



Friday 19th November 2021

Achievements

Martin de Porres:

Reception Class
stars: Elaine,
Aliasgher, Isla

Year 1 Class Stars:

Ella, Frank,
Ali-Hussein

Year 2 Jacinta:

Class Star:
Summer-Mei
HT Award: Saoirse
and Aaron

Year 3 John Paul II:

Class Star: Alex
HT Award - Alex

Year 4 Faustyna:

Class star -
Sebastian
HT Award -
Danielle and Gio

Year 5 Teresa:

Class Stars
Mark
HT Awards
Olivia, George,
Rohama

Year 6 Drexel

Class stars: Angel
& Alana

This week:

Someone wise once said, 'If you've always do, what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got.' The easiest thing to do as a school is teach the same curriculum year-on-year. That's not what we do at St Cath's. However, writing completely new, bespoke plans around a once in a (school) lifetime event like COP26 is difficult. It requires staff to be creative, innovative and original. It also takes time. None of these plans were adapted from the internet – they were crafted taking into account the needs and interests of the class and designed to enable the kids to live out our Mission Statement. I'm so lucky to have staff who embrace our ethos and have put the time and effort into making exciting plans for this unit. Thank you!

Although based around Religious Education, our duty as Stewards of Creation, and following Pope Francis' message in *Laudato Si*, the project has been a cross-curricular one. Every class has taken part in a wide-range of cross-curricular activities. The children have had the opportunity to express their views through art and music, to spread the message using ICT and social media and to challenge/hold leaders (including me!) to account with powerful persuasive letters. I'm delighted to say that as a result of all these actions, we have been granted the CAFOD 'Live Simply' Award!

I'm always incredibly grateful when parents want to contribute their expertise towards school initiatives. Two parents in particular contacted me with amazing ideas to support this topic. Thank you to Ashni's mum (EYFS) for a range of wonderful suggestions. Thanks to her – and brilliant targets generated by Y6 Drexel – we now have our own St Cath's 'Paris Agreement', with long-term sustainability goals. I look forward to bringing this to the Governing Body, Trust Leadership and sharing with you. Harry & Ella's dad (Y2) had the incredible idea of running our own 'Earthshot Awards'. Rather than waiting for ideas to come from the top-down, we can bring our ideas from the bottom, to the top. Our pupils are creative and think outside the box, who better to try to come up with solutions to our climate crisis? I absolutely love the idea and look forward to working with him to launch this in the near future.

As you may have seen on Twitter, every pupil and staff member has now set their own climate pledge. This is something we will work towards to be #OneStepGreener. The pledges are displayed in our hall, on our 'Pledge Tree', as a constant reminder of our duty to act. As Greta Thunberg said, 'no more blah, blah blah!' I would invite every family or family member to come up with their own climate pledge. Next week we will have pledge leaves available on the playground at collection, for you to contribute to our collective promises. Please join us.

As part of my research into this topic, I found out that the energy used in producing one ¼ burger is enough to charge my iPhone for 6 months. Based on that information, turning off lights at home is good, but not making enough of a difference. Therefore, I have pledged that I will take part in 'Meat-Free Monday'. I am also actioning one of Y6's 'Paris Agreement' targets – I have asked Herts Catering to make our school dinners meat-free every Monday. Small changes can have a big impact.

Looking ahead, next week is Anti-bullying Week. Please can you send children in wearing odd-socks on Monday. I love the theme of this year – 'one kind word'. Rather than the negative, we will focus on every child spreading kindness and the ripple effect that causes.

Unbelievably, it is only a week until the start of Advent. Where has the Term gone?! Once again, we will be running our 'Reverse Advent Calendar' campaign, asking you to donate items to the school, to benefit local charities. Last year we were overwhelmed by the generosity of the St Cath's community – I'm sure that this year will be no different. Further information will follow next week.

Finally, Monday is Lebanon's Independence Day. We look forward to celebrating with our pupils of Lebanese heritage.

Wishing you a safe, relaxing and enjoyable 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:

In the Martin de Porres unit this week, we have continued our work on Laudato Si and climate change. We have been looking at persuasive language and forms of persuasion in English, and we each wrote a letter to Boris Johnson to persuade him to help us spread the word and save our world. In Maths, we have been looking at subtraction problems, finding key words in word problems and using different resources to help us find solutions. To finish our unit on COP 26 in RE, we each wrote a climate pledge and shared with each other what we are going to change in our lives going forward to make a difference to our Earth.

This week in Year 2, we have thought about Pope Francis's message in Laudato Si' and have shared how we can encourage others to join our campaign to reduce the pollution and waste of the precious gift of water. Our Twitter Campaign is coming together, so watch this space! In English, we have learnt about subordinating conjunctions and have created story maps to retell the story of 'Toby and the Great Fire of London'. In maths we are learning about measurements; we learnt about capacity and carried out practical activities to estimate and measure how much water different containers could hold. We have practised reading scales with different intervals. Children have shown resilience and made the adults very proud.

In Year 3, we have continued our work on Laudato Si' and COP26. We wrote persuasive letters to Ms Kane about what we can do as a school to help reduce our carbon footprint. We then planned and created powerpoints explaining what is going on in the world and how as Catholics, it is our duty to protect the planet. We have developed our understanding of what it means to be Stewards of Creation and how we can serve the Lord by serving His creation. In English, we have developed our understanding of persuasive language to help convince the reader. Maths has been fraction-filled this week! We have been learning how to find equivalent fractions by multiplying our numerator and denominator. We also had a cheeky booster session where we learnt how to divide using our times tables to support. It has been a wonderful week.

This week in Year 4 we have been learning about how to calculate the area of shapes in Maths and ended the week by starting our work on Bar Charts. In English, we wrote incredible Play Scripts entitled 'Escape from Pompeii'. We used dramatic stage directions and added in punctuation for effect too. We carried over our fantastic Script writing skills into RE as we worked in partners to create an advert/ interview that we can later film. The aim of these is to encourage people to live simply and not use more than their fair share of resources. We also included our duty as Catholics to be Stewards of Creation and look after the world God has lent to us. In Topic, we learnt about the daily lives of the Romans and were shocked (and disgusted!) by some of the things they did!

Year 5 has worked really hard this week and produced work to be proud of in all subjects. In English, we wrote our descriptive pieces on the sights and sounds we can see from the London Eye. Our similes were original and imaginative and created a vivid image in the minds of the reader. In Maths, we learnt to convert decimals to fractions and vice versa. We mastered the worksheets and even did our extension tasks. In RE, we looked at the impact of climate change and how it affects the poorer communities around the world. We then made thought-provoking posters to spread awareness on the issue.

This week in Year 6, we have had a very busy week! As part of our RE unit on Laudato Si and COP 26, we wrote our own version of the Paris Agreement for our school. This is now being taken to SLT and the Governors to review and hopefully will be put into action by 2026. We also wrote, directed and starred in our own videos to encourage the public to live in a more eco-friendly way. These really were amazing and even got a play on BBC Three Counties Radio! In English, we wrote the most amazing pieces of narrative writing based on the book Rose Blanche. Look out on twitter for some examples of our work. We have also been looking at fractions again this week including dividing fractions, BODMAS with fractions and finding fractions of amounts. Finally, we were so excited to return to swimming this week!