



Bishop Hogarth

Catholic Education Trust

Newsletter



SUMMER 2022

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WELCOME

Dear parents/carers

I do not claim that I have already succeeded or have already become perfect. I keep striving to win the prize for which Christ Jesus has already won me to himself... to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. - Philippians 3: 13 - 14

As you read this, I hope you will be looking forward to a period of rest and relaxation with your families. I hope this will be a time when you can both look back, in celebration of the Trust's many achievements, and look ahead with anticipation to the new opportunities which will become manifest as the new academic year begins in September.

I would like to begin by recognising and thanking those dedicated members of our Trust family who, like myself, leave us this year to embark upon new phases and new challenges. In her beautiful message in the next article in this newsletter, Maria Matthews, our Chair of Directors, gives an individual and poignant testimony to them all. My prayer and hope for each of them, and indeed for everyone who leaves us this year, is simple;

Please continue to cradle your God given creativity, and use it as a power for good.

This year has been one of growth, and change for the Trust, we have made some new and key senior appointments including that of Mike Shorten to the position of CEO for the Trust. Mike has a huge wealth of experience, and we wish him well in this new role. We also welcome Patricia Abbott as our new Chief Operating Officer. Iain Knox and Helen Mulholland have been appointed to the School Improvement Team supporting primary schools, and Stuart McGhee and Martin Featherstone will join the School Improvement Team supporting secondary schools. Alex Glover (OLSB) will be the SEND lead for primary schools and Lucy Kreczak (St John's) will lead on SEND across our secondary schools. We are of course indebted to the current School Improvement Team for their work this year in supporting our schools and embedding our Trust Transition curriculum.

We are delighted to welcome Jo Bruton as Headteacher of St Teresa's, Hartlepool, Katie Whitehead as Headteacher of St Augustine's Darlington and Lucy Flaherty as Acting Deputy Headteacher of St Bede's, Darlington. Welcome to Sian Parnell who took over as Acting Headteacher at St Cuthbert's, Stockton in the summer term. Other colleagues are taking on new challenges in September as they move to seconded leadership posts within the Trust, Debra Hargreaves as Headteacher to St Joseph's, Hartlepool, Emily Millward as Deputy Headteacher to St Mary's, Newton Aycliffe, and Michelle Grummett as Deputy Headteacher to St Cuthbert's, Crook.

These new appointments are pivotal to the ongoing growth and success of Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust. They are testimony to our desire to pursue the highest quality of education across the entire scope of our provision. We are confident that, like us, you will welcome and support them in the work they do on behalf of our young people.



Let us not dwell for too long on what we did not achieve, nor on commitments and promises which are left unfulfilled, but rather let us thank God for His guiding hand and for the opportunity to do things bigger and better in the future, in His name for the good of all in our Trust family.

With every good wish for a rewarding Summer.

Dame Maura Regan DBE, DL
Chief Executive Officer of BHCET

Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust News

SO LONG, FAREWELL AND THANK YOU!

As those long-awaited summer holidays approach, we look forward to spending time with our families and friends. Regrettably, it is also the time when we have to say farewell to colleagues and friends who are retiring. Over the years we have learned much from these wonderful professionals. We have shared and celebrated the joys and supported each other in times of challenge.

This year we say farewell to:

HEADTEACHERS:

Mary Frain, St Teresa's Hartlepool

Rachel Williams, St Joseph's Hartlepool

Martina McCollum, St Augustine's

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER:

Angela Davidson, St Joseph's Coundon.



Staff at the Diocesan Education Mass, where they were thanked for their contribution to Catholic Education. Pictured with the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, the Rt. Rev. Robert Byrne CO, and the Diocesan Director of Education, Deborah Fox.

Thank you for your commitment to the well-being and education of all the pupils in your wonderful schools.

We say goodbye to **Jennifer Moorhouse, Chief Operating Officer**. Jennifer's knowledge, wisdom and commitment to the Trust has, without doubt, been instrumental in its strength and success.

Farewell to **Frances Shorten, Primary Lead for Carmel Teacher Training Partnership**. Frances has been an inspirational and innovative part of the ITT team. She has guided, supported and enthused many of the next generation of teachers.

Goodbye to **Kevin Beston**, a key member of **The Maths Hub** and the **School Improvement Team**.

Goodbye to the wonderful **Carol Park**, an invaluable member of **Trust Central Services**. Carol's loyal service over the years helped to ensure that everything ran smoothly across the Trust.

We have already written about the retirement of our **CEO, Dame Maura Regan**. She, with all her team and the excellent colleagues who leave us this summer, have left a legacy; their work, professionalism and commitment to the children in our care will live on.

Thank you all!

A little reflection from CS Lewis:

'You are never too old to set a new goal or dream a new dream.'

Go for it!

Maria Matthews

Chair of BHCET Directors



THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



The final jigsaw pieces have slotted home after years of planning for Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust as we welcomed the final three schools into our Trust family on 1st May. This coincided with the Trust celebration for the momentous occasion of the Queen's platinum jubilee.

Her Majesty's representative in County Durham, the Lord Lieutenant Sue Snowdon, was special guest of honour at a celebration event held at Our Lady and St Bede School.

She witnessed the piecing together of a giant jigsaw, featuring artwork inspired by the Queen, from each of the Trust's 35 primary and secondary schools.

Mrs Snowdon also heard a performance of the hymn 'I Vow to Thee My Country', the lyrics of which had been adapted by children from our schools to mark the jubilee, and a prayer written for the occasion by Ava Park, a Year 5 pupil at St Paul's, Billingham.

Mrs Snowdon told the audience that she would send the recording of the hymn, with a framed copy of the lyrics, to Her Majesty, along with Ava's prayer.



THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

In her address to children, staff and dignitaries, Dame Maura Regan spoke about this momentous occasion:

"On 1st May we became complete as a Trust, 35 schools from Darlington, Durham, Hartlepool, Stockton, and Billingham, 12,382 children, 1,671 staff which is a phenomenal achievement. It is important to have representatives from all of our schools here to celebrate what is a remarkable event in the history of our country and is a day to be remembered by all present here today."

Mrs Mo Wilkinson, headteacher of Our Lady and St Bede, spoke about the work of schools:

"Over the past few months all the schools have been working on the Jubilee project, looking at the life of a Queen, writing our own prayers and exercising children's artistic talents in the Jigsaw project. The children were asked to rewrite two lines of the hymn to embody the Trust's aims of liberty, respect, tolerance, democracy and unity, to capture the essence of patriotism, as a message for such an auspicious occasion."

Mrs Snowdon told guests how her post of Lord Lieutenant originated from the time of Henry VIII, when it was designed to maintain a militia. Today, the Lord Lieutenant represents the Queen on formal and informal occasions. Mrs Snowdon is the first woman in the history of the post to hold the office in this area and as a former headteacher, she is always keen to visit schools.

The Lord Lieutenant said:

"We could not have a better role model than Queen Elizabeth II, if you look at what she has contributed over the past 70 years as a stateswoman and ambassador for this country. She has never wavered from her promise to dedicate herself to her subjects. So we have a great deal to celebrate at the time of her platinum jubilee. This is our time to say thank you and I would like to send her your words, lyrics and recording of the hymn which embody all that she stands for and has worked to achieve."

Dame Maura Regan added:

"The jigsaw is truly magnificent, particularly the variety of the imagery in the 35 pieces which reflect the virtues of the Trust, and an appreciation of the Queen. I am honoured and humbled to have such brilliant children in our Trust and there is nothing more important in life than ensuring we have safe, content and happy pupils in our schools."



MASS OF CELEBRATION FOR DAME MAURA REGAN



On Tuesday 12th July, a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated in honour of Dame Maura Regan's 43 years of service to education. Students, parents, teachers, civic leaders, together with members of Dame Maura's family, came together in St. Mary's Cathedral Newcastle to mark her retirement as CEO from Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust. Bishop Robert Byrne was the principal celebrant and was joined by parish priests past and present, connected to our Trust schools.

Dame Maura began her career in London, teaching History and Religious Education before returning to the North-East as Deputy Head Pastoral, and subsequently Principal, of Carmel College. In 2011, Dame Maura led the conversion of Carmel College to become an Academy Trust, becoming the founding Chief Executive Officer. In 2013, Carmel became a Multi Academy Trust of five schools, known as Carmel Education Trust. Under her leadership, the Trust was renamed as the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust (BHCET) in 2020 and grew to encompass thirty-five schools across Darlington, County Durham, Stockton and Hartlepool. Dame Maura and Bishop Hogarth are widely recognised as beacons in the field of education with a national profile.

In her role as a National Leader of Education (NLE), Dame Maura and her Leadership Team have supported schools across the region from all phases. In a demonstration of her support for education, Dame Maura is a Trustee of Schools North-East, a Director of St Joseph's Catholic Academy Trust, a Director of the Emmanuel Foundation Trust, and a Governor of Durham Cathedral Foundation School. She is also a Trustee of the Youth Ministry Team within our Diocese. Dame Maura is passionate about making a difference and believes that 'every child should be given every opportunity to succeed.'

To acknowledge her service to education, Dame Maura was awarded the OBE in 2015, and then made a Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (DBE) in 2021, in recognition of her outstanding leadership and service to education, both regionally and nationally.

Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust News

MASS OF CELEBRATION FOR DAME MAURA REGAN

Reflecting upon the Gospel reading central to the celebratory Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, and indeed in the readings of recent days, there is a call to each one of us. We are simply called to live the good news and to share the love of God within our daily lives. The words from Oscar Romero resonate with us particularly when we reflect upon Dame Maura's lengthy career.

"This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own."

Oscar Romero

In living out her vocation as a Catholic educator, Dame Maura has without doubt risen to the challenge of this commission. As a leader, she has answered the simple call to live out her vocation as an educator of young people. It is our prayer that Dame Maura will continue to be a living expression of God's love wherever life takes her.

Thank you to all the people who attended the celebration of service, in recognition of Dame Maura. We all wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors and a very happy retirement.



Trust Staff Success Stories

Congratulations to staff in our Trust schools on successful completion of the following leadership programmes:

National Professional Qualification in Middle Leadership	NPQML
Amanda Adams	St Michael's, Billingham
Emily Chan	St Michael's, Billingham
Rachel Dixon	OLSB
Sarah Dove	Holy Family, Darlington
Jodie Mellor	St Michael's, Billingham
Clare Mudd	St Cuthbert's, Hartlepool
Ashleigh Reay	St Michael's, Billingham
Sophie Swain	St Cuthbert's, Hartlepool
Sue Trattles	St Michael's, Billingham

National Professional Qualification in Senior Leadership	NPQSL
Lucy Hannah	English Martyrs, Hartlepool
Alastair Morrison	English Martyrs, Hartlepool
Alastair Raper	St Michael's, Billingham

National Professional Qualification in Headship	NPQH
Colette Hogarth	English Martyrs, Hartlepool
Melanie Kane	Carmel College

National Professional Qualification in Executive Leadership	NPQEL
Mary Tate	School Improvement Team
Joanne Wilson	St Cuthbert's, Hartlepool

Growing our own leaders	Diocesan Programme
Amy McWilliam	St Teresa's, Hartlepool
Rachel Mazzey	St Joseph's, Norton
Laura Short	St Teresa's, Hartlepool

Aspiring Deputy Headteachers	Diocesan Programme
Danielle Ashworth	St Cuthbert's, Stockton
Sam Cooke	Sacred Heart, Hartlepool
Jake Smithson	St Cuthbert's, Crook
Caitlin Ward	St Teresa's, Hartlepool

National Award for SENCo	NASEN
Alice Gibson-Crone	St Joseph's, Norton
Kiri Stevenson	St Joseph's, Coundon

Carmel Teacher Training Partnership

PRESENTATION EVENING



During the last week of June CTPP hosted their Presentation Evening for the 2021/2022 cohort. It was a brilliant evening filled with stories of the graduates' successes, enjoyed by the graduates, their families and friends. Dame Maura Regan DBE, DL gave a memorable address as the guest speaker of the evening, followed by Alan Egdell with his poignant reflection. It was delightful to hear that the vast majority of the cohort have secured a teaching place for September, with many returning to their training schools.



School Spotlight

ST GREGORY'S



OFSTED Inspection

We are proud to share with you that St Gregory's were declared a 'Good' school in their most recent OFSTED inspection on the 10th & 11th May.

"Pupils at St Gregory's laugh and smile. They say that they feel safe and well looked after by staff. A pupil commented that, 'It's exciting to come to school and see your friends.' They enjoy attending school. At breaktime, pupils talk with the adults. Younger and older pupils play games together. There are secure, strong relationships between pupils and adults."

Pupils respond consistently well to high expectations. Pupils can learn without disruption. They show mutual respect for their peers and encourage everyone to do their best. Pupils are polite, well mannered and thoughtful."

Wellbeing Wednesday

What better way to spend 'Wellbeing Wednesday' than to pop to Starbucks for a shake and a cake to celebrate a successful year as Wellbeing Ambassadors. We couldn't be prouder of Ava, Thomas, Marysia, Oliver, Connor, Nate, Jorgie and Lochlan. Thank you for an amazing year, making a big difference to the wellbeing and mental health of the children in our school.



Primary Panathlon Games

A number of key stage 2 children attended the Primary Panathlon Games in Stockton. They competed in several events against eight other teams and finished in first place! The children were each awarded a gold medal and certificate. They were also awarded a trophy, which will be displayed in school. The children represented St Gregory's with tremendous pride and showed wonderful sportsmanship cheering on the other competitors. What an amazing achievement! Well done!



Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

The Trust has successfully bid for a Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme project at St Gregory's which will involve the school benefitting from significant improvements to its existing heating system. The project consists of the replacement of the older gas fired boilers with new, state of the art air source heat pumps (ASHP) and a new automatic controls system. An ASHP works in the same way as your refrigerator at home, but in reverse. The unit extracts heat from the external air and, through a reverse refrigeration cycle, increases that heat and then transfers this to hot water to circulate around the building to keep it warm during the winter. As the carbon intensity of the national electric grid is reduced, through the increased use of wind turbines and large solar arrays, so does the carbon emissions associated with running the ASHP instead of carbon intense gas fired boilers. Work will begin over the summer holiday period and will conclude in the autumn term. Staff and pupils at St Gregory's are thrilled and are looking forward to learning more about ASHPs.

Secondaries & Sixth Forms

CARMEL COLLEGE

Make Music Day 2022

Our fabulous junior choir performed at Darlington Hippodrome in June. This was part of Make Music Day 2022 which is a huge celebration of music making around the world. Our students were fantastic and had a wonderful time performing in a great venue!

Little Shop of Horrors

Carmel were delighted to welcome their audience to the tragic world of Little Shop of Horrors on the 13th – 15th July. The three performances were a culmination of months of hard work from students and staff alike. We feel immensely proud of the efforts that have gone into auditioning, rehearsing and staging such a fantastic show. The onstage cast is supported by backstage, front of house and technical crew, without whom such an event would not have been possible.



ST JOHN'S

Matilda the Musical

Over 60 St John's students from Years 7-13 took to the stage last week to perform their Summer Production, Matilda the Musical, performing to over 500 audience members over two sell-out performances. Following three years of being unable to do their annual musical, the cast and crew were over the moon to finally be back treading the boards. Based on Roald Dahl's famous story, Matilda the Musical centres around Matilda Wormwood, a precocious 5 year old girl with an incredible talent who loves reading, overcomes obstacles caused by her family and school and helps her teacher to reclaim her life. Matilda the Musical explores a magical world where 'Revoltng Children' rule, confidence and individuality reign and sometimes it's ok to be a little bit 'Naughty'!

Auditions took place back in January and there was so much talent on show that the decision was made to have a split cast, with two students sharing each role and each performing one night. Students have been working extremely hard with rehearsals held each week, led by Mrs Rose, Director and Miss Bell, Musical Director. Mrs Rose said, "I am so incredibly proud of all of our cast. It has been wonderful to be back doing what we love, and this show has been an extremely fun one to do. The musical each year is always an amazing, collaborative event which involves staff and departments from across the school, and this year has been no different. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students in particular have been fantastic, balancing rehearsals with revision and exams and then coming back to help with the set. There is an incredible amount of work which goes into the musical each year, but it is something we are extremely proud of as a school."

There was also a tribute paid to Mrs Jaquie Holloway, previous Arts Co-ordinator who sadly passed away in 2019. Cast members from previous shows were invited back to St John's to perform a special version of 'When I Grow Up', dedicated to Mrs Holloway and the amazing Performing Arts legacy she has left behind. Well done to all of the staff and students involved in this year's production, and we look forward to what they have in store next year!



Secondaries & Sixth Forms

OUR LADY & ST BEDE



Athletics Success

OLSB had great success at the Stockton District Athletics Championships. Pupils excelled in all their performances and were dominant throughout the day. Many records were broken and we are extremely proud of all pupils who participated and their achievements!



Hairspray

We were delighted to welcome Katie Brace -who has just finished her 10-month tour as Tracy Turnblad in the UK Tour of Hairspray - in to school for a workshop with some of our very own Hairspray cast! Katie delivered a two-hour session, which covered choreography, singing, acting as part of the ensemble and gave a lot of insight into her own tour schedule for Hairspray and working in the industry. Pupils from every year group were involved and hugely benefitted from the time with her. Despite it being the Easter holidays, Katie had them working hard! She was also able to work a little with Isobel W, our very own Tracy Turnblad.



Stations of The Cross

During Lent we asked 5 of our amazingly talented Year 10 pupils to create artwork based on the stations of the cross. The pupils excelled themselves and their artwork has now been turned into A1 boards which will be displayed in St John Paul II building, in the centre of the school community, for our pupils to enjoy for many years to come!

THE ENGLISH MARTYRS



Anthea Bell Prize

Andrea Simbul, a talented Year 9 linguist, has been selected as the National winner for her entry into the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators. The competition, led by Queen's College, Oxford University, aims to promote language learning across the UK and is inspired by the life and work of the great translator Anthea Bell. This is a phenomenal achievement with over 14000 entries from across the country in the competition.

Cricket

On 23rd June, the under 15 girls cricket team were crowned Durham County Champions in the Chance to Shine event after a brilliant day in Burnopfield. The girls progress to the regional finals where we face the winners of Northumberland and North Yorkshire.



Harrie Kerley

On Tuesday 14th June, we had the pleasure of welcoming Harrie Kerley, the head of Education and Community Outreach, who stopped over on his cycling tour circling the United Kingdom, having crossed over from East Africa. Harry delivered a wonderful presentation on the magic of ocean ecosystems to all year 8 students. He talked to students about the plight of plastic in our oceans, what we could do to help, and future careers in marine biology and conservation.

Secondaries & Sixth Forms

ST MICHAEL'S

2022 School Boys Champion

Sonny (Year 8) was crowned English Boxing's National Schoolboy Champion on the 15th May 2022. Sonny trains with Billingham Boxing Academy, with many of the students at St Michael's. He began by training with his Grandad and older brother Alfie (Year 10) from being young and then moving onto the Boxing Academy. Sonny highlights that success comes from perseverance, practice, and resilience. Billingham Boxing Academy stated "Sonny committed himself, stayed dedicated in the gym, worked hard, shown a positive mindset, overcome setbacks, kept learning, shown discipline, and at times has had to dig deep. And most of all, he's done it with a smile on his face". Well Done Sonny!



Students presented with the Queen's Jubilee Award

Eleanor (Year 9), Daniel (Year 8) and Heidi (Year 7) were presented with the Royal Life Saving Society's UK Platinum Jubilee Medallion. The award is a modern replica of the 1941 lifesaving award that was achieved by HRH Queen Elizabeth II. The students, who were awarded this during 'National Drowning Prevention Week' in June 2022, completed rescues at the same standard of the national pool qualification for lifeguards. They had to complete rescues of conscious and unconscious casualties displaying the full range of tows, complete CPR, resuscitation, and defibrillation, then finally answering a ten pool safety questions. Massive congratulations to all three pupils for the resilience shown in undertaking this award.



Marian Procession (St Michael's)

On Wednesday 25th May, St Michael's students were proud to hold their annual Marian Procession once again. The whole of Year 7 made a 2-mile round trip to Holy Rosary Church to celebrate mass along with Mrs Keough, Mr Scott, Miss Chambers, Mr Price and their tutors.



Our beautifully decorated statue of Our Lady was proudly held aloft by a team of Year 10 students as we processed through the streets of our community. The statue carriage was immaculately adorned with flowers donated by staff, parents and the local community.

During a moment of poignant reflection, Mrs Keough read the CAFOD Prayer for Peace followed by representatives from each form placing sunflowers on the statue carriage as the year group remembered the people of Ukraine.



Mr Scott, Deputy Headteacher, commented on the pride shown by our students: *"The event has become a tradition in recent years and a beautiful expression of our unique Catholic identity. As we processed through the streets of our community, it was plain to see how proud our students are of their school in their reverence and exemplary behaviour."*



Primaries

BLESSED JOHN DUCKETT

Children from Years 5 and 6 had a fantastic time during their residential trip to Robinwood in Alston. They took part in lots of activities including archery, canoeing, raft building, climbing and the zip wire. Throughout all the activities the children had to work together as a team, they developed their communication skills, confidence, and resilience. They thoroughly enjoyed their stay.

During summer term, Blessed John Duckett held a celebration afternoon for the Queen's Jubilee. Children performed songs for their parents and families and then celebrated with a fayre. The children had a special lunch prepared by the cook then took part in a range of activities. Everyone had a great time!



HOLY FAMILY

This term Year 6 have had an extremely successful run in cricket, with both the boys team and girls team winning the Darlington Primary Schools cricket competition.

The girls' team were dominant in their matches and showed fantastic teamwork and skill to win the tournament. They then took part in a friendly, skills based, afternoon in which blended teams were made up of girls from different schools.

The boys team won their heat of the cricket and had to play again in the town final against 3 other schools. After some extremely close matches, they won two out of the three they played, and won the tournament on number of runs.

The boys team included Luke Frankland, who has recently been selected as one of 12 children to play for the Durham County Cricket team.

Both teams were selected to represent Darlington at the Durham Cricket finals at the end of June.

This is a fantastic achievement and we could not be more proud of these children for their superb attitude and determination shown during this competition.



Primaries

OUR LADY OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

Early Years Outdoor Learning Environment

We were delighted to secure capital funding from Stockton LA to develop our Early Years outdoor learning environment. We designed and constructed an area to support our children in developing Speech, Language and Communication. The children love playing and learning in this special area. Many thanks to Stockton on Tees for supporting us with this project.



Spanish Day

This term the whole school celebrated a Spanish Day which included a football tournament and even Spanish dancing!

Residential Trip to Carlton

Our Year 6 children went on their residential trip to Carlton Outdoor Activity Centre, near Stokesley this term. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were great ambassadors for our school.



First Holy Communion

We were delighted that four of our children made their First Holy Communion this year and that the families of all the candidates joined us back at school for the Communion Breakfast afterwards.



OUR LADY & ST THOMAS

Superstar Cricket Team

Extremely strong performance from the girls who represented their school superbly in the County Finals and finished fourth out of ten teams. We are so proud of them.



Primaries

SACRED HEART



Women's Football Match

The girls football team went to Elland Road in Leeds, to watch the English Women's Football Team play the Netherlands.



Cricket Success

Despite only having a small school field, Sacred Heart love all sporting activities. Our newly formed girls cricket team won the town cluster competition and went through to the regional finals which were held at Washington Cricket Club.



Diocesan Youth Festival

Pupils from Sacred Heart attended the Diocesan Youth Festival this term and joined 400 other students from across the diocese to celebrate our faith through words, actions and lots and lots of singing!

ST AUGUSTINE'S

Quadkids

Year 4 had a lovely day at Quadkids this term and showed great determination. St Augustine's came in first place, completing against three other teams. Carter was the 3rd placed boy and Darcey was the 2nd placed girl. Well done to everyone. We are so proud of you!



Primaries

ST BEDE'S (DARLINGTON)

Mixed Martial Arts

All classes have been learning Mixed Martial Arts this term, taught by local Martial Arts School 'Sensei.'

The sessions have given the children an introduction to the fundamental principles of Martial Arts, including respect, discipline, and self-control. The program aims to support children's mental and physical health by bringing Martial Art values and practices into their everyday life. The content helps tackle issues such as stress & anxiety management, confidence building, dealing with bullying behaviours, improving attention and focus, as well as the obvious physiological benefits of sport & exercise.



ST BEDE'S (STOCKTON)

Beamish

As part of our Industrial Revolution topic, Year 5 and 6 visited Beamish Museum. We explored the site and found out about how industry influenced the Victorian era. We also had fun on the fairground!

First Holy Communion:

We had a delightful day celebrating the First Holy Communion of children from Year 4, 5 and 6 here at St Bede's. A wonderful time for our school and parish family.

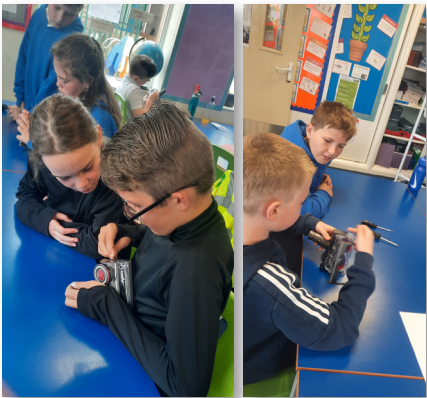


Primaries

ST BEGA'S

Class 5 Engineering Box

Class 5 enjoyed being engineers for the day last month, thanks to an Engineering Box sent to us from The James Dyson Foundation. Pupils were able to explore careers in engineering, along with practical experience of disassembly and reassembly of Dyson parts using specialist tools extremely carefully. The class really enjoyed the experience - it seems we have some budding engineers in our class.



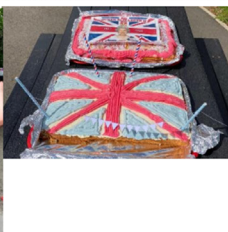
Julian Opie

A member of staff from EMS art department visited Year 6 in school for the day to work with iPads to produce a simple portrait based on the work of Julian Opie. The artwork will be put together and will be displayed in EMS as a Year 7 collage. We will also receive a collage of our Year 6 pupils to display in school. We had a great time producing the work and can't wait to see everyone's creations.



ST CHAD'S

We had a fabulous time celebrating the Queen's Jubilee in school. Every child decorated a tile as a keepsake of the event. We also had the pleasure of working with Joanne Banks Dancers; Class 1 learnt how to jive, Class 2 learnt how to rock and roll, Class 3 learnt how to disco and Class 4 learnt how to vogue. Class 1 made some brilliant crowns, Class 2 drew some beautiful portraits of Her Majesty the Queen, Class 3 created fantastic collages and Class 4 stitched amazing commemorative cushions. We ended our Jubilee events with a wonderful street party; it was great to celebrate with friends and family.



Primaries

ST CHARLES'

Fun at the beach

Staff and children at St Charles' recently visited South Shields beach. The children enjoyed their first whole school trip in over three years, it was a fantastic day, and the sun was shining. The children were very lucky as they had a huge stretch of beach where they were able to work in teams to create sand structures. The teams were made up of different age groups; there were excellent discussions and ideas as the children aimed to create sculptures based on an underwater theme. There were 3D fish, many mermaids and even a sunken Titanic! We were very proud of the children, as their behaviour was exceptional; they listened very carefully to the adults which meant they had a great day away from the classroom!



ST CUTHBERT'S (CROOK)

Football World Cup Tournament

Congratulations to the girls from Year 4 and 5 who represented St Cuthbert's at a Football World Cup Tournament. The girls played exceptionally well and made it to the semi-finals. Mr Bellamy was very impressed with their work rate and footballing skills.

First Holy Communion

We had a lovely day celebrating children's First Holy Communion here at St Cuthbert's. The day was made even more special having their families join us for the occasion. A special time for our school and parish family. 'Congratulations on your First Holy Communion may the blessings of Christ be upon you always'



ST CUTHBERT'S (HARTLEPOOL)

The Holy Island of Lindisfarne

Year 6 from St Cuthbert's, Hartlepool visited The Holy Island of Lindisfarne together with Miss Conlin, Miss Rafferty, Mrs Daly and Patrick Norris our guide (from Footsteps Northumberland). We walked the Pilgrim's Way across the sands, recreating the journey that St Cuthbert, The Northern Saints and Christian pilgrims would have done many centuries before us. Most of us were brave and walked barefoot! Despite the early rain, the sun came out and we stopped to listen to the seals singing in the distance as the tide retreated out to sea. We then visited St Cuthbert's island where he lived for many years as a hermit connected to nature. We held a simple liturgy and prayed to St Cuthbert, patron of our school to pray for us and help us.



Primaries

ST CUTHBERT'S (STOCKTON)

Careers Week

At St Cuthbert's, we are passionate about raising the aspirations and experiences of our children. To raise the awareness of a wide range of careers available, St Cuthbert's held our annual 'Brighter Futures' week, giving children the opportunity to explore the skills and qualities required for many professions, and forging strong links within our community. Children engaged in hands-on workshops, presentations and question and answer sessions.

This year we invited representatives from local companies, charities, and the emergency services to take part. At the end of the week, one Year 6 pupil said, "I learnt so much this week. I didn't realise that there were so many interesting jobs out there. I now know that I want to train and work in construction!"



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Beat The Street

St John the Evangelist were the winners in 2 categories of the local authority 'Beat the Street' competition. This is an initiative run both nationally and internationally to engage pupils/families in physical exercise by scanning a card at 'Beat boxes' located around the borough.

We won in the following categories:

- Total number of points achieved
- Total average points achieved (aimed to give smaller school like ourselves a chance against schools with more pupils).

In addition to this, Mrs Joanne Frank, one of our teaching assistants won 'Most individual points'.

School were presented with a trophy for each of the categories and £600 worth of vouchers for Drake, The Bookshop. Vouchers will be used to purchase more texts for pupils to borrow to complete the Home Reading challenge set each year.

Primaries

ST JOHN VIANNEY

Year 6 Perform Cinderella

Traditionally, our year six children complete their presentation curriculum with a musical performance in front of their invited guests. Sadly, this has not been possible during the pandemic, but this year, having returned to more normal times, we looked forward to restarting this annual celebration. At the end of May, in trepidation, the children auditioned for parts in the production and were excited to see the cast-list posted, with all the children taking roles.

This year, they performed a musical interpretation of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes Cinderella. While all the expected characters were present, with Ugly Sisters, Handsome Prince and Fairy Godmother, the plotline was not totally as one might have expected. The Ugly Sisters lost their heads and Cinderella married the jam-maker rather than the murderous prince.

During June, the class rehearsed diligently and after three weeks were ready for their performance. After a final dress-rehearsal with their friends in school, they performed for one night only for their families and friends. The performance was followed by an 'afterparty' in the school garden, where year five children served refreshments whilst the cast and their parents mingled with staff from across the setting reminiscing about their time with us.



The final line of the performance is also our hope for year six children: *'Their house was filled with smiles and laughter, and they were happy ever after.'*

ST JOSEPH'S (BILLINGHAM)



Year 6 have been on a journey this year, taking part in the Faith in Action Award. The children have enjoyed acting out their faith in the school, the parish, and the community. Collecting for the Food Bank, raising money for Ukraine, sharing parables with younger children and leading liturgies across the school have been some of their many highlights.



ST JOSEPH'S (COUNDON)

Brake Appeal

The children took part in the Brake Appeal walk to raise awareness about road safety and encourage slower driving through the village.

Well done everybody!



Primaries

ST JOSEPH'S (HARTLEPOOL)

Greenpower Education Trust's Formula Goblin Race Car project

St Joseph's took part in this project for the third year. This is an exciting scheme that helps to improve learning in science, technology, engineering, and maths subjects. The year 6 children worked hard this term on designing, building, and perfecting their race car using practical engineering skills, basic tools, and electrical systems. Children practised and perfected their racing skills on the school playground, and then, on 6th July, competed against other schools at Croft Circuit in three exciting challenges; the Slalom, Drag Race and Sprint Race. As part of the project, Leila Elliot from Cleveland Scientific Institution came to receive feedback from the children taking part. As you can imagine it was extremely positive!

Police and Fire Brigade Visit

Our nursery and reception children enjoyed visits from some very special people who help us. PC Coggins talked about his job as a policeman and the fire brigade came to school with their fire engine. All the children enjoyed asking questions and using the hose. There are lots of very keen future police and fire men and women in our early years.



ST JOSEPH'S (NEWTON AYCLIFFE)

Precious Planet Day

St Joseph's celebrated 'Precious Planet Day' to raise awareness and identify how our school could become more eco- friendly. Adam Bushnell and S.C.O.U.T.E.D visited to help us learn about the planet. Throughout the day we learnt about the importance of recycling and created stories with Adam around how we could protect and look after the environment. We also had a whole school assembly to listen to a story told by Adam and enjoyed a hot chocolate at the end of the day.



Primaries

ST JOSEPH'S (NORTON)



Trip to the Houses of Parliament

In May, the Year 6 House Captains and Student Councillors from St Joseph's made a special trip to Westminster to the Houses of Parliament. Pupils and staff had an early start at Eaglescliffe train station, and for some children, this was their first ever train journey. After arriving at Kings Cross, the children travelled on the London Underground, which they described as 'sweltering, bustling, and fast.'

The highlight, and main purpose of the visit, was a tour of The Houses of Parliament. We watched MPs debating in the House of Commons and then listened to a discussion in the House of Lords. It was a once in a lifetime experience that the children (and staff) will not forget in a hurry. We even spotted some of the more famous MPs and Dr Robert Winston, not forgetting a few back benchers who were snoozing! On the guided tour, the children learned a lot about British Values and in particular the meaning of democracy. They had a question and answer session with Alex Cunningham, our local MP for Stockton in the Great Hall. He answered the children's questions about local issues, and they put him on the spot about dangerous parking and traffic congestion around our school - we may have some politicians of our own in the making! Mr Cunningham accepted our invitation to visit St Joseph's, and to see the problems himself firsthand.



Upon their return to school, the children shared their experiences, and what they had learned about British Values and democracy, with the whole school in an assembly they prepared themselves. The children presented photographs of where they had been and described their entire experience in great detail. We now have another trip booked to Parliament in the Autumn Term.

Primaries

ST MARY'S (BARNARD CASTLE)



We were delighted to officially open our brand new 'therapeutic library space' in school this week. Children's author Anne Fine came along to open the library and talk about the importance of all children having access to a calm space, away from the classroom to gather their thoughts and discover the love of reading. That is exactly what we hope to achieve, and it has been lovely to see children using the library this week. They were involved in the colour scheme, the furnishings and the beautiful artwork, along with an artist called Lynda Nelson. The library is an inviting space where children can read books from their favourite authors and hopefully discover new texts and authors they like too. We have tried to stock the library with books that every child can see themselves in; gender, race, character, talents and interests. We are very proud of what we have achieved and are excited to get lost in our reading adventures!



ST MARY'S (NEWTON AYCLIFFE)

Quidditch Day

The children of St Mary's recently enjoyed a full school 'quidditch day'. After a day filled with magical moves and lots of fun, we think that everyone would fit right in at Hogwarts!



School Sleepover

The Year 6 children of St Mary's enjoyed a sleepover at the school before they move up to Year 7 at their new schools. The night was filled with tasty food, lots of fresh air, movies, stories about memories at St Mary's, and lots and lots of snoring!



Mini Beasts

Our reception children have been working hard to make the perfect habitat for our garden mini beasts! We still have a lot of work to do but we think the mini beasts will love it!

Primaries

ST PATRICK'S



Year 6 pupils enjoyed a week of outdoor activities this term. We began the week with water sports including canoeing, kayaking and paddleboarding on Ellerton Lake. Only some of us had taken part in these paddle sports before, so it was a new experience for most of us. On Tuesday, we went to Cragg Wood and took part in lots of bush craft activities. We began by making our own dens for the day before we chopped wood, lit fires, and did a night line activity where we had to lead a partner, who was blindfolded, through the wood.



The next day, we went to Middleton in Teesdale and walked up the river to a waterfall. When we reached the waterfall, we all jumped in from the top and some of us even slid down a waterfall like it was a waterslide! On Thursday, we walked from Mickleton to our campsite in Holwick where we pitched our tents for the night. Before we went to sleep, we walked to Low Force where we went for a swim and jumped from the top of another waterfall. We returned to school on Friday afternoon after a busy and exciting week. Thankfully, the sun was shining all week which made the week even better!

ST PAUL'S

Motor and Balance Skills

We know the importance of developing fundamental movement skills so our Nursery children at St Paul's have been working on gross motor and balance skills. We have been holding Wheely Good Fridays each week where the children have session time to ride their own trike or scooter around the playground - what a 'wheely good' way to end the week!

Life Cycles

Nursery children at St Paul's have enjoyed learning about life cycles. They have talked about changes over time, then watched in wonder and awe as the butterflies emerged from their cocoons to fly off over the our Early Years garden.

Garden Crafts

The Student Council organised a recycled Garden Crafts event to promote the importance of recycling materials and looking after our environment. Each class made crafts using recycled materials which were sold to our school community. As well as raising global awareness, they also raised some funds for future Student Council initiatives.



Primaries

ST TERESA'S (DARLINGTON)

GRT History Month

To celebrate GRT history month, children and staff from St Teresa's enjoyed a day of storytelling and folk song with their author in residence, Richard O'Neill and folk musician, George Hoyle. In the words of Year 5 children, "today was unforgettable because we heard stories from a published Gypsy author and worked with a songwriter and music producer. It was really interesting to learn about the different pitch that instruments can make." Richard and George worked with the children to share stories and music along the theme of recycling and reusing. This gave us lots to think about and is the beginning of an exciting project for next academic year, watch this space!



ST TERESA'S (HARTLEPOOL)



Moneysense workshop

Our Mini-Vinnies and Year 6 class were involved in a dementia project in partnership with Hartlepool voluntary organisations. This involved creating artwork of major landmarks in the town that were shared with people suffering with dementia to prompt their memories. We also visited an event at Ward Jackson Park on 'Dementia Awareness' day which involved a memory walk.



Primaries

ST WILFRID'S

Royal Visit

St Wilfrid's School was chosen earlier this term to be part of a very special royal visit to Bishop Auckland. His Royal Highness Prince Charles and Her Majesty Queen Letizia of Spain visited our town to officially open the Spanish Gallery. Thanks to St Wilfrid's close involvement with The Auckland Project, children from Year 3 and Year 6 were chosen to meet the royal party outside the gallery, and two lucky children, Otheay and Kadie presented them with gifts inside. The children enjoyed Spanish themed activities in the morning, followed by complimentary lunch before the big event got underway. Both Prince Charles and Queen Letizia were so enthusiastic and spoke to the children at length - everyone felt they had enjoyed an audience with the VIP visitors. A day for making memories and a proud day for St Wilfrid's!



ST WILLIAM'S

Canon Gaughan Catholic Cup

The culmination of a hugely successful spring year at St William's Trimdon saw our Key Stage 2 boys football team winning the Canon Gaughan Catholic Cup. The last time the trophy was held by St William's was in 2015. Our team were worthy winners beating off the competition from other Catholic Schools across County Durham and winning the final 4 - 0.





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