



Friday 11th February 2022

Achievements

Martin de Porres:
Class star: Joshua

Francis of Assisi:
Class star: Luca and Elaine

Year 1 Vieira:
Class star: Arnesa and Cian
Head Teacher's award: Mateusz, George and Daniel

Year 1 JHN:
Class star: Malachi and Rosetta

Year 2 Jacinta:
Class Star: Tess

Year 3 John Paul II:
Class Star: Akshara and Summer

Year 4 Faustyna:
Class Star: Tiana and Kade

Year 5 Teresa
Class star: Oskar

Year 6 Drexel
Class stars: Aidan M

This week:

This has been an incredibly busy last week!

It was fantastic to celebrate Grenada's Independence Day on Monday. Congratulations to our families of Grenadian heritage.

On Tuesday, we had a visit from our Herts School Improvement Adviser, Linda Hardman. Linda will be supporting us with some changes to our curriculum. Following her visit, she emailed me to say, 'There is always such a lovely atmosphere in the school, which is so warm and welcoming.'

We were also delighted to give our DOWAT link Director, Marlon Motha, a tour of the school. Mr Motha's role is to gain an insight into St Cath's unique context, and provide a direct link between us and the Board of Directors. Again, I was touched by his comments in a follow-up email, 'You clearly have an amazing, fully committed staff team and despite all the challenges and struggles that St Cath's have been through recently, every staff member that I saw looked happy and excited to be at work, and that was clearly having a positive impact on the children as they were all equally excited and engaged in their learnings.' I absolutely agree!

At the halfway mark in the school year, I would like to take the opportunity to again thank our amazing St Cath's Team for everything they have done this year to make the school a safe, happy and purposeful learning environment for the children.

As if there wasn't enough going on Tuesday, Rabbi Zvi was also leading workshops in each class. The feedback from this was incredible! Rabbi Zvi had a brilliant way with the children and really brought the Judaism units to life. As one EYFS child said, 'I want to keep him!'

On Wednesday, Mrs Taylor and I attended another one of the Great Representations programme days. The focus of this was on diversifying the curriculum and dealing with prejudice related incidents. It was especially valuable to receive input from Bennie Kara, author of 'Diversity in Schools'.

All the Heads within our Trust met virtually yesterday, along with the Chair of our Board, CEO and CFO. It was a great opportunity to share successes and collaborate with the other ten schools in DOWAT.

In lessons, the focus has been a mix of Poetry and Performance, Computing in KS1 and Science in KS2. Do ask your children what they have been learning.

After half-term, every class will be taking part in an exciting, blocked Geography unit, followed by Design & Technology. I also hope that we will be able to reduce the majority of our Covid restrictions, including welcoming families back into the building for worships, celebrations and other key events.

Finally, thank you all for your ongoing support! I am blessed to be the Head of a school with such a wonderfully supportive home community. I'm sorry that a series of end-of day meetings/commitments have made it difficult to be visible at collection time in the past week or so. I look forward to things being a bit more normal after half-term and seeing you all on the playground!

Wishing you all a safe, happy and relaxing half-term break.

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:

For Poetry and Performance week in Reception, we have been learning a new nursery rhyme every day! We have been working on singing and performing each one with actions and look forward to showing you our filmed performance on the website very soon! Our favourite day may have been 'Incy Wincy Spider' day, where we talked about what we knew about spiders, asked questions to find out more and researched the answers together! We got creative with spider webs, bug hotels and creating bugs for spiders to eat! In RE, we started our new topic 'Celebrating'. We shared photos from home of celebrations and discussed what we do to prepare for these celebrations. We even got to have our own mini celebration in class!

What an busy but fun week we have had in Year 1: We learnt about Grenada's Independence Day; met and heard Jewish stories from the Rabbi; learnt about ingredients to make the internet a safer place and the people who help us stay safe on the internet. In RE we wrote songs accompanied by instruments about Moses, we retold the story of how God led the Jewish people to freedom through Moses and thought about what it means to be a good leader. In maths we learnt to subtract 1-digit from 2-digit numbers up to 20, using practical activities to help us understand it better. In English we wrote our own stories based on the familiar story, Jack and the beanstalk. Children were imaginative and creative, changing the characters and the settings and using amazing describing words! We explored Sketchpad and used it to draw scenes from familiar stories. In Gymnastics, we practised our rolls and shapes while trying not to drop the beanbags or batons in different challenges. We hope you have a wonderful break, Year 1. You have worked so hard this half-term. We are super proud of our Year 1 classes - you are amazing!!!

What an amazing final week of the half term in Year 2! We have worked non-stop since Christmas and wow does it show! The Year 2 team are so proud of each and every one of the children's efforts! In Maths, we have worked through really tricky word problems to solve using addition and subtraction. Some of them were really hard but we persevered. In English, we read about Katherine Johnson... the amazing mathematician that worked for NASA! We wrote a fact file about her using contractions we have been learning (she's, he's, it's...). The visit from the Rabbi was a huge highlight and from that we even had a go at baking Jewish challah bread (some of us even had a go at plaiting it). Have a great half term week Year 2 and we cannot wait to see you back fresh-faced and ready to go.

This week we have been learning about Judaism! We have learnt lots of new exciting vocabulary and watched some video clips to see what the inside of various synagogues look like! We then even had the opportunity to meet a real life Rabbi! This was so exciting. We learnt all about the origins of our names and how they are linked back to Hebrew. We had the opportunity to wear kippah's and tallits. In Maths, we secured our understanding of the four operations and applied our knowledge to solving multi-step word problems. We have finished our stories in English this week and wrote them up in our PPB's. In Science, we have been learning about friction and magnetic forces. We had a great time testing objects to see if they were magnetic or not! Well done for a wonderful week Year 3.

This week in Year 4 we have been busy solving worded problems and problem-solving activities including decimal numbers and money in Maths. At the end of the week, we then started to look at the components of fractions. In English, we have written incredible poems based on the journey of Isaac's water in 'The Rhythm of the Rain'. We published these and had the opportunity to perform them to the class too! In Science, we have been learning about the dangers of electricity and how to form simple circuits. We have now finished our lessons with the coaches from Watford FC and have also now completed our RE unit on Judaism. During the unit, we have learnt about The Torah and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We were lucky enough to have a visit from a Rabbi earlier in the week. He taught us all about The Torah and showed us what Hebrew writing looked like! He even sung us a section of The Torah too.

Year 5 have had a busy week of activities learning all about the Solar system. We started our science week with an active science lesson, learning facts about the different planets of the Solar system. In the next lesson, we looked at the difference sizes of the planets and their distance from the sun and created our own 3D clay model of our Solar system. In RE this week, we learnt about the Jewish festival of Passover and learnt all about the Seder plate. We had an exciting visit from a Rabbi who shared interesting stories about the festival, and we even got to taste the Matzah and grape juice. In Maths, we practised division and we are surely getting more and more confident with bus stop division. We also learnt how to write remainders in fractions and decimals. This has been a busy half term exploring and learning new and interesting things! Have a great restful break everyone!

This week in Year 6, the children have completed our Science unit based on light. We made our own periscopes when explaining reflection, learnt about refraction, colours of light and finally completed a shadows investigation. In English, we planned and wrote a piece of persuasive writing for the president of South Africa, asking him to stop apartheid. In Maths, we have been doing some revision on fractions, decimals and percentages before trying some challenging fractions reasoning problems. In RE, we finished our unit on Judaism, learning about Mitzvah Day and Yom Kippur. We then had a visit from the Rabbi who talked to us all about Yom Kippur.