



Friday 4th March 2022

Achievements

Martin de Porres:
Class star: Leon

Francis of Assisi:
Class star: Kush

Year 1 Vieira:
Class star: Ailish and Evie

Year 1 JHN:
Class star: Chloe and Antosh

Year 2 Jacinta:
Class Star: James

Year 3 John Paul II:
Class Star: Alex

Year 4 Faustyna:
Class Star: Theo

Year 5 Teresa
Class star: George and Shehzadi

Year 6 Drexel
Class star: Aryaman

This week:

It has been lovely to end a great week at St Cath's, on such a high! World Book Day ('WBD') is always one of the highlights of the year. Having missed out on the full experience for two years, this year was more exciting than ever!

After being greeted by the Wicked Witch of the East on the roundabout, the children entered a school filled with every character imaginable! Even Fitz got in on the action! I'm always astonished by the creativity of some costumes, and this was no exception. The whole school came together for Achievement Assembly, followed by our World Book Day parade – a chance for the kids to show off their costumes and strut their stuff to the music!

Congratulations to the winners of Miss Holt's 'Wild Reading' competition. As well as the day being brilliant fun, I hope that it has inspired the children to pick up a book. Thank you to Miss Holt and the whole team for making WBD 2022 such a success! Please do look at the brilliant photos on Twitter.

Wednesday marked the start of the liturgical season of Lent. Around the school, cloths and borders were changed from green to purple, to reflect this. It was wonderful that Father Paul was finally able to celebrate Mass in school. Covid, and our continual outbreaks, have limited his ability to do this. It was lovely to be able to open our door to families and for KS2 to share in the Eucharistic celebration and distribution of ashes. As space was limited, KS1 and EYFS held their own Lenten liturgies in class. However, they did join Father Paul in the Hall to receive ashes. This was a real first for them! I cannot tell you how proud I was of the whole school's behaviour, reverence and respectful attitude, especially that of our littlest children – EYFS and KS1 absolutely stepped up to the occasion.

Congratulations to Year 6 Drexel on their Feast Day. I know they had a brilliant time! We also celebrated St David's Day and Bulgaria's Independence Day this week. Congratulations to the members of our school community who are from Wales or Bulgaria (including Mrs Aimes!).

Behind the scenes it has been an incredibly busy week! On Tuesday, our Trust CEO Pat Murden visited St Cath's. Having just come from St Michael's, where he met with Mr Conway, he was particularly keen to meet our Year 6 pupils and find out about the school allocations and transition. He was impressed by the hard work he saw going on in every class, as well as the brilliant behaviour of the children, which he observed at lunchtime. Mr Murden's visit was mainly focused on our curriculum development. We will be continuing to collaborate with other Trust schools to ensure that our pupils receive a rich, broad and ambitious curriculum.

Tuesday evening saw a meeting of our Governing Body, with a focus on the link visits carried out by the Governing Body members. Today I missed out on some of the WBD fun, as our Safeguarding Lead Governors carried out a Safeguarding visit and audit. While I'd rather have been at the parade(!), I am very appreciative of the Governors taking the time to carry out this vital role of oversight. Their checking and challenge ensure that our policies and procedures are robust and effective in safeguarding our pupils. I am so grateful to each of them for their input and the work they do in the background.

Lots of staff have engaged in important Continual Professional Development this week, including an EYFS Conference, Science STEM training, Paediatric First Aid and full First Aid at Work training. Much of this was outside normal working hours. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time for the benefit of the pupils.

Finally, the people of Ukraine continue to be in our thoughts and daily prayers. Please do give generously to the collection at Our Lady and St Michael's Church.

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:

We have had another action packed week in Reception! The children have been putting their phonics into action by writing labels for our fruit and vegetable shop, labelling all the delicious food the Very Hungry Caterpillar ate and thinking of words that rhyme. In maths we have been counting objects in a group and have been so clever at finding the group that is more and less as well as groups that are equal! We were very excited to receive our ashes from Father Paul and the children were beautifully behaved, we were very proud of them. Our learning in RE has helped us to think about how we celebrate together as a family, in church and as a community. We came together to do P.E and had great fun trying a new HIIT warm up and showing off our dribbling skills that we have learned with Mr Barry and Mr Watt.

Every day this week has seen children in Year 1 make strides in their learning with enthusiasm and determination. In maths, we have been looking at problem-solving using addition. Children have enjoyed testing different combinations of dominoes or robot parts to make numbers 'that work' and showing the reasoning skills. In English, we have been reading 'Beegu' and using that as our inspiration to use question marks and exclamation marks in our writing. RE gave us the opportunity to not only learn about the special role the priest plays in the parish family but to display our acting talents when we re-enacted one of Jesus's visits to the temple. Being the start of Lent, the children met Father Paul as part of the Ash Wednesday celebration, showing off their beautiful and sensible attitude to everything we do. Friday was World Book Day in St Catherine's so watch this space!

This week in Year 2, we have been writing pirate stories including expanded noun phrases, exciting vocabulary, using punctuation consistently and joining words to extend sentences... they are amazing! During maths we have been further working on addition and subtraction by doubling and halving 2-digit numbers. We loved a visit from Fr Paul for an Ash Wednesday liturgy and to receive our ashes... Ms Kane said we were incredible! During RE, we have been looking closely at the Bible and have enjoyed stories from the Gospels. We spoke about what we might give up for Lent and how we were going to try and improve all of our behaviour. To finish our block of geography we looked at human and physical features of our local area... ask us what they mean!

An eventful week for Year 3. We had our wonderful whole school Mass for Ash Wednesday. The children were impeccably behaved and enjoyed coming together with Father Paul to celebrate this special time. We discussed as a class our Holy Communion and what this meant in terms of our relationship with God. As part of our RE, we wrote promises for Lent. We spoke about how Jesus sacrificed himself for us and how we are making small sacrifices to live a life like Jesus. In Maths, we have continued our work on adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators. We are pros! We spent our Thursday Maths sessions solving problems to help us apply our knowledge and think deeper. This week, Mr Jenkins started a new book with us in our English lessons. We have been looking at the King who banned the dark! It is an exciting book and we cannot wait to write some persuasive pieces over the next few weeks.

This week in Year 4 we have been calculating and ordering fractions of measures in Maths. Our favourite lesson was when we did our working out on the table! In English, we have been learning about the key features of riddles in preparation for writing our own. We have done some fantastic work on similes and metaphors and can't wait to put these into our final pieces! In RE, we learnt about the Apostles and created our own 'Code of Conduct' that we thought the Apostles should follow. We also had the Chromebooks out to research our local Church and Parish! In PSHE, we took some time to relax and try a mindfulness activity. It helped us to remember that sometimes we just need to pause and allow ourselves to calm down. We have also been continuing our learning surrounding rivers in Geography. We have learnt about erosion, deposition and how Oxbow lakes are formed! We had the Atlases out to find rivers and their tributaries and also looked at how people from around the world rely on rivers in different ways.

Year 5 had another great week of exciting new learning. In Maths, we worked on percentages and did problem-solving involving percentages. We also revised the addition and subtraction of fractions this week, which we found quite tricky, but got better throughout the week with practice. In RE, we learnt about what a mission means and the qualities you need to be a part of Jesus' mission. We then created wanted posters to attract suitable people to share Jesus' mission. In English, we looked at some other Greek myths and wrote a description of Medusa the serpent haired gorgon using show not tell techniques. We loved our whole school Mass after a long time and were delighted to have Father Paul with us in School. We closed our Geography unit on "Rainforests" learning about deforestation and its effects. We also created some information booklets to create awareness of and talk about the importance of the rainforests.

This week in Year 6, we have completed our Geography unit on North America. We started the week by looking at hurricanes, how they start and looked at Hurricane Katrina as a case study. We then looked at the different biomes in North America, researched and compared two cities, discussed global environmental problems and identified different coastal features. In RE, we looked at the Dead Sea Scrolls and their significance to Judaism and Christianity. We also looked at the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 in all four Gospels. We then discussed the similarities and differences in the stories and why that might be. In Maths, we have finished some work on time and timetables and then begun revision of place value and the four operations including problem solving and reasoning tasks. We were very excited to have our Feast Day on Thursday. We wrote prayers for St Drexel, created our own totem poles as she petitioned for the rights of Native Americans and we had some free time playing games and enjoying some snacks.