



BISHOP HOGARTH

Catholic Education Trust

# Spring

NEWSLETTER  
2024



Christ at the centre, Children at the heart









# Welcome

**Dear parents / carers,**

Welcome to the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust Spring 2024 Newsletter. We see the end in sight of RAAC in our two Trust schools. We look forward to normality returning over the Easter break. We have had more Ofsted and Catholic Schools Inspections, all affirming the great work that is going on in our schools. Each one recognising how fantastic the pupils are and how the staff are dedicated and focused on improving the life chances of the children. As you read through this Spring 2024 newsletter, you will see a flavour of the tremendous work that goes on across our Trust.

As we all look forward to the Easter Celebrations, it's again a time to reflect on what it truly means to say Jesus came into this world and suffered and died for all. It's easy to keep busy with the everyday, it's easy to forget to stop and think and reflect on what it means to be part of the catholic community. Recently I was reminded of the passage:

*'And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another' Hebrews 10:24-25*

There are too many times when it's easier not to meet up, but maybe we need that contact to 'spur one another on toward love and good deeds'. Over the Easter period enjoy meeting together with family and friends and maybe consider getting involved more in what your parish community can offer.

As many of you may already know, I have made it known that I will be retiring in the summer. I have been teaching and leading in catholic schools for 36 years, it is now time for retirement. The Trust is in a great place with a really good reputation both regionally and nationally. I feel like I will be able to hand on the role of CEO with confidence and every best wish for the future of Bishop Hogarth.

Happy Easter!

*Mike Shorten*

CEO



**BISHOP HOGARTH**

Catholic Education Trust





BISHOP HOGARTH  
Catholic Education Trust



On Wednesday 10th January, we hosted our first ever Bishop Hogarth Pupil Parliament event! The Pupil Parliament includes students from all our 35 schools. The aims of the Pupil Parliament are to represent, unite and make a difference.

The day started with an introduction from Mrs Hubbard-Young and our new MPs were 'sworn in'. All our Pupil Parliament students then received a certificate to show their accomplishment. The students discussed what makes a good leader and how to speak well in front of an audience.

We were thrilled to have 'Special Advisors' attend the event, which were some of our wonderful Sixth Form students, who were there to help our new MPs throughout the day. The students involved were a credit to their schools and we are so excited to see how they progress throughout the year!





# Inspection Spotlight

## St. Teresa's, Darlington

We are so pleased to announce that St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School in Darlington have been **rated GOOD by Ofsted** once again!

**Ofsted stated** "The school has high ambitions for all pupils. Pupils achieve well, particularly in mathematics. Strong relationships between pupils and staff ensure the support for pupils' learning and personal development is highly effective."



**Ofsted**  
Good  
Provider



**Ofsted**  
Good  
Provider

## St. Joseph's, Hartlepool

We are so proud of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Hartlepool that they have been **rated GOOD by Ofsted**!

**Ofsted stated** "Everyone belongs at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Pupils learn to celebrate diversity. They do this with great pride. Pupils are eager to show visitors their 'Global Map'. This displays the heritage of pupils across the school."

## Sacred Heart

We are delighted to share that Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in Hartlepool have been **rated GOOD by Ofsted**!

**Amanda Palmer, Head of School said** "I would like to congratulate our wonderful children and the hard work and dedication of our staff. Moving to 'Good' is a fantastic outcome and we are committed to serving our local community and making Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School the best school it can be so our children can flourish."



**Ofsted**  
Good  
Provider

We are so proud of our primary schools for their amazing inspection results achieved this term. With a handful of our schools currently undergoing inspection, we look forward to sharing their results with you in the Summer 2024 edition of the newsletter.

*We wish all of our schools the best of luck!*





## Secondaries & Sixth Forms



# Carmel College

## Carmel Culture Festival

### 2024

*A day to remember!*



What a whirlwind of joy and colour the Carmel Culture Festival 2024 was! From the delectable tastes that took our palates on a worldwide journey, to the vibrant dances that had our feet moving, every moment was a testament to the beauty of diversity and learning.

Our discussions opened minds and hearts, and our prayer brought them all together in a moment of peace and unity. It's days like these that really shine a light on the unique Carmel family – a place where everyone belongs and every culture is celebrated.

A HUGE shout-out to Mrs. Whittaker and her incredible team of Student Ambassadors for the School of Sanctuary for orchestrating such a memorable event. And let's not forget the contribution of over 100 students who proudly showcased their rich cultures. We're already counting down to next year's festivities!



## Carmel College 6th Form Recreational Netball League

We had an exhilarating start to our new Recreational Netball League for Years 12 and 13! The courts were buzzing with energy as our students showcased their skills and spirit in mixed teams.



## Careers week

As part of National Careers Week, students from Years 8–13 at Carmel engaged in an enriching and interactive in-school careers fair. With over 30 employers and educational providers in attendance, our students had a fantastic opportunity to network, ask questions, and gain insights into various career paths and educational opportunities. From apprenticeships to university courses, the fair offered a wide array of options for our students to explore.

**We're incredibly proud of the maturity and professionalism our students displayed during the fair. Engaging in discussions, enquiring about work experience opportunities, and learning about college and university applications – their enthusiasm and curiosity were inspiring!**







## Secondaries & Sixth Forms



### The English Martyrs Catholic School & Sixth Form College

## Royal Shakespeare Company Production

We had the privilege of welcoming the Royal Shakespeare Company to school for a special 90 minute production of Romeo and Juliet. Some of our students have also had workshops with RSC and took part in the performance.  
**A real treat for our budding thespians.**

## Member of the Youth Parliament

Congratulations to Oliver who has been elected by the young people of Hartlepool as the town's new Member of the Youth Parliament (MYP). Oliver, who is 17 and studies at EMS6, said: "It's a great honour to be chosen and I'm really looking forward to representing the interests of Hartlepool's young people on the issues that matter to them, especially promoting their wellbeing." We wish him well in the role.  
(Pictured with Councillor Lindridge)



## Catenian Public Speaking Contest

Scarlett, Ava and Oliver represented our school at the annual Catenian Public Speaking Contest which was hosted at EMS. The students worked extremely hard on their very creative speeches, delivering them to a large audience. It was a wonderful afternoon. Well done.

## Hartlepool Netball Tournament

Our Year 7 Netballers had a fantastic day at the Hartlepool Netball Tournament. The girls played some brilliant netball to come out as winners! Lovely atmosphere and some excellent sportsmanship. Well done girls!



## EMS's #ArtistoftheWeek

One of EMS's #ArtistoftheWeek for this term was Layla. She has produced this incredible portrait in coloured pencil as part of her GCSE Art and Design studies into portraiture. Undoubtedly a very skilled artist, who has mastered this technique. Layla will now build on this and produce more studies in this style working towards a final piece on a larger scale for her GCSE portfolio. Well done Layla, fantastic work!



## DCSFA County Cup Victory!

Huge congratulations to our Year 10 squad who clinched the DCSFA County Cup with a superb 3-0 victory over Kepier School (Houghton).

This is the first trophy of the season for our brilliant 10s as they chase a quadruple. Absolutely brilliant guys!







## Secondaries & Sixth Forms



### OUR LADY & ST. BEDE

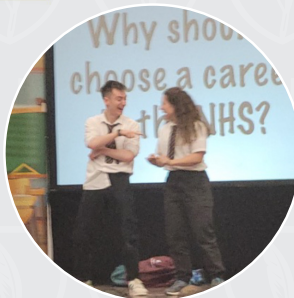
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

#### National Careers Week 2024 4th-9th March



#### National Careers Week

1. All year groups have had an assembly led by careers lead, Mr York.
2. Year 7-10 have been completing careers activities in form time.
3. Every Year 7-10 class have been completing careers activities in ALL subject areas.
4. Staff shared their career journeys on posters on classroom / office doors.
5. Local colleges came in to speak to pupils and parents about post 16 choices.
6. All of Year 8 had an NHS careers presentation which looked at the different post 16 pathways and routes into NHS careers.



#### Lent Bake Sale

On Friday 1st March the SVP Group hosted our Lent Bake Sale. Lots of pupils and staff donated cakes for the sale, which we were so grateful for. During Lent, we practise the three 'pillars' of Lent, Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Almsgiving is simply a response by us to God, a response that we have come to through prayer and fasting. It is an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given us, and a realisation that it is never just "me and God." Works of charity and the promotion of justice are integral elements of the Christian way of life and we show this during Lent. In total we raised £400, all money raised will go to CAFOD who support the poorest in our world.



#### World Book Day

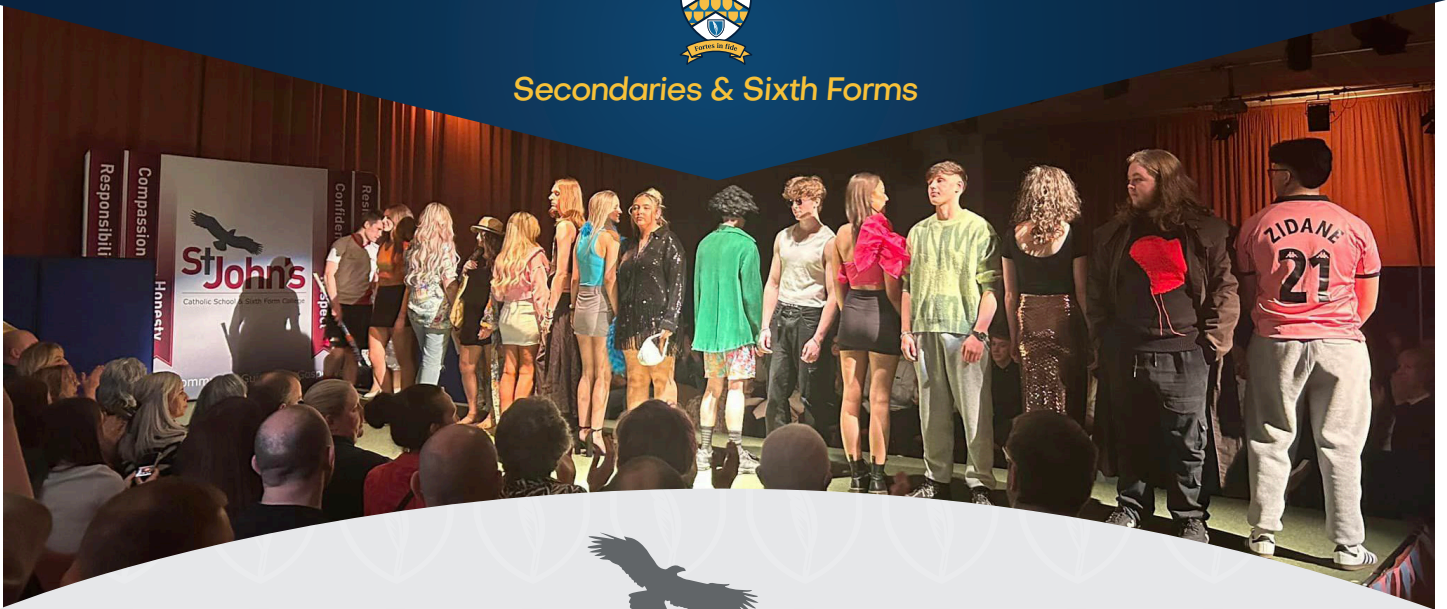
On Thursday 7th March, we celebrated World Book Day. The theme this year was 'Read Your Way'. In English lessons, pupils were asked to pitch a creative idea to promote reading 'your way' to help save the reading crisis in young people. We saw many creative ideas. Many pupils designed their own books, some based on the lives of OLSB pupils. Some pupils worked together to invent reading themed inventions, such as a machine which locks your phone in a magic box until you have read enough to free it! We also had our 'OLSB Big Book Scavenger Hunt' which saw pupils using their reading skills to decode clues, leading them to a variety of staff. In the library, we hosted our 'Big Book Swap'. The Student Librarians in particular were the stars of the day. They were dressed in literary themed costumes under the theme of 'Heroes vs. Villains'.







## Secondaries & Sixth Forms



Catholic School & Sixth Form College

### Charity Fashion Show

**What a wonderful evening we had for our Charity Fashion Show, raising money and donations for Cancer Research UK and Angel Trust.**

Our wonderful Sixth Form students and staff took to the catwalk to strut their stuff for these fantastic causes, and what a fabulous evening of entertainment it was. Along with our marvellous models, our very own Buble, Marco from Year 11, entertained our crowds and we even managed some party games, popcorn and a 360 camera!

A huge thank you to The Key for their funding for this evening, and to our fabulous Sixth Form girls: Isabelle, Layla, Molly and Elsa who organised the event. A big thank you also to Thomas our Learning Mentor and all the staff who helped with the organisations. Thanks to everyone's efforts we have raised an incredible £1500 for Cancer Research and a van full of pre-loved clothing for Angel Trust.

### International Women's Day

In aid of International Women's Day, a small number of our students and some Year 13 Criminology students visited Bishop Auckland College to listen to a talk from Rachel Bacon, the newly appointed Chief Constable of Durham Police.

Rachel has succeeded in her career path in a male-dominated profession, and it was wonderful for us to commemorate International Women's Day by having a "Chat with the Chief".



### Badminton National School Championships

This week four of our Year 9 boys attended the County finals of the Badminton National School Championships following their success at the local round. The boys won all their matches and finished the competition with a 3-2 victory over Durham Johnston with the deciding match going to 20-20 and a sudden death point to decide which school would progress. St. John's however managed to come out on top and progress through to the Regional Round next month. An outstanding achievement for a group of boys who only started the sport at the after school club in Year 7!

**Well done to our Badminton superstars, Evan, Seb, Lewis and George.**





## Secondaries & Sixth Forms



### Trip to Ullswater

Some of our students travelled to Ullswater in the Lake District in March for a week of adventure activities. Students developed their resilience, confidence, and responsibility as they went gorge walking, canoeing, hiking and caving.

### Skiing in France

As we returned from the Christmas break, we took our students skiing in France. Students had a fabulous time learning a new skill and pushing themselves out of their comfort zone.



### Raising money for YoungMinds

Our Year 11 students held a cake sale to raise money for the charity YoungMinds. This charity supports young people with their mental health. Well done to Lily H, who organised the event. The students raised £435.95!

### World Book Day

Students at St. Michael's celebrated World Book Day on the 7th March 2024. Our library was transformed to 'Starbooks'. Student librarians became waiters and waitresses, serving Year 7 with a range of books from a variety of genres. We decorated doors, dressed up as characters from literature and held 'The Masked Reader'.





## Blessed John Duckett



### Festival of Britain

During our spring term, the whole school topic is the Festival of Britain. We celebrated the topic by inviting parents into school for a stay and play session. As part of the session parents took part in activities and sampled some of the children's baking.

### Number Day

The whole school celebrated number day by dressing as a digit. Children took part in number activities throughout the day.

### Eco Ambassadors

We have established a new eco group to work in partnership with 'Building Self Belief'. The group have met together, discussed ideas, planted strawberry plants and made their own plant pots so far.

### World Book Day

Children thoroughly enjoyed dressing as their favourite character or coming to school dressed in their pyjamas. Children took part in lots of book related activities and had a special lunch made by our wonderful cook.



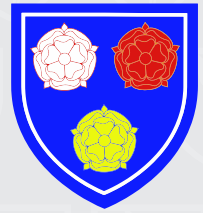
**HOLY  
FAMILY**

## The Mayor's Primary Schools Song Contest

We are incredibly proud to announce that the Holy Family Choir won The Mayor's Primary Schools Song Contest 2024. Our talented pupils gave an amazing performance of 'One of Us' by ABBA and Judges commented how fabulous their harmonies were.

Every member of the choir has worked exceptionally hard during rehearsals and at the event they were a real credit to our school. Thank you to Mrs Mustard for coaching the choir and Mrs Watmore and Mrs Crees for attending the event with the children. Thank you also to families for your continued support.





## Our Lady of the most Holy Rosary

### Active School's Festival

A selection of pupils in Year 3, 4 and 5 took part in an Active Schools Festival at Durham University Campus in Stockton. The children had the opportunity to take part in many new activities that they haven't tried before including archery, golf and Thai boxing. We were so proud of how well the pupils represented our school.



### Balance Bike Training

Our Early Years children took part in a balance bike session with Martin and they loved it! The children learnt how to put their helmets on, how to get on and off their bikes and how to use big spider legs to move their bikes. Well done Early Years children!



### Leavers Hoodies

Our Year 6 leavers hoodies have arrived at Holy Rosary. A special memory to keep forever.



## Our Lady & St. Thomas

A big well done to Class 4 for their exceptional efforts in their Shakespeare performance. Thank you to parents for their ongoing encouragement at home and for coming to support our children today.

Having studied the history of aviation, Class 1 let off some steam flying model planes around the garden. We had fun building the planes, learning new vocabulary and got a physical workout flying them round the garden.

We welcomed Mrs Dorothy Hales, the Mayor of Willington and her deputy Mrs Angela Smith. They spoke to the school council about their ideas for different events that will be happening in our community. The school council enjoyed asking them questions.





## Sacred Heart

### Sacred Heart Football Team

Our football team played fantastic football to secure a place in the next round of the Schools' Premier League. They managed to win every match. Well done!

### Nursery chicks!

It's been an exciting time in Nursery as they have had some eggs in an incubator, and they started to hatch. Classes from the rest of the school also thoroughly enjoyed visiting the chicks.



### Sports Hall Athletics

Year 3 and 4 took part in Sports Hall Athletics at The English Martyrs Catholic School & Sixth Form College. Our boys came 1st and our girls came 2nd, they all had a great time.



St. Augustines

Year 3 had a fantastic time at the '**Shakespeare Remixed**' session at Darlington Library. They used rap, stage combat and dance to take the prologue from Shakespeare and bring it to life!

**Girls football is extremely popular at St Augustine's.** We were very grateful to have Millie from Darlington FC Foundation coming into school this half term to give our Year 5 and 6 girls an extra opportunity to play football at school.

Year 5 have started their **Bikeability sessions** with Darlington Borough Council.







Primaries



## St. Bede's (Darlington)



**History Club** had a glorious time facing the challenge today during their final session! They really excelled at showcasing their formation training and cleared the way ferociously! Many thanks also for all our volunteers who gave up their time to join in!



Year 2 had a lovely time visiting our friends at **Springfield Care Home**. The children read stories with their friends, coloured in with them and showed them some pieces of work which they are most proud of.

Nursery have enjoyed learning about **Burns Night**.

Year 3 and 4 are working hard on their ball control in **hockey**.



## St. Bede's (Stockton)

### Animal Story

At St. Bede's, KS1 had a fantastic afternoon with Animal Story. They brought in a variety of animals from different world habitats for us to hold and stroke. The children learned many different facts including why animals can survive in different habitats.

### Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

Year 5 have been planting hedges in the school grounds with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. They have also been on a fantastic spiritual retreat at the Emmaus Youth Village.

### Prayer Garden

We have begun work on our prayer garden, which will provide an outdoor spiritual space for our children.

### Power of Women Event

Year 5 and Year 6 children represented St Bede's at a Power of Women event at Wynyard Hall. They spoke eloquently about their experiences as Power of Women ambassadors.





## St. Bega's

In music, Class 4 have enjoyed using the **glockenspiels** to make their own mini compositions.

In Nursery we have **planted our very own sunflowers**. We are going to take care of them in school and watch them grow!

Our Early Years children enjoyed their first **balance bike training session**.



## St. Chad's

### Lockerbie Manor

Children from Years 4, 5 and 6 visited Lockerbie Manor for a two-night residential. They took part in lots of fantastic activities such as rock climbing, archery, abseiling and orienteering. They had a fabulous time.

### Number Day

The whole school celebrated number day by dressing as a digit. Children took part in number activities throughout the day.

### World Book Day

Children thoroughly enjoyed dressing as their favourite character or coming to school dressed in their pyjamas. Children took part in lots of book related activities and had a special lunch made by our wonderful cook.

### Technology Tom

As part of our STEM project with the Locomotion museum, Tom Mulholland visited school and worked with KS2. Children learnt about magnetism, static electricity and conductors.







Primaries



St. Charles

### Basketball Fun

Last month, some of our Year 5 and Year 6 children enjoyed taking part in a local basketball competition in Durham. They were fantastic! As they were introduced to the game, they listened carefully to the rules and proceeded to work as a team and even supported other teams. Every one of them demonstrated confidence and resilience; as a result they gained enough points to reach the cup final stage of the event.

### Reading Cafés and World Book Day

The children and adults at St. Charles had a great World Book Day. They all dressed as their favourite book character and enjoyed various activities including creating exciting characters and settings for their own stories. As part of the day, they also listened to stories and took part in the school's annual book day parade showcasing their fantastic character costumes to their friends. As well as celebrating World Book Day, St. Charles also promoted reading by hosting a variety of Reading Café's. Parents and carers were invited into school to observe phonics lessons and whole class guided reading sessions before spending some time reading with their children. Parents and carers explained that it was a great idea to show them how they could support their children to read at home.

### The Great Fire of London

Year 2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London. As part of their history topic they explored what London was like in 1066, how the fire started and how far it spread. The children then extended their learning across the curriculum as they designed their own houses in DT to create a replica of the houses in London. After discussing fire safety, the children then watched as their houses were set alight. They enjoyed being historians as they asked lots of interesting questions about what happened after the Great Fire of London and compared the fire to the Great fire of Gateshead and Newcastle.



## St. Cuthbert's (Crook)



In January, St Cuthbert's welcomed visitors from across the NHS come to visit and gave us a chance to **experience a range of amazing careers.**

The school was full of laughter and excitement as we became surgeons, porters, financiers, charity workers, back specialists, dieticians, nutritionists, patient services and many more! We are very grateful for such a fun opportunity to aspire to great things!

Early Years children celebrated **Chinese New Year.** We found out that 2024 is the Year of the Dragon. We made our very own dragon and performed a dance.

Year 4 children have been **learning about biomes** in their geography lessons. Look at their fantastic homework.

Class 5 have organised a plastic clean up as part of their **Faith in Action award.** They have designed posters, made videos and encouraged the children at St Cuthbert's to bring in one piece of plastic a day so that it can be properly sorted and recycled. They chose to do this due to God's message of humans being tasked with caring for the animals, plants and planet.





Primaries



## St. Cuthbert's (Hartlepool)



St. Cuthbert's Hartlepool, a Royal Shakespeare Lead Associate School had a 'first encounter' with Shakespeare. The programme brings Shakespeare to schools with the Royal Shakespeare Company performing for the children and community. St. Cuthbert's enjoyed two performances of 'Romeo and Juliet' which was action packed, emotive and inspiring.

Ten children from St. Cuthbert's worked alongside the cast as 'peace council' and advised the mayor of Verona on his decisions. The experience brought the chance to explore careers in the theatre from sound and lighting as well as costume design. The ten Year 5 pupils showed confidence, enthusiasm and teamwork and we were very proud of them. It was a great opportunity and one the school will be bringing to Hartlepool again next year.



## St. Cuthbert's (Stockton)



Year 5 went to the **Emmaus Youth Village** and had a fantastic time! They were very busy engaging in some wonderful activities and enjoying some free time on the field.

School Council were lucky enough to **plant a selection of trees** in our local area this week. Together, we planted over 100 trees! Well done, School Council!

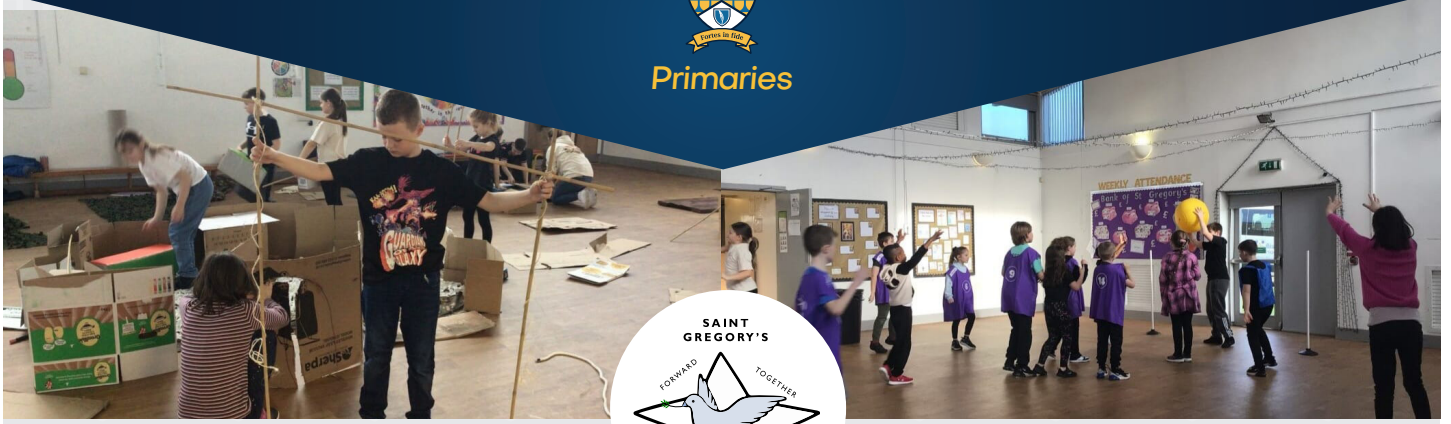
Mr Knox, from our Bishop Hogarth School Improvement Team, officially opened our **Reading Garden in the 'Garden of Delight'**. The children are so excited to have use of the garden throughout playtime and lunchtime.







Primaries



## St. Gregory's



Our sports apprentice and staff volunteers provided a three-day holiday club for our KS2 children. The children participated in a range of activities including science experiments, craft activities, creating delicious healthy food choices and had lots of fitness fun!

These opportunities helped them to develop their confidence, core strength and resilience. They also developed their knowledge of how to stay healthy and how to work as a team.

We have started weekly reading events for parents, Stay and Read. They have been very popular with our children and their parents.



## St. John the Evangelist

KS1 and KS2 thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful production of **'The Secret Garden'** by **M&M Theatrical Productions**.

We are introducing our **Wellbeing Ambassadors**. After completing an application form, these Year 5 and Year 6 children worked hard over a seven-week period with Alliance Psychological Services. Topics included mentoring, active listening skills, communication, self-esteem and confidentiality. With the continued support of Alliance and Mrs Cox they are looking forward to supporting their peers.







## St. John Vianney

When it came to World Book Day this year, we were inspired by the theme of reading 'your way', or as it may be said in Hartlepool: 'Yahweh'. This seemed a big hint, so this year, we invited parents, carers and families to come with us to Church, as children led 'The Way of the Cross'. Each class chose a different version of the Stations to read, and across the day parents heard their children reading six different 'Ways'.

After the Stations, parents came back to school to spend some time with their child in the school library, where they could listen to their child read or choose a book to read with them. Parents also enjoyed the opportunity to peruse their child's exercise books and listen to them reading back some of their work. Children enjoyed celebrating their progress since their parents last saw their books in Autumn term.

In Early Years, parents were invited to join their child in their room to share a story or join in a reading time activity. Again there were plenty of books available to share, in groups or quietly together. Parents also enjoyed the opportunity to see where their children spend their days and see how the day care and early years operates. Children enjoyed the opportunity to be their guide showing them every nook and cranny.

As usual during Lent our children are working together in their 'family at school' to create their own series of stations. This year they are composing 'The Way of Mark', which we will follow together each morning during the fifth week of Lent, when once again parents, carers and family can attend to hear their children's interpretation of this most sorrowful of journeys to the cross, but offered in light of resurrection: we are Easter people.



## St. Joseph's (Coundon)

World Book Day is a fantastic opportunity for children to share their love of reading and have some fun. This year, St. Joseph's decided to celebrate by having a 'Poetry in Pyjamas' day and the school came alive with the sound of rhythm and rhyme. Staff and students dressed in their best comfiest clothing: their pyjamas!

The day began with a whole school assembly where verse and rhyme took centre stage. Laughter and excitement filled the air as staff and children showcased their love for poetry, setting the tone for the day's festivities. It was wonderful to see the school community come together in the spirit of literature.

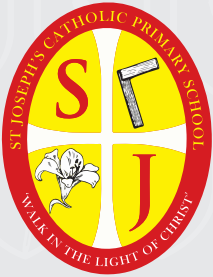
Throughout the day, children immersed themselves in the enchanting world of poetry: celebrating its wonder and diversity. Poems were shared, read, and written across all phases of our school community, inspiring appreciation for the written word and leaving everyone feeling enriched by its magic. Many children expressed their intention to spend their World Book Day vouchers on poetry books. The day was a resounding success: a true celebration of the literary world of poetry and books.







Primaries



## St. Joseph's (Billingham)

Well done to our KS2 girls football team. They have had another successful term participating at different competitions with the Stockton School Sports Partnership and with representing Hartlepool United Football Club.

During half term, they played in the Stockton School's finals and won all but one of their matches, scoring 19 goals in total. Their amazing teamwork and determination means that they are now through to the Tees Valley final.

In February, Skip2bFit visited our school for a theme day. These days are always huge fun, the children learn how to skip and learn the importance of daily practise. It is lovely to see so many children skipping at break times and trying to improve their own personal best scores.



## St. Joseph's (Hartlepool)

### Hartlepool Library Visit

KS2 enjoyed their experience visiting Hartlepool Library to listen to the fantastic author James Harris. They listened and laughed and even got their World Book Day books signed!

### Number Day

Our students thoroughly enjoyed dressing up as rock stars and numbers for Number Day!

### Town Swimming Gala

Well done to our Year 6 children who came runners up in the town swimming gala.







Primaries



## St. Joseph's (Newton Aycliffe)

### Global Unplugging Day

On Friday 1st March, pupils and staff took part in 'Global Unplugging Day'. This is a day dedicated to unplugging from the electronic world and spending time with others and experiencing nature. The children took part in a range of outdoor learning across the day: planting flowers, making bird boxes and cooking smores on a campfire. No computers/ipads or electronics were used in classes and lights were kept off for the entire day.

### Tell A Fairy Tale Day

On Monday 26th February, Year 5 and 6 children visited Rose Lodge Care Home to celebrate National Tell a Fairytale Day! They were provided with the opportunity to read, tell and listen to fairytales from around the world. Mr Hunt, class teacher at St. Joseph's, said, "It was lovely to see the children interacting with the residents and making them smile and laugh. This visit enabled the children to put our Trust virtues of compassion, confidence and respect into practise." The children are already looking forward to returning.

### Children's Mental Health Week

The mental health of young children is vitally important so from 5th-11th February, we celebrated 'Children's Mental Health Week'. The theme was 'My Voice Matters'. To kickstart the week, the school council led a whole school assembly to introduce the theme and 'worry boxes' that they had created for each class. These will be checked weekly by the senior mental health lead in school. The school council have created a bench in the playground where children can sit if they don't mind someone stopping by and saying hi.



## St. Joseph's (Norton)

### Careers Week 2024

St. Joseph's celebrated Careers Week in March with a multitude of visitors to inspire our children. A former St. Joseph's pupil who is now an Aircraft Engineer Technician in the Royal Navy explained what life at sea entails, and all the places he has visited around the world in his role.

The Director of Public Health for our region Professor Kelly spoke to the children about the different careers available in the NHS and the qualities needed to be successful in their chosen careers.

Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation described the variety of careers offered for those interested in sports, including coaching, teaching, physiotherapy and nutrition.

We had a visit from a Warrant Officer and Air Traffic Controller from the RAF, we heard about what their job involves and the experiences they have had in Iraq and the Falkland Islands. They discussed the character virtues needed to be successful in the RAF and some of the 'fun' activities available, like skydiving, skiing and surfing!

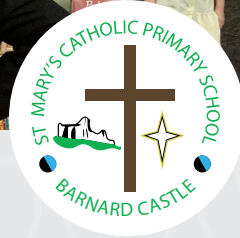
The children had a wonderful week, they all feel motivated to aspire to be their best and achieve their dream careers.







Primaries



## St. Mary's (Barnard Castle)

### Forest School

Wrens and Robins are enjoying their weekly visit to our local Forest School at Deepdale Woods, joined by our friends at Kirklands Nursery too. We are so lucky to have such wonderful opportunities right on our door step, exploring the great outdoors and connecting with nature.



### World Book Day

We got dressed up in our favourite character costumes or pjs! We also had a 'Story in a Jar' competition. Elaine, from our local library judged the entries...Mrs Box was so pleased she was not judging as they were all amazing! Congratulations to Pip in KS1 and Edward our KS2 winner. The children won a £10 book voucher or £10 cinema voucher.

## St. Mary's (Newton Aycliffe)

In January, St. Mary's launched their new mission statement 'Called by God'. The staff wrote an acrostic prayer for the children to say each day, sharing the schools mission. A local musician co-wrote a school song with the school council. With 'Called by God' as our mission, each class was tasked with planning a Catholic Social Teaching project.

Year 1 explored the Popes letter entitled 'Fratelli Tutti' which reminds us that we are all brothers and sister in Christ, called together to be part of one community. The children then made cards to be distributed to the elderly at our local care home.

Year 2 were surprised to find out that over a million children in the UK don't have a book at home. Their project was all about giving and getting children in Newton Aycliffe reading. They made their own wrapping paper and are planning to leave boxes of books around the town for children to take!

Year 3 and 4 explored how workers have the right to be treated fairly. The children in these classes will be leading us as we strive to become a 'Fairtrade School' through leading assemblies, running Fairtrade tuck shops and Fairtrade coffee mornings for parents.

Year 5 learned about how Pope Francis wrote a letter entitled 'Laudato Si' which reminds us that we are stewards of creation and that it is our duty as Christians to look after the world God gave us. With that in mind, they wrote to King Charles, a passionate eco warrior, to ask for his help in protecting our world.

In Year 6, pupils learned about how there are many in our community who do not have enough food. Catholic Social Teaching informs us that we should look after those less fortunate than ourselves. We wrote to Tesco to ask for a donation to our local food bank. Any donation, we informed them, would be appreciated. After all: 'Every Little Helps'.



### Called by God

We are called by God to

Stand as one family

Together we will make a difference

Make us responsible for ourselves and others

Always treat everyone with justice and compassion

Respect and celebrate difference

Your strength will guide us

St Mary, pray for us.

Amen





## St. Patrick's

In February, the Year 6 children from St Patrick's attended the Emmaus Youth Village in Consett. The theme for the retreat was 'Lost and Found.' The children studied parables from the Bible such as The Lost Sheep and The Lost Coin. The children thoroughly enjoyed all of the activities they took part in and said they would love to go back next year!



## St. Paul's Exciting Early Learning

This Spring term our nursery children have enjoyed taking part in 'The Big Garden Bird Watch' The children loved using binoculars to spot, identify and count the number of birds we see in our nursery garden and at home. The children then made tasty bird cake to ensure the birds were well fed!

Nursery children also enjoyed sharing the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea.' They decided to host a toys' tea party, so they wrote invitations to their toys, placed them in an envelope and all walked to our local post box to send our letters home. It was so exciting to receive a letter! We hosted a lovely 'Tiger who came to Tea' tea party which was such fun!

## Year 5 Home Front Workshop

Year 5 were very lucky to have a workshop delivered by Craig from Preston Park Museum. The workshop was a fantastic addition to their ongoing learning of 'The Home Front' in history. The children were able to build upon their current knowledge of the home guard, the role of women during WWII and rationing. They thoroughly enjoyed handling and trying on items from the museum and even tried parsnip sandwiches! Year 5 were very grateful to 'The Friends of St Paul's' who funded this curriculum enrichment opportunity.







## St. Teresa's (Darlington)

St. Teresa's boys came 3rd out of 19 other teams in a recent football tournament. Mr Carter provided this synopsis of the day! "The boys were outstanding in their performance and picked up medals for finishing 3rd out of the 19 schools that took part, they only lost 1 game out of the 12 that they played. The winning team couldn't even defeat us! The boys were also an absolute credit to the school and were respectful of the officials and the other boys taking part. It was a real pleasure to be out with them."

Nursery celebrated Chinese New Year by making their own dragon dance using a range of percussion instruments. They then sampled traditional Chinese food and even had a go at using chopsticks!

Girls from Year 5 and 6 took part in the Darlington Girls Football Competition held at Eastbourne Sports Complex. The girls played some fantastic football and only lost once (to the eventual winners) in their ten games that they played. They finished a fantastic third place and claimed their medals for their achievements.

As always, the team represented the school with dignity and pride, and they should be proud of their achievements. Well done girls!



## St. Teresa's (Hartlepool)

St. Teresa's School celebrated number day where we spent the day doing number-based activities and dressed in number themed clothes. The children had a good day and really enjoyed the maths themed activities.

Our school took place in the Hartlepool Swimming Gala and were lucky enough to come 2nd. The children not only swam so well but they also made us feel so proud with their supportive nature to each other.

Each month we hold a breakfast and book event where parents are invited to read with their children and enjoy a breakfast bun.

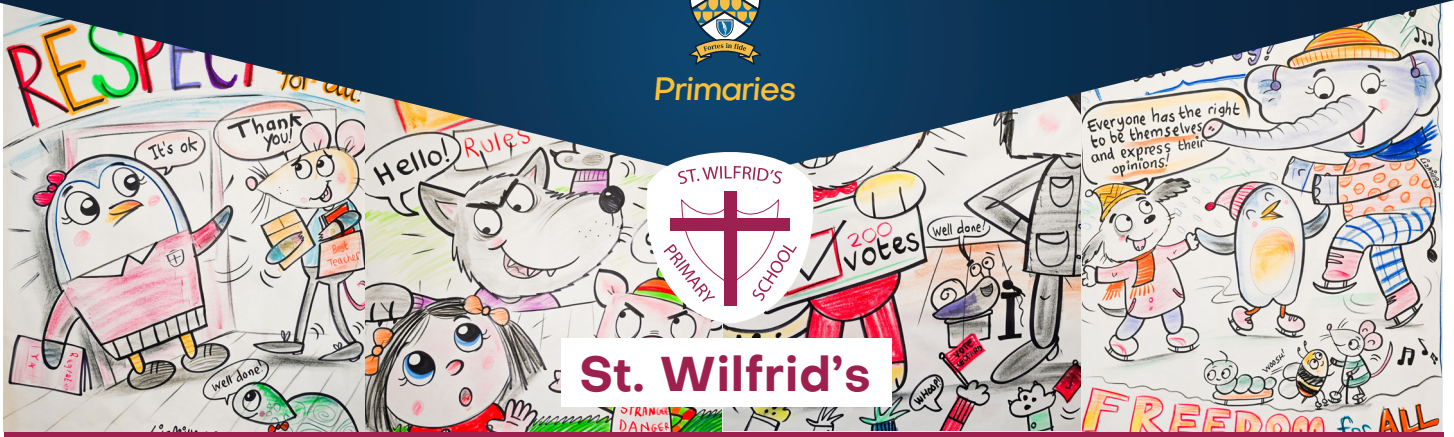
Our reception class enjoyed a chilly walk to the library looking for signs of Winter. We spotted signs of Winter on the way. We enjoyed choosing our own book which we will keep at school for our 'Love to read books'.







Primaries



**St. Wilfrid's**

## Illustrator Visit – Liz Million

Throughout the day, different year groups had their own session with illustrator, Liz Million. In these sessions we practiced drawing with her. All of our drawings were about British values and Catholic Social Teaching: Democracy, Freedom, Law, Individual Liberty and Respect. While we were drawing, we had lots of laughs and learnt about her career. As she drew, we drew along with her and by the end we had produced lots of outstanding drawings. The part we all loved the most was when she bonked us on our heads with a big inflatable Crayon!

## Reading Week



The week before we broke up for half term (5th February – 10th February) we celebrated reading week and took part in loads of fun activities. As part of reading week, we had a scholastic book fair where you could buy a book or stationery. Everyday, the Tanoy went off and Miss Sands told us to drop everything and read.

## Number Day

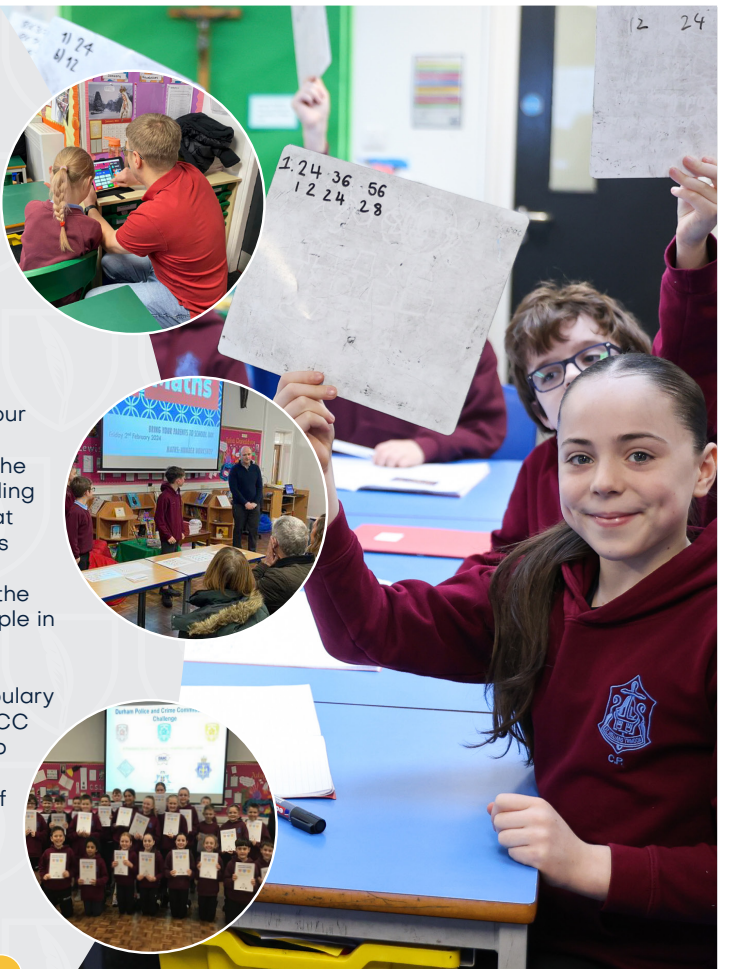
Two weeks ago, we celebrated number day for NSPCC. We each brought in a pound, and we managed to raise 105 pounds for the charity. We got to come in non-school uniform, and we could craft or wear a t-shirt with numbers on it. Each class did a fun activity based on a book about numbers and maths. For example, Year 6 had the book called, How Many Jelly Beans? We counted how many different colours were in a packet. At the end of the day, we counted all the numbers in our class and had a competition for which class had the biggest number. Overall, everyone had a good time celebrating numbers together.



**St. William's**

St. William's had a fantastic turn out for their second 'Bring Your Parents to School Day' to celebrate World Number Day. It was wonderful to see so many families in attendance and the feedback received demonstrated that parents enjoyed spending time with their children in class, as well as learning some great ideas about how they could further support their child's maths learning at home. Thank you to Mr Bostock and the maths ambassadors for arranging the morning and thank you to all the classroom staff for managing so well with so many extra people in the classrooms.

Children from Class 5 took part today in the Durham Constabulary 'Police and Crime Commissioner Challenge'. The aim of the PCC challenge is to allow young people to give a little extra to help their local area become safer, stronger and more resilient to crime and anti-social behaviour. It was a fantastic example of how children understand, live out and promote British Values like the rule of law at St. William's.







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