



# Friday 25th February 2022

## Achievements

Martin de Porres:  
Class star: Georgi

Francis of Assisi:  
Class star: Flori

Year 1 Vieira:  
Class star: Amelia and Michael  
Head Teacher's award: Karina

Year 1 JHN:  
Class star: Mason and Mila

Year 2 Jacinta:  
Class Star: Ella

Year 3 John Paul II:  
Class Star: Freddie

Year 4 Faustyna:  
Class Star: All of Faustyna class!

Year 5 Teresa  
Class star: All of Teresa class!

Year 6 Drexel  
Class stars: Skylar

## This week:

It was lovely to see everyone return refreshed and revived after the half-term break. For the first time since the second week in September, the school has been 'Bubble free' and it has been an absolute joy!

On Monday, we held our first face-to-face morning staff briefing. It was great to actually see each other. During our Bubble periods, we could frequently go days at a time without any interaction with staff members in different parts of the building!

Congratulations to Year 2 Jacinta, who celebrated their Feast Day on Tuesday. The children played lots of fun games, had time with the parachute and completed work around their Patron Saint.

On Wednesday, Years 4 and 5 finally got to go on their postponed school trip, to St Alban's Cathedral! The children (and staff!) had a fantastic time and it was a great way to consolidate and enhance their learning about the Romans. I was delighted to receive an email from the staff at the Cathedral to say how wonderful our pupils were. Apparently, their behaviour was a credit to the school and they were also incredibly knowledgeable! Well done to Team Years 4 & 5!

The school was filled with the sound of signing on Thursday, as the children joined together for hymn practice. It was clear how much this had been missed, by the levels of excitement the announcement caused! Children in Year 2 were especially overjoyed to be able to sing and cannot wait for the next one! It has been a massive morale boost to finally get back to doing the things that we love and make St Cath's such a special school.

Next week see the start of Lent. I am so pleased to say that Father Paul is coming into school to celebrate Mass with KS2 and distribute ashes. It would be wonderful if parents/families could join us. The Mass will commence at 1.30pm and last for approximately an hour. Families will be able to park along the driveway (not on the roundabout). You will be able to collect your child/ren at the end of Mass if you would like.

Please note that Mass will only be for KS2, however, families from EYFS and KS1 are also invited. To give as an idea of numbers for communion and seating, please email the school office if you will be attending. I hope to see many of you on Wednesday.

Finally, our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Ukraine, and with those in our school community of Ukrainian heritage. Many of our KS2 pupils are very aware of what is happening and, understandably, have lots of questions. Some are also very anxious about what this might mean for them. We have tried to address these in a sensitive, age-appropriate way. However, I know that there are likely to be more questions over the weekend, as news reports continue to flood in.

I firmly believe that talking to children, providing them with an opportunity to share concerns and giving them information, reduces anxiety. If you would like support with this, the following may be helpful:

<https://metro.co.uk/2022/02/24/how-to-talk-to-children-about-whats-happening-in-ukraine-16163133/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60520226>

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:

It has been lovely to see everyone after half term and we have been really impressed with all the sounds you have remembered in phonics! We have been using the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle, to explore days of the week and one more and less in maths. We have also made our own story books and looked at the life cycle of a butterfly in our English work. Outside we have been looking for other minibeasts that might also be very hungry too! In R.E we have learned about Jesus being the light of the world and how we can be the light and shine for others when they need it. The wind didn't stop us from having a really focused P.E session where we learned to dodge and look carefully so we didn't bump into each other in our games. We have also been practising this at playtime!

What a great first week back after half term. In Maths we have been reading, writing and understanding calculations using addition, subtraction and equal to. We have been using cherry models and investigating using Cuisenaire rods. In English, we have been writing a recount of our half term, it was great to hear about all the exciting things the children had been up to. Their diary entries were amazing, take a look on twitter to see some of them! In PE, we enjoyed our first lesson of dance and net and wall. In RE, we have been looking at special people in our parish family and what their jobs are at the church. We have been thinking about how they help us and what they do that makes them special. Geography has been great fun! We have been talking about the different types of houses in our local area and we made models of our houses using junk modelling!

This week in Year 2, we have been time telling whizzes. We have used our clocks to tell the time to o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past; we linked the clock to fractions. We now know the direction of clockwise and anticlockwise. During English, we begun looking at 'Pirates' and wrote some incredible descriptions. We used expanded noun phrases and different sentence starters to make our writing more interesting! Our deep dive into Geography took us onto Google Earth and exploring our local area. We revisited prior learning on The UK and their capital cities- test us! In RE, we had the opportunity to read Bibles donated by the parishioners of the church. We discussed how the Bible is like a library and read some of the stories found in the 4 gospels.

It has been a very exciting week in Year 3! We had our first hymn practise back all together. It was absolutely sensational and wonderful to feel as one big school again. In Geography, we learnt about the three main types of volcanoes. We came up with silly actions and sayings to help us remember. In our Maths work this week, we have focused on converting and finding equivalent fractions. In English, we have been learning about rhyme and using rhyming couplets. In French, we have been learning how to say specific colours! Mr Jenkins really challenged us and ensured our pronunciation was tres bien! In our RE work, we focused on writing prayers for the people of Ukraine. We have created our own prayer book and will continue to have them in our thoughts during this time.

This week in Year 4 we consolidated our understanding of adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator in Maths. We also worked incredibly hard to find fractions of quantities and measures! In English, we have started our new book entitled 'Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki' by Kevin Crossley - Holland. As lots of us are fans of Marvel superheroes, this book is already proving to be popular in class! We started our new unit in RE on the Local Church and Community and learnt about the importance of healthy teeth in PSHE. The highlight of our week was our trip to St Alban's Cathedral on Wednesday. We loved everything about the trip from the coach journey to our activities. We made our own clay tiles and learnt about the story of St Alban through dressing up and role play! Everyone was incredibly well-behaved and polite. We are so proud of you, Faustyna!

For Year 5, the highlight of the week was our trip to St Alban's Cathedral. On Wednesday, Year 4 and 5 had an educational trip to St Alban's Cathedral. We were all so excited to go on a coach to St Albans. After we got there, we did a Cathedral trail and looked at the different parts of the Cathedral as a place of worship. In the afternoon, we had a clay tile making workshop where we designed and made our own clay tile inspired by the Cathedral artwork. It was such an enjoyable and memorable day! In Maths this week, we have just started on percentages which we will continue to next week. In English, we started our new book "The Heroes of the Night Sky" where we looked at the Greek Myths associated with the different constellations. In RE, we learnt all about Isaiah's good news and wrote a modern version of Isaiah's speech. We have had such a great start to the half term.

This week in Year 6, the children have begun our Geography unit based on North America. They have created maps to show the physical and human geography of the continent, completed some research on natural disasters to create a poster showing their cause and effects, learnt all about a volcano case study (Mt St Helens) and an earthquake case study (the San Andreas Fault). In English, the children have planned and begun writing a piece of narrative writing. From what they have written so far, I am beyond impressed and I cannot wait to see their completed pieces and share them with you! In Maths, we have revised calculating the area of triangles, parallelograms and compound shapes and have learnt how to calculate the volume of cuboids. In RE, we began our new topic called "Sources" where we have looked at the different books that make up the Bible, learnt how to locate scripture in the Bible and discussed what text type each piece of scripture was.