

ST CATHERINE'S PREP NEWSLETTER

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

5 FEBRUARY 2021

TAKE A PEEK!

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A NOTE FROM MRS MCPHERSON HEADMISTRESS

The Prep girls are continuing to make the most of every day; in this second lockdown their online skills and the range of methods their teachers are using certainly mean that remote learning is still fun and busy. Their Reflect and Refresh Day was also clearly enjoyable and it has been great to hear from parents that this change in rhythm was so welcome.

Prep girls are also always a wonderful presence on the school assemblies – it is lovely to see their smiling faces and enthusiasm. This attitude has also been evident in my conversations with the Prep girls currently onsite, including during a recent important debate over lunch about whether tigers or rhinos are scarier!

And as I write, we are all still uncertain about which year groups might return to the school site from March 8. I am sure you join me in hoping for clear guidance, and a smooth reopening for St Catherine's. In the meantime, I wish you all a happy, safe break.

With best wishes,
Mrs McPherson

A NOTE FROM MRS MARSH HEAD OF PREP

It seems hard to believe we are into February already and moving swiftly towards half term. Our learning since January, albeit remote, has been as busy as usual and I would like to congratulate all the girls on how they have approached working via Google Classroom and the good humour and creativity they have shown in all of their lessons. Your support is also greatly appreciated and the staff have worked relentlessly to present and create interesting material that can be accessed virtually.

So many of our activities continue, such as the Food Committee and School Council, which function as important outlets for pupils' voices, as well as virtual visits and workshops. After half term we will celebrate World Book Day, so do get thinking about costumes befitting this year's theme of 'Journeys'.

I hope you enjoy this bumper edition of the newsletter and the fun the girls have been involved in during the term so far.

With best wishes,
Mrs Marsh

PE News

We welcome Miss Feenan to the Prep School, who is already inspiring the pupils with her PE lessons and different ways to stay fit and motivated.

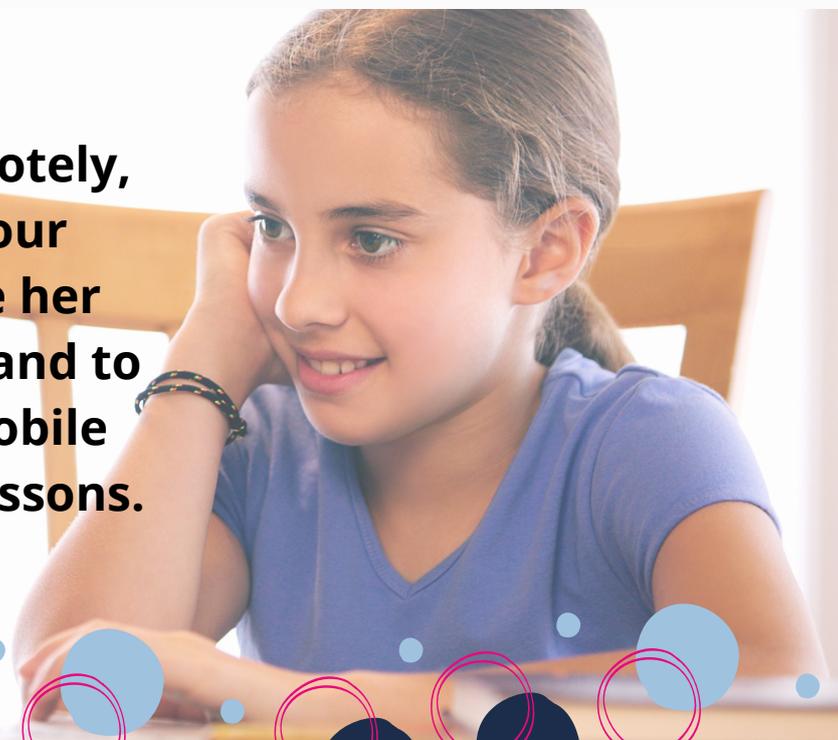


**February Half Term
15 - 19 February 2021**

**Spring Term Ends
26 March 2021**

**Check the school website for all
term dates:
<https://www.stcatherineschool.co.uk/news-events/term-dates/>**

**When working remotely,
please remind your
daughters to have her
camera turned on, and to
avoid using her mobile
phone during her lessons.
Thank you.**



EARLY YEARS

The girls in Early Years have been busy learning and creating both at home and on site.



Stella practised her counting



Kiena and Xanthe designed colourful gingerbread men

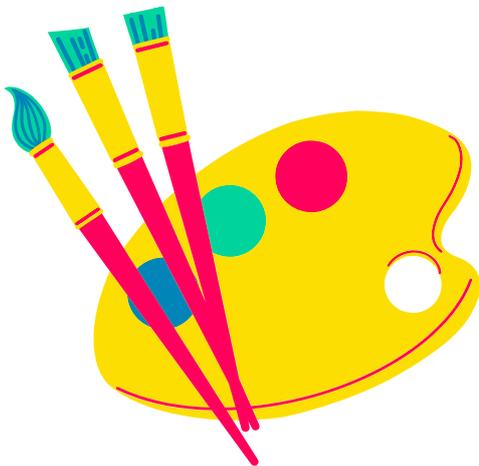


Daisy drew the Little Pig's house

EARLY YEARS



Miss McLaughlin, our new Early Years Lead, is enjoying her first few weeks at St Catherine's. Having already met the parents remotely, she is now getting to know Nursery as they create their very own pink castle ready for the Cinderella Ball.



EARLY YEARS



Sarah testing materials to make a bridge for the Gingerbread Man



Alice playing the phonics game, 'Cross the River'



Anaya on a shape hunt



Isabelle displaying her baking skills



Katherine making a shape picture



Sasha having a tea party with her teddies

PREP LEARNING

YEAR 1 & 2



Year 1 & 2 have been studying Kenya and using maps and globes to study geographical features.

YEAR 1 & 2



Snow! Year 1 & 2 got a delightful opportunity to hone their snowman-making skills, and the Critical Worker pupils played outside on the snowy courts.



PREP LEARNING

YEAR 3



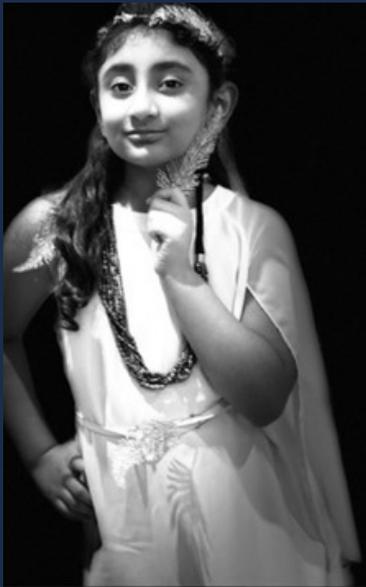
We made Jars of Hope to collect our wishes for 2021.



Year 3 made their own artwork inspired by Andy Warhol's 'Ten Marilyns'.



HISTORY OF GREECE



Based on our history learning of the Ancient Greeks, Year 3 made theatre masks and costumes and enacted the tale of 'Theseus and the Minotaur' together online.

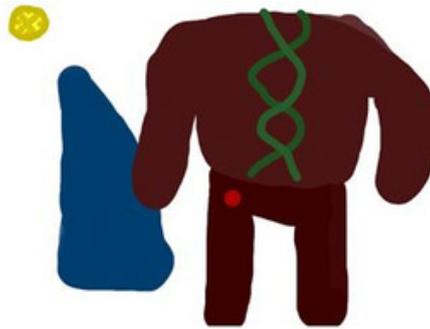
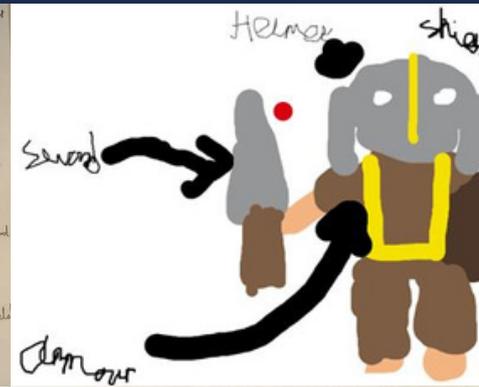
YEAR 4

Charlotte wrote a lovely description of the great mead hall, Herot:

I sat on a table with a fork in my hand and about to eat my juicy roast beef. A young man in a blue cape was playing the harp beautifully. The mead-hall has glorious chandeliers hanging from the ceiling, everyone having beer and tables in rows.

I ate some of the meat and drank my beer whilst watching people dance to the music. I heard everyone cheering for the king. Shields were hung on the walls. I had an amazing time with an amazing feast. The mead-hall was huge and could fit 100 people. The entire mead-hall was full with people eating and cheering and dancing.

The king sat on the biggest table at the end of the mead-hall with his hog roast. Beautifully designed red and gold rugs were laid on the floor. The fire in the middle of the room crackled loudly with the red hot flames. The king was surrounded by important people including the queen and Beowulf. The whole hall smelled of smoke, cooked meat and beer. The floor is made of hard stone.



Year 4 have been learning about The Saxons. In our English lessons we have been reading and writing about Beowulf.

Bella wrote a super description of Beowulf and Grendel:

What is Beowulf like?

He is strong and the bravest of all men in mankind and is tall and healthy. He is gentle and nice to his friends but fierce as anyone else in war. Their clothes are nice and warm because it's the middle of a cold, frosty, dark and miserable winter. They all will act nobly and fierce as they will be fighting Grendel the monster of the night.

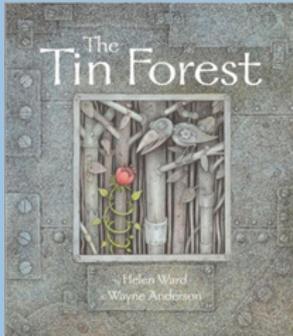
What is Grendel like?

Grendel is a bloodthirsty creature that has come from Hell to stalk and kill. His heart is as dark and as mean as a demon. No one knows what he looked like but they say that he looks as mean as his personality. He would smell like blood as he killed hundreds of people then ate them in his lair.

Henna wrote a very detailed description of Grendel:

The Grendel looked like an overgrown toad with a menacing grin and tall sharp fangs. Its spiked up hair was a putrid green. Its eyes were like street lamps illuminating the darkest of night but the darkness was his soul. It has claws as sharp as a beetle's bite and thousands of warts all over him. One look in his lamp eye you are dead. This is not by accident, no not at all. Oh how Grendel stank! He stank and he stank and he stank. You see, he ate his parents, so no told him to have a shower!

YEAR 5



Year 5 took inspiration from the book, *The Tin Forest*, by Helen Ward, and *Soar* from The Literacy Shed, to create some excellent writing of their own. Enjoy these excerpts below.



Ayesha, 5C

Before the beginning of time, was a metal scrap yard. Above it on a hill, lived some selfish humans who cared not for nature and the beauty of Earth. Casually, the humans threw piece after piece of scrap metal into their rusty scrap metal yard. Day and night the metal kept piling up. The animals in the picturesque forest nearby were beginning to worry about it. The toucan would squawk loudly when they threw something in the scrap yard. The human's cat even felt sorry for the forest because she spent a lot of time there and was good friends with the toucan. What if their home was destroyed?

They knew they should try and stop what was happening but, the helpless animals didn't know what to do. One rainy day, their fears became true. The wooden barrier that stopped it from going into the forest broke. Ferociously, the corroded scrap metal crushed all the trees and animals in its path. Seeing they had met their fate, the animals squealed and screamed. They were horrified. Some birds were lucky enough to get away. But the toucan and the cat would stay in their home till the end together. They stood there waiting for the scrap metal to reach them. All the animals and trees got crushed.

From the dead bodies and the crushed plants sprung up new animals and new trees but these were glinting in the sunlight without the vivid colour. The forest had become a dull grey. These were not flesh and bones or oak and leaves, these were metal.

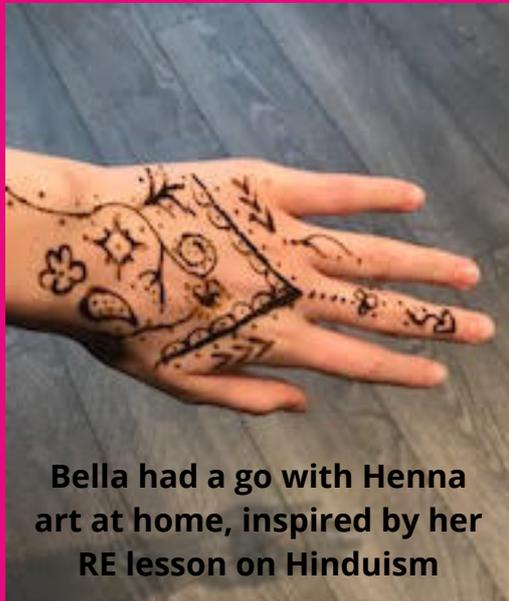
Yashika, 5S

Hopefully, Mara wound the propeller of the latest model plane she had designed. Ever since she was three, she dreamed of becoming an aeroplane designer. She had managed to copy the basic glider design with double wings and a tail to guide it through the air. Taking a deep breath, Mara launched her plane.

Whooshh! CRACK! Her smile faded, as she saw the plane plummet down to the ground. With a heavy-heart, she trudged pensively back to the bench, which was covered with scrunched up blueprints. Yellow daffodils merrily bobbed their heads in the pleasant, summer breeze and the orange, red, blue and pink primroses pranced playfully. Unfortunately, these still couldn't uplift Mara's mood. THUD! "Oww!" a small navy-blue bag had fallen out of the sky and landed on Mara's head. With a trembling hand, she reached out towards it ...CRASH! A tiny airship had crashed into the tree beside the bench.

Mara sat gaping as a tiny person tumbled out of the airship. The person wore seaweed-green dungarees, baggy trousers (that were too big for him) and goggles. Glancing at Mara, the person stopped dead in its tracks. It looked around; grabbing a pencil, he viciously brandished it at her. The person hurried to the bag and tugged, heaved and hauled it towards the ship. Breathing like a winded rhinoceros, he pulled the ship down but ... WHAM!!! Two of the wings of the back propeller had broken off! The boy gave an audible gasp of terror. Mara followed the boy's pleading gaze to see thousands of tiny airships buzzing across the sky.

YEAR 5



Bella had a go with Henna art at home, inspired by her RE lesson on Hinduism

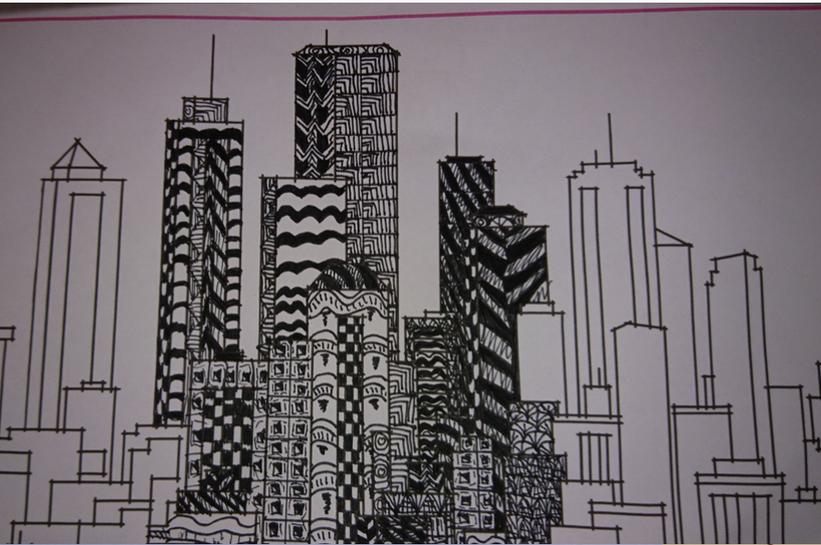
Science experiments under way by Critical Worker pupils on site



Baking is still all the rage in year 5, with these delicious sponge and lemon cakes from Florence (left), Mariacarla (middle) and Iona Rose (right)

YEAR 5

Pen and ink cityscapes and colourful 3D creations inspired by Fazzino.



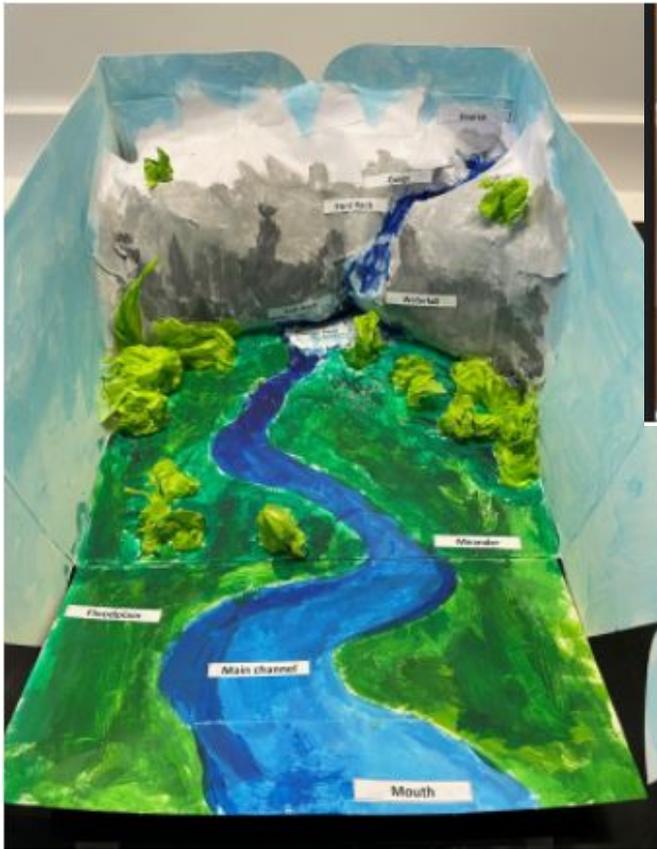
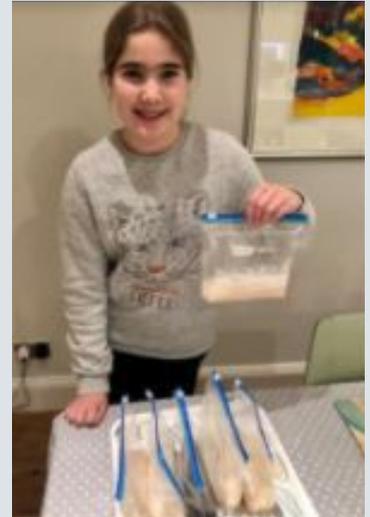
PREP LEARNING

YEAR 6

Art Year 6 have been looking at Pop Art and Andy Warhol in particular. We have had great results using his blotted line technique to print pictures.

We are now working on designing soup tin labels and doing Pop Art self-portraits – watch this space!

Year 6 have been having great fun investigating micro-organisms in Science. We have found that bread mould grows best in dark, damp and warm conditions. We have also been investigating which food yeast likes best. Just like many of us, it seems to be sugar, and it really does not like salt!



Year 6 have also made some fantastic river and waterfall models, as part of our geography work, displaying both their artistic and geographic skills. Papier mâché and modelling clay were just some of the different materials the girls chose to use.

YEAR 6

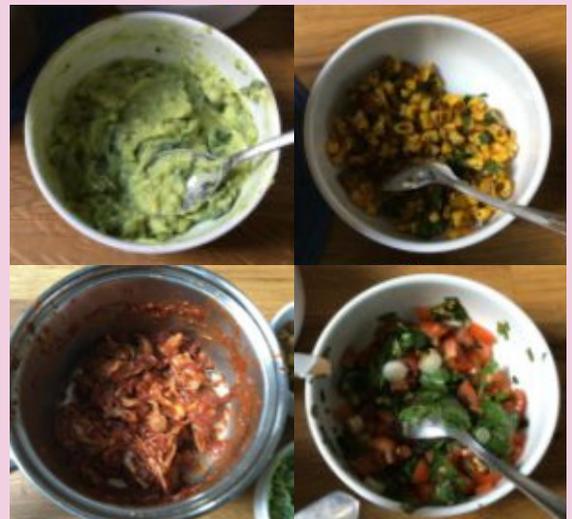
The girls in Years 5 and 6 enjoyed an assembly from MIND, looking at ways to manage anxiety and the demands of the current situation. Some simple breathing exercises started the assembly and the girls looked at how they felt about returning to school and staying positive. It was a great start to the day thanks to MIND.



Yum!



Year 6 have been producing some culinary delights in their home kitchens. Some of the delicious results included stuffed jacket potatoes from Elle and Gemma, puff pastry and home-made mincemeat from Holly, as well as Amelie's Mexican food. Were there any leftovers for Elle's puppy?



Reflect and Refresh

The girls had a pause from the usual rhythm of the week with a day aimed to make us feel refreshed and hopefully to step away from the computer.

Each class had a great deal of fun participating in a range of activities, such as mood music drawing, making a jar full of hugs, learning sign language, Swahili, natural art and den building, to name but a few.

It was great to see the huge amount of flair and imagination that the girls in Prep have demonstrated through the pieces they created.



Nature
Artwork
inspired by
Andy
Goldsworthy

Reflect and Refresh



All the Prep girls from Nursery up to Year 6 listened to the same piece of music (Edvard Grieg's 'In the Hall of the Mountain King') with no explanation of its context. They each drew whatever the music made them think of as they listened. The results were varied and beautiful!

