

# ST CATHERINE'S PREP NEWSLETTER

*"Be who God wants you to be, and you will set the world on fire." St Catherine of Siena*

**13 DECEMBER 2019**

## TAKE A PEEK!

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## A NOTE FROM MRS MCPHERSON HEADMISTRESS

It has been a wonderful week in Prep: the Early Years Nativity and the Prep Carol Service set the scene for Christmas very beautifully. On both occasions the girls gave their audiences not just lovely singing (and dancing in the Nativity!) but also thoughtful prayers and readings, which were done with such care. It is always very moving to be reminded of the mystery of Christmas through the words of the young and these occasions left us with a gift, as we were able to understand this most special time of year a little more clearly.

The girls' understanding of the Christmas season as a time of giving and thinking of others has been evident at the Christmas Fair and in the other charity events to mark the end of term, and I feel proud of the way they focus on others and show their understanding of the world around them.

I wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas, and an enjoyable holiday. I look forward to seeing the girls again in January.

With best wishes,

Mrs McPherson

## A NOTE FROM MRS MARSH HEAD OF PREP

What a wonderful term we have had and some incredible events we have completed the first part of the academic year.

The KS1 and Early Years Nativity gave us a joyful message and was a wonderful start to December. Our fund raising operations have been in top gear and I would like to thank you all for the wonderful donations to the Jingle Bell Bazaar and the Reverse Advent Calendar project. Mrs Oakley and Miss Goodhew delivered the advent calendar gifts on Wednesday to the Upper Room and they were very well received. Year 5 had a wonderful time at Westminster Cathedral with a chance to share a nativity with a range of other schools in a wonderful setting.

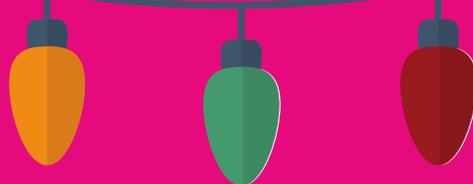
Finally, the Carol Service was a triumph and gave us all a chance to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and the girls sang and read with real feeling and warmth.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support during the term, and, on behalf of myself and all of the staff in Prep, wish you a very Happy Christmas.

Mrs Marsh

## Spring Term

- Tues 7 Jan, Y6 Rugby (during PE lesson)
- Fri 10 Jan, 10.00am-12.00pm - Y6 Entrance Exam
- Tues 14 Jan, Y1-3 Charity Bake Sale
- Tues 14 Jan, 8.30-9.00am, Ch&Co Assembly
- Wed 15 Jan, All Day - Y6 Milestones Trip
- Wed 15 Jan, 3.45pm - Y5 Netball Match v Newland House
- Thu 16 Jan, 12.50pm - Food Committee Meeting
- Mon 20 Jan, 4.00-4.45pm - Bollywood Bounce Taster Session
- Tues 21 Jan - Y4-6 Bounceathon
- Wed 22 Jan - Y3 Richmond Museum
- Thu 30 Jan, 1.30-2.15pm - N-Y6 'How am I Feeling?' Assembly
- Thu 30 Jan, 5.00-5.45pm - Y3 Parent Info Meeting for PACCAR
- Tues 4 Feb, All Day - Y2 Katie Morag Day
- Tues 4 Feb, 8.30-9.00am - KS2 Music Assembly
- Thur 6 Feb, 1.30-3.30pm - Y3 & 4 Resilience Training
- Thur 6 Feb, 4-5pm - Parent Twilight Resilience Training
- Fri 7 Feb, 10.00am-4.00pm - Y3-6 ISA Cross Country at Sherfield School
- Fri 7 Feb, 1.30-3.00pm - EYFS Perform Workshop
- Fri 7 Feb, 5.30-7.30pm, FOSC Disco
- Tues 11 Feb, 8.40-9.00am - Y3 Internet Safety Assembly
- Wed 12 Feb, All Day - Y2 & Y3 National Gallery Trip
- Fri 14 Feb, 7.30am - Breakfast Club Valentine's Day Special
- Half Term: Mon 17 Feb - Fri 21 Feb
- Holiday Club: Mon 17 Feb - Fri 21 Feb



## Holiday Club

MON 16 - FRI 20 DECEMBER

CORE SESSION: 8.30AM - 3.30PM  
£39.50 PER DAY OR £190 PER WEEK

WRAP AROUND: 7.45 AM - 5.00PM  
£49.50 PER DAY OR £230 PER WEEK

NO AFTER CARE

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

## Reminder

LAST DAY OF TERM  
FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER

PICKUP TIMES:

EYFS: 12.15PM

KS1: 12.20PM

KS2: 12.25PM

SPRING 2020 TERM BEGINS:  
TUESDAY 7 JANUARY 2020

CLUBS WILL COMMENCE  
WEEK BEGINNING 13 JANUARY

*New Hours!*

## **BREAKFAST CLUB**

IS NOW OPEN  
FROM 7.30AM

PLEASE CONTACT MS GOLDBURN  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER  
[cgoldburn@stcatherineschool.co.uk](mailto:cgoldburn@stcatherineschool.co.uk)

### **Friendly Reminder**

If collecting your daughter  
early for an appointment,  
please do so via Reception, to  
ensure safeguarding of your  
child and to minimise  
disruption to the classroom.

Thank you!

## MATHS MASTERCLASS

BY SARAH MARSH, HEAD OF PREP

The last Maths Masterclass of the series focused on computational thinking. Making a 'clever emotion machine' introduced the girls to high and low level commands. They then learnt about abstraction and code, and created their own algorithms.

This final Masterclass was a fitting end to what has been an excellent opportunity for the Year 6 mathematicians. The girls are now invited to the finale, which is a Maths Masterclass Celebration Day, to take place during the summer at the Royal Institute in London.



## FLOTSAM INSPIRATION

BY MISS WARNER, YEAR 4 TEACHER

In Year 4, we have been looking at the picture book, *Flotsam* by David Wiesner, which has been inspiring our writing in English lessons. It is a wordless book, told in pictures, about a boy who finds an old camera at the beach. When he gets the film developed, he discovers amazing photos of fantastical underwater cities.

Bella went above and beyond, and made her own version of the camera at home, which she brought in to show the class.



## PREP PANTO: OH YES IT IS!

*As a special holiday treat, the Prep girls enjoyed a wonderful pantomime production of *Beauty & The Beast* last week. There were lots of laughs as the actors had the girls getting involved in this fun holiday tradition.*

## YEAR 2 NATIONAL ARCHIVES, KEW



Year 2 had a fantastic visit to The National Archives at Kew. We learned more about what London was like at the time of the Great Fire, and used primary sources to find out about the people in 17th century London. We were really lucky to see an original newspaper and census from the time of the fire. The newspaper told us about the weather, and how far the fire spread, and why. The census allowed us to say how we knew that Thomas Farrinor lived on Pudding Lane, and was a baker.

## BREAKFAST CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY



*What a fantastic Christmas party in Breakfast club! The fun included a visit from Minnie the Christmas Elf, presents from Father Christmas and some special breakfast treats; sausages in rolls, popcorn and home-made milkshakes. Wishing all pupils and their families a wonderful Christmas. Best wishes, Chantal Goldburn*

## JINGLE BELL BAZAAR



The Prep pupils held a Jingle Bell Bazaar this week, which was a lovely way for them to shop and wrap gifts for friends and family, all whilst raising funds for our charities, ARC and Momentum. Maybe there will be something under the tree for you!

## YEAR 6 FESTIVE LIGHTS PROJECT



The Year 6 girls have been very busy with their festive lights project where they were tasked to design and create light-up Christmas cards. Judging such amazing creativity was a very difficult challenge, as each card was excellent in its own way, but the overall winners were “Sparkle Sisters” and “Bright Christmas”.



## YEAR 5 WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

Year 5 had a fantastic morning last week and got into the festive spirit when they attended the Catholic Children's Society Carol Service in Westminster Abbey. Hundreds of school children from all around London came to sing carols, listen to beautiful music and watch the story of the Nativity acted out around the church. Meeting the Cardinal, Clover the donkey and Patch the sheep, from Hackney City Farm, were real highlights. A great time was had by all.



## FOOD & NUTRITION



*Year 6 made festive puff pastry squares with mincemeat and chopped apple*

## *Poppy Appeal*

Thanks to the generosity of the St. Catherine's School community, an impressive £262.71 was raised through our poppy appeal collection for the Royal British Legion. Thank you for your support.



## *Harvest Festival*

*A message from The Upper Room:*

This year we have, once again, been overwhelmed by the extraordinary generosity of our harvest donors and we wish to extend our thanks to everyone who contributed. Our cupboards are now bursting at the seams with pasta, rice, tea, coffee, herbs, sugar and biscuits. One of our shipping containers is full to the brim with tins and cooking oil. The other is full of cleaning products and toilet paper. Hopefully they should keep us going for the next twelve months and will provide the basics for preparing over 23,000 meals to feed our homeless and vulnerable guests.

## EYFS & KS1 NATIVITY PLAY



## YOUNG REPORTER – NATIVITY ROCK

BY ALBA M, YEAR 3

The youngest children at St Catherine's performed their Nativity play on Monday 2 December, for parents and staff. The Early Years and Key Stage 1 performed to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Mrs Marsh, the Head of Prep, said, "It was lovely to hear the true message of Christmas".

The parents were amazed. The children were not shy and quiet. They were really brave and strong. Even the younger children had lines. The music teacher, Mrs Graham, said, "They sang like angels". It was joyful to watch. The parents felt like they were actually in the past when it really happened. The narrators were excellent, too.

They sang Away in a Manger and other Christmas songs. First the angel came to Mary. It was called the Annunciation. Then they told the story of when Mary tells Joseph that they will have a baby. They go to Bethlehem and none of the inns are free so they go to the stable. Jesus is born. They get the gold, frankincense, and myrrh from the Wise Men. They acted it out so well. It was a wonderful performance.

Amna is Mary, Abigail is Joseph, and Sophie is the Angel.

## PREP JUMPER DAY & CAROL SERVICE



*The Prep girls had a wonderful celebratory Christmas lunch on Wednesday. Wearing their colourful Christmas jumpers, our caterers provided a traditional Christmas lunch, with all the trimmings, for all of Prep including the Nursery who joined us in the dining room too!*



**Carol Service:**  
*Our Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 presented a beautiful Carol Service to parents, Governors and staff on Tuesday. Exquisite music, voice and readings conveyed the true spirit of Christmas, and a chance to reflect at this very busy time of year.*



# THE BIG BOOK BOOST

**BY ALISON JONES, PREP LIBRARIAN**

As we all know, Christmas is just around the corner, and you may well be starting to think about suitable gifts for friends and relatives. Books make great presents as they are inspiring, suitable for every taste and (most importantly) very easy to wrap! There is a new fundraising scheme launched by The Book People called "The Big Book Boost", which aims to donate 1 million books to UK schools by 2022. Every time you place an order with the company over £10, they will donate £1 to a school of your choice for them to spend on books. You will be delighted to hear that St Catherine's is registered with the scheme, so it would be wonderful if you would select us if you are placing an order ([www.thebookpeople.co.uk](http://www.thebookpeople.co.uk)).



## **NURSERY**

Isabelle: for listening to instructions.  
Katherine: for always helping to tidy up.  
And to everyone for being super sparkling angels in the Nativity.

## **RECEPTION**

Harbani: for lovely number writing.  
Holly: for making a lovely tree in ICT.  
And to everyone for being lovely angels in the Nativity.

## **YEAR 1**

Zoey: for reading more challenging books, fantastically.  
Tahlia: for a brilliant creative story.  
And to everyone for an amazing performance in the Nativity.

## **YEAR 2**

Sophie: for super thinking in Maths.  
Sienna: for trying really hard with joining in.  
And to everyone for an amazing performance in the Nativity.

# PREP SPORTS

## INTERHOUSE NETBALL

Years 5 and 6 have completed their interhouse netball competition, and it was fantastic seeing the girls take what they have learnt in lessons and apply it within games. The girls thoroughly enjoyed playing the 'High 5s' format and displayed excellent sportsmanship throughout. The final results are: Year 5: 1st - Bronte, 2nd - Cavell, joint 3rd - Nightingale & Pankhurst, and for Year 6: 1st - Cavell, 2nd - Pankhurst, 3rd - Bronte, 4th - Nightingale.

## SWIMMING GALA VS. NEWLAND HOUSE

Our final gala of the year was against Newland House for our 'Top' swimmers, and it was nail-biting until the very end! Both teams swam tremendously and it was reflected in the results, which were tied until the relays. We managed to pull through, and with an emphatic win during the squadron, came away victorious! Many thanks to the parents who came and supported the pupils and well done to all our swimmers. It has been a brilliant term for swimming at St Catherine's!

## RICHMOND BOROUGH CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Friday 22 November, we took six pupils to compete in the Year 5/6 category at the Richmond Borough Cross Country Championships. It was a grueling course, spanning over 2km, with extremely muddy terrain with lots of climbs. Our girls held strong and completed the race with determination and strength! We are awaiting the final results, but are hopeful that we will have two runners in the Top 50 of Richmond Borough. Well done to Chloe W, Lucy H, Caroline W, Claudia M-S, Tia H, and Enaaya C for their wonderful efforts.



## ISA NATIONALS RESULTS

On 30 November, Emma in Year 6 competed for London West at the ISA Nationals event at the London Aquatics Centre. It was an excellent event, displaying the highest standards of swimming across the country! Emma did herself proud and achieved 4th place in the individual event (Y6 50m Breaststroke) and 1st place for the team event (Y6 Medley Relay). Well done, Emma!

Overall, all St Catherine's swimmers came away with medals (mostly Golds and Silvers) and helped London West secure an overall 1st place win at Nationals.



## Y4 & Y5 RUGBY TASTER DAY

Last week, Year 4 and Year 5 pupils took part in an exciting rugby session led by the fantastic Harlequins RFC coaches, Kirsty and Natalie! The pupils took part in many fun rugby-based games, and it was great to see them all taking part in a new activity. We look forward to having Kirsty and Natalie back after the Christmas break, when they will be leading rugby lessons for Year 5 and Year 6 during their PE lessons. This will provide the pupils with a great opportunity to take part in rugby (and get a little muddy)!

*St Catherine's  
came away with  
gold and silver  
medals*