



**BISHOP  
HOGARTH**  
Catholic Education Trust

# Winter Newsletter

## 2025

*Christ at the centre, Children at the heart*





# Welcome

As we come to the end of a very busy and exciting first term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work happening across our schools. From the energy of our pupil parliament to the competitive spirit of our 5-a-side football tournaments, it's been a term full of opportunity, collaboration and celebration.

One of the standout moments was the launch of our Trust song, 'Today' – a powerful piece written by our talented staff and performed by pupils from across our primary, secondary, and sixth form settings. It beautifully captures the spirit of our Trust and the unity we share.

These events are more than just moments – they're a testament to the dedication of our staff, who work tirelessly to create enriching experiences that give our students a broad and varied education. I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved together.

Thank you to all our staff, families and wider community for your continued support and commitment. Your time, energy and care make all the difference.

Wishing you all a happy, peaceful and well-deserved Christmas break.

*Stuart McGhee*

Chief Executive Officer, Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust







# Pupil Parliament Returns!

**Thursday 16th October 2025 marked the exciting relaunch of the Pupil Parliament at Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust, bringing together one pupil representative - now proudly titled “MP” - from each of our Trust’s 35 schools.**

The event celebrated student voice, leadership, and the power of collective action. Each MP was selected to represent their school and contribute to discussions and initiatives that will shape the future of our Trust’s educational community.

Guest speakers included Mrs Jo Nicholson, Headteacher of St Joseph’s Catholic Academy, Norton, who shared her inspiring journey as a local councillor in Middlesbrough and highlighted the importance of civic engagement and leadership.

Mr Andrew Rogers, Trust Executive Headteacher, introduced our Trust’s new sustainability initiative, challenging pupils to explore ways to save energy and promote eco-friendly practices within their schools.

To foster collaboration and connection, pupils participated in an engaging icebreaker activity called “Quiz Quiz Trade”, helping them learn more about each other and build a sense of community. Each pupil received a badge and a pledge, symbolising their commitment to their role and the values of our Trust.

The Pupil Parliament marks a renewed commitment to empowering young voices and encouraging meaningful change across our Trust. With sustainability at the heart of this year’s agenda, these young MPs are set to lead with purpose, creativity, and care.







# Our Trust Song 'Today'



Scan or click  
to watch video

**This term, our Trust came together in a truly special way with the launch of 'Today' – a powerful new song and video that celebrates the unity, spirit, and shared values of our 35 schools.**

Premiered at our Trust Professional Development Day "Today" is more than just a song. It's a heartfelt tribute to the journey our young people take across our schools – one shaped by growth, connection and community. The lyrics speak to the strength we find in togetherness and the belief that every student, every voice and every moment matters.

every school in our Trust. From classroom scenes to playground performances, it's a vibrant showcase of the creativity and passion of our students and staff.

Richard Evans, our Marketing and Communications Manager, shared:

"Even though some of our children may never visit another school in our Trust, they are still part of something bigger. It really is a community worth celebrating, and this song beautifully captures those values."

Paul Walker and Eve Conway added:

"Working with the pupils was an absolute pleasure. Each one represented their school with pride and enthusiasm. Together, they showcased how the coming together of diverse talents and skills can produce something truly special."

Our CEO, Stuart McGhee, summed it up perfectly:

"This video is not just a creative piece. It's a living representation of our mission in action. It reminds us of the impact we make together every day and the bright future we are building for our students."

The idea for the song came from our Trust media team, inspired by the creativity and energy they see every day in our schools. Staff from across our Trust volunteered their time and talents to help write a song that reflects who we are and what we stand for.

Written and produced by Paul Walker and Eve Conway of Our Lady and St. Bede Catholic Academy, "Today" has been praised for capturing the heart of our mission in a way that's both uplifting and accessible. The chorus reminds us:

*"Through our hope, through our faith / Together we will stand with grace..."*

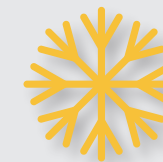
*"We are the leaders, teachers, learners of tomorrow... today."*

The title "Today" reflects the idea that the future is being shaped right now – in our classrooms, playgrounds and assemblies. It's a celebration of the present, where learning, leadership and love are already taking root.

The accompanying music video, filmed throughout the year by our media team, features







## 5-a-Side Football Tournaments

**This autumn, St Michael's was alive with energy and excitement as students from all five of our secondary schools came together to compete in two spectacular 5-a-side football tournaments. The girls' tournament, held in October, and the boys' tournament, held in November, showcased not only impressive athletic talent but also remarkable teamwork, determination, and school spirit.**

Across both events, players demonstrated skill and sportsmanship in every match. From fast-paced goals to nail-biting finishes, the tournaments were a true celebration of youth football and the power of collaboration. Spectators were treated to thrilling performances and moments of inspiration that highlighted the dedication of each team.

As we reflect on the success of this year's tournaments, we're already looking forward to next year's competitions. With such passion and talent on display, the future of football at BHCET is looking brighter than ever.

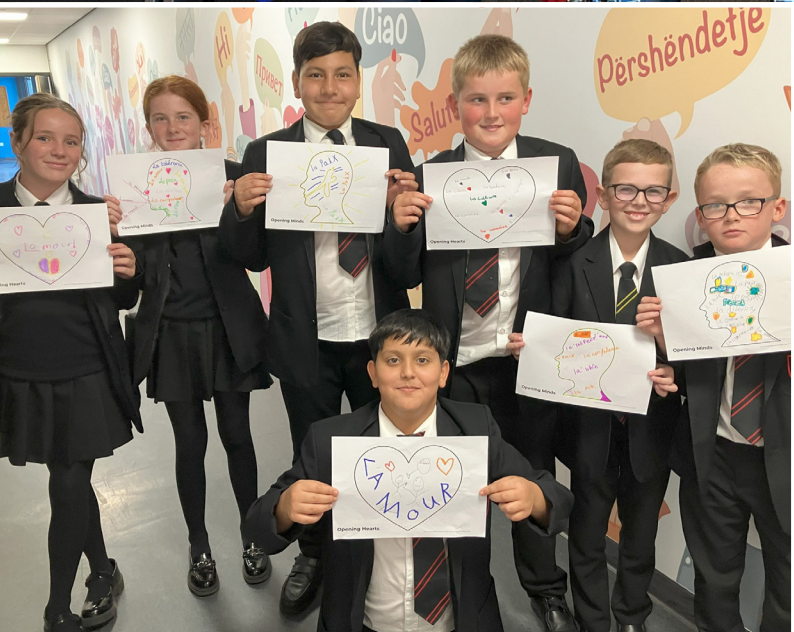
Each tournament crowned four category winners, recognising excellence across different age groups and divisions. These winning teams earned well-deserved praise and proudly represented their schools with distinction.



Scan or click to watch video







# European Day of Languages

We proudly celebrated the European Day of Languages, embracing this year's official theme: "Languages open hearts and minds."

The European Day of Languages provided a unique opportunity to showcase the power of language learning to connect people, broaden horizons, and foster empathy across cultures. BHCET remained committed to "putting languages on the map" and ensuring every member of its school communities experienced the joy of languages in action.

As part of the celebrations, St. John's Catholic School & Sixth Form College officially launched its **Languages 4 Life Programme** – a unique study enrichment opportunity for Sixth Form students and staff. This initiative allows participants to study any language at any level, whether to enhance their skills, gain a qualification, or prepare for a trip or placement abroad.

Highlights of the day included:

- **Cultural Menus:** Catering teams across our Trust created special menus inspired by French and Spanish-speaking countries, with support from Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) departments who translated the menus into French and Spanish.
- **Classroom Connections:** Teachers across all subjects joined in the celebrations by greeting students in different languages at the start and end of lessons, giving pupils a taste of the linguistic diversity across Europe and beyond.
- **Prayers in Many Voices:** Pastoral teams invited students from different national backgrounds to lead prayers in their home languages, either live or via recordings, celebrating the diversity within our school communities.
- **Trust-wide Poster Competition:** Pupils were encouraged to design posters bringing to life the European Day of Languages 25th anniversary motto, "Languages open hearts and minds!" Winning entries from each school received prizes, and the most creative designs will be showcased in future celebrations of the International Day of Languages. Entries were submitted by 5th October 2025 via each school's MFL Lead.

Dr. Penny Johnson from Durham University's MLAC department is supporting the programme by providing contact with native speakers, online tutorials, taster sessions, and bespoke Teams workshops in a variety of languages. The theme of this year's European Day of Languages – "Languages open hearts and minds" – was fully embraced by the Languages 4 Life Programme.

Together, the initiative aims to build a community where language learning is not just about exams or grades, but about connection, curiosity, and celebrating the many voices of our world. With many Sixth Form students preparing for prestigious university places, apprenticeships, and employment opportunities, the programme is designed to give them a competitive edge and broaden their horizons immeasurably.

Sarah Marshall, Director of MFL for BHCET, said: "It has been wonderful to see our pupils and staff across BHCET experience a range of languages and cultures on a day designed to celebrate diversity and open hearts and minds."





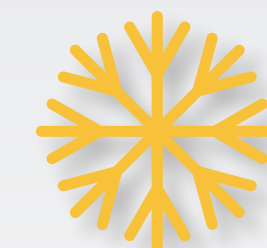
# Living Out Catholic Social Teaching

**As a family of Catholic schools, we are united not only by faith but by a shared commitment to Catholic Social Teaching. This term, our schools have lived out the Gospel values through charitable acts that reflect the heart of our mission: to serve others, especially the most vulnerable.**

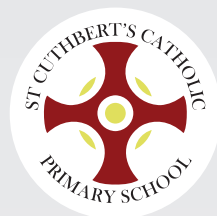
Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that charity is not merely about giving, it is about justice, dignity, and love. Rooted in the principles of solidarity, the common good, and the preferential option for the poor, our charitable efforts reflect our belief that every person is made in the image of God and deserves compassion and care.

These acts are not about recognition or totals raised; they are about forming hearts. By engaging in charitable work, our students are learning what it means to walk in solidarity with others, to give without expectation, and to build a more just and loving society. Let us continue to nurture this spirit of generosity and justice, remembering that even the smallest act of kindness can be a powerful witness to our faith.

Across our Trust, students and staff have donated food to local food banks and contributed to harvest festival collections, ensuring that families in need are supported with dignity. Coffee mornings for Macmillan have offered not only financial support but also moments of community and comfort. Contributions to wildlife trusts and Cancer Research UK have helped raise awareness and foster a sense of responsibility for both people and the planet.







## St. Cuthbert's, Crook Ofsted Rated 'Good'!

**St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School in Crook is celebrating a positive outcome following its recent Ofsted inspection. Inspectors concluded that the school has taken effective action to maintain the good standards identified at the previous inspection, reaffirming its commitment to providing high-quality education and care for its pupils.**

The report highlights the school's welcoming and nurturing environment, stating: "Pupils enjoy attending this welcoming school. Warm and caring relationships with staff help pupils to feel safe. Staff get to know pupils well. They support pupils to succeed by ensuring that they start the day ready to learn."

Executive Headteacher, Paula Strachan said: "Last year we launched our ASPIRE curriculum, the impact of this has been measured in a very successful inspection and in the highest results that the school has seen in many years. Our St. Cuthbert's school family are determined to be the best that we can be and I thank staff for their commitment and dedication to the children that we serve."



## OUR LADY & ST. BEDE CATHOLIC ACADEMY



## Ofsted Highlights Strengths at Our Lady and St. Bede

**Our Lady and St. Bede Catholic Academy, part of the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust, has been praised in its most recent Ofsted inspection, published on 9th September 2025, for its welcoming atmosphere, strong relationships, and commitment to supporting both pupils and staff.**

Inspectors described Our Lady and St. Bede as "a welcoming school" where pupils feel happy, safe, and respected. Strong relationships between staff and pupils were noted, alongside excellent conduct.

A particular strength is the school's dedication to reading, with daily "drop everything and read" sessions that pupils enjoy and say help them read more widely. Beyond the classroom, pupils benefit from a wide range of clubs and activities, including the St Vincent de Paul society, which supports the local community.

Teaching was praised for "strong subject knowledge" and staff development, while equality and diversity shine through events like Culture Day. Families and staff alike expressed pride in the school.

Headteacher Mo Wilkinson said: "We are delighted that Ofsted has recognised the hard work and dedication of our staff, pupils, and families. This report reflects our shared commitment to providing a safe, nurturing environment where every child can thrive."

The Ofsted report reinforces Our Lady and St. Bede's reputation as a happy, nurturing, and ambitious school community where pupils thrive academically, personally, and socially.





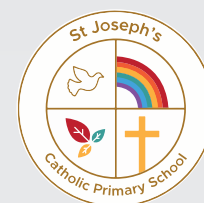
## Celebrating a 'Good' CSI Inspection at St. Charles

**We are proud to celebrate St. Charles' Catholic Primary School following its recent 'Good' judgement from the Catholic Schools Inspectorate, a testament to the school's strong faith foundation and vibrant sense of community.**

Inspectors noted that Christ is at the heart of St. Charles', reflected in the quality of relationships and the school's welcoming culture for parents, families and the wider parish community. Pupils are described as happy, confident and secure, with a true sense of inclusion and a strong commitment to serving those most in need.

Staff and leaders were praised as exemplary role models who consistently bear witness to the school's Catholic life and mission through their love, care and dedication. The school's commitment to high-quality professional development in religious education was also recognised, with training described as well planned, highly effective and impactful for all practitioners.

St. Charles' flourishing partnership with the local parish enriches pupils' experience of prayer and liturgy, helping them take an active and meaningful role in the life of the Church. This positive inspection outcome reflects the strength of the school's shared mission and the tireless efforts of staff, pupils, leaders and governors. Warmest congratulations to the entire St. Charles' community on this well-deserved success.



## St. Joseph's Celebrate 'Good' CSI Inspection

**We are delighted to celebrate St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Newton Aycliffe, following its recent 'Good' judgement from the Catholic Schools Inspectorate. This outcome is a wonderful recognition of a school community where faith, love and service are lived out every day.**

Inspectors highlighted the strong contribution pupils make to the Catholic life and mission of the school. Children willingly take on responsibilities with enthusiasm, showing a genuine desire to make a positive difference. Inspired by the example of St. Joseph, the school truly lives its mission to "surround children and families with love and encouragement", creating a nurturing and faith-filled environment for all.

The quality of relationships across the school was identified as a key strength. The love and care shown by staff to every child is tangible, helping pupils to feel valued, supported and confident in their learning and faith journey. Prayer and liturgy sit at the heart of school life, with pupils experiencing a wide range of creative and engaging opportunities to grow spiritually.

Leaders, Governors and the Trust were also recognised for their forensic and searching self-evaluation of religious education, demonstrating a shared and consistent commitment to high standards. This successful inspection outcome reflects the dedication of the whole St. Joseph's community, and we warmly congratulate everyone involved.







# mynewterm



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to find out more



## Become a School Governor

**School governance is a rewarding way to give back to your community, helping to shape the future of education.**

We warmly invite you to consider becoming a governor within our Trust's family of 35 schools.

Anyone over the age of 18 can become a school governor. No specific knowledge or experience is required, and there is no requirement to be a parent (unless applying to be a Parent Governor). Foundation Governors are required to be practising Catholics.

Governors are at the heart of a successful school community, playing a pivotal role in shaping the lives of young people.

As a member of a school governing board, you'll help ensure that every child has access to an excellent education. Your contribution will go beyond academic outcomes—supporting pupils'

spiritual, moral, and personal development as well. Serving on a local governing committee also provides valuable professional development.

It offers hands-on experience in strategic decision-making and the opportunity to build transferable skills highly valued by employers—such as leadership, financial oversight, and staff recruitment.



## Join Our Talent Pool on MyNewTerm

**Looking to take the next step in your career within a vibrant and values-driven Trust?**

We now advertise all vacancies across our 35 schools and central Trust team through MyNewTerm. By signing up to our Talent Pool, you can express interest in roles at a specific school, multiple schools, or at Trust level – and be the first to hear about new opportunities as they go live.

Whether you're a teacher, support staff member, or looking for a leadership position, we'd love to welcome you into our Bishop Hogarth family.



Scan or click  
to join







# Your Future Starts With Us

**Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust consists of 35 academies and includes three exceptional Sixth Forms.**

We provide a balance of **independence** and **support**, equipping students with the skills and knowledge to thrive in their future endeavours; whether that's university, apprenticeships, or the world of work.

Arrange a visit today to explore our outstanding facilities, speak with our experienced staff, and learn more about the courses and opportunities.



**Are you ready to inspire the next generation and make a lasting impact? Carmel Teacher Training Partnership (CTTP) is here to guide you on your journey to becoming an exceptional educator. In partnership with St. Mary's University, you can undertake a teacher training course that is academically rigorous and firmly rooted in the classroom.**

With over 25 years of experience, we're proud to offer school-based training in over 100 partner schools in urban, semi-rural and rural settings across the North-East, from Alnwick and Tyne and Wear, to the Tees Valley and North Yorkshire.

## Why choose CTTP?

- ✓ **Proven success:** Over 90% of our trainees secure teaching posts, often in the very schools they trained in or within our partnership.
- ✓ **Personalised support:** Our tailored programmes and dedicated mentors ensure every trainee achieves their full potential.
- ✓ **You choose:** With over 100 partner schools across the North-East, you can choose a local school that is right for you.
- ✓ **Train local to teach local:** Train from day one in schools close to home across our supportive North-East partnership.
- ✓ **Exceptional qualifications:** Earn PGCE with QTS qualifications while learning on the job from inspiring professionals.
- ✓ **We don't just stop at Initial Teacher Training (ITT).** Through our wider links, we'll support you from your Early Career Teacher (ECT) phase through to leadership roles like headship and beyond.







# Carmel Sixth Form



## Celebrating Sophie, Young Citizen of the Year

We were delighted to share the outstanding achievement of Sophie, who was awarded Young Citizen of the Year for her exceptional work as a listener and mentor to young people. During her time at Carmel College, Sophie was an exemplary Sixth Form student leader. She supported others in the library, mentored younger students, and consistently offered a listening ear, encouragement, and kindness.

Sophie's commitment to helping others continued beyond Carmel. She now volunteers as the youngest listener at The Listening Post in Darlington, a project run by DACYM (Darlington Area Churches Youth Ministry). This initiative, established in 2017, provides vital support for young people with their mental health and wellbeing. This award was a testament to Sophie's compassion and dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of others. We were incredibly proud of her achievement and the way she truly embodied our ethos of living Life to the Full. Congratulations, Sophie!

## Sixth Form Student Completed 18-Hour Sponsored Walk for Peru Expedition

One of our Sixth Form students, Amy, undertook an incredible challenge to raise funds for her upcoming Sixth Form expedition to Peru. Starting at Bamburgh Castle at 9:00am, Amy walked continuously through the night, finishing at Tynemouth Castle at 5:00am the next morning – a remarkable 18-hour journey!

This epic sponsored walk demonstrated Amy's outstanding determination and commitment. Her efforts contributed towards the costs of the life-changing educational experience in Peru, where students engaged in cultural exchange and community projects. We were extremely proud of Amy's resilience and dedication in completing such a demanding challenge.



## Senior Team Maths Challenge – Success for Carmel Sixth Form!

The Senior Team Maths Challenge (STMC) was a prestigious national competition that gave students the opportunity to tackle a variety of engaging mathematical activities while developing essential skills in teamwork and communication. Teams of four students from schools and colleges across the UK competed in dozens of Regional Finals, with the highest-scoring teams invited to the National Final.

This year, the challenge was open to pupils in Year 12 and 13, and Carmel College proudly sent a team of four talented Year 12 students – Tom, Will, Tia, and Lucas – to represent us at the Regional Final held at York University.

The competition was intense, with our students going head-to-head against some of the brightest Year 12 and 13 mathematicians from across the region. The tasks required not only strong mathematical ability but also clear communication and collaboration under pressure.

We were thrilled to announce that our team performed exceptionally well and made it through to the next round! This was a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work, problem-solving skills, and determination.



## An Inspiring Visit from Georgetown University

We were delighted to welcome Kate Timlin, Senior Associate Director of Admissions at Georgetown University, Washington D.C., to Carmel College. Kate met with our Year 11 and Sixth Form students as part of Georgetown's international outreach programme.

The session provided invaluable insight into how studying in the USA was not just a dream but a real and achievable option for our students. Kate explored several key topics, including:

- Applying to U.S. universities and how the process differs from the UK system
- Finance and funding options, including scholarships and grants
- Life at Georgetown, from academic pathways to campus life in Washington D.C.
- The wide range of study programmes that encourage students to think globally about their future

Students engaged enthusiastically, asking thoughtful questions and showing great interest in the opportunities available. It was inspiring to see such ambition and curiosity among our young people.







# The English Martyrs

Sixth Form College



Student Voice



## Kobi Shortlisted for Hartlepool Sports Personality of the Year

Congratulations to Year 12 student Kobi, who was shortlisted for Sports Personality of the Year at the Hartlepool Sports Awards – a fantastic achievement that recognises his dedication and talent.

Kobi is not only a top-performing student but also an elite karate athlete. He represented England at the World Karate Championships in Japan, where he won two bronze medals. He has also competed at the European Championships in Cyprus and is part of the English Karate Federation national squad.

Balancing academic excellence with international sport takes incredible discipline, and Kobi is a true role model for our school community. We are proud of his achievements and look forward to seeing him continue to excel in both his studies and karate.



## Spreading Festive Cheer at EM6



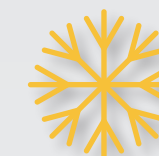
Our amazing Sixth Form students worked hard to create beautiful hampers filled with essentials and treats – from toiletries and cosy hats and scarves to biscuits and chocolates.

These thoughtful hampers were donated to The Mission of Seafarers in Hartlepool, supporting those who spend long periods away from home at sea.

A huge thank you to everyone involved for showing kindness and generosity during the festive season. Your efforts truly made a difference!



## UKMT Senior Maths Challenge Success at EM6



On Thursday 9th October, all Year 12 and Year 13 Maths students at EM6 took part in the prestigious UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, a national competition designed to stretch and inspire mathematical thinkers.

We are thrilled to announce that Daniel and Freya in Year 13 achieved Gold Awards and have qualified for the Senior Kangaroo, an elite follow-on round reserved for the highest scorers nationally. Daniel also secured the top score in the Sixth Form – a fantastic achievement!

A special mention goes to Year 12 students Kobi, Cohen and Christy, who achieved the joint top score in their year group and earned bronze awards. We look forward to seeing them build on this success in Year 13, following in Daniel and Freya's footsteps and aiming for Senior Kangaroo qualification themselves.

For context, the Senior Kangaroo consists of a challenging 60-minute paper with 20 problem-solving questions. Qualifying for this round is a significant accomplishment, placing students among the country's most talented young mathematicians. Congratulations to all our students for their hard work and outstanding results!

## Sixth Formers Led Youth Choir at Christmas Concert

Bridget (Year 13) and Christy (Year 12) from EM6 turned their passion for music into an inspiring project – running Youth Voices, a choir for pupils in Years 7–9. Rehearsals took place every Tuesday after school, where the pair taught a fun, age-appropriate repertoire, including favourites from musicals and Disney films.

Their hard work shone at the Christmas Concert on Thursday 11th December in St Anne's Hall, where the choir performed festive classics such as Jingle Bell Rock, Deck the Halls, and Silent Night, alongside solos and small group performances.

Congratulations to Bridget and Christy for their commitment and creativity. They were fantastic ambassadors for our Sixth Form and role models for younger students!







**St. John's**  
Sixth Form College



## Sixth Form Students Investigate Modern Crime at Teesside University

In December, 50 Year 12 and 13 students attended a Crime Day at Teesside University. The day was highly interactive, with students watching a pre-recorded crime taking place and spending time in the University labs and replica courtroom to explore the different approaches used by crime scene scientists and investigators, cybersecurity specialists, criminologists, and legal professionals in solving modern crimes. It was a fantastic experience that left our students feeling inspired and engaged.



## Remembering History - Lessons from Auschwitz Project

Four of our Sixth Form students had the incredible opportunity to take part in the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, which included a visit to Kraków and the Auschwitz concentration camps. During the trip, they explored both Auschwitz 1 and Auschwitz-Birkenau, gaining a profound understanding of the historical significance and human impact of these sites. The experience was deeply moving and eye-opening, offering them a chance to reflect on the atrocities of the Holocaust and the importance of remembrance and education.

Next term, they will begin their 'Next Steps Project,' where they will share their insights and experiences with the wider school community, helping to raise awareness and encourage thoughtful discussion about this vital part of history.

## Festive Fun and Achievements at the Sixth Form Dinner Dance

Our Sixth Form students marked the end of their first term and the festive season in style at the annual Dinner Dance, held at the beautiful Ramside Hall Hotel. This much-anticipated event is a highlight of the Sixth Form calendar, bringing students and staff together to celebrate their hard work and achievements so far this year.

Dressed in their finest, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal followed by an evening of music and dancing, creating a fantastic atmosphere of celebration and camaraderie. It was wonderful to see so many of our students and staff sharing this special occasion, reflecting on their successes and looking forward to the opportunities the new term will bring.







# Carmel College



## Year 7 Ethos Days and Welcome Mass

Carmel College welcomed the newest members of our community with two uplifting Year 7 Ethos Days, filled with faith, friendship, and student leadership. Across both days, every Year 7 pupil took part in a retreat experience designed and led entirely by our impressive Year 12 and 13 students. Their generosity and confidence were a powerful witness to the Catholic life and mission at the heart of the college.

The two days came together in a joyful way on the afternoon of the Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels, when Year 7 forms gathered with staff, families, and parishioners for the Year 7 Welcome Mass at St. Augustine's Church. The students sang with passion, listened attentively to the Word, and read with confidence. Each form processed into church carrying their new Form Saint Canvas, decorated with every pupil's handprint, a visible reminder that each child is created by God, valued, and called to be part of the Carmel College family.

These days showed the beauty of open hearts and community spirit – a wonderful start to their Carmel College journey.



## A Wonderful Celebration of Confirmation Across Our Partnership of Parishes

Over two evenings, more than eighty young people from Year 9 and 10 received Confirmation at St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Augustine's, uniting parishes, families, and schools in faith and joy. After a year of catechesis and parish involvement, candidates embraced their call to discipleship.

Father Tony Currer confirmed candidates on the first night, while Bishop Stephen joined the second, reminding them to live with courage and hope. Their reverence and joy shone through every moment, supported by musicians and readers from across the partnership.

These celebrations reflected true collaboration between Carmel College and parishes. We give thanks for our newly Confirmed and pray the Holy Spirit guides them in faith and service.

## Stewardship in Action – Active Travel Ambassador Project

Carmel College launched an exciting year-long Active Travel Ambassador project with Lou from the programme, working alongside our Stewardship Student Council. The first workshop explored how travel choices impact health and the environment, inspiring ideas for walking, cycling, and reducing pollution.

Students learned to design campaigns through evidence gathering and creative problem-solving. Throughout the year, they conducted surveys and assessments to shape proposals for safer, sustainable travel.

The project will culminate in a pitch event showcasing leadership and commitment to stewardship – a key principle of Catholic Social Teaching. We look forward to seeing their ideas make a real difference.







# The English Martyrs

Catholic School and Sixth Form College



## Attendance – ‘In It To Win It!’

We recognise that regular attendance is fundamental to academic success and personal development. In September, we launched our new exciting attendance initiative: ‘In It To Win It!’ Every week, students with 100% attendance earn a token to enter our prize draw. The more weeks they attend school every day, the more tokens they collect, and the greater their chances of winning! Prizes included a Nintendo Switch 2, Apple AirPods, and a £100 shopping voucher. We are so proud of all our students who have gained 100% attendance each week!

We also introduced form group league tables to encourage teamwork. The winning forms received a trophy from Mr Thompson and a celebration breakfast.

## Rewards Trip – Celebrating Success

Over 500 students from Years 8–11 enjoyed trips to Flamingo Land for their positive contributions and behaviour. While 190 Year 7 students celebrated their great start at EMS with a trip to Ninja Warrior UK. Upcoming festive trips include ice skating at Billingham Forum and cinema visits to Vue in Hartlepool.

Feedback from both students and parents has been outstanding, with many commenting on how much the trips were enjoyed and how valued students felt being recognised for their efforts and conduct. These trips continue to play an important role in promoting our positive school culture and reinforcing the importance of hard work, respect, and responsibility.



## Faith in Action – Pupils Lead Collective Worship

In a powerful expression of faith and leadership, pupils at EMS have taken ownership of shaping the spiritual life of our community. Guided by our new mission statement, “Christ has no body now on earth but yours”, young people from every form group stepped forward to lead Celebration of the Word for their year groups.

Each act of Collective Worship began with a hymn chosen by the students, setting a tone of reverence and unity before moving into a four-part structure of prayer and reflection. What made this initiative truly remarkable was its creativity and authenticity. Drawing on the Scripture of the day, pupils wrote their own prayers and reflections, weaving personal insight with Christ at the centre.

Alongside these celebrations, each year group gathered to celebrate Mass with Canon Paul, deepening their connection to the Eucharist and reinforcing the centrality of Christ in our school life. These moments of grace strengthened our sense of unity and reminded us of the profound privilege of worshipping together as one family.

At EMS, this is more than an act of worship, it is a statement of identity. Our pupils show that faith is alive, vibrant, and deeply rooted in their daily lives. In every hymn sung, every prayer written, and every Mass celebrated, they remind us that Christ’s presence is made real through their words, actions, and witness.

## Exciting Enrichment Opportunities

This term, our students have embraced a range of culturally and intellectually enriching experiences beyond the classroom.

Highlights included:

- Year 7 History Projects: Outstanding work on castles, showcasing creativity and historical understanding.
- Remembrance Activities: Deepening appreciation through engagement with our local landmark, Heugh Battery.
- European Day of Languages: Pupils explored new languages and even played a full football match in French, supported by UEFA coaches!

These opportunities reflect our commitment to broadening horizons and inspiring students to achieve excellence in every aspect of school life.







# Our Lady & St. Bede's

Catholic Academy



## Educational Visits – Broadening Horizons

Students enjoyed a fantastic range of experiences this term! Our football trip to the Netherlands was a real highlight, featuring training sessions, friendly matches, and cultural visits that built teamwork and international friendships.

Career opportunities were equally inspiring. Students explored healthcare roles during an NHS visit and discovered exciting pathways in gaming, animation, and coding at a digital creativity event.

Showing great community spirit, our SVP group rolled up their sleeves for a litter-picking initiative, helping keep our environment clean.

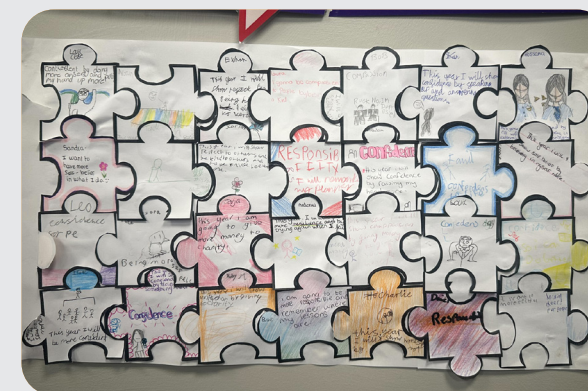
Finally, students joined young people from across the Diocese at The Source in St. Mary's Cathedral. It was a powerful day of worship, music, and reflection that strengthened our Catholic ethos.

## Celebrating Rewards and Achievements

This term, students were recognised for their dedication to attendance and their positive contributions to school life. Awards were given to those achieving impressive attendance streaks, improving their attendance, and actively engaging in our community.

Exciting prizes such as Middlesbrough FC tickets, cinema vouchers, and shopping vouchers added an extra layer of motivation. Students building their streaks proudly wore their badges around school, showcasing their commitment and inspiring others to aim high.

Those who aspired to good attendance had the opportunity to win a brand-new iPad!



## 'Pieces of Me' – Launching Our Whole-School Theme

At the start of the year, every form class took part in our whole-school 'Pieces of Me' task. Students designed their own jigsaw piece reflecting the virtues they wanted to grow in, such as confidence, resilience and respect.

When combined, each class created a full jigsaw, showing that every student is involved in our unique masterpiece and a vital part of our community. The project captured the creativity, honesty, and spiritual reflection of our students as they explored our theme of masterpiece.



## Service of Remembrance – Pupil-Led, Spirit-Filled

Our Service of Remembrance brought the whole school together in stillness and prayer. The liturgy was student-planned and student-led, featuring a powerful video, a moving performance by the Worship Choir, and a solemn parade from our cadets.

Mrs Wilkinson's performance of The Last Post created a deeply reflective moment. Linking to our masterpiece theme, students were invited to recognise their own worth and the worth of others, honouring the courage and sacrifice of those who gave their lives.

## Visit of the Papal Nuncio – A Special Encounter with the Universal Church

Thirteen Key Stage 3 students attended the Visit of the Papal Nuncio, joining Bishop Stephen Wright and Fr Cooper for this significant Diocesan event. Meeting Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, the Pope's ambassador, was a memorable reminder of our connection to the wider Church.

Students represented the school beautifully, and the visit was shared as a proud moment for our entire community.







# St. Michael's

Catholic Academy



## Geography Students Chase Northern Lights in Iceland

In October, a group of adventurous students embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime Geography trip to Iceland, immersing themselves in the dramatic landscapes and natural wonders of the Land of Fire and Ice.

The trip was packed with awe-inspiring experiences, including visiting geothermal hot springs and geysers, and exploring glaciers and volcanic terrain.

The highlight of the trip came one magical evening when students witnessed the Northern Lights dancing across the Icelandic sky. The aurora borealis lit up the night in vivid greens and purples, leaving everyone speechless and inspired.

## Diversity Day Celebration!

Our school came alive with colour, culture, and community as we celebrated Diversity Day. The event was inspired by Theo, a member of the Year 11 student leadership team, who said:

*"I wanted to dedicate a day to learning about diversity because it is important for everyone to be aware of the differences that make us, us."*

Students took part in inspiring sessions led by Mr Scott, exploring what makes each of us unique. We also raised funds for 'TimeforTom' through a delicious cake sale, a lively tombola, and a raffle featuring Mrs Shaw's legendary cakes!



## World Mental Health Day

Our students came together to raise money for the Headlight Project, a charity chosen by our Head Boy, Dexter.

Everyone was encouraged to wear yellow and orange to show support and raise awareness for mental health, and we were so impressed with their amazing efforts and positivity throughout the day!



## Year 7 Retreat to the Beach!

Our Year 7's enjoyed two amazing days at Seaton Carew, reflecting and praying on the theme of 'Making positive waves in life'.

They took part in team-building challenges, from drawing their tutor groups in the sand and creating sculptures based on school subjects, to nature-inspired photography,

footprint prayers, shell collecting, and making a beautiful collage wave.

The students were fantastic, and we had so much fun together! A huge thank you to everyone who helped make it such a special experience.



## What Went Well Wednesday - A Celebration of Student Success!

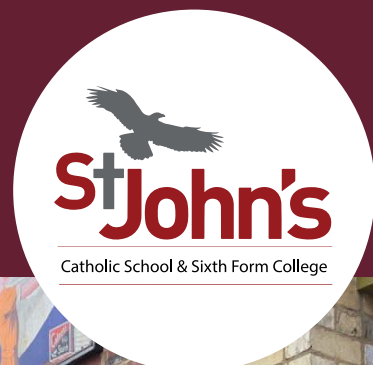
Every Wednesday, St. Michael's opens its doors to celebrate the incredible achievements of its students, and this term, What Went Well Wednesday has seen record-breaking attendance!

Students from all year groups proudly stepped forward to showcase their fabulous work, from beautifully crafted essays and creative projects to outstanding homework and revision efforts. The atmosphere was buzzing with positivity, pride, and encouragement.

Teachers and support staff praised the initiative for building confidence, promoting excellence, and creating a culture where hard work is recognised and celebrated.







# St. John's

Catholic School and Sixth Form College



Student Voice



School Video



## Inspectors for a Day at Beamish Museum

In October, 65 of our Year 11 students visited Beamish Museum, where they explored the 1900s town through an immersive investigation into the death of Eva Smith from *An Inspector Calls*. The trip, the first of its kind for any school to take part in, deepened their understanding of the historical context for their GCSE text and helped them engage with the themes and ideas behind the play. Our students were exceptional throughout the day and were fantastic ambassadors for St. John's, with Beamish staff commenting on their engagement, manners and behaviour.

## Year 8 Outward Bound Trip

From raft building to ghyll scrambling, wild camping to star gazing, our group of Year 8 students had the most fantastic week on their Outward Bound trip to the beautiful Lake District. The 23 students showed incredible resilience, teamwork and self-belief, tackling new skills, forging new friendships and making memories to last a lifetime.



## Performing Arts Careers

In our continued commitment to Performing Arts, we held some career-focused trips this term. Year 9 students attended a Creative Careers Carousel at Ushaw Historic House, focused on careers in the creative industries. Students got the chance to speak to industry professionals in a wide range of creative sectors and took part in activities in areas such as music, collection management, marketing and green screen technology. It was a wonderful afternoon which left our students feeling inspired by the potential careers in the creative industry and excited to make their GCSE option choices later this year.

## Year 7 Author Visit

Year 7 had an amazing time when author Helen Rutter visited St. John's. As part of their transition, every student was gifted a copy of Helen's book, *The Boy with Big Decisions*, and they got the chance to get their books personally signed! Helen encouraged a love of reading for pleasure with her engaging, interactive and often amusing talk about her books and the inspiration behind them.

## Christmas Card Competition

From over 70 entries from students across the school, we are delighted to reveal the winner and runners up of this year's House Christmas Card Competition. A huge well done to Zea from Year 10 whose stunning nativity scene was chosen by Ms Byron as our winner. Her design has been made into our official Christmas card for this year and she also received an Amazon voucher and lots of House points! Ali and Joni, both from Year 8, were chosen as our runners up with their beautiful designs and also received Amazon vouchers and house points. We were so impressed with all of the amazing entries that we also chose a 'Highly Commended' category who all received a Cadbury's Pud!







# Blessed John Duckett

Catholic Primary School



School  
Video



## Autumn Adventures and Diwali Celebrations

Class 1 have been learning about autumn celebrations. They discovered why we celebrate Bonfire Night, wrote firework poems, enjoyed messy play and art activities. They even made edible sparklers!

The pupils then headed out on an autumn adventure to look for seasonal treasures. First, they delivered their fabulous scarecrow for the Community Centre Scarecrow Competition, then explored the nature reserve. They found colourful leaves, berries, acorns, and some big shiny conkers.

Class 1 also learned all about the festival of Diwali. They created beautiful rangoli patterns, role-played the story of Rama and Sita, and made special Diwali sweets to share with the whole school.



## A Visit From the Police Visit and Ben the Puppy

Pupils at Blessed John Duckett were thrilled to welcome Claire, a Community Police Support Officer, and her police dog, Ben. Claire spoke about the many different roles within the police force and explained what it takes to become a dog handler.

She also shared the important jobs that police dogs do to help officers in their work. Ben, a puppy in training to become a sniffer dog, was the star of the visit! The children were very excited to meet him and even had the chance to give him a gentle pet.

## Superhero Multi-Skills Morning

Classes 1 and 2 enjoyed an action-packed superhero multi-skills morning led by none other than Thor, the Marvel superhero!

The children completed activities such as kurling, beanbag throwing, and balancing beanbags on rackets. They loved dressing up as superheroes and showed fantastic energy and enthusiasm throughout the session.

## UK Parliament Week and School Council Elections

Year 5 and 6 explored UK Parliament Week, learning how parliament works and why it is so important. They discussed Budget Day and its significance for schools and education and discovered that there are 650 Members of Parliament across the UK.

To finish the week, pupils wrote their own election manifestos and campaigned to become members of Blessed John Duckett School Council, a brilliant way to bring democracy to life in school!



## Forest School Fun

Class 2 began their forest school sessions and had a wonderful time exploring the outdoors. They built dens in the forest school area, made snowmen, and enjoyed s'mores and hot chocolate around the campfire – a perfect way to combine learning with adventure.

## ECO2 Smart Schools Conference and Flood Safety

Class 3 took part in the ECO2 Smart Schools Conference, engaging in three exciting lessons about Tree-mendous Trees. They learned why trees and forests are vital for our planet and even shared their hopes for the future of trees as part of COP30 discussions.

Afterwards, they joined a live conference to share their opinions with other schools. The class also welcomed the Environment Agency, who taught them about flooding, its dangers, and what to pack in an emergency. Pupils then tackled a creative challenge to protect their houses from floods using sand, grass, and drains – putting their problem-solving skills to the test!







## An Inspiring Day at Destination STEM

Year 5 and Year 6 had an inspiring and educational day at Hopetown, Darlington, taking part in the exciting Destination STEM event. This fantastic experience gave the children the chance to explore a wide range of hands-on activities linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. From problem-solving challenges to creative experiments, the day encouraged teamwork, curiosity and critical thinking. It was a brilliant opportunity for pupils to see how STEM subjects connect to real-world careers and innovations.



## A Special Visit from Darlington Police

Reception Class and Nursery had a very special visit from police officers Sergeant Vardy and PCSO Parker from Darlington Police. The children loved trying on parts of the police uniform and learning all about the important role the police play in keeping us safe. They asked lots of thoughtful questions and discovered how officers help people in the community every day. Afterwards, the children enjoyed taking part in their own police-themed activities, which sparked plenty of imaginative play.



## Autumn Fun in Nursery

Nursery children have been making the most of the autumn season by exploring our beautiful school garden and woodland areas. They were thrilled to discover pumpkins growing in their very own pumpkin patch and even enjoyed a tasty treat of homemade pumpkin soup at snack time! To celebrate Bonfire Night, the children gathered for a cosy little bonfire and had fun dipping apples in chocolate sprinkles. These seasonal activities have been a wonderful way to learn about nature and enjoy the changing seasons together.

## A Joyful Start - Holy Family's Welcome Mass

Earlier this term, we gathered in Holy Family Church for a very special Welcome Mass led by Father Kevin. This celebration is an important tradition in our school, bringing children, families and staff together as part of our faith community. Year 6 pupils played a key role in supporting their Reception Class buddies, helping them feel confident and included during the service. It was a beautiful occasion filled with prayer, reflection and a warm sense of belonging for everyone.







# Our Lady & St. Thomas

Catholic Primary School



Pupil Voice



School Video



## Little Owls Nursery & Early Years Unit



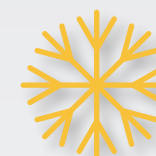
We were so excited to introduce our brand-new Nursery and Early Years Unit! A space designed with love, care, and creativity for our youngest learners. At OLST, we welcomed children aged 2 and 3 years old, giving them the very best start in a safe, nurturing, and faith-filled environment. Our new unit is full of opportunities for exploration and discovery. From cosy reading corners to imaginative play zones and outdoor learning spaces, every detail was designed to help children grow, learn, and thrive. We loved inviting families to visit our new Nursery and Early Years Unit. All were welcome to arrange a viewing, and we couldn't wait to meet everyone and their little ones! A special thank you goes to our Trust and to the Department for Education's School-Based Nursery Grant for investing in the future of OLST. Your support made this dream a reality for our children and families.



## Jubilee Celebration

We marked the end of the Jubilee Year in style with a whole-school celebration in our House Groups, including juice and delicious freshly baked biscuits. We held a special assembly and reflected on our time as Pilgrims of Hope, as well as gathering in our House Groups for a special task as we prepared for Advent.

The whole school made peg angels to spread hope in our village. The Mini Vinnies delivered these to the Care Home and to members of our Parish community, helping to share the message of hope.



## Fire Engine Visit

OLST welcomed the Fire Service as part of our Bonfire and Fire Safety work. Our Little Owls in Nursery had great fun making their own fire engine and loved setting off the blue flashing lights!



## Armistice Day Commemoration

Our school community came together to mark Armistice Day. At 11am, we observed a two-minute silence to remember those who gave their lives for peace and freedom.

Our pupils learned about the significance of this day through stories, art, and discussion. They explored why the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month is so important and reflected on the values of courage, sacrifice, and hope for a peaceful future.

On Remembrance Sunday, a couple of representatives from our school also laid a wreath at the cenotaph. We were proud of how thoughtfully our children engaged with this important part of history.







# Our Lady of The Most Holy Rosary

Catholic Academy



Pupil Voice

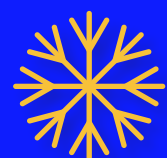


School Video



## Autumn Singalong at the Nursing Home

Holy Rosary celebrated the beauty of autumn by organising a joyful singalong for residents at our local care homes. The children prepared a selection of seasonal songs and hymns, which they performed with enthusiasm and smiles that lit up the room. The visit was a wonderful opportunity to connect generations, share laughter, and spread kindness within our community. Residents joined in with the singing, clapping along to familiar tunes, and many expressed how much they enjoyed the children's company. It was a heartwarming experience that reminded us all of the importance of friendship and caring for others. We are so proud of our pupils for their confidence and compassion during this special event, and we look forward to more opportunities to strengthen these community bonds.



## Bishop Stephen's Visit

We were honoured to welcome Bishop Stephen to Holy Rosary as part of our Feast Day celebrations. The afternoon began with a prayerful and uplifting Mass, where we gathered as a school to reflect and give thanks. Following the service, Bishop Stephen spent time visiting our classrooms, engaging warmly with the children and thoughtfully answering their questions. His presence brought joy and inspiration to all.



## Recycling Workshop and Eco Initiative

A representative from Stockton Borough Council visited our school to talk about recycling waste at home. The children took part in a fun workshop where they sorted different items into the correct receptacles. Inspired by this, our eco-friendly pupils decided to open a Christmas Jumper Swap Shop, recycling their old jumpers rather than buying new ones – a brilliant way to promote sustainability!

## A Visit from Professional Boxer, Joe Maphosa

Our pupils were thrilled to welcome professional boxer Joe Maphosa into school for an inspiring session. Joe shared his journey in the world of boxing, speaking honestly about the dedication, resilience, and hard work required to succeed in sport and in life. The children were captivated by his story and asked thoughtful questions about his training, achievements, and what motivates him to keep going. Joe also led a practical session, teaching the children some basic boxing skills and techniques in a fun and safe environment.



His message was clear: with determination and perseverance, you can achieve your dreams. The visit left a lasting impression on our pupils, encouraging them to set goals, stay focused, and believe in themselves.







# Sacred Heart

Catholic Primary School



Pupil  
Voice



School  
Video



## Sporting Success

Our girls' football team continued to showcase their talents at this year's FA Pokémon League Cup. They didn't concede a single goal throughout the tournament and gave impressive performances from start to finish, coming away as cup winners!

Twenty-seven of our students from Years 3 and 4 attended the Hartlepool Indoor Athletics Festival at Mill House. For many of them, this was their first competitive event. They participated with great effort and enthusiasm and proudly secured first place!

Our students also attended the Year 5/6 Town Swimming Gala at Mill House, where they gave fantastic performances in both individual and team events. Their hard work paid off as they were awarded overall town winners by the Mayoress.



## We Turned Sacred Heart Purple for a Great Cause

On 13th November, we raised an incredible £361.85 for Alice House Hospice by joining their Go Purple campaign. Our whole school embraced the challenge by wearing purple and showing their support for this wonderful cause. Alice House Hospice expressed their gratitude for the donation, which will contribute towards providing vital care in our community.



## Remembrance Service

On 11th November, our school community came together to mark Remembrance Day with a heartfelt service led by our Year 5 pupils. The children guided the event with confidence and respect, sharing prayers, readings, and reflections that reminded us of the importance of remembering those who sacrificed their lives.

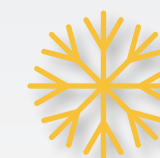
Parents, grandparents, and parishioners joined us in the hall, creating a truly special atmosphere of unity. The service included a moment of silence and the laying of poppies, allowing everyone to pause and reflect on the bravery of our fallen soldiers. We were incredibly proud of all our pupils for their thoughtful contributions and exemplary behaviour throughout the service.

## From Condemned to Curriculum: Our Cabin's Journey

Last year, our beloved Early Years cabin was officially condemned by the facilities team. While we were sad to say goodbye, we saw an opportunity to dream big.

We submitted a bid to Tesco Stronger Starts and were thrilled to be chosen for their blue token votes over the summer. Thanks to the amazing support from our community (and maybe a few extra shopping trips!), we secured second place in October and won £1,000!

That funding will go straight towards a brand-new curriculum cabin - safe, sturdy, and ready for little learners to make big discoveries. Goodbye condemned cabin, hello exciting new chapter!







# St. Augustine's

Catholic Primary School

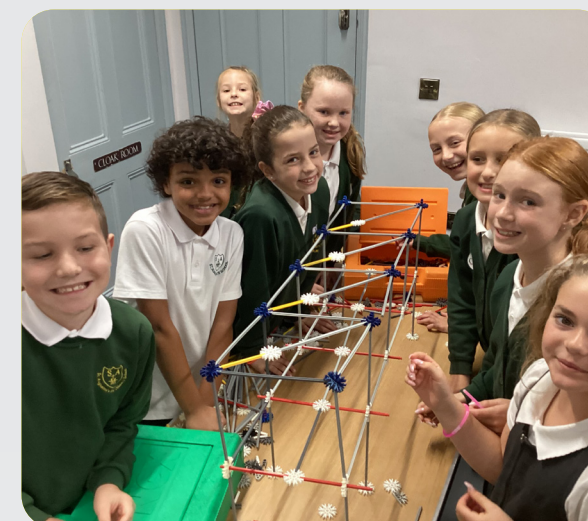


School  
Video



## St. Augustine's Boys Football Team Triumphs!

On Thursday 20th November, our St. Augustine's Boys Football Team delivered an outstanding performance at the Darlington FC Foundation Football Competition. The boys played five matches, winning every single one, scoring an incredible 14 goals and conceding none! This remarkable achievement means we will proudly represent Darlington in the North East Competition. A huge congratulations to the team for their skill, determination, and sportsmanship. We couldn't be prouder!



## Destination STEM

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils took part in the Destination STEM event at Hopetown, aimed at encouraging and inspiring young people to consider a career in science, technology, engineering, or maths (STEM).

More than fifty exhibitors showcased the diverse range of STEM careers available across the region through hands-on interactive activities and engaging presentations.

The children participated in a variety of exciting workshops throughout the day. With Husqvarna, they saw robotics and AI software in action, explored robotic products made from recycled materials, and took part in a sustainability challenge to build a structure from recyclable materials.

They also tackled the challenge of designing and constructing the New Skerne Viaduct using K'Nex, which brought engineering to life and tested teamwork and problem-solving skills.

## Little Bumble Nursery

The children in Little Bumble Nursery have been having a fantastic time with their learning! They explored a range of creative and hands-on activities designed to spark curiosity and develop key early skills.

From building with blocks and experimenting with shapes to enjoying festive crafts, the children were busy developing their fine motor skills and problem-solving abilities. They also loved sharing stories, singing songs, and working together in small groups, which helped build confidence and communication.

Every activity was planned to encourage independence, creativity, and a love of learning – while making sure there was plenty of fun along the way!







# St. Bede's

Catholic Primary School



School  
Video



## A Wonderful Day at Beamish Museum

Key Stage 1 pupils recently took part in an enriching educational visit to Beamish Museum, supporting their history topic Toys Through Time. The children engaged in a hands-on workshop where they explored a variety of toys from different historical periods, gaining insight into how play has evolved over time and how materials used for toys have changed.

In addition to the workshop, they toured the museum's immersive exhibits, which offered a broader understanding of life in the past and helped bring their classroom learning to life. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to deepen historical knowledge through real-world experiences. Staff were impressed by the pupils' curiosity, thoughtful questions, and respectful behaviour throughout the day.



## Year 5 Trip to Emmaus Youth Village

Year 5 children recently embarked on an exciting residential trip to Emmaus Youth Village, where they immersed themselves in a journey of faith, friendship, and discovery. Surrounded by the peaceful countryside, children took part in a variety of engaging activities that encouraged teamwork, reflection, and spiritual growth.

They focused particularly on the stories of St. Paul and explored how they could be a 'living hope' in their own lives. The children deepened their understanding of St. Paul's mission and how his teachings can be applied to their everyday experiences. They reflected on the challenges he faced while spreading the message of Jesus and were inspired by his resilience and unwavering faith.

In response, the children created artwork, wrote prayers, and shared personal reflections on how they can be brave and compassionate in their own lives.

This residential not only strengthened their spiritual awareness but also fostered lasting friendships and a strong sense of community that they proudly carried back with them to school.



## Families Share the Joy of Reading at St. Bede's

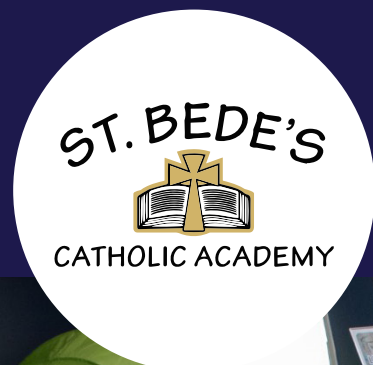
Our Key Stage 1 classrooms were buzzing with excitement as we welcomed parents for a special Stay and Read session. This event was all about celebrating the joy of reading and writing together, and it didn't disappoint!

Families explored a range of fun, hands-on activities designed to spark creativity and build confidence in literacy. From designing colourful Sound Crowns and spotting Common Exception Words in books, to taking on Read and Roll challenges and Letter join word searches on iPads, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Children also loved creating imaginative characters using expanded noun phrases, bringing their ideas to life with flair and originality.

It was wonderful to see parents and children side by side — sharing stories, laughing, and learning together. A huge thank you to all the families who joined us and helped make this event such a success.







**St. Bede's**  
Catholic Academy



## Leading the Way in Attendance and Behaviour

We have been recognised by the Department for Education as one of the UK's top schools for behaviour and attendance. We are the only primary school in the North-East to be included on the Government's list of integrated behaviour and attendance hubs.

As one of just 57 schools nationwide, we will now share our expertise and support other schools to raise standards across the region.

Headteacher Bernadette Rizzi-Allan said:  
"This accolade is a tribute to our dedicated staff, supportive parents and wonderful children. High expectations for attendance and behaviour are essential to giving every child the best start in life."

Chief Executive of Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust, Stuart McGhee, added:  
"St. Bede's is setting an outstanding example for others to follow."



## Remembrance

This November, our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils took part in local Remembrance events, showing respect for those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

Our schools are full of children from many different cultures and backgrounds, but what brings us together is that we all call the United Kingdom home. We're proud of our history and the values that make Britain what it is today – freedom, fairness, and community.

To mark Remembrance, the children made a poppy for every war grave in the local cemetery, making sure each one was remembered. They also joined the official Remembrance service organised by Stockton Borough Council, standing alongside others in a moment of reflection and gratitude.

It was a powerful way to honour the Armed Forces, past and present, who protect the values we share.

## Celebrating Advent at St. Bede's

At St. Bede's, we don't do Christmas halfway – we go all in! Advent is such a special time for us as a Catholic community. It's not just about counting down the days; it's about preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, and what better way to celebrate that than by filling our school with light, colour, and joy?

From the moment you walk through the doors, you know something amazing is happening. The school is dressed in beautiful liturgical colours, reminding us of the meaning behind the season. Purple for preparation, pink for joy – and plenty of sparkle everywhere you look! We've got wreaths, candles, nativity scenes, and decorations that would make even the North Pole jealous.

In fact, here's a warning: if you stand still for too long at St. Bede's, someone will probably cover you in tinsel and hang fairy lights on you! That's how much we love celebrating together. It's not just about making the school look festive – it's about creating a space where faith shines bright and everyone feels part of something special.

So as we journey through Advent, we're reminded of the hope and joy that Jesus brings. And at St Bede's, we make sure that message sparkles in every corner of our school.







# St. Bega's

Catholic Primary School



Pupil  
Voice



School  
Video



## Madam Mayor Visits St. Bega's

Hartlepool's Ceremonial Mayor, Carole Thompson, joined us to talk to the children about her important role in our community. She shared what it means to represent the town, the responsibilities that come with the position, and the pride she feels serving Hartlepool.

Our pupils were fascinated to learn about local government and asked some brilliant questions. Who knows - maybe her visit will inspire some of our future leaders and even a future mayor!



## Year 1 Visit to Hopetown

Year 1 had a visit to the train museum in Darlington called Hopetown. Year 1 have been learning about George Stephenson and the Railways at school and had a great day at the museum seeing a model of the train that George had built - Locomotion 1! They also had fun using the interactive displays and going on the Experience ride!



## Crucial Crew Event at the Power Station

Year 6 have enjoyed attending the annual Crucial Crew safety event at the Power Station! They learnt lots about how to keep themselves and others safe by participating in sessions with the fire service and the police.



## Little Explorers on their Autumn Adventure

This term our little explorers in EYFS enjoyed a beautiful autumnal walk through Ward Jackson Park, looking for signs of the changing season. The children were full of excitement as they spotted golden leaves, acorns, conkers, and even a few squirrels getting ready for winter! We talked about the colours of autumn, listened to the crunch of leaves underfoot, and collected some natural treasures to bring back to our classroom. It was a perfect way to enjoy the fresh air and learn through nature.







# St. Chad's

Catholic Primary School



Pupil  
Voice



School  
Video



## Learning About Flooding and Climate Change

During the autumn term, Year 5 and Year 6 deepened their understanding of flooding and climate change with a visit from the Environment Agency. Pupils explored the greenhouse effect and how it is changing our climate, leading to increased flooding risks.

They investigated how flooding occurs in local communities and discussed practical strategies for staying safe if flooding were to happen in their village or homes. This important learning helped pupils understand global issues and their impact on everyday life.



## STEM and Careers Day at Locomotion Museum

Year 5 and Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic day at the Locomotion Museum in Shildon for a STEM and careers event. Working with Hazen Bowskill, a STEM Ambassador, pupils explored forces through a carousel of hands-on activities.

They created catapults and investigated how different forces affected their function and effectiveness. Next, they explored gears using Lego cars, testing how gear power influenced movement. Finally, pupils learned how pulleys and forces can be used to lift and move objects from the ground.

It was an inspiring day that combined science, engineering, and teamwork in a real-world setting.

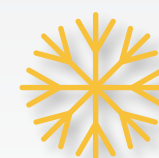


## Exploring Energy with Northern Gas

As part of the STEM day, pupils worked with Northern Gas to learn about the power of gas as a force and energy source, as well as its environmental impact.

Their activity involved creating gas within a hydrogen-powered car and investigating how long the gas lasted while the car was in motion. Pupils then compared the effect of friction on different surfaces and how this influenced the amount of gas required to power the vehicles.

This hands-on experience gave pupils a deeper understanding of energy, sustainability, and innovation.



## Remembrance - Honouring the Fallen

The whole school came together to remember the soldiers who gave their lives during wars around the world. Pupils showed the utmost respect during their tribute to The Fallen.

Following the service, some pupils visited the Cenotaph in Witton Park to lay our school poppy wreaths. We were honoured to receive a visit from two veterans on behalf of The Royal British Legion, who presented us with our fundraising certificate for The Poppy Appeal.

It was a moving and meaningful occasion that reminded us of the importance of gratitude and remembrance.







# St. Charles

Catholic Primary School



School Video



## Bishop Stephen Visits St. Charles

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Stephen and Father Remi to our school. The afternoon began with a whole school gathering for a time of prayer and reflection. It was a peaceful and meaningful moment, and the children responded with great reverence and enthusiasm.

Following the assembly, Bishop Stephen enjoyed a full tour of the school, visiting every class. The children had prepared thoughtful and curious questions, asking how he became a Bishop, what his role involves, and what he enjoys most about his ministry. To finish the visit, he spent time chatting with our School Council, asking them about their roles and how they were chosen. It was a wonderful opportunity for our young leaders to share their experiences and ideas.



## Driving Innovation Inspires Our Pupils

Year 3 welcomed a team from Nissan who work closely with colleagues in Japan. The children learned fascinating facts about the Japanese language, traditional symbols, and food. They were also set some exciting activities to complete before the team's next visit – something they were already looking forward to with great enthusiasm!



## Future Tech Stars Unite at Robotics Club

Eight talented Year 6 pupils were selected to join our Robotics Club after submitting applications and delivering impressive presentations. Their challenge was to design, build, and program a robot that would compete in an exciting competition! The competition followed strict rules and involved completing tasks to earn points across different stages.

This hands-on project tested their creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork skills as they worked to bring their robot to life. We were excited to see what our Robotics Club created!

## World Mental Health Day at St. Charles

To mark World Mental Health Day, St. Charles welcomed a very cheerful pirate who brought plenty of smiles and laughter! The children enjoyed an afternoon of storytelling, fun games, and meaningful conversations about the importance of sharing our feelings. A big thank you to all the parents who joined the dedicated sessions during and after school – it was wonderful to see such strong community support. The day was filled with joy and reflection, reminding us all that mental health matters every day.

## Celebrating Diwali Together

We had the pleasure of welcoming Satva and his mum into school to share the vibrant traditions of Diwali with us. The festival symbolises the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. We learned that during the five days of Diwali, Hindu families decorate their homes with beautiful flowers, glowing candles, and sparkling lights. Guests are warmly welcomed with delicious treats, and no one leaves empty-handed!

Satva's mum generously brought glow sticks, cake, and sweets for us all to enjoy. Inspired by the celebration, we crafted our own Diwali candles, coloured intricate Rangoli patterns, and shared tokens of kindness with our friends. We noticed many lovely similarities between Diwali and our own festive traditions.







# St. Cuthbert's

Catholic Primary School, Crook



Pupil  
Voice



School  
Video



## National Fitness Day Fun

Our pupils inspired each other and had an energetic time celebrating National Fitness Day! From getting groovy with dough disco to a lively whole-school warm-up and finishing strong with an afternoon fitness session, the day was packed with movement and smiles.

Healthy habits, teamwork, and fun were at the heart of the celebrations and we're sure everyone slept well that night (staff included!). Well done, St. Cuthbert's - let's keep moving and aspiring to be the best we can be!

## Aspire Days – Sharing Faith Through Dance and Music

This term, our ASPIRE Days were led by More Than Dance. Key Stage 2 pupils learnt about the Northern Saints and explored the messages they carry with us today. They celebrated these saints through expressive dance and music - and we were impressed by how enthusiastically our grown-ups joined in too!

Key Stage 1 pupils shared messages about God's love through dance and music with their families. These important messages will help us to share Jesus's light with everyone we meet. It was a joyful and faith-filled experience for all.



## Dot Day

Our St. Cuthbert's school family celebrated creativity, collaboration, and courage during our Dot Day celebrations! Inspired by the book *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds, children came to school dressed in ways that expressed their creativity.

Every member of our school family created their own unique 'dot', which formed a stunning collaborative display showcasing the individuality and imagination of each one of us. This special day reminded us that everyone has the power to make their mark and shine brightly.

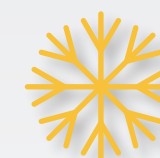


## Class 3's Out-of-This-World Adventure at the Life Centre

Class 3 had an unforgettable day at the Life Centre in Newcastle, packed with discovery and excitement! The visit began with an electricity workshop, sparking curiosity and hands-on learning. Pupils then journeyed into space in the planetarium, exploring the wonders of the stars and galaxies.

The adventure continued in the WOW Zone, where interactive exhibits brought science to life, and concluded with a thrilling Live Science Theatre performance that had everyone on the edge of their seats. It was a day full of fun, learning, and inspiration.

## Superhero Day at St. Cuthbert's!



On Thursday 6th November, Class 1 and Class 2 transformed into superheroes for a fun-filled Superhero Games session right here in school! Led by none other than Thor, the children spent the morning tackling exciting challenges and embracing their inner heroes.







# St. Cuthbert's

Catholic Primary School, Stockton



## Jubilee Celebration Day – Pilgrim's of Hope

On Friday 21st November, children and staff at St. Cuthbert's honoured Jubilee Celebration Day – a day filled with creativity, hope, reverence, and prayer.

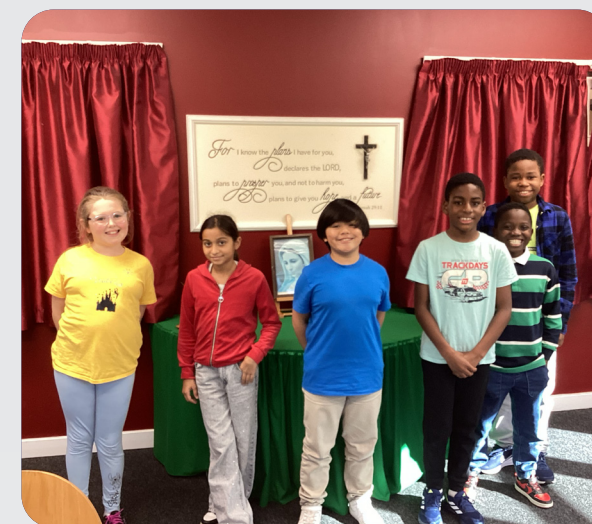
We began with a whole-school Celebration of the Word, reflecting on the many ways we had been Pilgrims of Hope this year and renewing our pledge to continue spreading hope throughout our community.

Throughout the day, children creatively journaled their journey of hope, including ways they had shared hope through fundraising for Children in Need, the Royal British Legion, and CAFOD World Gifts. Pupils also made Angels of Hope, which will be distributed during our Advent Mission to people in need of hope.

In the afternoon, our Prayer Leaders led prayer stations for their peers, providing a beautiful opportunity for reflection. Children paused to consider how they use their time to help those most in need and even blew bubbles outside while praying for their hopes for the world to "float" up to God.

All classes explored blessings and doors, using images to reflect on how God has opened doors in their lives and the blessings they have received.

At the end of the day, we gathered examples of work and artwork from EYFS to Year 6 to create a stunning whole-school display at the heart of our community.



## World Brighten Up Day – Supporting CAFOD World Gifts

Every year, World Brighten Up Day brings schools and communities together to celebrate hope and generosity. Pupils dressed in bright colours and raised an amazing £326.26 for CAFOD World Gifts, a unique way of giving that transforms lives.

Our Year 6 Faith in Action children helped choose the gifts we purchased for families living in poverty, including:

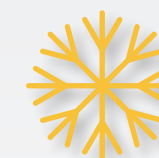
- A Goat – Providing milk for nutrition and income through breeding.
- Vegetable Garden – Helping families grow their own food and fight hunger sustainably.
- Chirpy Chickens – Supplying eggs for food and sale, improving health and income.

By supporting World Brighten Up Day, we didn't just raise money, we gave hope, dignity, and opportunities to those who need it most.

## NSPCC Kindness Day Challenge

In October, St. Cuthbert's took part in NSPCC Kindness Challenge Day, a special event dedicated to promoting kindness and compassion while raising funds to protect vulnerable young people.

Children engaged in activities that celebrated kindness, such as writing positive messages, offering help to others, and sharing acts of care. Across the school, pupils reflected on the many ways we show kindness together, reinforcing our commitment to building a caring and supportive community.







# St. Cuthbert's

Catholic Primary School, Hartlepool



Pupil  
Voice



School  
Video



## Year 5 Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne

Year 5 embarked on an unforgettable pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, walking the historic Pilgrim's Way and retracing the steps of St. Cuthbert. Along the route, pupils discovered fascinating archaeological sites, admired breathtaking coastal views, and even tried their hand at seal spotting!

The experience didn't end there – back at school, they channelled their inspiration into writing persuasive pieces, encouraging others to visit the beautiful and historic Holy Island. This trip was not only educational but also a wonderful opportunity to create lasting memories and deepen their understanding of our rich heritage.



## Swimming Success at the Small Schools Gala

On 20th November, St. Cuthbert's swimming team took part in the Small Schools Swimming Gala at Millhouse Leisure Centre in Hartlepool.

The children represented the school brilliantly, competing in freestyle races as well as relays and individual strokes. When the final scores were announced, St. Cuthbert's boys' team proudly won the plaque for Small Schools Boys Team – First Place. We were incredibly proud of all their efforts!



## Gardening and Nature Club Coastal Walk

The Gardening and Nature Club enjoyed a fascinating coastal walk led by a guide from the Durham Wildlife Trust. The group learned how to care for our environment and explored our role as caretakers of the planet. They discovered the importance of grasslands in our ecosystem and identified local birds and trees. The children also learned about the significance of Blackhall Rocks and the limestone cliffs. They will use this knowledge to create advice and information for our school community and will lead a talk to share what they have learned.

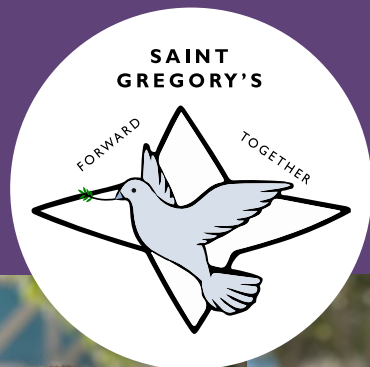


## Wildlife Day at St. Cuthbert's

The Gardening and Nature Club organised a Wildlife Day in school, where children dressed as animals or plants to celebrate the importance of wildlife. Durham Wildlife Trust visited to talk about hedgehogs, an endangered species, and pupils learned how to help them by providing dog or cat food and fresh water. The children raised an amazing £150 for Durham Wildlife Trust and created lots of artwork and posters linked to the day.







# St. Gregory's

Catholic Academy



School Video



## Dreams Came True for Sadie and Layla!

Sadie and Layla were dedicated members of Razzamataz Theatre School. In October 2024, they passed an audition with Disney after weeks of hard work, securing their place to perform at Disneyland Paris.

They spent the past year rehearsing and perfecting their material before travelling to Paris with their families for the trip of a lifetime.

On Sunday 28th September 2025, Sadie and Layla joined a huge team of Razzamataz students from across the UK and performed in the Disneyland Paris Pre-Parade show! The students danced their way down Main Street USA, with thousands of excited visitors from around the world cheering them on.



## Key Stage 2 Family Reading Workshop Success

On Tuesday 18th November, Key Stage 2 hosted a Family Reading Workshop where our children and their families enjoyed a range of engaging activities, including:

- Mystery Corner – following clues to identify book titles
- Poetry Pod – reading and performing poems together
- Vocabulary Treasure Hunt – searching for missing words

We were delighted by the incredible turnout and the amazing support from our families. The enthusiasm throughout the event was truly inspiring! We received wonderful feedback from both children and parents, and it was clear that everyone had a fantastic time. We were already looking forward to welcoming everyone to our next event!



## A Joyful Feast Day Celebration

On 3rd September, our school community was blessed to celebrate our Feast Day with a truly special guest, Bishop Stephen. The day began with a beautiful Mass, bringing together pupils, staff, and families in prayer and thanksgiving. Bishop Stephen's presence made the occasion unforgettable as he shared inspiring words and spent time engaging with the children, answering their thoughtful questions. His warmth and wisdom left a lasting impression on everyone.

It was a day filled with faith, joy, and togetherness – a wonderful reminder of the blessings we shared as a school family.



## Pilgrims of Hope – Jubilee Finale

On 21st November, we gathered for a special Celebration of the Word to mark the end of our Jubilee Year of Hope. Since January, we had journeyed together as “Pilgrims of Hope,” opening our holy door, learning about pilgrimages, and discovering how hope could be shared through our words and actions.

In our liturgy, we listened to the Gospel of Luke where Jesus proclaimed good news to the poor and freedom to the oppressed, reminding us that we too were called to be messengers of hope. Inspired by Pope Leo XIV's message to “aspire to great things... and see the light of the Gospel grow every day,” our children created Angels of Hope to share not only with our school community, but also with our parish and local care home, as well as placing them around the wider community during Advent.

In this way, we continued to pass hope forward – bringing light, joy, and faith to others long after the Jubilee Year had ended.







# St. John the Evangelist

Catholic Primary School



Pupil  
Voice



School  
Video



## Rock Steady Music School

We were delighted to welcome Rock Steady Music School into our setting, where the children took part in an exciting band workshop. They had the opportunity to explore and play a wide range of instruments, from keyboards and guitars to drums and vocals, working together to create their own group sound.

The session gave them a real taste of what it felt like to be part of a band, building confidence, teamwork, and musical curiosity. It was a joyful experience that opened their eyes to the possibilities of music and left them inspired to keep exploring their creative talents.

## Fire Brigade Visits St. John's

We were fortunate to have the Fire Brigade visit our school to deliver an engaging talk on fire safety in preparation for Bonfire Night. The children learned important messages about staying safe around fireworks and bonfires, and the firefighters shared practical advice in a clear and memorable way.

Some pupils even had the chance to take part in a demonstration of the vital "stop, drop, and roll" technique, showing everyone how to respond safely if clothing were ever to catch fire. It was a highly valuable session that not only built awareness but also gave the children confidence in knowing how to act responsibly during the celebrations.



## Mind Matters – A Powerful Visit from Teesside Mind

This autumn, we were delighted to welcome Teesside Mind into school to share an inspiring presentation with the children about the importance of looking after our minds as well as our bodies. The session encouraged pupils to think about positive ways to stay mentally healthy and highlighted how small daily habits can make a big difference.

At the end of their visit, representatives from Teesside Mind presented us with a cheque in recognition of our incredible summer fundraising efforts. Together, we raised over £3,000 – a fantastic achievement that not only supports a vital local charity but also shows the power of our school community when we work towards a shared goal.

## NSPCC – Speak Out, Stay Safe

We were pleased to welcome the NSPCC into school this term to deliver their Speak Out, Stay Safe workshops with our children. The sessions helped pupils understand the importance of speaking up if they ever feel worried or unsafe and gave them practical strategies for knowing who they can turn to for support.

Through engaging activities and clear messages, the NSPCC team reinforced the idea that every child has the right to feel safe and listened to. It was a valuable experience that empowered our children to recognise that their voice matters and that help is always available.







# St. John Vianney

Catholic Primary School



## A Tree Full of Hope and Joy

At St. John Vianney Catholic Primary School, the festive season began with a truly heartwarming tradition. Every child and member of staff took part in decorating our school Christmas tree in a very special way. Each person hung a bauble carrying a personal prayer of goodwill and happiness for the Advent Season. The result? A beautiful tree brimming with hope, kindness, and joy. This simple yet meaningful act reminds us of the power of community and faith as we prepare for Christmas together.



## Year 4's Visit from West View Project

In November, our Year 4 pupils embraced the great outdoors with an exciting session led by West View Project. The children learned practical skills for outdoor living, including how to safely cook over an open fire. The highlight of the day was tasting a fire-cooked crumpet, everyone agreed it was absolutely delicious! Experiences like these help our pupils build confidence, teamwork, and a love for nature. A huge thank you to West View Project for making this memorable day possible.



## Outdoor Adventure at St. John Vianney School

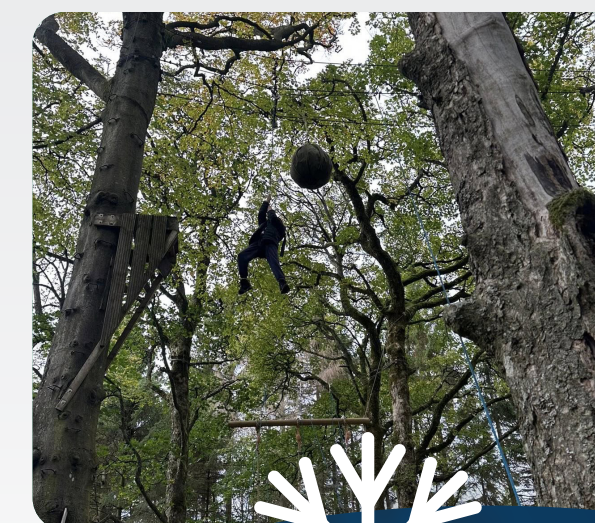
Reported by a Year 6 Journalist

In Year 6, we have completed the last part of the 'Canvas Classroom'. We have been preparing with adventures at St. John Vianney School over the years. In Year 1 we had a 'sleep-over' in school, getting up really early to watch the sunrise. In Year 2, we had to whittle our own spoon and make a pottery dish. In Year 3 we had lessons for the day in a big tent on the field, in the middle of winter and with no handy toilets... yuk! In Year 4 we learnt to build shelters and tried to cook meals outdoors. Then, in Year 5 we camped out in the middle of nowhere, under our own shelters and making our own supper and breakfast. At least that was in the Summer!

This term, we reached the summit with our outdoor and adventurous residential in Weardale. We were terrified rock-climbing but everyone managed to get to the top. We loved paddle-boarding, but everyone got wet, as we rocked along. We were all ravenous at every meal. When we came

back to school, we thought about all we had done, the fun and the learning. We realised that the reason we had been able to enjoy the residential so much, was because other people – behind the scenes – were taking care of all the necessities of life. We didn't have to worry about where we would sleep, like we did when we had the sleep-over or when we had to put up our own shelters and tents. Other people were making all of our meals and cleaning up after us instead of us having to make everything for ourselves and clean up afterwards. Even the activities were planned and led by the rangers who knew what to expect and how to keep us safe, we were not doing our normal lessons, we were enjoying being outside!

We realised how lucky we were to be able to spend every moment of the time at the residential camp enjoying the adventurous activities... and that made us think how lucky we are all the time because our Mams and Dads and Nanas and Grandads and our carers and teachers make sure everything is done for us, so we can simply get on with learning and playing... without worrying about anything else... How lucky we are!







# St. Joseph's

Catholic Primary School, Billingham



## Middlesbrough FC Foundation, Inspiring Positive Choices

This term, our pupils took part in an exciting programme delivered by the Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation, exploring how the values of football can shape positive behaviour and life skills.

Across five interactive workshops, children learned about resilience, teamwork, health and fitness, nutrition, anti-discrimination, mental health, online safety, and environmental sustainability – all through engaging activities that linked sport to everyday choices.

The sessions encouraged pupils to think about how these principles apply both on the pitch and in the classroom, helping them grow as confident, respectful, and responsible individuals.

As a special highlight, our Sports Leaders were invited to attend a match at the Riverside Stadium, a fantastic experience that celebrated their leadership and commitment. We are proud of the enthusiasm and maturity shown by all pupils and look forward to continuing this inspiring partnership.



## Bridge-Building Challenge with Sir Robert McAlpine

As part of our careers education – and with thanks to the incredible education team at Sir Robert McAlpine – our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in a unique and engaging bridge-building exercise.

Working collaboratively towards a shared goal, the children used their STEM and engineering skills to 'build' the bridge together. They demonstrated outstanding teamwork, resilience, and practical problem-solving skills throughout the challenge.



## A Fond Farewell to Our School Building

As we prepared to say goodbye to our school building before our big move, we invited former pupils, staff, and parents to have one last look around. Our school was filled with laughter, shared memories, and heartfelt reunions.

The building came alive with stories from years gone by, joyful catch-ups, and a real sense of community that makes our school so special. This photo shows the very first class in our school back in 1968! Here's to new beginnings, cherished memories, and the bright future ahead.

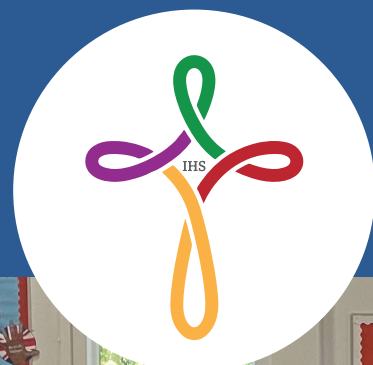
## Year 1's Forest School Pizza Adventure!

Our Year 1 children enjoyed a fantastic Forest School experience with a delicious twist – pizza making in the great outdoors!

The session began with pupils designing their own pizzas, experimenting with a variety of tasty toppings, and learning about food preparation. Then came the highlight: cooking their creations over an open fire before sitting down together to enjoy the results.







# St. Joseph's

Catholic Primary School, Coundon



Pupil Voice



School Video



## Dream Big – Exploring Careers in Steam

As part of our railway bicentenary celebrations, we were delighted to welcome Darrin, the lead locomotive engineer on the well-known Sir Nigel Gresley. Darrin shared fascinating insights into his career journey and what it takes to rebuild and work with such an iconic steam locomotive. Our pupils were full of curiosity, asking thoughtful questions such as: "What route did you have to take to become an engineer?" and "What qualities would I need to do this job?"

We loved providing our pupils with opportunities that inspired them to dream big and see that they could achieve any career they set their minds to!



## All Aboard! Trip to Locomotion

Our Year 1/2 pupils had a fantastic time at Locomotion in Shildon! The visit brought their learning about the Stockton and Darlington Railway and the incredible achievements of George Stephenson to life. The children explored the tools used to build the famous Locomotion No. 1 and even re-enacted the historic day it first set off down the tracks! They loved climbing aboard a real steam locomotive and exploring the driver's cab.



## Experiencing Shakespeare in Durham

Our pupils enjoyed a fantastic day at Durham University Theatre, where they took part in a Shakespeare workshop with Elysian Theatre Company. They brought Macbeth to life with brilliant group acting, which developed their communication, performance, and oracy skills.

We then explored the William Shakespeare exhibition – and even saw a First Folio of his work!

## ¡Hola! A Fiesta of Fun on Spanish Day

We held a Spanish Day where we made links with our partner school in Estepona. Pupils created postcards, cards, and letters to send to our friends at the partner school in Estepona, Spain – ¡Hola amigos!

We learnt all about the famous Spanish artist Joan Miró and had a great time recreating his unique and colourful artwork. Pupils also had the chance to taste paella, which was a big hit with many of them! Throughout the day, they practised their Spanish speaking and listening skills – from greetings to short conversations.







# St. Joseph's

Catholic Primary School, Hartlepool



Pupil  
Voice



School  
Video



## CAFOD Jubilee Assembly – Global Citizenship in Action

This term, we welcomed CAFOD into St. Joseph's for a special Jubilee-focused assembly, allowing children to explore what fairness, dignity, justice, and global responsibility truly mean. Pupils learned how CAFOD supports communities around the world with clean water, education, farming resources, health care, and emergency aid.

Children discussed how even small acts of generosity can lead to significant change and reflected on how kindness, sharing, and stewardship are key elements of living out our faith. The session also introduced the World Gifts initiative, showing how donations can provide essential resources for families in need, from seeds to school supplies, from water filters to goats.

The assembly sparked deep discussion and heart-led ideas from pupils, with many already suggesting charity events, sponsored challenges, and ways to help others. Children left motivated, reflective, and proud to recognise that they have the power to build a fairer world – one generous action at a time.



## Crucial Crew – Safety Skills for Life

Our Year 6 pupils took part in Crucial Crew, a large-scale multi-agency safety event attended by over 1,000 pupils from across Hartlepool. Held at Hartlepool Power Station, the programme brought together expert teams to teach children how to stay safe in a range of everyday situations.

Throughout the day, pupils attended workshops on road safety, cyber-crime, water safety, puncture wound first aid, electricity awareness, and the dangers of vaping. Each session was practical, interactive, and designed to give children the knowledge and confidence to make safe choices as they grow.

Our pupils engaged brilliantly, asking thoughtful questions, participating in demonstrations, and showing maturity throughout. Crucial Crew gave them a powerful and hands-on understanding of personal safety and responsibility – learning that may one day save a life.



## Community Action – Big Town Tidy Up

St. Joseph's proudly embraced community action this term, with pupils learning what it means to contribute, care for, and take responsibility for the spaces around them.

We welcomed Fran from Big Town Tidy Up, who delivered an engaging workshop about the importance of keeping our local area clean. She provided education packs, litter pickers, and bags, equipping pupils to get out into the community and make a real difference.



## Black History Month at St. Joseph's

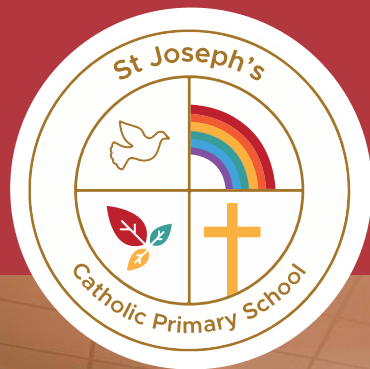
For Black History Month, pupils took part in a specialist programme delivered by Transformers HPL, exploring African culture, invention, heritage, and music. They learned about influential Black inventors whose creativity shaped everyday life, explored storytelling traditions, studied African history and identity, and took part in African drumming sessions using djembes. The sound of rhythm and layered beats filled the school as pupils discovered how music can express culture, connect communities, and share stories. It was a powerful cultural experience full of energy, meaning, and pride.

## Nursery & Community Hub Links – Reading, Music and Shared Experiences

Our youngest children have been building strong links beyond school. Nursery welcomed Pam Readman from the local library, who led a joyful and interactive session full of storytelling, nursery rhymes, and musical exploration. Parents joined in too, creating a warm and shared family experience. Each child left with a free book and activity pack, helping the learning continue at home.







# St. Joseph's

Catholic Primary School, Newton Aycliffe



Pupil  
Voice



School  
Video



## Science Comes Alive at St. Joseph's

We were buzzing with anticipation as The Royal Institution brought their renowned science show to the school. From the moment the presenter stepped into the packed hall, the atmosphere was electric.

The day began with a spectacular show for the children, filled with jaw-dropping experiments, thrilling explosions, and plenty of hands-on participation. It was an opportunity for them to see science in action and understand its impact on our everyday lives.

The theme of the event 'Fuel the Future' explored the chemistry, physics, and history behind our planet's natural resources. Children learned about the effects of CO<sub>2</sub> on the environment and discovered the cutting-edge technologies that help society move toward sustainability. Through

a series of mind-blowing demonstrations, the presenter explained how electricity is generated, transferred, and stored – making complex ideas accessible and exciting.

In the afternoon, parents joined their children for a second show, creating a shared experience that sparked curiosity across generations. The Royal Institution's mission was clear: to inspire young minds and encourage families to think about what it means to be sustainable and why it matters for the future.

Headteacher, Kirsty Evans, commented, "Events like this are invaluable. They not only enrich our science curriculum but also ignite a lifelong passion for learning and discovery."



## Exploring the Universe: A Day with Astronomers

Pupils at St. Joseph's were treated to an extraordinary educational experience when Adam and James from Kielder Observatory visited with their remarkable inflatable planetarium. This immersive dome transported children on a journey through the cosmos, allowing them to explore stars, planets, and galaxies in a way that truly brought science to life.

Following the planetarium adventure, pupils participated in an interactive workshop focused on Light. The session went beyond the basics, introducing pupils to the fascinating concepts of infrared and ultraviolet light. Using specialist equipment—including diffraction glasses, an infrared camera, and UV-sensitive beads—children investigated how light behaves and uncovered the hidden world beyond what the human eye can see. These hands-on demonstrations sparked curiosity, encouraged scientific thinking, and made complex ideas accessible and engaging.

Adding to the excitement, some pupils had the unique opportunity to explore the school's exclusive meteorite collection, which forms part of its science programme. This collection includes genuine fragments of rock from space, originating from the Moon, Mars, and the asteroid belt. Handling real pieces of celestial bodies provided pupils with a tangible connection to our solar system and made the experience truly unforgettable.

## From Westminster to Our School: MP Inspires Future Leaders

St. Joseph's proudly marked UK Parliament Week with an inspiring visit from local Member of Parliament, Alan Strickland. The event aimed to deepen pupils' understanding of democracy and the role of Parliament in shaping the nation.

During his visit, Mr. Strickland spoke to the children about his responsibilities as an MP and the importance of representing constituents. He then took part in a lively Q&A session, where pupils asked thoughtful questions using the traditional 'bob' system, mirroring the practice in the House of Commons.

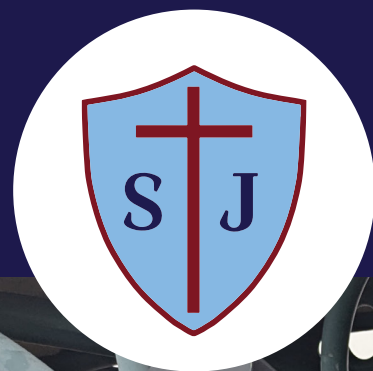
Deputy Headteacher, Mr Hunt, commented, "This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to learn about how decisions are made and how their voices can make a difference. We are grateful to Alan Strickland for taking the time to engage with our pupils and inspire them to be active citizens."

One pupil shared their excitement about the experience, "I really enjoyed learning about how Parliament works and asking questions. It made me feel like our opinions matter!"

The visit was part of a nationwide initiative to encourage young people to learn about Parliament, politics and civic engagement.







**St. Joseph's**  
Catholic Academy, Norton



## Year 3 and 4 Explore the Tees Barrage!

Even though the weather was very wet, our Year 3 and 4 children had a wonderful time exploring the Tees Barrage! The children were fascinated to learn how the barrage works – they even had the chance to open and close the boat gates, control the video cameras, and watch firefighters training in the water.

The biggest excitement of all was spotting the famous otter and seals that call the river home! Throughout their visit, the children showed great curiosity, teamwork, and respect – living out the Catholic Social Teachings of care for creation and community and participation.

It was a fantastic learning experience that brought science, geography, and citizenship to life!



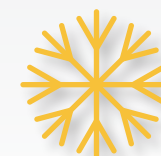
## Year 6 Visit the Houses of Parliament

Year 6 had an unforgettable experience visiting the Houses of Parliament in London! The children explored the historic building, learning about how laws are made and the importance of democracy in our country.

A highlight of the day was meeting our local MP, Chris Macdonald. The pupils asked challenging and thoughtful questions about how he can help improve Norton, showing great confidence and maturity. Mr Macdonald was impressed and commented on how positive and respectful the children were throughout the visit.

The children also enjoyed seeing some of London's most famous sights, making the day even more memorable! This trip was a fantastic opportunity to see British Values in action – especially Democracy – and to understand how every voice matters in shaping our community and country.

Year 6 truly were role models for our school, demonstrating curiosity, respect, and responsibility at every stage of the day.



## A Month of Inspiration: Black History and Nursery's Special Talents

October was a special month as we celebrated Black History Month across the school. Children explored inspiring stories, achievements, and contributions that have shaped our world, reflecting on the importance of diversity and equality in our society.

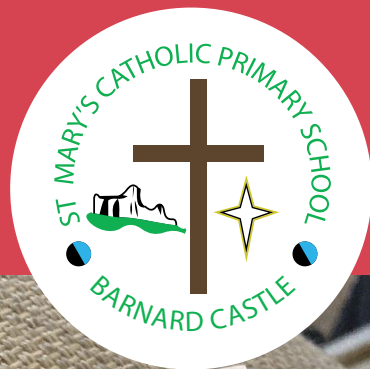
To mark the end of Black History Month, children came together to recite powerful poems, celebrating identity, resilience, and hope. It was a moving and memorable way to conclude our learning.

Continuing the theme of uniqueness, Nursery explored how our differences make us special and wonderful. The children shared what makes them unique and showcased their amazing talents in a Nursery Talent Show – from singing and dancing to creative performances!

These celebrations reminded us of our commitment to British Values and the Catholic Social Teaching of dignity of the human person, celebrating every individual as precious and valued.





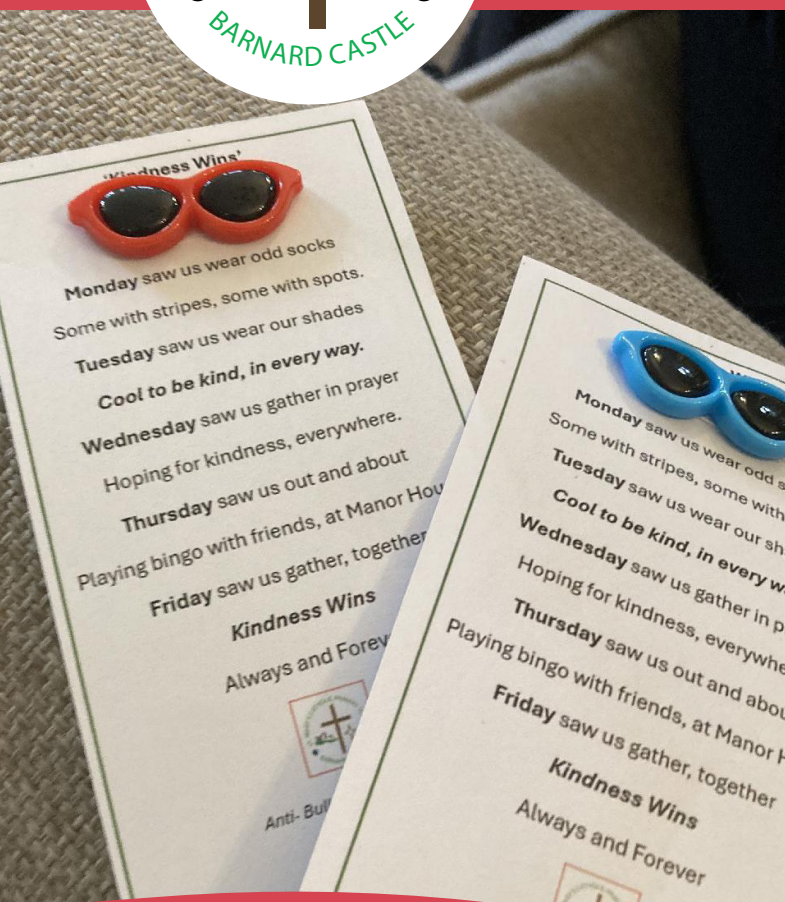


# St. Mary's

Catholic Primary School, Barnard Castle



School  
Video



## Kindness in Action – World Kindness Day

As part of World Kindness Day and our activities linking to anti-bullying, some of the children visited our friends at The Manor House for a game of Kindness Wins bingo.

The children and residents thoroughly enjoyed playing their games – Irene and Lillie won at least four times!

Afterwards, the children enjoyed chatting and relaxing, listening to stories and learning more about each other. Before we left, we read them our little poem, giving them a special mention too.

Thank you, boys and girls, Rebecca, and our wonderful friends at The Manor House. It's always a pleasure!

*"That was fun – I like to chat and see them smile too."* – Reece

*"I think it is important that we visit The Manor because they like to see us and we like to see them. We develop our relationships with different generations."* – Lillie

*"I hope I go again- I enjoyed that!"* – Grant



## Spreading Joy – Samaritans' Shoebox Appeal

As a whole school community, St. Mary's once again supported the Shoebox Appeal, filling boxes with treats and surprises for our global neighbours. Many of our parents donated online too – thank you!

The children helped pack the car and deliver the boxes to The Well in West Auckland. Volunteers at The Well were delighted with the number of boxes we dropped off. It was wonderful to know we all helped bring Christmas joy to our global neighbours.

*"Deep Faith, Lively Hope and Active Charity"*  
—Pope Francis

## Nursery Brings 'The Three Little Pigs' to Life!

Our nursery children had a fantastic morning exploring their core text, The Three Little Pigs, through lively discussion and imaginative thinking. The story sparked lots of wonderful conversation, with pupils sharing their own ideas about the Big Bad Wolf.

One popular theory? "The wolf absolutely did not want to eat the pigs – he actually wanted roast beef!" – Olivia. The children even debated whether all wolves are big and bad, with Alfie reassuring us: "Not all of them are bad, some are very kind!"

It was amazing to see our youngest learners thinking critically, sharing opinions, and building confidence in expressing themselves. Thank goodness for kind wolves!



## Rhyme Time Fun – National Nursery Rhyme Week

As part of National Nursery Rhyme Week, we were delighted to welcome Mr Hughes to school.

Robins and Wrens loved their music session! They danced and sang while Mr Hughes played the violin and ukulele, and then they played their own musical instruments to the beat. Great rhythm, boys and girls!

*"It made me so happy."* – Grace  
Thank you for visiting, Mr Hughes!







# St. Mary's

Catholic Primary School, Newton Aycliffe



## A Celebration of Words: Poetry Week!

St. Mary's celebrated Poetry Week with a burst of creativity! From 24–28 November, pupils explored themes of kindness, justice, and care for creation through poetry, linking beautifully to Catholic Social Teaching.

Key Stage 2 pupils engaged with the Young Poet Laureate project and joined an online masterclass with poets Laura Mucha and Zohab Zee Khan. Younger classes worked on collaborative performances, while KS2 showcased solo and group pieces.

The week ended with a fantastic Poetry Slam, where pupils performed original poems for parents with confidence and flair. We're proud of their creativity and courage!

Stay tuned for updates on Young Poet Laureate submissions and the launch of our new Key Stage 2 Poetry Club.



## Faith, Hope & Action: CAFOD Visit

We were delighted to welcome Tricia, a local CAFOD representative, to St Mary's. She began with an assembly to thank our school community for last year's fundraising and shared the incredible impact those donations have made.

Tricia then led an inspiring Year 4 workshop on the Year of Jubilee. As we marked the close of this special year, pupils reflected on how they can carry hope forward in their own lives and share it with others.

## Year 5 Welcome Mini Police Back to St. Mary's!

Year 5 had an exciting day as they welcomed the Mini Police back to school! Pupils learned all about the important work of the police, including how police dogs help keep communities safe, the different types of police transport, and much more.

The children were fully engaged and loved discovering what it takes to support law and order. They've even been given a special booklet to complete at home — with the chance to win an award for their efforts!

## Sharing Christ's Light - Year 4 and Mini Vinnies Spread Advent Joy

At St. Mary's, our Year 4 pupils, together with our wonderful Mini Vinnies, have poured their hearts into creating beautiful Christmas cards to share Christ's light with others. These heartfelt cards will be delivered to the residents of St. Clare's Court Care Home during Advent and will also be offered at Mass throughout the season.

Through this simple yet meaningful act of kindness, our children are helping to spread the joy of the Gospel and the hope of Christ's coming to those who need it most during this special time of year.

A big thank you to our pupils for reminding us that even the smallest gestures can make a big difference. Together, we're making this Advent season brighter!







# St. Patrick's

Catholic Primary School



## Rudolph Run Brings Festive Cheer to St. Patrick's!

We are delighted to share the success of our Rudolph Run in support of Teesside Hospice! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our families and community, we've raised funds that will make a real difference to those who need care and support.

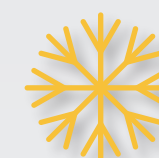
Despite the chilly weather, Key Stage 1 and EYFS brought the festive fun indoors, while Key Stage 2 braved the outdoors for their run – and what a fantastic time they had! There were smiles all around, plenty of laughter, and a wonderful sense of festive spirit.

This event wasn't just about fun; it was about giving back. Teesside Hospice provides vital care and comfort to people in our community, and we're proud to play our part in supporting their incredible work. A huge thank you to everyone who donated and joined in – together, we've made a difference!



## Think Fast: Quiz Club Fun!

This term also saw the exciting start of our Year 5 and 6 Quiz Club. Students tackled challenging rounds in Entertainment, Geography, and General Knowledge, working together in a buzzing atmosphere of teamwork and enthusiasm.



## World Nursery Rhyme Week

Classrooms were filled with rhythm and rhyme as we celebrated World Nursery Rhyme Week. Year 3 wowed us with choreography and freeze frames, turning classic rhymes into vibrant performances full of energy and teamwork. Year 1/2 reimagined Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star with a Bonfire Night twist, writing sparkling poems filled with fireworks and November skies. Their creativity lit up the room just like fireworks!

## DT Week: Food Technology in Action

Our DT week focused on food technology, and pupils loved getting stuck in. Mrs Moore and Miss Knight's classes created vibrant rainbow salads, learning essential skills like chopping and grating while exploring the importance of a balanced diet. Mr Fletcher and Mr Williams' classes baked delicious winter fruit tarts using seasonal UK ingredients, discovering sustainable eating and seasonal produce. Year 3 experimented with healthy wraps and pittas, showing off their creativity and pride in their culinary creations. To finish the week, Miss Bullen's class blended refreshing fruit smoothies, learning how quick and healthy snacks can be both nutritious and tasty.







**St. Paul's**  
Catholic Primary School



## 200 Years of Stockton & Darlington Railway

Our school was proud to be part of the excitement marking the bicentenary of the world's first passenger railway, and what an adventure it was!

Year 6 had an amazing time visiting Hopetown in Darlington to celebrate this historic milestone. They loved discovering the fascinating history of railways and were thrilled by the train ride – a real highlight of the day! The STEAM to the Future Exhibition in the Carriage Works was packed with incredible ideas and inventions that sparked imaginations and inspired future engineers.

Meanwhile, Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 enjoyed a magical storytelling workshop with author Caroline Hardie, who brought her delightful book *Little Loco's Big Day Out* to life. The fun continued in the 'All Aboard' exhibition, where interactive play helped children connect with the bicentenary celebrations in a hands-on way. The adventure didn't stop there, they explored the beautiful autumnal grounds, soaking up nature and history all at once.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to experience the past in a meaningful and memorable way. Here's to 200 years of railway history and inspiring the next generation of innovators!



## Curiosity Sparks Science in Our Classrooms

Our amazing Year 1 learners dived headfirst into the fascinating world of science through the STEM-in-a-Box programme – a brilliant initiative developed in partnership between Greenergy and Delight.

Designed especially for primary school children, STEM-in-a-Box brought science to life with hands-on experiments, practical lessons, and fun discoveries that sparked curiosity and ignited a love for STEM. From exploring materials and testing textures to discovering which materials are waterproof, our young explorers thought like scientists and asked BIG questions about the world around them. We were so proud to nurture the next generation of innovators, scientists, and problem-solvers!

Meanwhile, Year 5 had an exciting day of discovery with Hope from Greenergy and the STEM-in-a-Box project. They put their knowledge of materials into practice by following some of the processes Greenergy uses to create biofuel at their Billingham plant. What an incredible way to see science in action!

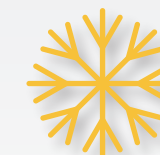
## Celebrating Mrs Davies' Incredible Achievement

We were incredibly proud of Mrs Davies!

After 14 years as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, supporting and championing children with additional needs, Mrs Davies took a bold step last year and began a teaching apprenticeship at St Paul's.

A lifelong learner, Mrs Davies achieved Qualified Teacher Status with distinction in July and became the proud teacher of our Year 3 class.

She was a true example of flourishing through courage and determination. Congratulations, Mrs Davies!







# St. Teresa's

Catholic Primary School, Darlington



School Video



## Safety First – Learning Lifesaving Skills at St. Teresa's

St. Teresa's children focused on keeping themselves safe this term! A visit from the Bishop Line Community Rail Partnership Education Officer taught us about the dangers of railway lines and the important ways we can keep ourselves and others safe when using rail services.

We then welcomed the Fire Brigade, who taught us how to 'stop, drop, and roll' to protect ourselves from fire. In addition, pupils took part in Restart a Heart training, learning how to give CPR and use a defibrillator. These vital skills could one day help save a life!



## Discovering Our Inner Artists with Liz Million

This term, we were thrilled to welcome illustrator Liz Million to school. Liz inspired us by showing that everyone is an artist who can create wonderful drawings! She shared techniques based on characters created by Roald Dahl and taught us how to draw them too. It was a fun and creative experience that sparked imagination across the school.



## Celebrating the Feast of St. Teresa

In October, our school came together to celebrate the feast day of our patron saint, St. Teresa. We began the day as a school family, learning more about her life and reflecting on how we can follow in her footsteps by doing the little things well – a message that continues to inspire us every day.

The celebrations didn't stop there! Throughout the day, each class took part in a range of activities inspired by St. Teresa, helping pupils to deepen their understanding of her values and bring her teachings to life in creative and meaningful ways.

It was a truly special day of faith, learning, and community – a wonderful reminder of the importance of kindness and simplicity in all that we do.



## Our New Nursery Outdoor Area

St. Teresa's Nursery children returned in September to a brand-new outdoor area! They have had so much fun exploring their new toys and enjoying the extra space.

We were honoured to welcome Bishop Stephen, who joined us to bless our Nursery garden and took time to bless all the different spaces where the children play. Thank you, Bishop Stephen, for such a lovely and memorable morning!







# St. Teresa's

Catholic Primary School, Hartlepool



## UK Parliament Week – Visit From Jonathan Brash MP

St. Teresa's proudly took part in UK Parliament Week, giving pupils the chance to explore how democracy works and why it matters. Labour MP Jonathan Brash visited the whole school to talk about what it means to be a Member of Parliament, how decisions are made in Westminster, and what politicians do for their local community.

Children shared thoughtful suggestions for changes they would like to see in Hartlepool, many centred around fairness, kindness, and helping others. Mr Brash praised pupils for their compassion and strong sense of responsibility.

He then held a Q&A session with Key Stage 2 pupils, where children asked questions about parliamentary debates, elections, decision-making, and what life in government looks like day to day. The session left pupils inspired, informed, and excited about the future of democracy and participation.

## CAFOD Jubilee Assembly – Faith, Kindness & Global Responsibility

We welcomed CAFOD into school to deliver a Jubilee assembly, allowing pupils to reflect on justice, hope, and responsibility for others around the world. Children learned how CAFOD supports communities through clean water projects, education, health care, and emergency aid, and discussed how small acts – donations, prayer, kindness – can lead to powerful change.

The message was simple but lasting: we are called to look outward, think of others, and use what we have to make the world fairer. Pupils left reflective and motivated, with ideas already developing for fundraising and charity action this year.



## Learning Beyond the Classroom – Derwent Hill & Preston Park

Experiential learning played a key role in our curriculum this term, helping pupils gain confidence, independence, and curiosity through real-world experiences.

Year 6 spent three unforgettable days at Derwent Hill, taking part in climbing sessions, mountain hikes, ghyll scrambling, and the giant swing – each activity pushing pupils to try something new, support one another, and believe in themselves. Evening challenges strengthened teamwork and friendships, creating memories the children will carry for years.

Key Stage 1 pupils also enjoyed a fantastic visit to Preston Park, where museum exhibits, Victorian displays, wildlife areas, and hands-on experiences helped bring history and nature to life. Pupils handled artefacts, explored new environments, and returned eager to share what they had learned.

The experiences strengthened independence, built confidence, and reminded children that learning happens everywhere, outdoors, in museums, and in moments of discovery.

## Community, Parents and Shared Learning – A Wonderful Parent Afternoon

One of the most joyful highlights this term was our Parent Afternoon, where we opened our doors for families to step inside daily school life. The atmosphere was buzzing! Hallways and classrooms full of movement, activity, and smiling faces.

Parents joined in enthusiastically with dodgeball, creative art sessions, quizzes, puzzles, reading activities, number challenges, and shared games. It showcased what learning looks like at St. Teresa's, collaboration, exploration, problem-solving, and doing the little things well every single day.

Families left proud and connected, and the children even prouder to show what they do in school.







# St. Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School



## Space Discoveries and Community Ideas

Year 5 have been learning about Space in Science and enjoyed a fascinating day at The Life Centre in Newcastle. A group of pupils also visited Bishop College to meet Sam Rushworth, our MP, to learn about his role and share ideas on how to make Bishop Auckland better for everyone.



## Celebrating Diwali with Creativity

Our First Steps children learnt all about Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. They created beautiful Rangoli patterns using stickers and beads, explored Diya lamps in the curiosity cube, and even made their own lamps to take home.



## Friendship and Faith at Emmaus Youth Village

Year 6 had two fun-filled days at YMT Emmaus Village. They met children from other Trust schools and enjoyed spending time with the team, taking part in activities that strengthened friendships and faith.



## Year 2 Shine at Kurling and Boccia Festival

In October, Year 2 visited Bishop College to take part in a Kurling and Boccia festival. After practising in school, they competed against other schools in the area. The children loved the experience, and indoor Kurling has now become a firm favourite!



## Journey Through Time from the Stone Age to the Iron Age

As part of their Stone Age to Iron Age history topic, Year 3 welcomed Michael from Durham University. They spent the day handling artefacts and learning about life in prehistoric times. The highlight was making their own clay pots – a fantastic hands-on experience!



## Exploring Goldilocks – Building, Writing and Tasting

Year 1 explored the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. They designed and made chairs from different materials to test which were the strongest and wrote instructions on how to make porridge. Once their instructions were complete, they made porridge just like the Three Bears – and everyone enjoyed tasting it!

## Celebrating European Languages Day

In September, we celebrated European Languages Day. Everyone came dressed as a country or in the colours of European flags. Pupils enjoyed a carousel of activities to learn new vocabulary, and Year 4 got creative by making flags out of Lego.







# St. William's

Catholic Academy



Pupil Voice



School Video



## Cross Country Festival Showcased Incredible Talent

Pupils from across our schools came together for an exciting cross country running festival, and what a day it was! Despite forecasts of poor weather, the event enjoyed clear skies, allowing every runner to give their best performance.

The determination and sportsmanship on display were truly inspiring, and we congratulated all the children who took part. Their hard work and enthusiasm made the festival a fantastic celebration of fitness and teamwork.



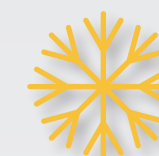
## Class 2's Roaring Fun

Class 2 recently welcomed a very special visitor – a tiger! The surprise guest joined the children for a tea party, bringing their class book *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* to life in the most magical way. The pupils loved exploring this classic story, and the tea party was the perfect way to celebrate their learning. It was a day full of excitement, imagination, and unforgettable memories.



## Fantastic Football Fun!

St. William's proudly secured 3rd place in the Go Well Football Shield for our mixed team. They showed great teamwork and a never-give-up attitude, winning their last match on penalties.



## A Special Morning at St. William's

We had the joy of welcoming Bishop Stephen to our school for the blessing of our newly renewed prayer garden, Caden's Patch – Our Peaceful Place. This beautiful space, rooted in memory and faith, is now a haven for prayer, reflection, and peace for our whole school community. We gave thanks for the legacy of Father Caden and celebrated the new life this garden brings: "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Peace."

Thank you to everyone who helped make this day so meaningful. May this garden continue to inspire us to care for creation and grow together in God's love.







**BISHOP HOGARTH**  
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