



Friday 14th January 2022

**Achievements**

Martin de Porres:  
Class star: Nicola

Francis of Assisi:  
Class star: Finley

Year 1 Vieira:  
Class star: All of Vieira class!  
Head Teacher's award: Nela

Year 1 JHN:  
Class star: Alice

Year 2 Jacinta:  
Class Star: Alana and Finley

Year 3 John Paul II:  
Class Star: Clara

Year 4 Faustyna:  
Class Star: Hassan

Year 5 Teresa  
Class star: Drew  
Head teacher's award: Sammy and Ella

Year 6 Drexel  
Class stars: Kourtney

**This week:**

Happy New Year! It was great to welcome our pupils back to school for our first full week. The children have settled back incredibly quickly and been hard at work.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our collection for Little Village. Mrs Robinson delivered a host of donations this week! The staff at the charity were overwhelmed by your generosity. Little Village's goal of ensuring that every child has the essentials they need to survive is one truly deserving of our support. Please do signpost the charity to any parents you know who may benefit from their assistance.

Although the Christmas Craft Fayre couldn't proceed as we'd have ideally liked, the staff and pupils still did a brilliant job in the circumstances! In total, we raised an amazing £1,595.85! Half of this will go to our chosen charity (Watford New Hope Trust) and half to enrichment activities.

Throughout Covid, the children missed out on lots of the 'extras' which are usually an integral part of school life in St Cath's. One of our priorities this year is to make up for this by providing as many enrichment opportunities as possible. So far classes have enjoyed West African drumming and dance and Diwali dance workshops. With the additional money, we will be able to fund more activities this term.

Sadly, bird-flu means that our chickens are still being kept indoors and the farm cannot currently be used by classes. However, the animals still require lots of care. I just like to say a massive 'Thank you' to all those Farm Squad families who looked after the animals over the Christmas holidays and continue to do so at weekends. If you are interested in helping out, please either email the school office or speak to Mrs Robinson. It is an invaluable service to the school and the kids absolutely love getting some 1:1 time with the rabbits and guinea pigs! We really do need extra helpers, so please consider whether you could sign up. The group are very welcoming, friendly and supportive and will mentor/guide any new recruits.

I'm delighted to say that next week we will be launching a new curriculum approach. Further details about this will be sent in a separate letter. We are starting with a History focus, so expect to hear lots of information as your child is immersed in their designated historical period!

We were delighted to see our Reception children meet their Year 6 buddies today! They had a wonderful time playing outside and said they couldn't wait for the next chance to see them! Photos pending on Twitter!

Wishing you a wonderful 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 EYFS, we have been exploring all things Elmer! We have been creating repeating patterns using stampers, lollipop sticks, bears and paint. We have settled back into school really well and have loved exploring our environment further. We have role played the story of Elmer and created our very own Bisa Butler inspired patchwork Elmer as a class! On Monday, we had our first multi skills PE lesson with Watford Football Club. We worked on using space with different movements and even started our very own mini matches! We have been learning some new, challenging sounds in phonics this week – ask us if we can remember them and their rhymes!

In Year 1 this week, we have been learning about dinosaurs. In English, we wrote questions about what we wanted to know about them, wrote statements about how we would feel if dinosaurs lived in our world and explored new vocabulary. In maths, we have been learning about halving by sharing equally. We used Cuisenaire rods, objects and ladybird spots to help us. In RE, we have been learning about making good and poor choices and what it means to be sorry. We have been working really hard at our phonics and learning gymnastics and Target games.

What an amazing week back for Year 2. They have taken the new changes in their stride and have worked incredibly hard in every lesson! We had our first lessons of Gymnastics and Target Games in PE – lots of new skills to learn. We looked at the work of Clarice Cliff and created our own plate art. During English, we have explored the text 'Lost and Found' – describing characters, showing thoughts and feelings with speech bubbles and sequencing events in the story. Maths has been fraction crazy, we have been finding fractions of amounts including halves, thirds and quarters. We are bringing home new spellings to learn this week and have been exploring the new spelling rule ready for Monday. We can't wait to see what we can produce with these positive attitudes.

In Year 3 we have been looking at extending our vocabulary and we have explored the uses of similes and synonyms to help create imagery. We have written some beautiful poems, which we have also published in our PPB's. In Maths, we continued to develop our understanding of place value. We completed a range of problem solving tasks to help our knowledge go deeper. We started a new unit in RE this week, we focus on making positive choices. We have listened to a range of Bible stories and we have discussed how these stories can influence our every day lives. In our Topic lessons, we learnt about volcanoes and where they are located around the world. It's been a busy week!

This week in Year 4, we finished our work on Roman Numerals in Maths, before moving onto Negative Numbers. In English, we wrote fantastic diary entries that included engaging vocabulary and similes. In our RE lessons, we discussed how bridges represent friendship and how it's okay to grow apart from friends over the years. We also learnt about the Parable of the Good Shepherd. In Science, we learnt about the functions of the Digestive System and practised counting up to 20 in French. We were lucky enough to have two coaches from Watford Football Club come in on Wednesday and we loved learning about how our heart rate changes when we exercise!

Year 5 had a very productive week this week. In English, we started our new book "The Secret Garden" and learnt some exciting new vocabulary. We also used some amazing vocabulary to write a character profile and also provided evidence to support our views on the character. In Maths, we absolutely smashed Roman numbers and are totally thorough with the rules. We now can write and read Roman numbers up to a 1000. This week, we have just had an introduction to ancient Greece and looked at the timeline and learnt about BC and AD. We also looked at some interesting facts about ancient Greece and discovered that ancient Greece was the birthplace of democracy and the Olympic games. For PE on Wednesday, we had an exciting lesson where we had a bit of theory and a bit of practical. We learnt to check our pulse rate and how it changes with different physical activities. Thursday was our first swimming day. Even though we didn't get long it was a great to get assessed by the instructors and put into groups for next week's swimming lesson.

This week in Year 6, we have been writing newspaper articles to announce the beginning of WWII. This has been a nice opportunity to link our historical knowledge with our grammatical features and writing skills! In Maths, we have been looking at ratio and proportion. Although we have never done this before, we actually really enjoyed it and found it easier than we thought. In the afternoons, we began our new topic based on healing in RE where we looked at Keech Hospice and how their values link to our Catholic beliefs as well as the story of Jesus healing a blind man. We had our first PE session this term where we began our tennis topic. We looked at the ready position and how to use the racket to hit the ball back to our partner.