

St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

Weekly News Bulletin

Date – 22nd May 2026

School Values Winners

EYFS & Key Stage 1

Faith – John
Respect – Raiden
Kindness – Zara
Honesty - Kacey
Resilience - Kevin

Key Stage 2

Faith –
Respect –
Kindness –
Honesty - Benita
Resilience -

Whole School

Summer Maths Week

As part of our commitment to make maths exciting and fun, we are taking part in a number of activities to celebrate **Summer Maths Week** from **Monday 1st June to Friday 5th June**.

Children will be completing fun maths activities including practical activities and outside lessons! KS2 will also be completing year group competitions on Times Tables Rock Stars.



During the week, our activities will be linked to Geometry and we would like children to participate in a Geometry Maths Hat Competition. Over half term, we would encourage your children to make a maths hat linked to Geometry. Please bring your hat in by Thursday 4th June so they can be judged.



The Competition will be judged on Friday 5th June when children can wear their hats in the Achievement Assembly and the Winners will be announced.

In order to provide children with extra practical activities this week, we ask kindly for a **voluntary contribution of £1.00, to help to cover the cost of resources**. Please pay the £1.00 using the Schoolcomms system. The contribution can be paid up to and including **Wednesday, 3rd June, 2026**.

Bitesize Bookworms Competition

Please see the information on how to enter a competition that could win our school £4000 of books and stationery!

<https://www.tgjonesonline.co.uk/help/policies/competitions-terms/bitesize-bookworms>

As a proud sponsor of The National Year of Reading 2026, we're on a mission to encourage more young bookworms to go all in on the things they love by reading into them - and we want to hear all about their favourite books! Simply ask your mini page wriggler to tell us what they love about their top book in 25 words or less for the chance to win amazing prizes for them and their school. Our judges, including MC Grammar, Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan, will be choosing winners from each age group.

Not sure where to start? You could ask: Why is your favourite book the best ever? Which part of the story do you love the most? Who's your favourite character, and what do you love about them? What happens in your favourite book? Short, simple answers are perfect, just be creative!

The Bitesize Bookworms Competition is open to UK primary school children across three age groups, with one winner and three runners-up in each. Winners will receive a £200 TGJones Gift Card, plus £4,000 of books and stationery for their school, while runners-up win a £50 TGJones Gift Card and £500 of equipment for their school.

To enter, a parent or guardian can submit your child's review online by 23:59 on Friday 5th June 2026. Entries will be judged on creativity, humour, understanding and overall impact, and winners will be contacted after the closing date. Open to UK residents only.

Nursery

Dear Parents / Carers

We have arranged for 'Little City' to visit the **Nursery** and **Reception** children in school on **Monday, 15th June, 2026**. 'Little City' are an entirely mobile role play city, where a 'city' is created using bespoke backdrops and specially selected high-quality toys and equipment. Within this little 'city', the children can engage in role play opportunities and pretend to be 'grown ups'. They may choose to be hairdressers, firefighters, builders, café owners or many more.

A contribution of £4.60 per child is requested, to help to cover the cost of the visit. Please pay the £4.60 using the Schoolcomms system. The contribution can be paid up to and including **Friday, 12th June, 2026**.

Reception

Reception Phonics Meeting

If you were unable to attend the phonics screening meeting on Friday 15th May then please find a link to the Power Point that was shared during the meeting. This Power Point will give you information regarding the expectations for Reception children by the end of the Summer term.

<https://stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk/learning/curriculum/phonics>

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Year 1

Educational workshop –Monday, 15th June - Where in the UK is Baxter Bear?

Following our Geography work on the United Kingdom earlier the year, the Year 1 pupils will be participating in an on-site workshop presented by **Freshwater Theatre**. The workshop is entitled 'Where in the UK is Baxter Bear'. The workshop will take place in school.

Baxter Bear has lived in London his entire life, but he is keen to discover what the rest of the United Kingdom has to offer. Under the supervision of the workshop facilitator, the children will join Baxter as he uses his trusty compass and handy maps to navigate his way around the United Kingdom.

The workshop will support the children's understanding of aspects related to Geography according to the National Curriculum:

*Being able to name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom;

*Using world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries;

*Using simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language to describe the location of features and routes on a map.

The workshop will take place during school time, with each class having a workshop slot before lunch.

A contribution of £5 per child is requested, to help to cover the cost of the visit. All payments should be made by **Monday, 1st June, using SchoolComms**. Without these voluntary contributions, we would not be able to offer these unique and valuable educational experiences. If anyone is having any difficulties signing up to Schoolcomms please contact Mrs Homes in the School Office as soon as possible.

We look forward to exploring with Baxter Bear.

Year 2

Year 2 Visit to Southend and Southend Sealife Centre

We would like to take both Year 2 Classes on a visit to Southend and Southend Sealife Centre on **Tuesday 7th July 2026**.

Children will need to be in school prompt on the day, as we will be leaving just after 9.00am. We are aiming to return to school by **3.15pm**, but any delays will be alerted via Schoolcomms.

Whilst at Southend the children will be consolidating their learning about the history of a local area and looking at how Southend has changed overtime. They will also visit the Southend Sealife centre to link to their learning to how we look after the environment including seas and oceans.

A contribution of **£23.00 per child** is requested, to help to cover the cost of transport and entrance to the Sealife centre for the day. **Please note, payment can be made in instalments.**

Please pay via the Schoolcomms system. If anyone is having any difficulties signing up to Schoolcomms please contact the school office as soon as possible. The payment can be paid up to and including **Friday 3rd July 2026**.

Please provide your child with a packed lunch for the day in a backpack and a water bottle. If you need a packed lunch to be provided by the school, please let the office know by **Friday 3rd July 2026**.

The children will be required to wear full uniform on the day with trainers.

Year 3

Cardboard tubes

As part of our activities in Maths week, 1st – 5th June, we will be making models. Each child will need a long cardboard tube, such as the inside of a kitchen roll. Please send in as many as you can so each child can participate.

Year 4

Multiplication Tables Check

This week your child would have been given their fluency chart from TTRS. This will identify areas they need to focus on for the upcoming MTC.

The MTC will take place in the 2-week period between **Monday 1 June and Friday 12 June**. This is the first two weeks after the half term break. The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently up to 12, through a set of 25 timed questions. This skill is essential for future success in mathematics.

Please can we ask you to support your children with this and ensure they are completing their weekly homework on TTRS. The Soundcheck game is similar to the MTC test and will give an indication of your child's current knowledge. Regular frequent practice will help them.

Year 4 Stubbers Trip – Wednesday 10^h June 2026

We are excited to remind you that our trip to Stubbers will be taking place on Wednesday 10th June. The details and items needed are listed below:

Departure: Pupils need to be in school promptly for 8.00am and unfortunately we will be unable to wait if pupils are not in school on time.

Return: We intend to leave Stubbers at 4.30pm and should arrive back at school by 5.00pm.

Items required:

- To wear long trousers/jogging bottoms (no jeans); LONG TROUSERS ESSENTIAL FOR CLIMBING.
- To wear a t-shirt and long sleeved jumper/zip up; LONG SLEEVES ESSENTIAL FOR CLIMBING.
- Bring a hat (in case it is very sunny).
- A complete change of clothes, including underwear and trainers/plimsolls.
- Trainers-ESSENTIAL FOR CLIMBING. Ideally not ones with thick inflexible soles.
- A plastic bag to put wet/muddy clothes into.
- A towel.
- Sun cream (if hot).
- Waterproof jacket (depending on weather)
- Packed lunch and two drinks (no fizzy drinks or sweets). There will be a water fountain available to refill bottles.
- Snacks for break time – they do get hungry.
- Please remember that all foods need to be nut-free.

The activities for the day will be: canoeing, climbing, bush craft and archery. All activities will involve the pupils being in groups with a qualified instructor to lead the session.

As the children will take part in canoeing, it is advised due to the unavoidable risk of potential water-borne infection, that all children shower when they return home.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Year 4 team.

Year 5

Swimming

Starting from Thursday 11th June, the children in St. Thomas' will be attending swimming sessions at the Everyone Active Gym. These sessions will be on Thursdays and run every week between Thursday 11th June to Thursday 9th July. Children should wear normal PE kit on Thursdays when they go swimming.

IMPORTANT: They will need a swimming costume, a swim hat, towel, goggles and a bag. A letter will be sent out in the first week back with more information. Please check your child's bag before they come to school to ensure they have all their kit, as they will not be able to participate without it.

Year 6

Induction Days

We understand that pupils will be attending induction days at their secondary schools over the coming months. Please could you inform the school of your children's induction days as it may affect school trips and lesson plans.

Leavers' photobook - It is the time of year that we start to put together the Year book.

Each child will have the opportunity to purchase a book that has photos from their time at St Ursula's and messages from their friends. There will be pages for class bios, teacher messages and of course many of their key memories and milestones from their time at St. Ursula's. Please could you send any school related photos of the children from the ages of Nursery to Year 6 to the following email address: yearbook@stursulascatholicfederation.co.uk
Photos will need to be sent in by no later than 12th June so as to allow for the year book to be put together.

Year 6 Production

We will be holding auditions for the production after half term. Please encourage your children to have a look at the sample script and consider any roles they would like to go for.

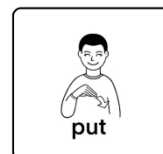
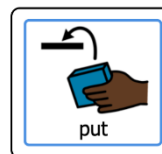
<https://www.craighawes.com/sites/default/files/samples/Robin%20Hood%20Sample%20Script.pdf>

St Joseph's

Core Word of the week:

Our core word of the week for after half term is 'put'.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/BgtlDuESjZQ>



Have a lovely half term break!

Supporting Faith At Home

Supporting Faith at Home-

In school we use ten:ten to support our Prayer and Liturgy sessions in class. As part of this you have access to the parent portal to continue this Prayer and Liturgy at home should you wish.

To access this go to the following link: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

Username: parents-st-ursulas-catholic-primary-school

Password: StUrsulas#

LIFT UP YOUR EYES

In the week beginning 18 May, children hear how, before His arrest, Jesus lifted His eyes to Heaven and prayed for His disciples (John 17:1-11a). They learn that at this important and difficult moment, Jesus chose to focus on prayer.

Through a simple activity about distractions, children explore how easy it can be to lose focus. They will reflect on how prayer helps us to turn our attention back to God. Inspired by Jesus who prayed for His friends and still prays for us, His disciples, today, children are invited to lift their own eyes to God and pray for others.

With your child/ren, you may also like to...

- *Talk about times when it is hard to stay focused.*
- *Set aside some regular time to pray for others – those you know, those in your community and in the wider world.*

Church Community