

Dear Parents

At the start of a new Academic Year, I hope that it is a fruitful, peaceful and happy one for all our pupils, their families, governors, friends and staff.

I trust that you all had a good rest and enjoyed your summer holidays, which now seem to be such a long time ago. Writing this, I feel a great sense of pride, hope and joy at being part of the family of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School.

As always, we have so many things to celebrate and thank God for. just read on and see if you agree!!!



Playground Project

Anticipation was mounting over the holidays as children employed many strategies to find out more about what exactly was going on in our playground.



Parents were asked to slow down when walking or driving along the A405. It was the main topic of conversation whenever and wherever we met any of our pupils.

Parents had no problem getting children in early on the first day back, as the tension and excitement reached fever pitch.

When there was the final unveiling. WOW! As one child said to me, "I am so excited just looking at it, what will it be like when I get my turn to actually go on it.+"

And there was more to follow

Pupils could not believe that there were more surprises in store in the weeks that followed and Staff were most impressed that the number of accidents recorded in Medical has dropped!

The playground was divided into sections, equipment was provided for lunchtimes, planters arrived, the Wonder Wall went up and a rota was devised so that everyone could enjoy themselves.



Our year six Play Leaders had further training, so that they could facilitate in helping to make playtimes more productive.



A fun time continues to be had by all pupils and the overwhelmingly positive response and compliments from them, parents and staff alike made it all worthwhile. As we have scribed for all to see, our sincere thanks to the wonderful PTA, Parents and Friends of St. Catherine's for their generosity, which made this possible.+

Newcomers

Thirty pupils started Reception on Wednesday 8th September. Things certainly got off to a promising start.

The intake process went smoothly, thanks largely to the preparation and hard work staff put in beforehand, the support and co-operation of our new parents and the efforts of our year six children, who are proving to be wonderful Buddies.

Some new children also joined Key Stage Two. We welcomed them all at a special Assembly and hope this will be the beginning of a long and happy association for all these children and their families with St. Catherine's.

Spanish Day

The children thoroughly enjoyed the activities organised for our Spanish Day on Monday 20th September, which culminated in a sharing assembly of the main events, such as sampling popular Spanish food, (including Manchego cheese and sun dried tomatoes); learning a few Spanish words/phrases, making Spanish flags; building the Sagrada Familia Church and reproducing pictures in the style of famous Spanish artists such as Joan Miro and Pablo Picasso. Pam and Pauline's menu, with a choice of Chicken Paella or Spanish Omelette, was a big success. We loved the colourful outfits our pupils wore that day.

Papal Visit

We had another great assembly on the 24th September, to commemorate Pope Benedict XV's visit to the United Kingdom.

The previous week we had watched parts of The Big Assembly live from St. Mary's University College in Twickenham.

Each class produced a piece of work on Pope Benedict. I hope they also shared some of the highlights with you and you looked at our hall display boards, when you came to Parents' Consultations.

Gambado

Along with you, we try to do our best to encourage your children to have a healthy lifestyle, through play and a balanced diet.

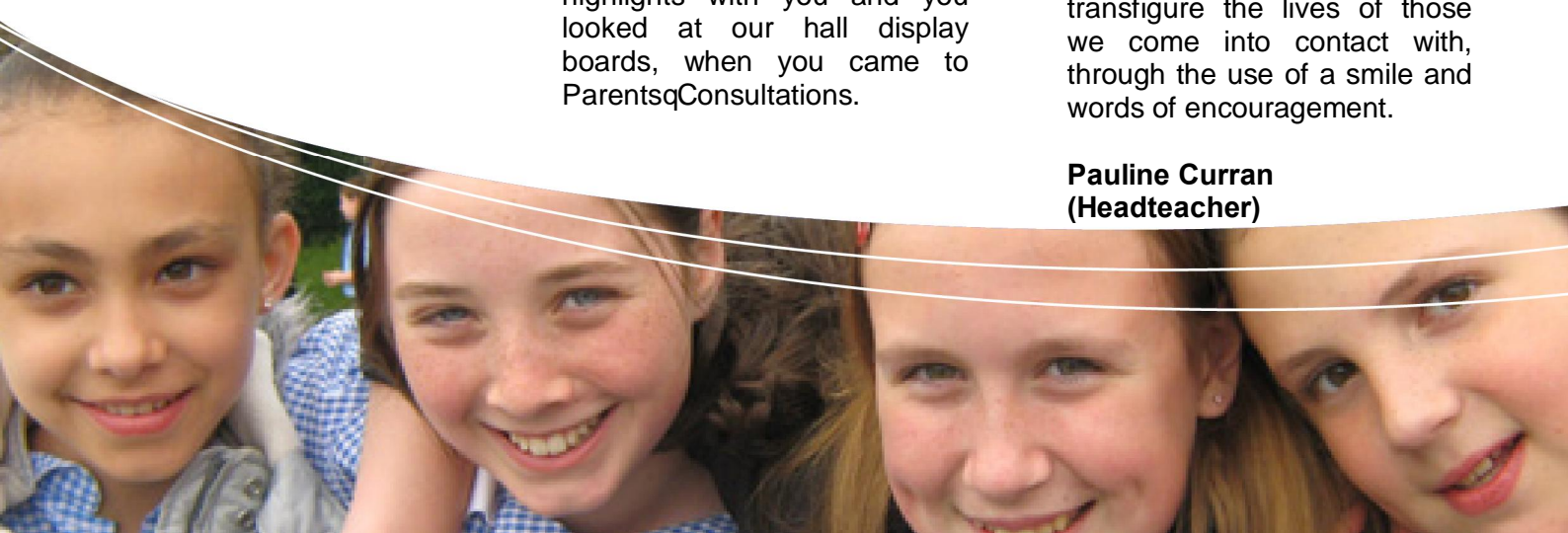
Gambado Watford is offering schools free educational visits as part of their support for the Change4Life campaign. Year three went along to take up the challenge and found that indoor play can be a great way to provide exercise in disguise and be a whole lot of fun.



The visit was split into two stages, one consisted of activities based around the healthy eating theme and the other was a pedometer challenge, where they got to play on the fantastic play equipment, running, jumping, climbing, sliding and generally having a great time together.

We all have the power to transfigure the lives of those we come into contact with, through the use of a smile and words of encouragement.

Pauline Curran
(Headteacher)



"Live, love and learn joyfully together through Jesus and his Church"

