



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'... MATTHEW 5



February Newsletter 2026

Dear Families

Welcome to our February Newsletter. It is lovely to see some lighter evenings and mornings reappearing as we approach Spring – at times, it felt like the Winter (and persistent rain!) would never end.



We have had another busy half term in school. The children are all settled, enjoying their lessons and working extremely hard. There is a happy buzz across the whole school.

Thank you for your ongoing support this half term. It is very much appreciated by myself and all the teachers. By working together, we continue to build a strong and successful school for all children.

Warmest Wishes

Mrs Maxwell and all the staff at Corpus Christi x

Congratulations letter from Secretary of State for Education

We were thrilled to recently receive a letter from the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, acknowledging the work of our staff team, particularly in supporting disadvantaged pupils to achieve well, and our excellent outcomes last summer. The letter stated:



'Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.'

Supporting our most vulnerable pupils is at the very heart of our Catholic mission and a key priority across our whole Trust.

BOOK LOOK

Monday 9th March (3.30 to 5.00pm)

This will be an opportunity for parents of children from Y1 to Y6, to pop into school and have a look at their children's work. Teachers will also be available at this time to answer any questions.

After half term and following our 'Book Look' session, Class Teachers will be in touch to organise a time for a 1-1 ten-minute telephone call to discuss children's progress and attainment.

Nursery and Reception Parents will have a 1-1 face to face meeting with their Class Teachers. Mrs Clarke and Mrs Simpson will be in touch after half term to arrange.

Our school rules:

Be kind...Show Respect...Work Hard.



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'... MATTHEW 5



RE and Catholic Life

LENT

All classes from Y1 to Y6 attended Ash Wednesday Mass at Corpus Christi Church and received the 'ashes' to mark the beginning of Lent. Lent is a special time in the Church year when Christians prepare for Easter. It lasts for 40 days, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter Sunday. Lent is a time to grow closer to God. We encourage all our children to make a Lenten promise to God about how they will do this. We often 'give something up' or 'do something extra' to help others. Later in the term, we have lots of Lenten activities planned to raise money for charity. At the end of Lent, we celebrate Easter, when Jesus rose again – a joyful celebration of new life.

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Jubilee Year of St Francis

Pope Leo has declared that 2026 will be the Jubilee Year of St Francis.



Saint Francis of Assisi was a Catholic friar who founded the Franciscan order. He is known for his love of animals and nature, and he preached to them, calling all creatures his "brothers" and "sisters."

Francis was born in Assisi, Italy, and became a monk after a vision led him to give up his possessions and live in poverty. He travelled to Egypt during the Crusades and is said to have received stigmata, which are marks that match the scars Jesus suffered during the crucifixion.

Francis died in Assisi on 3 October, 1226, and was canonised on July 16, 1228. His feast day is celebrated on 4 October each year.

During this year, we will be looking closer at the values which St Francis lived his life by and thinking about how we can use his example in our own lives.

Religious Education Newsletter for Parents

The link below will take you to a Parent newsletter for Religious Education.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

PE Uniform

Before the Christmas holidays, we informed parents that we would be introducing a whole school uniform for PE. From September 2026, this PE uniform will become compulsory. However, we are encouraging the gradual introduction of this throughout the spring and summer term.

Our school rules:

Be kind...Show Respect...Work Hard.



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'... MATTHEW 5



It has been fantastic to see children beginning to wear this new uniform on their PE days. They look so smart and are very proud of their new kit.

The new and updated PE kit consists of a black hoodie (available with school logo), plain white t-shirt and black joggers with plain black trainers. **This must be plain black without any brand names etc. Please note black leggings are not allowed.**

These items can be purchased via the following link:

<https://theschooloutfit.co.uk/collections/corpus-christie-catholic-primary-school-gateshead>

It is 12.99 for the hoodie and 8.99 for the joggers.

Thank you for your cooperation – I believe this will assist our children to continue to be very smartly presented, even on PE days.

Local Governing Committee

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Amanda Craggs who has successfully carried out the role of Parent Governor for our school over the last three years. She has been a great asset to our Governing Committee and supported our school to develop and improve. Sadly, her term of office has now come to an end and we are seeking expressions of interest from other parents for this role. The parent governor role is a voluntary role which helps to shape school strategy, uphold standards, ensure accountability and provide a parental perspective on our governing committee. Governors are expected to attend a full governing committee meeting every term, as well as carrying out other monitoring activities within school. Training and support will be provided through Bishop Wilkinson Education Trust. Please note that parent governors offer a parental perspective to issues being discussed but are **not expected to represent the parent body or act as a spokesperson.**

If you are interested in this role, please email Mrs Maxwell at info@ccpg.bwcet.com

World Book Day – 5th March 2026

To celebrate World Book Day, we will be planning some 'reading/book' activities within school during the month of March. Bishop Wilkinson Trust have put together a fantastic itinerary for the day, including a variety of workshops with some popular and exciting authors!

Please note – we will **not** be asking children to 'dress up' on this day.

Y6 Tests /Y6 Residential Parents Meeting

On Tuesday 3rd March at 9.00am (School Hall) Mrs Mason will be hosting two information sessions in one. One session will focus on details for the upcoming KS2 SAT Tests and the other will be focussed on the upcoming Y6 Residential to Robinwood Activity Centre later in March. Mrs Mason and Mr Hudson will be leading this trip.

It would be brilliant if people could join us to hear the information, and it is a great opportunity to ask any questions you have regarding either the SAT Tests or the residential trip.

Our school rules:

Be kind...Show Respect...Work Hard.



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'... MATTHEW 5



Y5 Parents Meeting: Residential to Emmaus Youth Village

On Tuesday 24th March, we will be hosting a meeting for Y5 parents in the School Hall at 9.00am. At this meeting, we will provide information and answer questions regarding the Y5 residential to Emmaus Youth Village. Mrs Clarke and Miss Hindmarsh will be leading this trip.

If you are unable to attend these meetings, please contact Class Teachers so we can send the information to you.

EARRINGS

Children are not allowed to wear earrings for school. This is for safety reasons. If you plan to have your child's ears pierced, please do so over the 6-week summer holidays, otherwise the stud earrings will need to be covered, in school, until they can be removed. If your child comes to school wearing earrings, we will ring you to come and remove them.

Feedback from Parent Survey – December 2025

Before Christmas, we sent parents a link to an online survey. Thank you to all the parents who completed this survey. We value your input and always strive to work together to improve our school.

There were 4 main questions in the online survey and 34 parents responded.

- 1. Overall, my child's experience of the school is...**
91% of parents stated it was good or very good. 9% felt it was ok. None of the parents felt their child had a poor experience of our school.
- 2. My child makes good progress.**
97% of parents agreed their child made good or very good progress. 3% said they did not know. None of the parents felt their child did not make good progress at our school.
- 3. The school supports my child's well-being.**
91% of parents felt their child's well-being was supported at school. 6% of parents disagreed with this statement and 3% did not know.
- 4. The school provides a good range of extra-curricular activities.**
87% of parents agreed there was a good range of extra-curricular activities. 9% of parents disagreed and 3% of parents did not know.

Parents were also asked if there was anything else they would like the school to know.

There were many positive comments, including the following statements:

- Staff are excellent.
- Child always happy going to school.
- Amazing experience.

Our school rules:

Be kind...Show Respect...Work Hard.



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'... MATTHEW 5



- Proud to be part of this community.
- Caring and supportive school.
- Fantastic school with warm and nurturing atmosphere.
- Communication with parents is fantastic.

We thank you for these supportive and encouraging comments.

Some parents highlighted concerns about certain areas. We will always strive to address them, if possible.

- **Parents should be informed if their child is offered extra help.**

If children are placed on a formal support plan with regular interventions to address any gaps they may have, then parents will definitely be consulted. However, on a daily basis, we will often offer children additional support if they have struggled with a particular lesson or concept. This is part of good teaching and we would not be able to inform parents every time this happens.

- **More after-school activities and school trips should be available.**

School Trips

It is very important to obtain a balance where school trips are concerned. School budgets have become severely constrained in recent years and we are no longer able to subsidise school trips in the way that we may have once been able to. This means that we require parents to fund the bulk of any planned activities for their children. Escalating costs, and in particular the costs of coaches, have impacted on our ability to travel further afield. We have been reluctant to pass on these rising costs to parents and have therefore reduced the amount of visits we plan. However, following the survey results, we have discussed this as a staff team and have put some additional plans in place to address this and improve the provision that we offer – utilising our local area as much as possible.

After School Activities

The limitations of our building and grounds restrict the amount of clubs we can offer at any one time.

*Over the last year, we have offered the following **regular** clubs:*

Autumn 2024	SPRING 2025	SUMMER 2025	AUTUMN 2025
Dance Y1-Y6	Ball Skills Y1-Y3	Garage Band Y1-Y6	Chess Y3-Y6
Yoga Y1-Y4	Athletics Y4-Y6	Multiskills Y1-Y3	Tag Rugby Y4-Y6
Netball Y5-Y6	Tag Rugby Y4-Y6	Football Y4-Y6	Football Y1-Y3
Badminton Y4-Y6	Karate Y1-Y6	Basketball Y3-Y6	Multiskills Y1-Y3
Karate Y1-Y6	Art Y3-Y4	Karate Y1-Y6	Karate Y1-Y6

In addition, we have also provided one-off and/or regular Lunchtime clubs, such as Homework Club, Choir Practice, Mini Vinnies, Digital Leaders, Coding Club, Digital Music, Rosary and Prayer, 1-1 tutoring.

We have introduced 'Chess' this year – which has proved very popular. We have recently developed a partnership with 'RockSteady Music' who are now providing 'in school' band lessons.

Our school rules:

Be kind...Show Respect...Work Hard.



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'... MATTHEW 5



As with school trips, we have to maintain a balance regarding costs and what the school is able to subsidise. However, we will continue to seek additional opportunities to enhance our provision.

- **Road safety is dangerous and people park where they want to.**

This is an ongoing area of worry and concern both for parents and staff. Our school is in a built-up area, next door to a much larger school and parking is very limited. Over the years, we have introduced strategies to attempt to alleviate some of the congestion, such as staggered starts/ends to the day, allocating different classes to different gates etc. However, we rely heavily on our parents to be respectful of the parking restrictions, such as yellow lines/zig zags around school and park safely away from the main entrances. Most people do this. Unfortunately, there are a small group of parents who continue to disregard, not only the rules, but the safety of our children. We regularly contact Gateshead Parking to inform them of this – in turn, they regularly patrol the area and will issue on the spot fines. If you observe any parking offences around school, please do not hesitate to report this: <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/20444/Make-a-complaint-about-parking>

- **Hygiene rules are not followed and children attend school whilst they are sick**

We follow instructions from the UK government and NHS guidance which advises that children can attend school with minor coughs, runny noses, or sore throats if they are otherwise well and have no fever. Children must stay home if they have a high temperature, or for specific illnesses like diarrhoea/vomiting (48 hours after symptoms stop) or chickenpox (until spots crust over).

You can find further information here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If children come to school and are visibly ill, we will always contact parents to collect them.

If you have any questions or comments about the survey, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...		
March 2026		
Tuesday 3rd March	Reception Class NHS Eye Screening	Rec
Tuesday 3rd March	Y6 Information Meeting (Residential and KS2 Tests)	Y6 Parents School hall 9.00
Thursday 5th March	Mass at Corpus Christi Church	Y3/4
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day	
Monday 9th March	Book Look	Y1 to Y6 3.30 to 5.00pm All Parents Welcome
Wednesday 11th March	Music Workshop with Gateshead Music Service	Reception to Y6
Thursday 12th March	Y1 Mothers' Day Assembly	School Hall

Our school rules:

Be kind...Show Respect...Work Hard.



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'... MATTHEW 5



		9.00 Y1 Mothers/Grandmothers etc welcome.
Wednesday 18 th March	Mini Vinnies Lenten Coffee Morning	School Hall 9.00 All Welcome
Thursday 19 th March	Mass at Corpus Christi Church	Y1/2
Friday 20 th March	Comic Relief Day	Non Uniform day – Wear something RED!
Tuesday 24 th March	Coffee/Information Morning for parents of children with SEND	
Tuesday 24 th March	Y5 Information Meeting – Residential Visit to Emmaus Youth Village.	School Hall 9.00 Y5 parents.
Wednesday 25 th March	Y4 Dance Festival @ The Glass House	10.00 Y4 Parents
Thursday 26 th March	Y4 Samba Drumming Workshop (6 weeks)	
Thursday 26 th March	BIG LENT WALK	
Friday 27 th March	Y2 to Beamish Museum	Y2 children – all day
Monday 30 th March	Y3 Stations of the Cross Assembly	School Hall Y3 Parents Welcome
Monday 30 th March to Wednesday 1 st April	Y6 residential trip to Robinwood Activity Centre	Y6 children
April 2026		
Wednesday 1 st April	Reception Class visit to Whitehouse Farm	
Thursday 2 nd April	Mass at Corpus Christi Church	Y5/6
Children finish school on Thursday 2 nd April for Easter Break and return to school on Tuesday 21 st April		
Thursday 23 rd April	Mass at Corpus Christi Church	Y3/4
May 2026		
School closed on Monday 4 th May – Bank Holiday Monday		
Thursday 7 th May	Mass at Corpus Christi Church	Y1/2
Monday 11 th May – Friday 15 th May	Y6 Test Week	
Wednesday 20 th May	Y3 Bikeability Learn 2 Ride	

Our school rules:

Be kind...Show Respect...Work Hard.

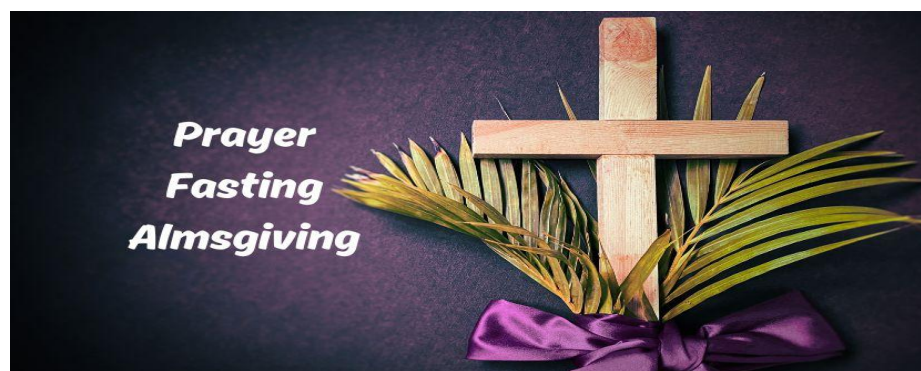


Corpus Christi Catholic Primary

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'... MATTHEW 5



Thursday 21 st May	Mass at Corpus Christi Church	Y5/6
Friday 22 nd May	Fun Run @Saltwell Park	Y3,4,5 and 6.
Children finish school on Friday 22 nd May for half term holiday and return to school on Monday 1 st June.		
June 2026		
Wednesday 3 rd June	Whole School Photographs.	
Thursday 4 th June	Mass at Corpus Christi Church	Y3/4
Monday 8 th June	Y6 5 a side Football Tournament @Gateshead College.	
Monday 8 th June	Celebrating World Faiths Week	Whole School
Monday 15 th June to Wednesday 17 th June	Y5 Residential visit to Emmaus Youth Village	
Friday 19 th June	Y4 Feast of Corpus Christi Assembly	School Hall 9.00 Y4 Parents Welcome.
July 2026		
Thursday 2 nd July	Mass at Corpus Christi Church	
Monday 6 th July	Y6 Konflux Theatre – Play in a Day	Y5/6
Monday 13 th July	Y1 and Y3 Music Sharing Performance	School hall 2.45 to 3.15 Y1 and Y3 Parents Welcome
Children finish school on Friday 17 th July for Summer Holidays.		



Our school rules:

Be kind...Show Respect...Work Hard.