



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



NEWSLETTER - Friday 29th April 2022



Martin de Porres:
Class star: Aaratya

Francis of Assisi:
Class star: Miles

Year 1 Vieira:
Class star: Alyssia &
Michaela

Year 1 JHN:
Class star: Amerie and
Vicenzo

Achievements

Year 2 Jacinta:
Class Star: Webley

Year 3 John Paul II:
Class Star: Myan

Year 4 Faustyna:
Class Star: Danielle and
Christian

Year 6 Drexel
Class star: Sam R
& Kourtney

Year 5 Teresa
Class star: Abigail



Highlights of the Week:

It's been a busy but great week at St Cath's!

This week the SLT have been very busy meeting prospective staff for next year, as well as carrying out interviews. I am delighted with the calibre of the candidates. Interviews continue next week, so I hope to be able to let you know about appointments in the near future.

Yesterday, we were lucky enough to have two members of our school community who are of the Islamic faith lead us in an assembly. Mrs Janmohamed, one of our Governors, and Hassan from 4 Faustyna, taught us all about Ramadan. Afterwards, a group of our pupils told me how much they had loved learning about this special time. They explained to me that Muslims don't just fast from food and drink, they also give up bad habits and try to do things to bring them closer to God, like praying and giving to charity. One of the children pointed out that it reminded them of Lent, when Christians also give things up, pray and give money to charity.

Finally, Hassan impressed everyone by reading/reciting the Qur'an. It sounded really beautiful. Hassan's classmates in 4 Faustyna were particularly proud of their friend! I'm so disappointed I missed it, as I was interviewing. However, Hassan has promised that he will also show me when he comes to receive his very well-deserved HT's Award.

Today was a very important day for two reasons; it was our Feast Day and Mrs McHugh's last day at St Catherine's. Usually, our Feast Day Mass is held in the parish and the whole community is invited. However, it felt only right that Mrs McHugh's last Mass would be held in school. Thank you to Father Paul for celebrating Mass and blessing Mrs McHugh, and to Mr Marseglia for leading us in our bespoke St Catherine of Siena hymns! The children were amazing and it was a beautiful send off for Mrs McHugh, with three Governors (Mr Pargeter, Mrs Davidovitz and Mrs Wildey), the former Head (Ms Curran) and her daughter (Niamh) there to support her and celebrate her contributions to St Cath's.

This week I haven't been out on the playground at the end of the day as myself, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Togher, Miss Holt and Mrs Chater have temporarily joined 'Team SATs' (Miss Bowler, Mrs Waugh and Mrs McCarthy), boosting Year 6 every day after school. Everyone will be continuing to help them until the SATs are over. I have been so impressed by Drexel's hard work, determination and how far they have come since the start of the year. I am sure they will reap the rewards of their efforts in just over a week's time! Well done to them!

It is a Bank Holiday weekend!! Hoping that you have a wonderful weekend.

*God bless,
Ms Kane*

HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

*Year 1: Arnesa, Ailish, Emilio, Michael, Natalia
Year 2: Jacob, Iara, Summer-Mei, Bertie, Amelie-May, Anna and Lila
Year 4: Hassan and Yassin
Year 5: Mya, Adam, Julia*



Curriculum Block - This Week: History Next Week: History

EYFS

Our first full week back has been a very busy one! We have been looking at people who help us in our community. We have learnt about some new job roles we didn't know about and have found out a lot of our information from non-fiction books! We have been comparing these to fiction books and talking about how they are written. In Maths, we have started to look at numbers as a 'whole' and finding different ways to split these numbers into two parts. This has helped us with our number bonds to 10! On Monday, we started our dance unit in PE with Miss Chater and Mrs Bryden and had a go at moving around in a space, making movements to counts of 8. We used hoops to help us see how much space we needed around one another. In RE, we have started our topic 'Gathering'. We started our unit by discussing all of the things we do with other people and how difficult it would be if we had to do these things alone.

Year 1

We had our first Watford Football Stars PE session on Monday, and the children loved it! Our new topic in History is 'Famous people from the UK' and we have made a great start by learning interesting facts about Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Sir David Attenborough. In English we are revisiting an old favourite - Handa's Surprise. We have enjoyed writing impossible similes like, "The mango juice was flowing like lava", "The pineapple stood like a tower" ... Maths has been the perfect mix of challenge and fun as we explored sharing and grouping small amounts and thinking about equal and unequal sharing. Our new topic in RE is 'The Eucharist - Meals'. We have been thinking about what happens at meals, special meals that we have enjoyed and why. We talked about how mealtimes were special because we all sit together and share love and care. We linked that to what happens at Mass.

Year 2

It has been a busy first full week back into Year 2 for the summer term. We have dived back into the history of space travel and all of the children have been very engaged. Mr Jenkins has been teaching us key events in the timeline of space travel and we have been placing them in chronological order! During Maths, we have been looking at money and making the same amount but with different coins - we have to remember that there are not coins for every number! We began our new book for English, *The Day the Crayons Quit* and loved reading each letter and creating a freeze frame of the crayon's emotion! Next week we will be writing our own letters to Duncan. Today, we celebrated St Catherine of Siena Feast Day with a beautiful Mass with Father Paul. The children were impeccably behaved throughout. We were sad to say goodbye to Mrs McHugh today but we wish her well on her next adventure.

Year 3

What an amazing week back! We had our FIRST swimming lesson this week. It was amazing to see what the children could do in the water. In English, we started to look at fables and the morals behind them. In maths, we had an exciting lesson on short multiplication, as well as looking at using bar models for division. We have started a new text in guided reading called 'Who Let the Dog's Out?'. This links fabulously to our History unit on the ancient Greeks. Monday was AMAZING! The children came dressed in their best Greek attire and we had a wonderful day full of story telling, learning about problem solving and finally our favourite session, weapons! Thank you to everyone who made an effort to dress to impress! This week we say goodbye to our superhero Mrs McHugh! She has been an absolute superstar supporting our school and class. She will be missed!

Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have been working hard to interpret a variety of data in Maths. We also spent some time practicing our times tables on the Chromebooks! In English, we added dialogue to our Norse Myths and have now begun to write them in our published pieces books. We have spent a lot of time on these and are really proud of our work! In RE, we learnt about the Introductory Rite and also made links between Matthew 5: 45-58 and how we should live our lives. We began our Rounders unit in PE by practising our fielding and bowling skills and we have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons in History. Our PSHE lesson this week focused on mental health and we used the book 'The Colour Thief' by Gabriel Alborozo to discuss how colours often represent emotions. We then created beautiful motivational messages to stick around the school in the hope that they will bring a smile to someone's face when they are read!

Year 5

Year 5 had a brilliant first full week back. We are all so engaged with our topic this term "Ancient Egyptians." In English we started a new book "The story of Tutankhamun" and did lots of activities proofreading and editing sentences based on the book. We also learnt more about the discovery of Tutankhamun's by doing a comprehension on a newspaper report about the discovering of the tomb. Carrying on with the theme in History, we introduced the topic by learning about all the important places in Ancient Egypt and marking them on a map. In RE, we started our topic on the Eucharist and created our own Seder plate full of food items important to us. It was division word problems for us in Maths this week. Though we are much better with our bus stop divisions, we still need more practice with our word problems. We practiced strategies and used bar models to understand what exactly is being asked. The visual representation helped many of the children achieve their targets.

Year 6

The countdown is on! We now have four teaching days left until SATS and the children really have risen to the challenge. The whole of the Year 6 team have been so impressed by the positive attitudes to learning, the amazing turnout to after school boosters and the progress being made as a result of the children's hard work and dedication. They should all be so proud of what they have achieved so far. We have been focussing on our reasoning skills in maths, quick fire arithmetic, how to answer questions and comprehend vocabulary in reading and a variety of SPaG revision. In RE this week, we also began our new unit, looking at the events of Holy Week and talking about the meaning of unity and communion within our faith. We have also started our new spine text which we are reading in the afternoons - *Thief* by Malorie Blackman. We are absolutely hooked so far and can't wait to see what happens. We have been working so hard this week that we have also been able to have some well-earned afternoon breaks.

Next Week: Key Events

Tuesday - Year 3 Collective Worship (families welcome)

Thursday - Netherlands Independence Day

Friday - Year 4 Mass at Our Lady and St Michael's (families welcome)