



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



NEWSLETTER - Friday 18th March 2022



Martin de Porres:
Class star: Caitlin

Year 1 Vieira:
Class star: Haris & Joanne

Achievements

Year 3 John Paul II:
Class Star: Anjali

Year 6 Drexel
Class star: Lucie T

Francis of Assisi:
Class star: Brody

Year 1 JHN:
Class star: Finn & Austin

Year 2 Jacinta:
Class Star: Grace

Year 4 Faustyna:
Class Star: Harvey &
Josh M

Year 5 Teresa
Class star:
Annabel



The children have had an activity-packed timetable, taking part in British Science Week. It is difficult to narrow down the highlights as there have been so many! Over the course of the week the children have: built their own plant using recycled paper and engineering techniques; smashed stereotypes by dressing as scientists from every race, heritage, religion, age, gender and background; carried out a range of exciting and fun experiments; been inspired by a real life scientist, Mrs Mootien; taken part in Professor Bubbleworks workshops and presented and shared our investigations/experiments and learning with others. It has been amazing! Thank you to Mrs Siebu for organising everything and to all the staff for making it such a success.

On Tuesday Year 6 Drexel led the school in collective worship. I'm sorry that I was not able to attend due to a meeting, but I was told that it was a wonderful worship. Mrs Wildey attended in her role as RE Link Governor and fed back that it was beautiful and that all the pupils, especially Year 6, did us proud. Thank you to them and to Team 6 Drexel. I also delighted that so many family members were able to join us in prayer.

Wednesday summed up why St Catherine's is such an incredibly special community. Our day of solidarity for Ukraine, became a 'Day of Solidarity' - a chance to show our support and love for all those who are oppressed around the world. The school was a mix of colours - blue and yellow for Ukraine, but also red, green, black and white - as families stood for a range of nations and peoples.

In one day we raised close to £1000 - a phenomenal amount. I know that we are not a school filled with financially rich families. Many either struggle, or have just enough to meet essential outgoings. However, the incredible generosity shown by you all is testament to how rich in spirit our community is. I am proud and humbled to be the Head of such a special family.

On Thursday we celebrated St Patrick's Day. I am of Irish heritage and, although offsite, wore green with pride. I'm delighted that Mrs Siebu pointed out that St Patrick is also Patron Saint of Nigeria. I enjoyed seeing our children of Irish and Nigerian heritage celebrating their special day.

My own CPD was enhanced by Herts' fantastic training, Striving for Equity: Annual Disadvantaged Conference. The focus of this was on how we as a school can combat the effect of inequity in society on our pupils. Every single child deserves the same opportunities and ability to achieve their full potential. I was shocked at the statistics and projections around poverty. With soaring fuel, energy and food costs, more families than ever face financial difficulties ahead. Please know that I am always available and here to support you if you are struggling. I can promise empathy, understanding and discretion. If you ever need help/support as a result of money worries, please email me directly on head@st-catherine.herts.sch.uk.

As well as being Aruba's National Day, today all our sister DOWAT primary schools came together to moderate KS1 and KS2 Teacher Assessment judgements. Comparing and sharing work, overseen by Herts' top assessment guru, is the best possible way to ensure that the judgements made are fair and secure. In addition, we used the afternoon for the whole EYFS team to visit our sister school (St Mary's in Royston) who have an outstanding EYFS setting. It was wonderful to pick up tips and ideas about how to make our EYFS even better!

I'm conscious that I have often spoken about us visiting/benefiting from the expertise of other DOWAT schools. However, we also have lots that we share! This week the Head of School at St Mary's visited us to hear all about our revised curriculum and meet with Miss Holt to learn about our excellent reading provision. They will be returning next week as Mrs Taylor and I share our curriculum mapping and development.

Finally, I hope that you all had a successful Parents' Consultations. I am conscious that you have missed out on the opportunity to come into school and also to look at books. I will be putting two dates in the diary for next half term - one for parents/guardians to have a tour of the school (priority given to EYFS-Y2 families/new families) and another open afternoon where you will have the opportunity to look at the children's books.

On Monday we will be supporting CAFOD's work globally by 'Walking Against Hunger'. Please give only if you are able. Next week will be an Art block unit. As enrichment, all classes will take part in Comic Art workshops!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend,
Ms Kane



Curriculum Block - This Week: Science Next Week: Art

EYFS

What a busy and exciting week Science week has been! We have dressed up as Scientists, heard all about a Scientist's job and explored some amazing experiments! The children have loved every minute of it and will hopefully tell you all about it! We loved sharing our cornflour experiment with other year groups and learnt some new words to describe the ingredients when mixed together - liquid and solid! In RE, we started our new Lenten topic. We began by exploring the concept of growing by looking at humans, animals and plants. We planted some seeds with a range of different conditions and made predictions about how well the seeds would grow.

Year 1

We have had such a fun and hands-on experience with science this week! We loved experimenting and creating bouncy eggs, volcanos, milk plastic, mirror patterns, separating mixtures and making rock candy. We had great fun sharing all our facts about our chosen scientists and celebrating the effort and creativity that the children had put into their costumes. On Wednesday we all enjoyed Professor BubbleWorks workshop, we had great fun looking at giant bubbles and how things grow. In our science lessons, we began looking at animals and thinking about whether they are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores based on what they eat. We also distinguished the difference between wild animals that are dangerous to humans and others that may not be but are still classed as wild animals. In RE we created leaves for our Lenten tree and made promises that we are going to keep during lent. We also discussed different things that we could do or give up to make us more loving, helpful and kinder people.

Year 2

This week year 2 have been so curious and interested in all things science. They have asked questions and made predictions. They have tasted fizzy oranges and made explosions! We loved the professor bubble works workshop and learnt so many new and interesting things! We had some incredibly inspiring scientists at the beginning of the week who shared their stories with the class. We have been so impressed with year 2's attitudes towards speakers and guests and they asked amazing questions. We can't wait for Art next week!

Year 3

What a superb Science week! We started the week by looking at all of the amazing experiments EYFS and Year 5 have been doing. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting a parent who works in the field of science and asked lots of interesting questions. One of our main highlights of the week was meeting Professor Paul from Professor Bubbleworks! He taught us about liquids and gases and how their states can change. We thoroughly enjoyed the active science experiments we engaged in. Some of us even got trapped inside a bubble! We have also been learning about skittle diffusion and how the colour bleeds. One of our favourite investigations was linked to raisins dancing in tonic water and lemonade! We can't wait for our next block science week! In our English sessions, we have begun to publish our writing. We are working extremely hard on letter formation and correctly joining our writing. A huge thank you to Mrs Siebu for organising such a brilliant week!

Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have been celebrating Science week! As part of science week, we have taken part in a variety of activities that have been lots of fun. From dressing up as scientists on Monday to having a workshop with Professor Bubblework's on Wednesday, it has been non-stop! We also took part in a 'Create a Plant' competition where we were only allowed scissors and paper to make our flowers. No glue or Sellotape! It was hard work but the results were incredible! In Maths, we finished off our work on equivalent fractions before moving on to multiplication. In RE, we began our unit on Lent by learning about what happens on Ash Wednesday and the significance of the day's events. We also created radio adverts explaining how we should live during Lent. In PSHE, we thought about our role and purpose in this world. We discovered that we all have different ambitions in life and have different qualities that will help us to achieve our dreams.

Year 5

Year 5 spent this week celebrating science, scientists and technology We began the week dressing up as a scientist and the children researched facts about the scientist they dressed up as to share with the class. We were so fascinated by Stephen Hawkings that we watched videos and found out facts about him to share with our classmates. We turned budding scientists this week presented different experiments in front of the school. We did a travelling rainbow experiment, colour changing flowers, magic balloon and even produced fireworks in a jug. On Wednesday, we discovered the fun side of science with Professor Bubble works as we enjoyed some spectacular demonstrations, including chemical reactions and amazing bubbles! In RE, we started a new topic "Lent" and thought about carefully about our Lenten Promise and how we can help others. In Maths, we smashed our targets calculating missing angles on a straight line and around a point. On Thursday we dressed in Green to celebrate St Patrick day. We learnt more about it and learnt about St Patrick in Guided reading. It was an absolutely fascinating and intriguing week learning and celebrating Science.

Year 6

This week in Year 6, we have looked over our test papers from last week. It gave us an opportunity to see how much progress we have made since December as well as spotting some silly mistakes we made! We are now working hard revising maths topics and completing comprehensions in preparation for our SATs tests in May. In RE, we began our new topic based on Lent. We looked at the significance of bread within Christianity and why we celebrate Lent. We were so excited to welcome our parents into the school to see our worship this week. We led a beautiful worship. For Science Week, we created a plant out of recycled paper to enter into a competition, tried to make our own electrical circuits, participated in a Professor Bubbleworks assembly and workshop and finally we carried out our own experiments: a bottle flip experiment and mentos in fizzy drinks!

Next Week: Key Events

Monday - Rock Steady Concert, PTA Mothers' Day Sale, Walk Against Hunger.

Tuesday - Comic Art Workshops (all classes), Year 4 Faustyna Collective Worship

Wednesday - Stations of the Cross

Friday - Greece Independence Day, Year 3 Mass Our Lady & St Michael's Church