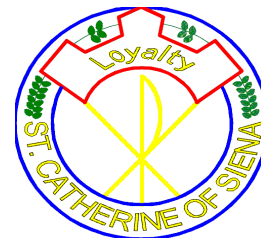


St Catherine of Siena Primary School

Newsletter



www.lowtonstcatherines.co.uk



@s_stcatherine

4th September 2026

Diary for school week commencing 7th September 2026

Monday: Piano/woodwind/guitar/violin lessons

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

3.15 – 4.15: Team building

Thursday:

3.15-4.15: Ball games

Friday: Celebration Assembly Y5 - Swimming Brass lessons

3.15-4.15: Football

**WELCOME
BACK!**

A big welcome back to everyone and especially to our new starters in Reception class who all seem at home straight away! All the children have settled in beautifully. It has been lovely to see so many happy, smiling faces across the whole school. I have enjoyed listening to the children telling me how much they are enjoying their new class or telling me about their fabulous holidays!

All staff are really impressed with how well all children have settled into new routines and classrooms.
WELL DONE!

A couple of reminders – shoes should be worn - not trainers; shoulder length hair tied back; no earrings (or they must be covered with tape).
Thank you for your support in this.



As you are aware, attendance is a priority for us. Children being in school everyday means they are accessing the learning they should be; socialising with friends; being physically active throughout the day and learning life skills such as co-operation, compromise and resilience. Please ensure your child comes to school everyday and if you feel you need support in this, class staff can support with this or Mrs Rothwell our pastoral lead, can support you with this. She can be contacted via the office.

Attendance of at least 96% is in line with other schools locally and nationally.

Here is a link to our attendance policy, which shares the expectations for attendance of all children.

	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
%	100	96.77	100	95.55	98.88	100	97.77
Lates	0	2	1	0	1	1	5

Be who God meant you to be and together we can achieve

Congratulations to Year R, 2 and 5 for achieving the best attendance this week!
Well done also to Year 4 and 6 for their excellent attendance.

Whilst we are thrilled to see so many children in, since it has only been a 3-day week, we will start with own clothes day rewards next week. All children should wear school uniform as normal on Monday.

This Week

A good start of term for everyone. A very short week for the children, however, it has been lovely to see children settling well into classes and working hard.
On Wednesday we began the school year, sharing our values. These had been identified by classes in the summer term.



Each half term will have a focus on one of the values. This half term is **RESPECT**. Children are encouraged to display our values throughout the school day both in class, outside and when communicating with others. All our children are in one of the value teams and they will work with each other throughout the year on various projects to be planned with teams. Any dojos children earn through the day, will also be added to their team dojos total and the team with the highest dojo points at the end of each TERM, will be awarded a trip or treat in recognition of their attitude and values in school. We are looking forward to seeing the children living out these values throughout the school days, weeks and terms and I am sure you will support your children, encouraging them in doing this.

Year 6 children have been invited to apply for the job of team captain and the captains of each team will be appointed next week.



We have had two lovely letters from two different charities thanking the children for their money raising efforts last school year.

Cancer research UK would like to thank the whole school for raising £126.45 through a coffee morning and children assembly. This donation can afford to buy 600 petri dishes for the scientists to use to grow and study cancer cells.

British Heart Foundation would like to thank year 2 (current year 3s) for raising £48.73 through having a coffee morning and an assembly. The money will go towards funding life saving research.

Staffing

As we begin our new school year, we welcome our new class teacher, Mr Dumican to Y5.

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You have already been informed that Mrs Gradwell is not in school at the moment. She is recovering well from surgery to improve her mobility and should be back in school in the not-too-distant future.

Mrs Stott is in currently in the office and can help with any queries in the meantime.

We are really pleased to have William Smith join the team as our caretaker in the mornings. You may already have seen him around the school site in the mornings. Nick Smith (our previous caretaker) is also back at school on a temporary basis, whilst we appoint an afternoon site manager. It has been nice to have him back and we really appreciate his help. It is handy having two Mr Smiths looking after our school, we will never get their names mixed up!!

Mrs Watson has made the decision to retire from her post as Business manager this term. Mrs Watson has worked here for 12 years and we are really going to miss her. She will enjoy spending her time with her family and travelling. Mrs Watson will be with us for a few more weeks to ensure we have a smooth handover in the office.

Meet the teacher

It is always helpful to know the expectations and routines of your children's new class. Our meet the teacher meetings allow you to see your child's new classroom, meet the staff and listen to how the year groups works, the expectations for children – in terms of work, homework, trips and activities. The Y6 meeting will also include details of the Y6 residential to Low Bank Ground, which is taking place in April 2027.

These meetings will take place on the following dates:

Wednesday 9th September: Years 2, 4 and 6

Thursday 10th September: Years 1, 3 and 5

If you have children in year groups where meetings clash, just let the teacher know and they will pass any information on to you.



Cool Milk is our milk provider. Milk is offered to Reception and Key Stage 1 children. Please register with Cool Milk if you would like your child to have milk in school.

Milk is free to children under 5.



It is a statutory requirement, and part of the national curriculum, that all children are able to swim 25 metres before they leave their primary school.

Y5 have begun their swimming lessons on **Friday mornings** at the Leigh Sports Centre this week.

Be who God meant you to be and together we can achieve

Swimming lessons are free. However, we do ask for a donation of £4.00 per week to help cover the cost of the coach. This payment item is available on the school hub.

Could the children please bring the following into school for the swimming lesson in a separate plastic bag:

- A towel
- Boys should wear trunks not shorts (no Bermuda type long baggy shorts)
- Girls should wear one-piece swimsuits not bikinis - swimming costumes must be ASA regulation type
- Hair must be tied up
- Goggles if you feel they are necessary and are used regularly
- Hairbrush



Below is a link to our communication policy. This explains the best and most appropriate way to communicate with staff. Please do take a moment to read the policy so you are aware of the communication channels in school.

Thank you for your support.

[Tool: Example Communications Policy](#)



PE Days are:

Monday: Y1 Y2 Y3

Tuesday: Y1 Y4

Wednesday: Rec Y4

Thursday: Y5 Y6

Friday: Y2 Y6 Y5 – Swimming

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School Levy 2026-27

Each year the school has a duty to pay the annual school levy, which is a charge paid to the Archdiocesan Education Commission. As well as being an important part of our links with the Archdiocese (who are effectively the owners of the school buildings) the school benefits directly from this pool of money in the form of Archdiocesan payments for the larger building projects in school, most recently the refurbishment of the main entrance and new windows and roof surface. Upcoming projects include – further drain work, refurbishment of KS1 toilets. This is where we need your help. In order to meet these costs parents are invited to make an annual contribution of £10 per family. If you like to contribute, please log on to the School Hub -> other items -> School Levy. Thank you in advance for your support.



Over the next couple of weeks, we will be sending home data collection sheets with your child. Can we please ask that you check the details and update accordingly to ensure that we have the correct information for you and your children? Can we please ask our new Reception families to return your form, as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so. Thank you.



The following after school clubs will begin soon. Please follow the links to book a place for your child.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to announce that bookings are now open for our **Autumn 2026 After School Clubs** at St Catherine's Primary School.

Our **7-week programme** runs from **9th September – 23rd October 2026** and offers a fantastic range of fun, active clubs delivered by our experienced Active Sport coaches.

Wednesday – KS1 + KS2 Team Building

Develop confidence, communication and teamwork through exciting challenges, leadership activities and problem-solving games.

Book here:

[Team Building Booking](#)

Be who God meant you to be and together we can achieve

Thursday – KS1 + KS2 Ball Games

A different ball sport each week including Basketball, Dodgeball, Netball and Benchball, helping children develop movement skills, teamwork and tactical awareness in a fun and inclusive environment.

Book here:

[Ball Games Booking](#)

Friday – KS1 + KS2 Football

Fun football coaching suitable for all abilities, focusing on ball mastery, passing, shooting, 1v1 skills and exciting small-sided matches.

Book here:

[Football Club Booking](#)

Club Information

- **Dates:** 9th September – 23rd October 2026
- **Duration:** 7 Weeks
- **Price: £38.50** (£5.50 per session)



Polite reminder

Please can we ask that you are mindful and respectful of the residents when parking to drop and pick up the children. We know parking is limited but we need to ensure a safe environment for the children, parents and residents. The residents need to have space to get their cars out of their driveways and off the street so when you park, please ensure there is enough room for this to happen.

Many thanks

Be who God meant you to be and together we can achieve