As you know, Monday 26th April we celebrated our Diamond Jubilee - 60 blessed years as a school. Over the recent months we have been delving into the archives looking at past events and stories that fill the school building. It has been both insightful and incredibly moving too. What was clear to see was the strong sense of family and community is something that has withstood the test of time and is still very much felt, and at the forefront of what St Catherine’s represents.

It was an honour to welcome Bishop Paul & Father’s Paul, Ben & Tekura to lead us in a whole school mass. Bishop Paul reminded us that the children of St Catherine’s are indeed the true diamonds of the school - each as beautiful, rare and unique as the next. Thank you to our wonderful readers. It is no small feat to stand up and read in front of a full church. They should be as proud of themselves as we are. All of our invited guest commented on the impeccable behaviour of our pupils – they really were a credit to the school.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to all of the staff and parent helpers, in recognition of their hard work to ensure all ran smoothly. The day was a tremendous success - everything we had hoped for and more. It was an important moment in history and one that will be remembered and cherished for years to come.

To continue the Jubilee celebrations, this morning Year 5 performed a beautiful rendition of ‘St Catherine of Siena’. This particular play celebrates St Catherine of Siena and her life journey, and is a play that holds many fond memories. The Year 5 team did it justice, each taking on a role, delivering their lines with such professionalism - we certainly have some budding actors. Congratulations Year 5 on your wonderful performance!

It has been trips galore both this week and last, with reception, year 1, 2 all enjoying their class trips.

Reception had the most wonderful time at Mead Open Farm where they embraced a hands on experience, getting up close with the rabbits during Bunny Hop, hand feeding some of the goats and having lots of fun in the playground. This was their first school trip and they did us proud!

Year 1 headed off to Beaconsfield Miniature Village. They had a great day, exploring the toys of the past, venturing off into the miniature village and even had a ride on the train. We have been taking St Catherine’s pupils there for many years now and they never fail to impress us.

Year 2 had a fantastic time at the RAF Museum where they attended a workshop about all the different planes and aircrafts used in the Royal Air Force over the years. I’m told it was really fun and all were real troopers throwing themselves into all of the activities. They even earnt themselves some free time to play in the park.

All classes were praised for their impeccable behaviour whilst out in the wider community, representing St Catherine’s beautifully. Well done to all. As always, a huge thank you to our parent helpers for accompanying the children on their trips. We are so grateful for you giving up your precious time.

Next week will be the start of SATs week for our Year 6 class Faustyna.

While SATs are, of course, exceptionally important and taken with the upmost seriousness, it is as important to remind the pupils that they do not define who they are. We are super proud of their effort, dedication and achievements already! Please do reinforce this message at home. All we ask is for them to do their best. Wishing them all luck.

The week commencing the 20th May we will be kick starting our ‘walk to school’ campaign. This year's challenge encourages the children to travel actively to school every day of the week. We welcome you and your child/ren to take part, helping to raise awareness about why we should to walk or wheel and its benefits for individuals, communities and the planet! Each class will be going ‘head to head’ in a healthy competition of who can clock up the most miles walked/wheeled. Good luck!

Wishing you a lovely sunny weekend.

God Bless

Ms Kane