



# Newsletter



Issue 13 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, S4 7BX

0114 3030381

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to behave in the way that Jesus taught us:  
that we are all equal and that we should behave kindly and humbly towards each other.

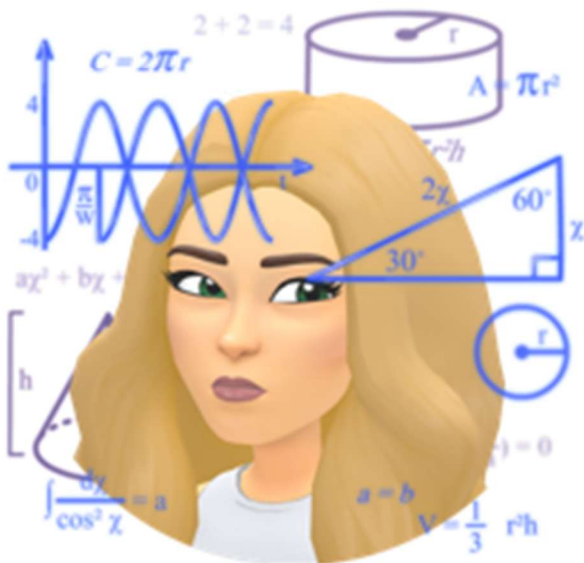
## Parent Workshop



**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**9:00am to 10:00am, Maths workshop**

**For parents of children in Year 3 to Year 6**



**Miss Drinkhill will be delivering this workshop, she will be explaining more about the Maths curriculum, and how you can support your child!**

**If you are attending this workshop, where possible, please try to arrange childcare for younger children so that they don't get restless!**



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## What week is it for school dinners on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December?

Parent Information | School Meals

Please see the Packed Lunch Policy on the school website

# 2

WEEK TWO	FAVOURITES MONDAY	WORLD TUESDAY	ROAST WEDNESDAY	PIZZA PARTY THURSDAY	FISH FRIDAY
<b>Main Meal Option</b>	Pork Sausage & Mash with Gravy	Red Tractor Beef Pasta Bolognese & Garlic Bread	Roast Chicken with Gravy, Yorkshire Pudding & Roast Potatoes	Wholemeal Margherita Pizza & Home-baked Potato Wedges	M Battered Pollock & Chips
<b>Vegetarian Meal Option</b>	Veggie Sausage & Mash with Gravy <sup>VG</sup>	Macaroni Cheese & Garlic Bread	Quorn Grill, Gravy, Yorkshire Pudding & Roast Potatoes	Vegetable Chilli & Sunny Vegetable Rice <sup>VG</sup>	Cheese Flan & Chips
<b>Vegetables</b>	Broccoli, Sweetcorn or Baked Beans	Broccoli, Cauliflower & Carrots	Seasonal Greens & Carrots	British Red Tractor Garden Peas, or Sliced Carrots	British Red Tractor Garden Peas, Baked Beans
<b>Sandwiches</b>	Cheese	Tuna Mayo	Cheese	Tuna Mayo	Cheese
<b>Wraps</b>	Tuna Mayo Wrap	Cheese Wrap	Tuna Mayo Wrap	Cheese Wrap	Tuna Mayo Wrap
<b>Baked Jacket Potatoes</b>	Jacket Potato with Cheesy Beans, Tuna Mayo or Cheese or Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheesy Beans, Tuna Mayo or Cheese or Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheesy Beans, Tuna Mayo or Cheese or Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheesy Beans, Tuna Mayo or Cheese or Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheesy Beans, Tuna Mayo or Cheese or Beans
<b>Dessert</b>	Shortbread Pin Wheels & Fruit Slices <sup>VG</sup>	Chocolate Fudge Cake	Apple Crumble <sup>VG</sup> & Custard	Flapjack <sup>VG</sup>	Chocolate Mousse

## Dates to Remember and Other Important Things!

New information is highlighted

Sunday  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2025



## Week 2 of Advent



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<b>Monday</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Raffle Tickets on sale this week</b>  	20p each, available from the office!  Tickets will also be on sale in Breakfast Club.
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>9<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Advent Assembly</b> <b>Y6ED</b> <b>"Joy"</b>	Parents and family members are welcome to join us, the assembly starts at 9:15am in the school hall (not CCC), sorry but we are not able to admit latecomers as this will distract the children. Please enter through the staff car park to the KS2 building (near Y4 gate).
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>10<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Year 3 to Year 6</b> <b>Parent Workshop</b> <b>Maths</b>	9:00 to 10:00am, please enter through the main entrance by the office. Miss Drinkhill will be explaining more about the Maths curriculum, and how to support your child!
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>10<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>F2AS</b> <b>Nativity</b>  	Parents and family members are welcome to join us, the Nativity starts at 2:30pm, please enter by the school office. Sorry but we are not able to admit latecomers as this will distract the children.
<b>Monday</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Parent Workshop</b> <b>CHIMP</b> <b>"Planning Ahead –</b> <b>looking after yourself"</b>	This workshop is from 2:00pm to 3:15pm, and will help you with remaining calm for your child. Please enter by the school office entrance.
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>16<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Y4IF</b> <b>Local Walk</b>	Y4IF will be going to Loxley Court Nursing Home to sing Christmas Carols for the residents!



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<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Nursery parents are invited to join our Christmas Activities from 8:30 to 9:30am! Children can wear Christmas jumpers, party clothes, or non-uniform!</b>	
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Advent Assembly Y4EB "Love"</b>	Parents and family members are welcome to join us, the assembly starts at 9:15am in the school hall (not CCC), sorry but we are not able to admit latecomers as this will distract the children. Please enter through the staff car park to the KS2 building (near Y4 gate).
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Reception to Year 6 Parent Coffee Morning Parent Voice</b>	
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Christmas Dinner!</b>	Look out for the menu! On this day, there will be two dinner options (RED or GREEN), no jacket potatoes or sandwiches!
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>F2WS Nativity</b> 	Parents and family members are welcome to join us, the Nativity starts at 2:30pm, please enter by the school office. Sorry but we are not able to admit latecomers as this will distract the children.
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Reception classes Local Walk</b>	Children will be walking to the post box, to post their letters to Father Christmas!
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Nursery parents are invited to join our Christmas Activities from 8:30 to 9:30am! Children can wear Christmas jumpers, party clothes, or non-uniform!</b>	





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<b>Thursday</b> <b>18<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Year 2</b> <b>Nativity</b> 	Parents and family members are welcome to join us, the Nativity starts at 9:00am in the school hall (not CCC), sorry but we are not able to admit latecomers as this will distract the children. Please enter through the staff car park to the KS2 building (near Y4 gate).
<b>Thursday</b> <b>18<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Year 1 to Year 6</b> <b>Christmas Disco</b> 	Non-uniform day for Year 1 to Year 6. The disco starts straight after school and children need to be collected from their classroom door at 4:45pm. Children can wear their Christmas jumper if they have one, or party clothes – please make sure their shoes are suitable for the school day though! 10% of the takings will be donated to the Save the Children Christmas Jumper appeal. Please sign up on 
<b>Friday</b> <b>19<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>	<b>Christmas Raffle</b>	Save the date!
<b>Monday</b> <b>22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025</b> <b>to Friday</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – SCHOOL IS CLOSED</b>	
<b>Monday</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	<b>Back to school for Spring 1 half term</b>	
<b>Thursday</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	<b>If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022, you need to apply for their school place before the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	



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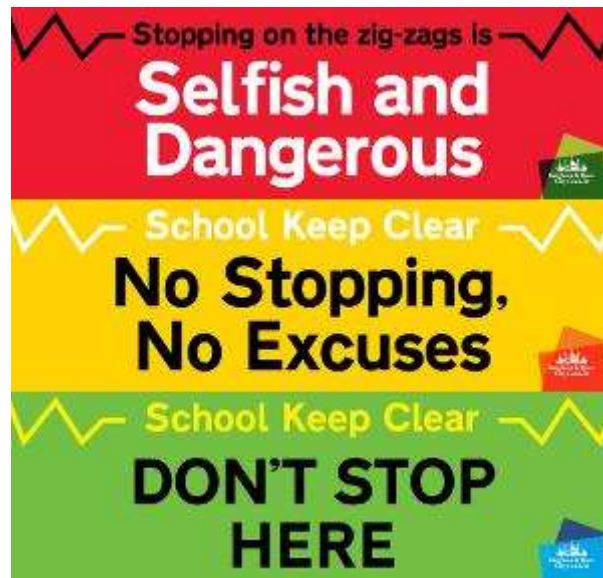
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## A Culture of Safeguarding at St Catherine's



Police and Parking Enforcement have notified school that they will be making randomised visits to Firshill Crescent at the beginning and the end of the school day.

Please park responsibly!





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## Attendance and Punctuality

**The highest attendance in school this week was 99.3%**

Well done to the following class for the highest attendance:

**Y2DH**

You'll be having a little treat for the highest attendance!

**The best punctuality this week was Y6RR with ZERO lates!**

Well done to your children and their families!

Overall school attendance for last week was:

**94.0%**

Class	Teacher	Lates	% Attendance
<b>F2AS</b>	Mrs Atkinson and Miss Sweeney	9	84.8
<b>F2WS</b>	Mrs Wood and Mrs Stables	5	86.0
<b>Y1AM</b>	Miss Morris	5	94.0
<b>Y1LF</b>	Miss Franks	1	98.0
<b>Y2DH</b>	Mr Hawksworth	4	99.3
<b>Y2NR</b>	Miss Rodgers	5	98.0
<b>Y3JN</b>	Miss Ng	2	97.7
<b>Y3MS</b>	Miss Suleiman	3	89.0
<b>Y4EB</b>	Miss Brian	2	90.6
<b>Y4IF</b>	Miss Frost	3	93.9
<b>Y5EH</b>	Miss Huddleston	3	96.6
<b>Y5OW</b>	Miss Willis	11	94.6
<b>Y6ED</b>	Miss Drinkhill	7	94.8
<b>Y6RR</b>	Mrs Ralph	0	97.4



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## MERIT WINNERS – well done to all of you!

Y1AM	Nyah Rose	For really working hard this week to help keep the classroom tidy and looking after our new things!
	Evelyn	For coming back and settling so well, she has worked really hard in all our lessons and has been so kind to everyone in our classroom!
Y1LF	Joshua B	For being so creative and always making wonderful creations in class with his friends!
	Coby	For having an amazing week and blowing Miss Franks away with his writing!
	Kore	For being a wonderful member of the St Catherine's family, we will miss your enthusiasm and all-round loveliness! Good luck on your new adventures!
Y2DH	Max	For showing great independence and perseverance in Maths this week!
	Yoel	For impressing Mr Hawksworth with how quick and sensible he can be when starting work!
Y2NR	Ali	For his work in Maths and in this week's History lesson, transitioning quietly, being kind and respectful to others, and staying focused in independent work!
	Tatiana	For being a great example to other children in the class, practicing her reading in the mornings, and ready to learn in all her lessons!
Y3JN	Evlyn-Rose	For blowing adults away with her Maths work!
	Safiyyah	For fantastic resilience and focus in her learning!
	Kira	For being a wonderful member of the St Catherine's family, we will miss your enthusiasm and all-round loveliness! Good luck on your new adventures!
Y3MS	Summer	For making an amazing creation all about the learning we have done on Romulus and Remus in Literacy!
	Ava	For really impressing Miss Suleiman with how well she worked during the first Science analyse on fossils!
Y4EB	Elias	For being so enthusiastic and engaged with our Science workshop on Thursday!
	Yuel	For doing a marvellous job at learning his lines for our Advent assembly!
Y4IF	Isaac G	For amazing input during the Science of Sound workshop!
	Raisa	For great focus and concentration in Maths!
Y5EH	Arsema	For amazing contributions to our History lessons, thinking carefully about analysing a source and linking her ideas to her learning!
	Albert	For making better choices and being more focused, trying his best in independent tasks, and always presenting his work beautifully!
Y5OW	Misgana	For always persevering and trying her best, especially in Maths. For really impressing all adults with her attitude in Cricket this week!
	Michaela	For making great choices this week, getting back up when small setbacks happen, and really impressing Miss Willis with her Literacy work!

Contact us: [enquiries@stcatherines.academy](mailto:enquiries@stcatherines.academy) or [www.stcatherines.academy/contact](http://www.stcatherines.academy/contact)





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Y6ED	<b>Freya</b>	For always being a calm presence in the classroom, and for working so hard in lessons!
	<b>Della</b>	For showing a positive attitude to her assessments and demonstrating resilience!
Y6RR	<b>Nicholas</b>	For sharing his amazing comic with our class – lots of children have really enjoyed reading it this week!
	<b>Taibah</b>	For always putting in so much effort, she has shown fabulous commitment to reading with younger children and her presentation is always beautiful!



## Wonders of the Week

### Adon, Year 6

For the amazing little book of drawings he has made at lunchtime, showing some beautiful and skilled artwork!

### Leo, Year 4

For his honesty to staff when sometimes things go wrong!

### Yoab, Year 3

For always being enthusiastic and trying his best in the games on the yard!

## Yard Winners: Year 4



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# Monthly Science Fun!

Check out December's experiment:

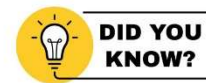
## Sticky Ice!

### You will need:

- Gloves
- Ice Cubes
- Water
- String
- Salt
- 3 bowls



A cryobiologist is someone who studies how low temperatures effect living things!



- Step 1: Put on your gloves. Put salt in one bowl, water in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and ice in the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Step 2: Lay out a piece of string next to the bowls.
- Step 3: Put some ice cubes in the bowl of water. See if you can lift a piece of ice from that bowl, using only the string!
- Step 4: Place the string over the ice, and sprinkle some salt over the string.
- Step 5: Count to 60, then carefully life the string by each end. The ice cubes should be stuck to the string.



The history of salt traces back to as far as 6050 BC. Salt was used as part of religious offerings and to preserve mummies in Egypt. It was a valuable good traded between the Phoenicians and their Mediterranean empire.

Water has a freezing point of 32°F or 0°C, however when salt is added, it lowers the freezing point below 32°F. This is why the ice cube starts to melt. At the same time, the salt is lowering the freezing point of the surrounding water. This means some of the water that has just come from the melting ice cube will refreeze instantly. When we place the string on the ice cube and then sprinkle salt on top, the melting water from the ice refreezes right on top of the string, and you can pick up the ice with just the string!

Want to share your results? Email [ebrian@stcatherines.academy](mailto:ebrian@stcatherines.academy) with any pictures. It might be included in the next newsletter!

Contact us: [enquiries@stcatherines.academy](mailto:enquiries@stcatherines.academy) or [www.stcatherines.academy/contact](http://www.stcatherines.academy/contact)



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## Key Stage 1 Maths Challenge – December 2025

### The Coin Monster

Alesha bought a monster using only silver coins.  
It cost her 45p.



There are nine different ways to pay 45p exactly  
using only silver coins.  
Find as many as you can.

What if the monster cost 50p?  
How many different ways are there to pay now?



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## Key Stage 2 Maths Challenge – December 2025

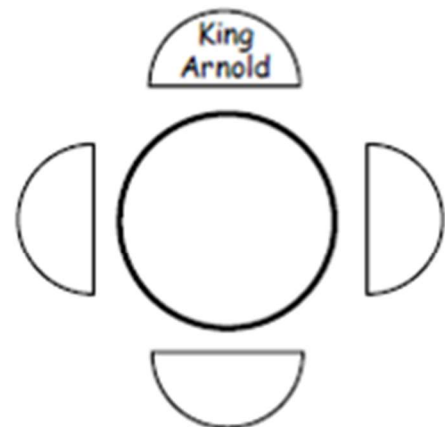
### King Arnold's Round Table

King Arnold sits at a Round Table.



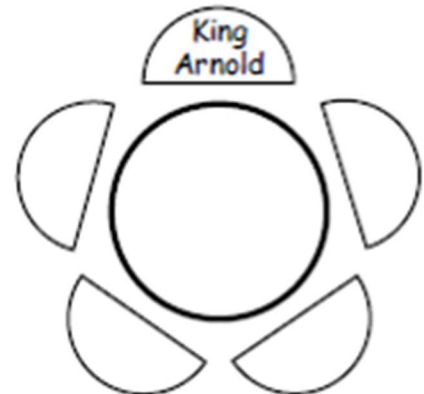
There are 3 empty seats.

In how many different ways  
can 3 knights sit in them?



What if there are 4 empty seats?

In how many different ways  
can 4 knights sit in them?







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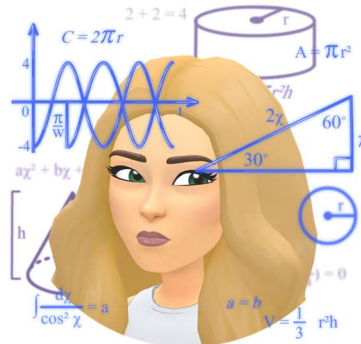
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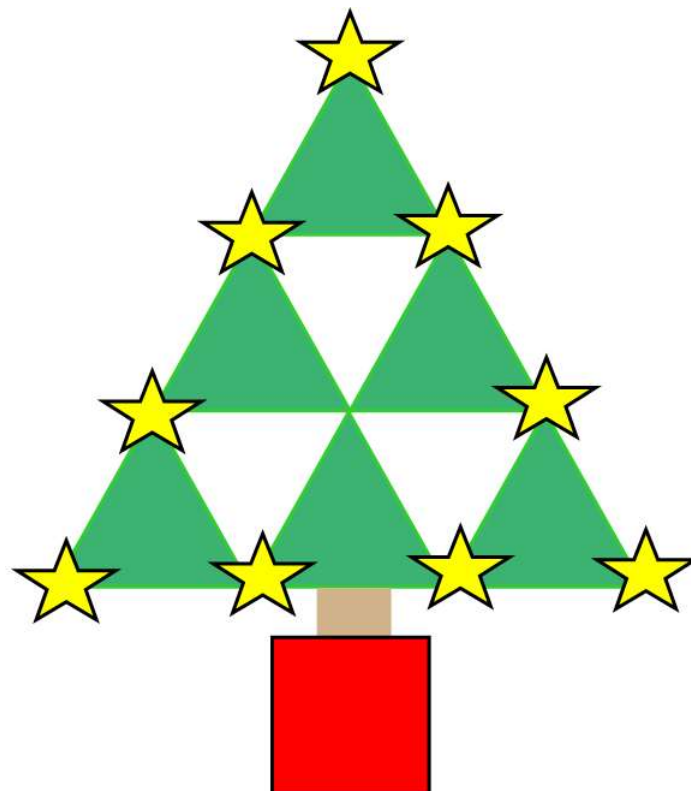
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# Miss Drinkhill is thinking ...



Can you use the digits 1-9.  
Arrange them on the stars so that the sum of the  
numbers on each of the three edges of  
the triangle is 21.





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## Advent

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025 marks the beginning of Advent and the start of a new liturgical year in the church calendar.

### What is advent?

Advent means 'coming'. It is a four-week season dedicated to preparing for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas time and the return of Christ at the second coming. Each week of advent focuses on a different theme—hope, peace, joy and love. In school our Y4 and Y6 classes will be helping us to prepare during this season with their wonderful advent assemblies, details of which are on the school newsletter. In classrooms and shared prayer spaces our altar cloths will change to purple, a colour that signifies repentance. Each class has their own advent wreath and will gather around it daily to think and reflect upon the advent season. We wish you and your families a peaceful and prayerful Advent season.

### Prayer of the Month - December

#### Act of Contrition

O my God,  
because you are so good,  
I am very sorry that I have sinned  
against you,  
and with the help of your grace  
I will not sin again.





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## St Catherine's Advent Window

Earlier this term, the Mini Vinnies worked with Miss Fortier to create the school's contribution to this year's Pitsmoor Midwinter Windows trail, an Advent window trail around the area local to the school.

They chose the 2025 Catholic Jubilee Year as their inspiration and worked together as a team to create this stunning window display for the front entrance, which is number three on the trail.

To find out more about the other windows on the trail, go to [www.pitsmoormidwinterwindows.co.uk](http://www.pitsmoormidwinterwindows.co.uk), where you can find a map of the trail, as well as photos of each of the windows.



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## Mini Vinnies Reverse Advent Calendar 2025



This year during the season of advent the Mini Vinnies chaplaincy team have decided that they would like to run a reverse advent calendar again. Instead of receiving things during the season of advent we would kindly request that our school community bring in items that we can then in turn donate to Burngreave food bank. Burngreave foodbank do fabulous work to help local people in our area. A link to their website can be found here:

<https://burngreave.foodbank.org.uk/>

We would be extremely grateful if you could bring in any of the items in the list below. You do not need to bring in something every day. Just one item would be an amazing help. Your child can place the item around the prayer area in their class.

We also understand that it is a time of financial worry for us all, so if you feel it more appropriate, you may prefer to make a festive bookmark, Christmas craft item or a card for your collection box instead of buying something.

### We will start receiving donations into classrooms from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Yes
Tinned beans
Tinned fruit
Tinned Veg
Tinned tomatoes
Tinned soup
Rice
Cereal
Biscuits
Tinned fish
Cartons of fruit juice
UHT long life milk
Instant mash
Pasta sauce
Cooking oil
Shower gel
Shampoo
Deodorant
Nappies size 5&6
Small jar of instant coffee



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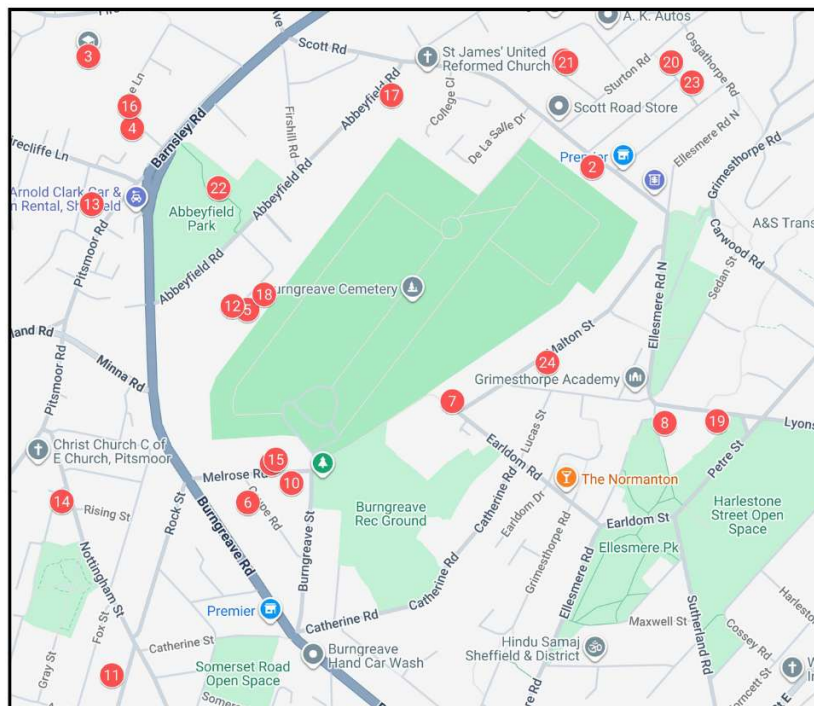
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## Pitsmoor MIDWINTER WINDOWS



**1st - 24th December 2025**

Throughout Advent 2025, homes across Pitsmoor will create festive window displays to bring light to the dark nights.

Find each day's windows by going to the number marked on the map.

**Each window will also be shown at  
[www.pitsmoormidwinterwindows.co.uk](http://www.pitsmoormidwinterwindows.co.uk)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 - 26 Skipton Road                                       | 13 - 9 Shirley Road                    |
| 2 - 130 Scott Road  | 14 - 241 Nottingham Street             |
| 3 - St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, Firshill Cres | 15 - 57 Melrose Road                   |
| 4 - 21 Roe Lane   | 16 - 32 Roe Lane                       |
| 5 - 45 Holtwood Road                                      | 17 - 176 Abbeyfield Road               |
| 6 - 39 Coupe Road   | 18 - 31 Holtwood Road                  |
| 7 - 85 Malton Street                                      | 19 - 18 Lyons Street                   |
| 8 - St Peters Ellesmere, 6 Lyons Close                    | 20 - 2 Cawston Road                    |
| 9 - 53 Melrose Road                                       | 21 - 24 Skipton Road                   |
| 10 - 28 Melrose Road                                      | 22 - Abbeyfield House, Abbeyfield Park |
| 11 - 157 Rock Street                                      | 23 - 21 Cawston Road                   |
| 12 - 34 Holtwood Road                                     | 24 - 28 Malton Street                  |

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## FREE PARENTING CLINIC



## PARENT WELLBEING

### When you're Talked out and Touched Out

By the time December rolls in, most parents are running on the emotional equivalent of the last Quality Street in the tin. Everyone needs something from you, all the time: a cuddle, a chat, a lift, a decision, a snack, a miracle... and meanwhile your own tank is clanging on empty.

This clinic is your pause button.

- A breather.
- A space to reset before the festive chaos sweeps you up like a rogue tinsel tornado.

Join Anisa (Parenting Coach) for her monthly Free Parenting Clinic. This online session is all about parent wellbeing, protecting your bandwidth, and finding small but powerful ways to fill your own cup again.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
at 12.00pm**

Online via Zoom

The session will be recorded and shared with all who register.

## ARE YOU:

- Running on empty?
- Do you find yourself craving just five minutes of quiet because everyone wants your attention, your energy, your last nerve?
- Is being "talked out and touched out" leaving you snappy, overwhelmed, or simply worn thin?

Then this free 30-minute online clinic is for you.

## Booking:

<https://anisalewis.as.me/theclinic>  
OR [hello@anisalewis.com](mailto:hello@anisalewis.com)

Contact us: [enquiries@stcatherines.academy](mailto:enquiries@stcatherines.academy) or [www.stcatherines.academy/contact](http://www.stcatherines.academy/contact)





# Newsletter



Issue 13 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, S4 7BX

0114 3030381

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to behave in the way that Jesus taught us:  
that we are all equal and that we should behave kindly and humbly towards each other.



## AT FIRTH PARK ACADEMY

ACCESS VIA SPORTS ENTRANCE ON BELLHOUSE ROAD(S5 0RD)

**STARTING WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**

(NEW PLAYERS CAN JOIN AT ANYTIME DURING THE YEAR(PROVIDING PLACES ARE AVAILABLE)



<b>Group 1</b>	<b>5:00pm – 6:00pm</b>	<b>Ages 4 - 5</b>
<b>Group 2</b>	<b>6:00pm – 7:00pm</b>	<b>Ages 6 - 7</b>
<b>Group 3</b>	<b>7:00pm – 8:00pm</b>	<b>Ages 8 - 9</b>
<b>Group 4</b>	<b>8:00pm – 9:00pm</b>	<b>Ages 10 - 13</b>

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to inform you that following the success of previous year's courses we are expanding the football coaching programme for the season. The course will run on a weekly basis **EVERY WEDNESDAY** during school term times.

All of our courses are run by F.A. QUALIFIED COACHES INCLUDING EX-PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS. All of our coaches have been DBS/CRB POLICE CHECKED. The course is open to boys and girls aged between 4 and 13. All abilities are catered for with total beginners introduced through FUN and confidence building practices. The course is tightly structured to ensure all aspects of football skills are developed.

At the end of the term(usually 10-15 weeks) every child will receive an engraved merit trophy and course certificate, with chances to win extra trophies including penalty shoot out, american shoot out and champions league competitions.

The cost of the course is £7.50 per week, which is payable every four weeks (£30) with the first payment due on week one. Parents are welcome to stay and watch however the club is fully supervised so children may be left in our care. **We have the use of excellent facilities with the course held indoors in the large sports hall.**

**TO BOOK A PLACE ON TO THE COURSE PLEASE TEXT  
'FIRTH PARK' + CHILD'S NAME & AGE + GROUP TO;**

**07846 770 250**

*Steven Nugent (Course Co-ordinator)*

Contact us: [enquiries@stcatherines.academy](mailto:enquiries@stcatherines.academy) or [www.stcatherines.academy/contact](http://www.stcatherines.academy/contact)



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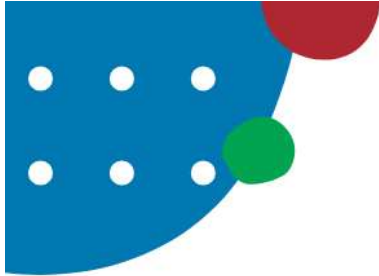
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Need ideas for family activities during the school holidays?  
We've got you covered with our bumper edition....

## SOUTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY ACTIVITY NEWSLETTER!



[Download it here:](https://bit.ly/SYCUActivityNewsletterDec2025)

<https://bit.ly/SYCUActivityNewsletterDec2025>



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you **love** right across South Yorkshire

