



Friday 12th November 2021

Achievements

Martin de Porres:
Reception Class stars: Jax, Brody and Millan

Year 1 Class Stars:
Natalia, Bella-Rose and Nela

Year 2 Jacinta:
Class Star: Grace

Year 3 John Paul II:
Class Star:

Year 4 Faustyna:
Class star - Daniel

Year 5 Teresa:
Class Stars: Adriana, Alfie

HT award-Alby, George, Julia, Adam, Oskar, Lola, Tallulah, Daniel, Rohama, Shannyn, Sophia, Rocky, Frank

Year 6 Drexel
Class star: Lola & Lucy G

This week:

I have been so impressed by the passion the children have displayed for our COP26 & Laudato Si cross-curricular topic. If you haven't already, please do take a look at examples of their amazing artwork on Twitter. This week we also appointed our new Eco Warriors. During their first meeting, they challenged me to make the school a more sustainable environment. They are also thinking about how we can encourage our Trust to make all DOWAT schools more eco-friendly.

Yesterday we took time to reflect and pray for all those who have lost their lives through conflict – from our soldiers in the First and Second World Wars, through to those currently suffering in war-torn countries. We also prayed for peace and that world leaders will work together in a spirit of unity, for the good of all.

Although next week in National Anti-Bullying Week, we are going to postpone this in St Cath's, until the following one. We still have lots of exciting COP26 work to complete and want to give the theme of Anti-Bullying the time and importance it deserves.

I absolutely loved seeing so many of our children wearing red and white yesterday, to celebrate Polish Independence Day. Thank you to those who brought in Polish food and treats and to those pupils who shared stories about Poland and visiting family there.

As you may have seen on Twitter, the Pavey family were hoping that Jack would be allowed home today. I know you will share our joy at the news!

Lots of you have noticed Mrs Phipps' has been absent from school, since the start of the pandemic. I have appreciated your discretion and tact when dealing with the matter; many of you have made it clear that you miss her and are thinking of her, without being intrusive or questioning the reasons. Sadly, Mrs Phipps was diagnosed with cancer some time ago, which meant that she has had to shield. Throughout this time Mrs Phipps has been continually in our thoughts and prayers. Most people have been touched by cancer at some point in their lives – whether personally, or through family or friends. Unfortunately, the treatment is often as gruelling as the disease. As a staff, we have all been inspired and astounded by Mrs Phipps' bravery, positivity and unwavering faith, as she has undergone extensive and challenging treatment.

I am delighted to tell you that Mrs Phipps' recovery is going well and that she has just started a phased return to work. Although still shielding, she is working from home and meeting us regularly through Zoom. For those of you with children who know Mrs Phipps, I would ask that you explain the situation to them in an age-appropriate way, including that when they see her, they may notice some of the physical differences associated with cancer treatment. However, please do reassure them that she is doing well and is still the same happy, smiling and wonderful Mrs Phipps that we all know and love!

Looking ahead... As with the leaders at COP26, it is after the discussions have ended that the real work begins – making it happen! During the past fortnight we have been thinking about why we need to address climate change and be better Stewards of Creation. Next week we will take action! As well as classes deciding on their own activities, we would like our topic to culminate in a demonstration of people power. On Friday, we plan for our KS2 pupils to take part in a peaceful protest. Our aim is to stand at strategic (and safe) sites near the school (e.g. opposite McDonalds) and spread the message that we need to act now.

The concept of protesting can be emotive – many people have mixed feelings about (or are against) the actions of certain extreme protesting groups. However, I think it is important for the children to feel empowered and know that they have a voice. A peaceful protest is one way of using that voice. If you are not happy for your child to take part, please email the school office and we will arrange an alternative for them. For those who support this action, please join in as part of the children's Home Learning by making placards, posters and helping us come up with chants!

Wishing you a safe and relaxing weekend.
God bless,
Ms Kane

Be who God created you to be and you will set the world on fire.



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This week:

This week in the Martin de Porres Unit, we have been looking at a new book 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley!' We have been talking about the effects of rubbish in our oceans and how we can use persuasive language to send a message to others to influence their actions as well as our own. We have been creating our own sea creatures, sea collages and in Art, we created our vision of a perfect world by making paper mache globes! We talked about what a perfect world looked like to us. In Maths, we have been looking at practical and written subtraction, using resources to help us find our answers. For football coaching, we practised dribbling with more speed and control.

In Year 2 this week, we generated questions about our common home, climate change and COP26 and put some of our questions to one of the Ghanaian delegates at COP26. Also as part of our RE work, we followed the story of Zimi, who lived in an area where there wasn't an abundant supply of water. We reflected on water being God's treasure, on what it means to be a 'Steward of Creation', and on ways we could use less water. Year 2 made beautiful water droplets to display their learning. In maths we continued to explore multiplication and division facts and in English we learnt how we could extend sentences using co-ordinating conjunctions 'or', 'and' and 'but'. We continued to practise invasion skills with Watford FC Stars.

Year 3 have had an amazing week - as always :) In English, we finished writing a set of instructions for making a fire. We used a range of time conjunctions and imperative verbs to ensure our writing is concise. In our Maths sessions, we learnt about unit and non-unit fractions. and fractions in pictorial form. In RE, we continued our work on COP26 and Laudato Si'. We learnt about the Creation story and created freeze frame images outside. We also learnt a great song which we filmed for twitter. As Stewards of Creation, we know that it is our duty to protect and preserve our planet. We wrote prayers for the ocean and shared these as part of our class worship. In DT, we used single use plastics to create our own 3D fish. We discussed how the plastic inside represents the pollution we are putting into our oceans. I have been very impressed with our subject knowledge this week!

This week in Year 4 we have been learning how to convert between units of metric measure. In English, we ended the week by identifying the key features of a playscript ready for writing our own. In RE, we produced some fantastic work on Laudato Si' and the key messages that Pope Francis includes in his encyclical. We also created beautiful pieces of artwork based on the Creation story. We played 'Stuck in the mud' and practised our dribbling and ball control skills in PE. We focused on being able to keep the ball near us and not having metres away! Our Guided Reading focus for the week was on 'Armistice Day' and we learnt about the significance of Remembrance day and why we wear Poppies around this time of year.

Year 5 have had an extremely busy week! Our new book in English is "The London Eye Mystery." This week we looked at describing the different sights and sounds of the London Eye experience. We learnt how to use similes and came up with some amazing London similes. In Maths this week, we learnt how to round decimals to the nearest whole and to one decimal place using rounding mountains. We enjoyed our Maths lessons and many of us also had a go at doing the extensions. In RE, we explored different creation stories and looked at similarities and differences. Our artwork relating to this topic was exceptional and praised by Miss Kane. In Science, we worked in teams and created our posters on the difference between boiling, evaporation and condensation. We also presented it to the class and shared our learning with everyone..

Year 6 have had another busy week! We began a new unit in English, looking at the mysteries of Harris Burdick. We wrote a piece of mystery writing using all of the success criteria we have learnt so far, focussing on adding dashes. Our final pieces are amazing and Miss Bowler can't wait to mark them. In Maths, we began our fractions fortnight looking at equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions, adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions. We thought fractions were hard to start with, but by the end of the week we felt much more confident. In RE, we continued our work on Laudato Si. We created some beautiful artwork to show that all religions core values are interconnected and how we must work together to look after the planet. We also started our Science topic this week looking at different ways to classify animals.