighted for you both after the news of your new arrival.

Mrs Hamer will be returning to her role at the end of Autumn term as our HLTA. We look forward to her returning after her maternity leave.

Good luck to Mr Gray, who is leaving the teaching profession this summer. It has been a pleasure working with Mr Gray and we wish him and his family well.

Thank you and good luck to Miss Warsap who leaves us in the Summer after covering Mrs Bertenshaw's maternity leave.

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