



Friday 21st January 2022

Achievements

Martin de Porres:
Class star: Theo

Francis of Assisi:
Class star: Evan

Year 1 Vieira:
Class star: Miles
Head Teacher's
award: Natalia
and Vincenzo

Year 1 JHN:
Class star: Daisy
and Rocco

Year 2 Jacinta:
Class Star: Aaron

Year 3 John Paul
II:
Class Star: Tiegan

Year 4 Faustyna:
Class Star: Jack
and Zara
HT awards: Tiana
and Yassin

Year 5 Teresa
Class star: Leon
Head teacher's
award: Tallulah,
Aidan, Julia,
Daniel

Year 6 Drexel
Class stars: Alana
and Hannah

This week:

This week has seen the start of our new approach to teaching foundation subjects – a blocked curriculum. All week, classes have been absorbed in their History units! Speaking to the children, I was delighted to hear how enthusiastic and positive they were about the experience. By blocking the non-Core subjects, I hope that our children will have the opportunity to engage in deep learning. We have one more week of History immersion, before we engage in a week of Computing.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Synod listening phase. It was wonderful to hear your views, as well as those of our pupils. The overwhelming idea which came out was that the children want everyone to feel included, welcomed and loved in our Church. Their responses were a reflection of their genuine desire to reach out to those who they worry might feel marginalised, such as those of other faiths, the disabled, those in 'non-traditional' families, or from the LGBTQ+ community. I was touched by their love and openness.

One theme, which came out from the children and some of the parents who contributed, was a concern that families with young children might not be welcome at Mass. Some spoke about feeling nervous that their children would be too noisy and frowned upon. Kids said that they thought the church was for 'old people'.

As well as feeding back to Pope Francis himself (albeit through the Diocese!), I also spoke to Deacon Paul at Our Lady and St Michael's Church. I can assure you that Fathers Paul, Terkura and Fidelis are warm, friendly and incredibly keen to welcome families back to Mass. Please don't worry about how long it has been since you last went there, or that your child/ren may be 'out of practice'. The parish is at the heart of our school community – all are welcome there.

Despite being Bubbled, on Thursday we still managed to have our EYFS parents in for a socially distanced PE lesson on the playground. Adults and kids alike had a brilliant time!

Next week, many of our Year 6 pupils take part in Bikability – a key life-skill. Sessions have changed from the old days of Cycling Proficiency. Now, after a brief safety check on the playground, the children head off onto the roads! While the prospect is daunting, it is brilliant experience and helps prepare them for the days when they may be cycling to secondary school. Anything we can do to help safeguard our children is so important!

Wishing you all a safe, relaxing weekend,
Ms Kane

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



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This week:

We ended our week with Parent's PE which was a huge hit with the children! Thank you so much to all that were able to come, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We have loved learning some new parachute games this week and showing off our PE skills to you! In RE, we have been talking about Jesus' rule to love one another. We have applied this to our friendships and shared how we can mend friendships when problems occur. Continuing with our Elmer theme, we wrote captions for pictures from the book, we put Elmer in new scenes and described them, and we counted elephant stomps from 0-20! We also looked at finding one more and one less than a number.

In Year 1 this week we have had a great week learning new shapes in PE and practicing our over arm throw in our Target Games lesson. In Maths we have been exploring measuring. Year 1 enjoyed being human scales to measure the weight of objects and see which items were the heaviest and the lightest. In History, we have been learning about toys from the past and the present, we all had a great discussion on what our favourite toy was and what toy from the past we would most like to play with and why. We enjoyed looking at toys from the past and thinking of questions we could ask our grandparents about the toys they used to play with.

We are authors! This week Year 2 have been retelling the story of 'Lost and Found' and have written their own versions. We have looked at expanded noun phrases to describe and how we can extend sentences to make them more interesting. Year 2 can't wait to bring them home to share with you. During Maths, we have looked at statistics and interpreting data on different graphs. We loved going outside to make a tally chart of cars to then construct a block graph with the data. This week and next is History, History, History as we dive into heroes of the past who have made a big impact on today! Ask us about Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela!

A superb week in Year 3! We started our two week unit on the Stone Age and we have been blown away! The homelearning we have produced is simply sensational. We have been learning new terminology such as 'Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic'. We have even been learning about the process of creating bronze through the technique of smelting! In English, we have been creating wonderful character descriptions about our main character Lila. We have used a variety of prepositions and similes to bring her to life. Maths has been a blast! We have been looking at scaled bar charts and pictograms. We played a game of two truths and one lie about our charts to secure our understanding. In French this week, we learnt how to say hello and 'my name is'. It was tres bien! We have also spent a lot of time this week looking at families and how they are all unique and special.

This week in Year 4 we have been developing our understanding of decimal numbers in Maths. In English, we have begun work on our new book, 'The Rhythm of the Rain', and have been using our senses to describe a setting. We also researched the technical vocabulary that we came across in the book. The Sacrament of Reconciliation has been a focus of our RE work this week along with how we examine our conscience. In our History lessons, we started off by learning about the story of St Alban before moving on to our new unit on the Ancient Egyptians. We are currently creating fantastic pieces of work on what the Egyptians have given to the world. We started to learn our days of the week in French and enjoyed our session with the coaches from Watford FC.

Year 5 have had a week full of excitement and new learning. In Maths, we looked at multiplying fractions with whole numbers and learned about improper fractions and mixed numbers. Later in the week, we also learnt how to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa. In English, we read a few chapters of "The Secret Garden" and watch the film as well. We looked at some incredible vocabulary and planned and wrote our own cinquains on "The Secret Garden". The afternoons this week were dedicated to History. We used Chromebooks to research the daily lives of the ancient Greeks and created a double spread leaflet on it. They were colourful, informative and full of interesting fun facts. We absolutely love our double PE lesson on Wednesdays and Thursdays. In our Wednesday session, we learnt to work as a team and play mini-matches and Thursday was all about swimming! What a fun week it has been.

This week in Year 6, we have started week 1 of our block of history based on WWII and boy have we covered a lot! We have looked at propaganda posters, researched Hitler and created a double page spread to present our findings, wrote letters in role as evacuees, learnt about rationing and today we have looked at the different types of bomb shelter. In English, we began our new book- Journey to Jo'burg- and have been focussing on using point, evidence, explanation to analyse the main character, infer information from the blurb, using "show not tell" to describe character emotions and write a setting description using prepositional phrases. In Maths, we have been looking at fractions, decimals and percentages again: ordering and comparing, the four operations, calculating percentages of amounts and applying all of this learning to word problems. In RE, we looked at different representations of the Good Samaritan in artwork and created our own version. We also looked at the sacrament of the anointing of the sick and summarised what happens and why.