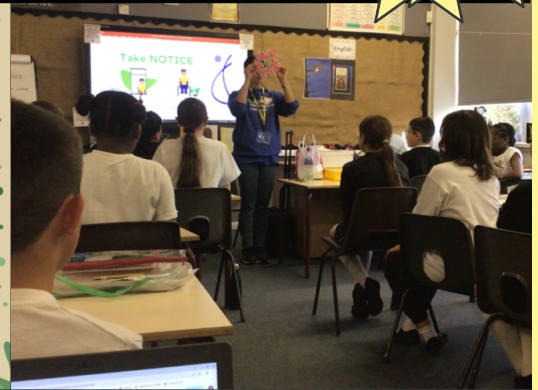




Be who God
created
you to be and
you
will set the
world
on fire.



Friday 21st April 2023



There really is nothing that brings all the staff at St Catherine's more pleasure than watching the smiling children bounce back into school after the holidays, raring to go and take on the summer term! They even brought the sunshine with them!

The start of my week involved monitoring teaching and learning across the school. I was really impressed by the focus demonstrated in every class. It was also great to see the staff implementing the strategies covered in our Inset before Easter.

Pupil voice indicates that the majority of our children have absolutely loved Art Week. Art has a very important place in our curriculum, giving the children the opportunity to express their creativity and individuality. They have been looking at the world through the eyes of their chosen famous artists, taking inspiration from nature, using a range of materials, making time to research and creating some exceptional art work. The final stage in the process has been reflecting and evaluating their own work, thinking about how they can make changes and keep improving this. Please take a look over on the next page at just some of the fantastic pieces they have produced. It's clear that we have some extremely talented artists here at St Cath's. Well done to all!

On Wednesday the children in KS2 were visited by MIND Hertfordshire Network to deliver a well-being workshop. They discussed the importance of taking care of our mental health and physical health, looking at different ways to stay active, whilst remembering to take time to rest. They also discussed creating opportunities for those experiencing mental ill health to make choices, find their solutions, build resilience and manage wellbeing. The mental health and wellbeing of our school community (pupils, parents and staff) is fundamental to our school philosophy and ethos. The children were commended by the team for their focus and maturity shown on the subject matter.

A special applause has to go to Year 4 John Paul II for holding the new record of being, and I quote, "The best behaved class to be taken swimming - ever"! Mrs Stefanska has been taking children swimming for as long as I can remember, so that is high praise indeed! They are a credit to your families and the whole school.

Year 3 Jacinta headed over to Our Lady and St Michael's Church for mass this morning. Father Ben and the whole congregation were blown away with their beautiful reading and requested that all of the children were to be awarded with extra merits for their exemplary behaviour. Well done, Jacinta.

The theme for today's Earth Day 2023 is 'Invest in our planet' and is focused on finding solutions to combat the threat of climate change and making the transition to an equitable, prosperous green economy for all. These goals are something that our Sustainability Champions and the rest of the school community are very passionate about. They are determined to drive a year of energy, enthusiasm and are committed to creating a new plan of action for our planet and school environment. Therefore, each class put forward their suggestions on how to make our school more eco-friendly. A huge thank you to the Sustainability Champions for their hard work in preparing all of the suggestion cards and dedication to the cause.

Finally, I have had the pleasure of teaching Year 6 for part of this week. It has been an absolute joy to be back in the classroom, especially with such an enthusiastic and keen bunch of learners! Sometimes it is easy to get bogged down in the challenges of running a school and forget about the 'why' - why I joined this profession in the first place. Feeling the buzz in the sessions with 6 Teresa and my fellow Team SATs crew, has given me an incredible lift and reminded me how lucky I am to be a teacher! Thank you to all of Year 6 for their hard work and for being so fun to teach. Roll on next week for more SATs Booming!

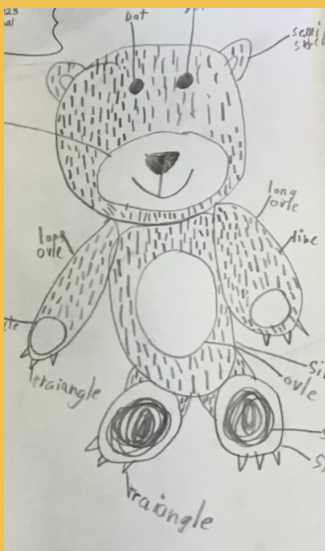
Wishing you a wonderful weekend,
Ms Kane

Art

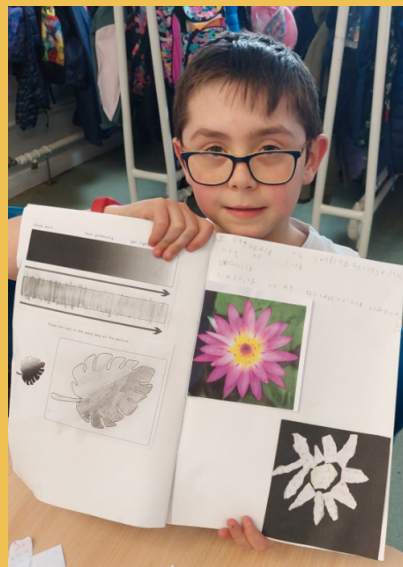
"We were looking at the artist Jasper Johns work. Then we painted our name using only the primary colours, red, blue and yellow".



We used charcoal to create different kinds of textures, crosshatching, squiggling and circular scribbling"

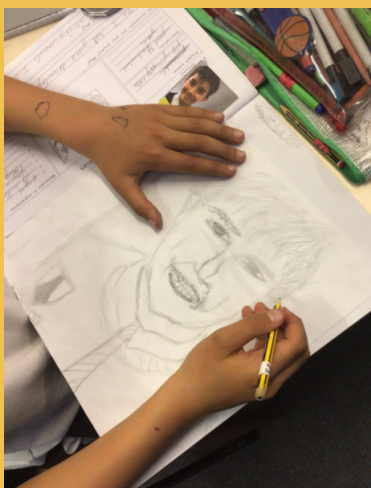


"We made our own story books and we were the illustrators. First we made a story board and drew our characters"



"We observed a real flower and took the petals off to have a closer look. Then using a 2B and ^B pencil we sketched our flower"

"We used a mirror to sketch a portrait of ourselves. Celebrating who we are we added words to describe all about who we are"



"We painted squares using tint and shade to make it look 3D"



Key Dates:

Thursday 27th April - Potential Strike Day

Friday 28th April - St Catherine of Siena Feast Day (mass in school)