



STGCS NEWS

'TO LIVE AND TO LEARN TOGETHER THROUGH OUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST'



HAPPY HALF TERM!

As we reach the end of a wonderful first half term at STGCS, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our whole school community for helping to make such a positive start to the new academic year.

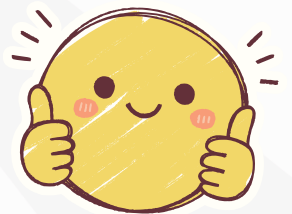
Our children have returned with enthusiasm, determination and a real love of learning. It has been wonderful to see them settle into their new classes, embrace new challenges and demonstrate our school values each day. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved already.

A huge thank you must also go to our dedicated staff team. Their hard work, commitment and care, both in the classroom and behind the scenes, ensure that our children are supported, encouraged and given every opportunity to flourish.

We are also extremely grateful to our parents and carers for your continued support. The partnership between home and school is so important, and by working together we can continue to provide the very best experiences and opportunities for our children.

We hope everyone enjoys a very well-deserved half-term break. Whether you are relaxing at home, spending time with family and friends, enjoying days out or travelling further afield, we wish you all a safe, happy and restful holiday.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to STGCS on Monday 2nd November, refreshed and ready for another exciting half term!



A PRAYER FOR HALF TERM

Loving God,

As we approach the October half term, we thank You for all the learning, friendships and opportunities we have shared this term. Bless our children, families and staff as they enjoy a time of rest and refreshment.

Keep us safe wherever we go. Watch over us in our homes, on our journeys and in all our activities. Help us to make good choices, show kindness to others and remember Your presence in our daily lives.

May we continue to live out our Catholic values by caring for one another, helping those in need and sharing Your love with everyone we meet.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A VISIT FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

This week, the children were delighted to welcome the Archbishop to the school and took part in a special Virtual Rosary. They joined pupils from across the country in prayer and reflection, deepening their understanding of the Rosary and its importance in the Catholic faith. It was a meaningful and memorable experience for everyone involved.



Half Term Highlights

EARLY YEARS

In EYFS, the children have enjoyed beginning their learning around the story Pumpkin Soup. They have been retelling the story, exploring pumpkins through their play, and bringing the characters and events to life through a range of exciting activities.



YEAR 1

As part of their Science learning on seasonal changes, the Year 1 children became weather reporters! Using maps of the UK, they worked together to add weather symbols to the four capital cities. They loved sharing their weather forecasts with the class and practising their reporting skills.



YEAR 2

During DT Week, the children became budding engineers as they designed and built their own fairground wheels. They explored how different mechanisms work and discovered how axles help wheels spin, bringing their exciting creations to life.





YEAR 3

As part of their DT food topic, Year 3 have been preparing to make tarts. They practised their peeling, chopping and cutting skills, learning how to prepare ingredients safely and confidently.



YEAR 4

Year 4 enjoyed a visit to the Natural History Museum, where they designed, built and programmed a Mars rover. The workshop gave them a chance to put their computing and problem-solving skills into practice while having lots of fun.



YEAR 5

On Tuesday, Year 5 and some Year 6 pupils took part in the first of three workshops with The Old Vic Theatre as they prepare for the 12 Choirs of Christmas concert in December. They had a fantastic time learning two songs and meeting members of the community group they will be joining to form a choir.



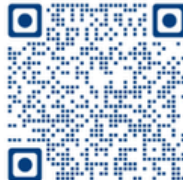
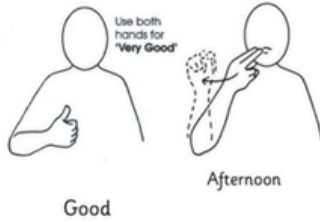
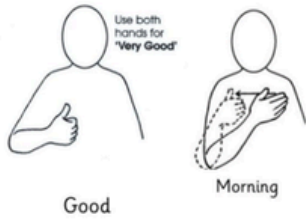
YEAR 6

Year 6 took part in a Junior Citizenship workshop with TfL, where they met representatives from the Fire Brigade, Police, Paramedics and Trading Standards. The children learned valuable safety tips and gained a greater understanding of how these services help keep people safe.



MAKATON RECAP THIS HALF TERM

WEEK 1



WEEK 2



WEEK 3



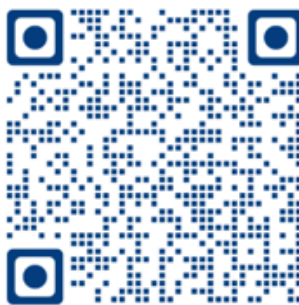
WEEK 4



More



Finished



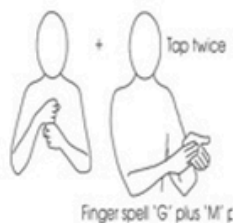
Help



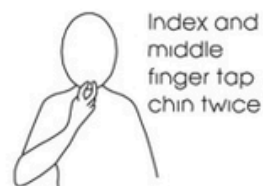
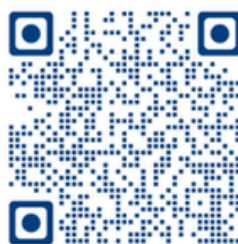
WEEK 5



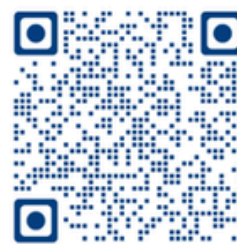
Mummy



Grandma



Aunty



WEEK 6



Daddy



Grandpa



Uncle



TRIP TO THE NFL



Thanks to tickets provided by the London Schools and PE Network, a group of pupils had the exciting opportunity to attend an NFL game at the weekend.

They watched the Washington Commanders take on the Indianapolis Colts in an entertaining match, with the Commanders winning 30-13. The girls were a real credit to the school, demonstrating excellent behaviour throughout the day. Miss King and Ms Santos also thoroughly enjoyed the experience!



COLD WEATHER

As the weather gets colder and wetter, please ensure that children continue to wear full school uniform every day. Children may wear extra layers underneath their uniform, along with their school coat, and hats and gloves if needed. However, any additional layers worn underneath the uniform should not be visible. For example, long-sleeved tops should not be worn underneath short-sleeved school polo shirts.

Please make sure that every item of clothing is clearly labelled so that any lost items can be returned quickly.

A reminder that it is not appropriate to leave umbrellas or changes of shoes/wellies at the school office.



REMINDERS:



- Book your Parents' Evening appointment before we return to school via the Arbor app. See the school website for Arbor assistance. Go to 'Parent Info' and click 'Arbor'.
- Swimming restarts for Year 4 on Monday 2nd November.
- We are trialling an After School Club Monday to Friday from Monday 2nd November. £5 per child, per day. Please ensure you book via Arbor. All bookings must be made in advance. We hope this option will be helpful to our families. For more information see the school website.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Monday 19th October -

HALF TERM - 2 WEEKS

Friday 30th October

Monday 2nd November

Children's First Day of Autumn Term 2

Year 4 Swimming restarts

Wednesday 4th November

Photo Day - individual and sibling shots - EVERYONE IN FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM

Tuesday 10th November

Parent Workshop: Oracy Through Curriculum - 3:30pm

Wednesday 11th November

Parents' Evening (BOOK VIA ARBOR)

Thursday 12th November

KSI Calculation Workshop

Thursday 19th November

KS2 Calculation Workshop

KSI Reading with your Child 9am - 10am

Friday 18th December

KS2 Reading with your Child 3pm - 3:30pm

Children's Last Day of Term - 1pm finish



Dinosaur Word Jumble

Rearrange the letters to reveal dinosaur-themed words.

1	citentx	e						t	
2	gaussroutes	s							s
3	ilsfso	f					l		
4	iudssaron	d						s	
5	roarvince	c						e	
6	sectortapir	T							s
7	berhoeriv	h						e	
8	hetet	t				h			
9	arrdepot	p						r	
10	choiresprit	p							c



PUZZLE CORNER

$$\text{Planet} + \text{Moon} = 36$$

$$\text{Planet} - \text{Moon} = 2$$

$$\text{Planet} = \square \quad \text{Moon} = \square$$

$$\text{Red Monster} + \text{Green Monster} = 29$$

$$\text{Red Monster} - \text{Green Monster} = 3$$

$$\text{Red Monster} = \square \quad \text{Green Monster} = \square$$



SBCAT Christmas Card Competition 2026



*Could you design this year's
Christmas Card?*

*Theme: The Word
Became Flesh*

1 Primary and
1 Secondary winner
each receiving a £50 voucher
for art equipment
and used as the official
SBCAT Christmas Card 2026

Deadline:

Monday 2nd November

Give your design to Miss Kamara
in the school office



St Benedict
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

SBCAT Christmas Card Competition



Title of your design.....

First Name.....

Surname.....

School.....

School Year

*I confirm that this is my own creative work, independent ideas
and I have not had help, support or used AI in producing this.*
Please ask a teacher in your school to agree that it is your own work.

Teachers' name

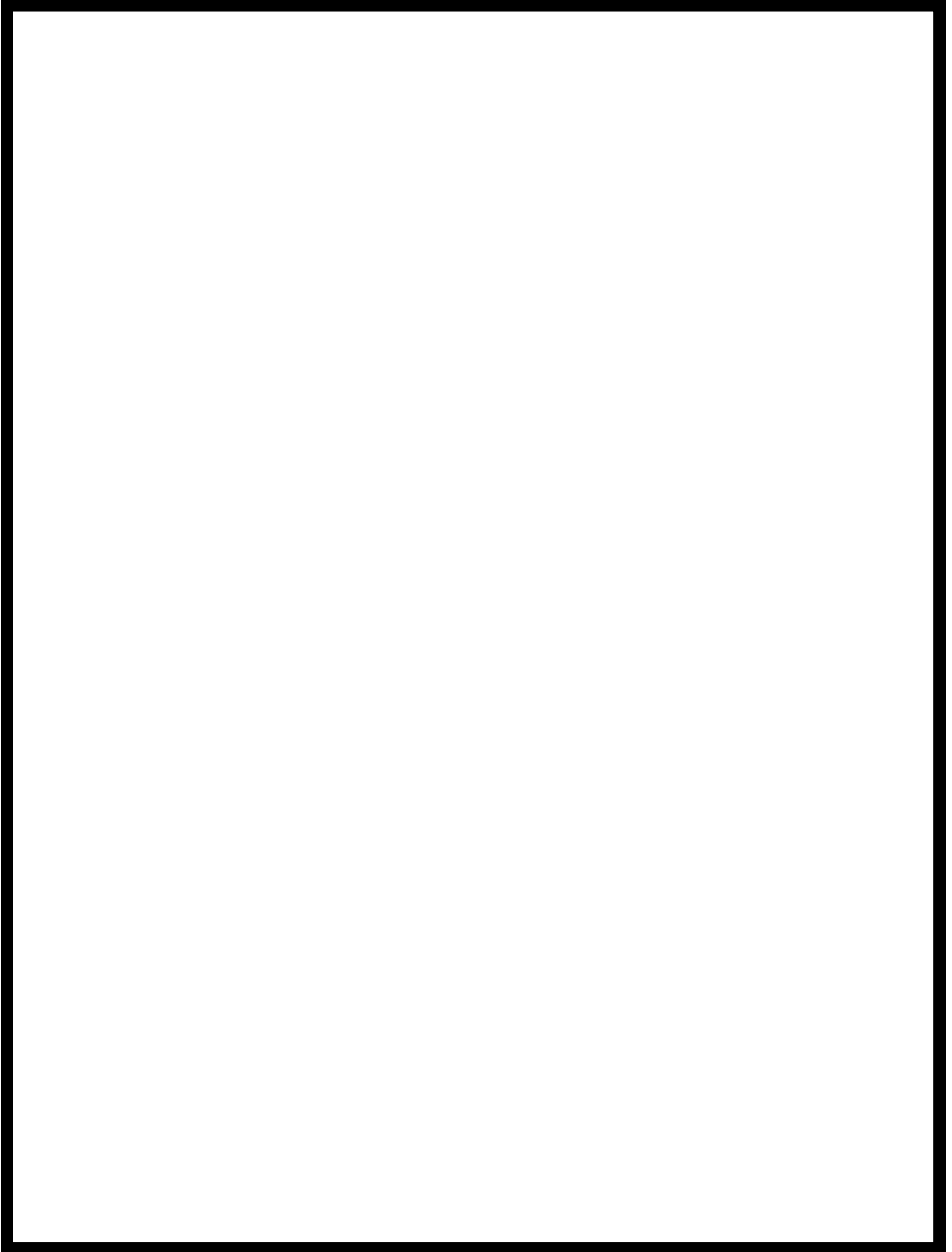
Teacher's role

I hereby believe this to be the student's independent work

Signed

**Please attach this form to your entry
(whether it is hand designed or printed)
and hand in to your Main Reception**

**Keep your design inside
the box below!**



Good luck!