



St Kentigern's Catholic Primary School

September 2026

"Treat others as you want to be treated"

What a busy, action-packed start to the school year!

It is hard to believe that we have only been back at school for three weeks – what an amazing three weeks they have been! Firstly, a huge welcome to all of our new Reception children, who have settled into school so beautifully. We are so proud of how quickly they have become part of life at St Kentigern's. I would also like to welcome all of the new children and families who have joined us in other year groups. It is lovely to have you with us and to welcome you into our St Kentigern's family.

The start of a new school year always feels very special. There are new classrooms, new teachers, new friendships and lots of exciting things ahead. Most importantly, we begin this new journey together.

This year, we want to make that sense of togetherness even stronger through our Year of Action. We already do so much work around Catholic Social Teaching, but this year we want our children to think even more about one simple question: "What can I do to make a difference?" We would love our families to join us too. It might be caring for God's creation, helping someone in our community, supporting a charity, choosing Fairtrade, reducing waste, looking after water or simply noticing when somebody needs a little kindness. No action is too small. When we all do our little bit, together we can make a very big difference.

Catholic Life

Caring for God's Creation

We have certainly started as we mean to go on! Our staff began the year by looking at our focus on creation, which this year is water. We want our children to understand that God has given us a beautiful world to enjoy, but also that we have a responsibility to look after it. Year 4 and Year 6 were lucky enough to have a visitor from our Diocese, who helped them learn more about being guardians of God's wonderful gift of creation. The children had lots of thoughtful questions and, as you can imagine, plenty of ideas about what we could do next!

Faith in Action

Our Pupil Leaders

We were absolutely overwhelmed by the number of children who wanted to become pupil leaders this year. The applications were fantastic, which made choosing incredibly difficult! We now have Prayer Leaders, Faith Ambassadors, Ministers of the Word, Creation Carers and our School Council.

They are certainly keeping the teachers on their toes already! Their enthusiasm, ideas and determination to make a difference have been wonderful to see. What has impressed us most is that the children do not just come to us with an idea; they are beginning to explain why it matters and how it links to Catholic Social Teaching. We cannot wait to see where their ideas take us this year.

Already Making a Difference

Three weeks in and we already have lots to celebrate! We have a new and much more focused Climate Action Plan, and our wonderful school community has raised an incredible £1,236 for Brian House Children's Hospice. A huge thank you to Mrs Willoughby, one of our parents for suggesting such an important local charity. It is always lovely when ideas come from our families, so please keep them coming!



Supporting Brian House Children's Hospice – faith, kindness and action in our local community.

We have also supported Fairtrade Fortnight, and this Friday we will be taking part in the Cafod Family Fast Day. This will give our children another opportunity to stop, think about others and ask themselves what action they can take to help.

Celebrating Our Faith Together

We began our school year in the best possible way – by coming together for our school Mass. It was also a lovely opportunity to welcome our new priest, Father Simon, to St Kentigern's. Father Simon commented on how reverent the children were, and he particularly loved their enthusiasm when singing the hymns. We think he may quickly discover that St Kentigern's children certainly know how to sing!



Celebrating our faith together at the start of the new school year.

We have also celebrated St Vincent de Paul, and this week we are learning about St Francis of Assisi. Both give us wonderful examples of what our Year of Action is all about – loving others, caring for those in need and looking after God's creation.

Catholic Social Teaching in Our Daily Lives

Year 6 have also started our class assemblies for this year. Each class assembly will have a Catholic Social Teaching focus and will help us think about something really important: how can we actually live these teachings in our everyday lives? The children are being encouraged to ask: What can I do? Who can I help? How can my actions make a difference?



Pupils sharing their learning about justice and putting faith into action.

Learning Together

Family Learning – Nature Detectives

Our first Family Learning session of the year was Nature Detectives. These sessions are a lovely chance to come into school, see the sort of things your child is learning and, even better, spend an hour learning alongside them. A huge thank you to Mrs Bradley, one of our parents, for giving her time to run these sessions free of charge for our families. Please look out for the next one – we would love to see you there!

A Very Special Visit to Stanley Park

Some of our children had a rather exciting afternoon at Stanley Park when they went along to celebrate the park's 100th anniversary. Not only did they get to be part of the celebrations, they also met the Duke of Edinburgh, who arrived by helicopter! I think it is safe to say this was not an ordinary school afternoon and certainly gave the children something exciting to tell everyone when they got home!



A memorable visit to Stanley Park during its centenary celebrations.

Healthy Smiles in Reception

Our Reception children have been very busy learning how to brush their teeth properly in school. Judging by the photographs, they took this very seriously – although there were plenty of smiles too!



Reception learning about healthy teeth and how to brush them carefully.

Bedtime Stories

Our EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children have also enjoyed a lovely Bedtime Stories Evening. They came back to school to enjoy stories read by their teachers, along with a hot chocolate and biscuit. What better way to enjoy a story?



What an Amazing Start!

When I look back at everything we have squeezed into the first three weeks of term, I am not quite sure how we have managed it! We have welcomed new children and families, celebrated Mass together, chosen our pupil leaders, raised an amazing amount for charity, started our Year of Action, learned about caring for creation, welcomed families into school, met a member of the Royal Family, enjoyed bedtime stories and even learned how to brush our teeth! What an amazing start to the school year.

Thank you, as always, for everything you do to support our school. St Kentigern's is such a special place because of the children, staff and families who make up our wonderful school community. We look forward to enjoying October together – although, at this rate, I am not sure we will manage to fit everything in!

Please keep an eye on your class and school Dojo for new dates for the diary and upcoming events.

As always, it is a pleasure to be your Headteacher.

Mrs Murray