

ST CATHERINE'S PREP NEWSLETTER

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

7 MAY 2021

TAKE A PEEK!

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A NOTE FROM MRS MCPHERSON HEADMISTRESS

I hope that you and your families all enjoyed the Bank Holiday weekend. With the much-anticipated easing of lockdown, it has been lovely to hear about some of the girls' outings.

My last few weeks have included very enjoyable visits to Early Years and Key Stage One lessons and so I am now well versed in Maths songs and early Biology lessons (the growth of sunflowers!). It was wonderful to see your little ones enjoying their learning, and I am also pleased to report on the very healthy level of enquiries for Prep places, from prospective parents. It seems that the local community is continuing to hear about our vibrant classrooms and happy girls.

Regardless of what variation May weather brings, I look forward to seeing Prep girls around the site, and also to seeing how the preparations for Oliver occupy them, over the next few weeks.

With best wishes,
Mrs McPherson

A NOTE FROM MRS MARSH HEAD OF PREP

We are now fully back into the swing of the Summer Term and thrilled that we are now permitted to organise day trips. Staff have been busy organising visits to support the teaching of the curriculum so do look out for details of various outings.

Our Key Stage 2 are extremely excited about the news of the Summer Production, which this year will be Oliver! Auditions have taken place in preparation for this wonderful whole KS2 project.

Not to be outdone by any means, Early Years have been observing their caterpillars who have now been released as butterflies. Years 1 and 2 have been busy enjoying safer scooting tuition and exploring how things grow.

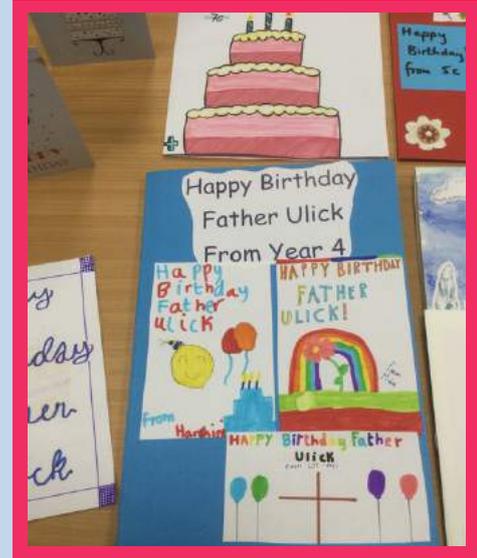
It has been wonderful seeing the girls back in summer uniform and I suspect you are hoping for some warmer weather soon, too.

With best wishes,
Mrs Marsh

HAPPY Birthday

Just before Easter, the parishioners of St James' planned a special surprise for Fr Ulick in celebration of his 75th birthday at the end of March. With all sworn not to mention a thing if they happened to meet Fr Ulick, pupils across the school prepared birthday cards and messages wishing him a very special birthday and adding our hopes that we may soon be welcoming him back to say Mass in St Catherine's very soon.

Miss Ryan joined other parishioners, as well as a few pupils on the morning of his birthday, to present the cards along with some other small gifts. He was delighted by the surprise, and the School was just as pleased to have had the opportunity to participate and show our appreciation for all he does for us.



Scholastic Book Club

The new Scholastic Book Club leaflet has been sent home with all Prep pupils. You may also go to <http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/st-catherines-tw1> to browse the latest books and order online.

For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 25p in Scholastic Rewards, which the school may use to purchase additional books for the library. The deadline for orders Please place your order by 16 May 2021.

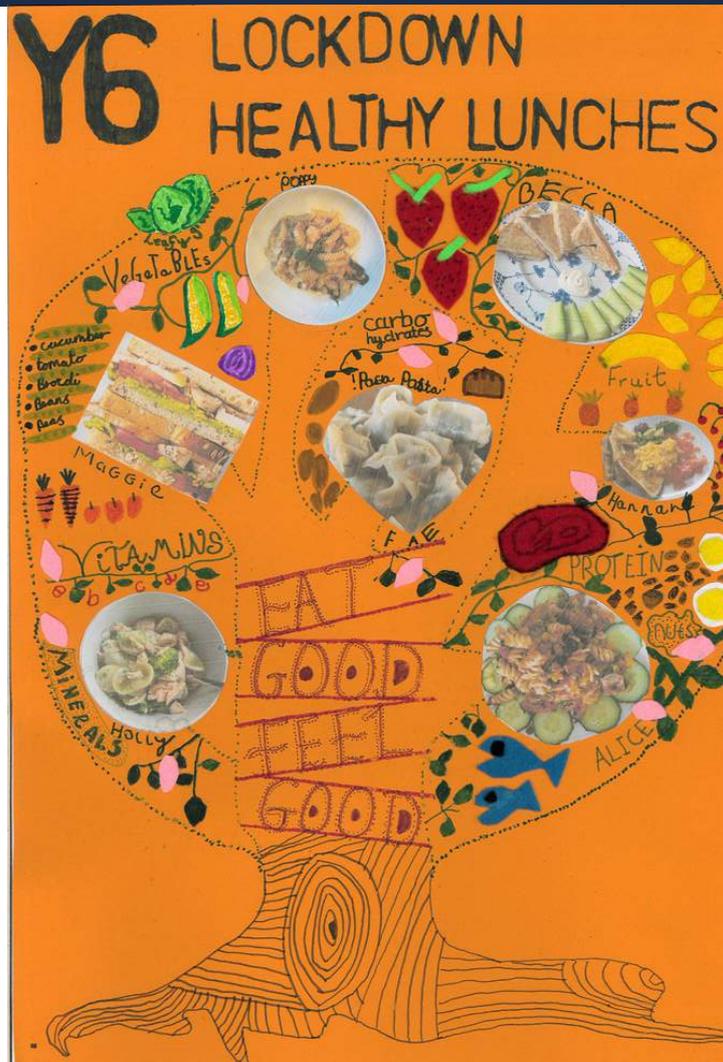


PREP LEARNING

Prep Lab Coat Competition

Very well done to all the Prep pupils who entered our 'design a lab coat' competition as part of Prep Science Week. We had a huge response and the entries were of a very high standard, making it a tricky task to choose between them.

Congratulations to our winners, who are pictured here, for their innovative designs. Of these entries we were able to select several to enter the Bayer Competition, giving us a chance to win a set of lab coats for the school. Watch this space!



Nutrition and Food Committee

Amanda Ursell, the nutritionist from our caterers Ch & Co, delighted the girls with a most informative talk regarding nutrition. We were reminded how important breakfast is and how the types of food we eat can help to sustain our concentration throughout the day.

The Food Committee then enjoyed a 'private audience' with Amanda to ask some specific questions and discovered that eating whole grains is one of the best ways to improve our diet.

In addition, the Food Committee has created some gorgeous posters to show the Prep pupils some of the healthy lockdown lunches enjoyed by our families at home during lockdown.



Summer Sports Update

Despite the weather, pupils are really enjoying their summer activities in their PE lessons and extra curricular clubs. In EYFS and KS1 we have been doing lots of work on throwing and catching, and preparations for Sports Day.

Years 3-6 have been really enjoying learning the different techniques and rules of Cricket ready for our first inter-house Cricket tournament which will take place before half term. Years 3-6 have also been working really hard to improve their athletics events in lessons and have completed the high jump, long jump and middle distance running, so far.

We are all really excited about the sporting events in the next few months!

Scooter Training

Year 1 and 2 had an excellent afternoon in the sunshine learning how to safely use scooters.

The instruction included riding through obstacles, using the breaks, and how to perform a safe emergency stop.



Pupil Voice

School Council has been busy supporting a fundraiser for a charity to which Edie in Year 5 drew our attention.

School Council reps have encouraged their classes to make collection boxes for crisp packets which Edie then collects and sends to a charity who turns the packets into thermal blankets for the homeless.

PREP LEARNING



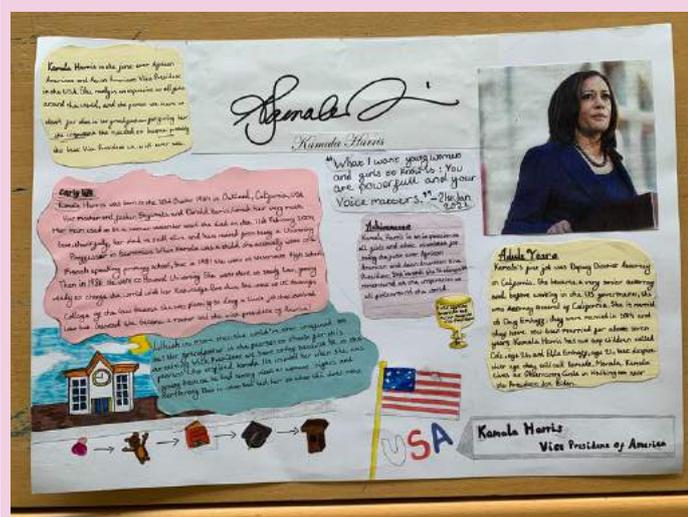
Visit from PC Simon

Prep pupils had the opportunity to speak with our local community police liaison officer, PC Simon, who examined many different safety topics. Our younger Prep pupils discussed road safety, including how to keep safe when crossing the road and wearing a helmet, while demonstrating their knowledge of using a zebra crossing. The girls were also able to ask PC Simon questions about his job, to learn more about what it is like to work as a police officer.

The Year 6 pupils learned about different aspects of the work he does, as well as how to stay safe online and on the streets. Year 6 learned that children between 10 and 18 years of age can be sent to secure centres if they break the law, and that a criminal record can affect their futures. PC Simon also informed the girls that the guidance for Whatsapp states that it should be used by those who are 16 and older. We would like to thank PC Simon for coming to speak to us.

Inspirational Biographies

Year 6 have worked extremely hard to research, draft and present biographies on an inspirational person of their choice.



PREP LEARNING



Young Entrepreneurs

Year 6 has begun the 'Putting Young Minds to Work' course with Stride Ventures, an education enrichment partnership that strives to inform young people about the world of business and enterprise. During these sessions, Year 6 pupils will have the opportunity to flex their entrepreneurial muscles while working as a team to create and run their own businesses.



Stride Putting Young Minds to Work

Butterflies Take Flight

The Early Years classroom has raised ten caterpillars! They started out as tiny babies, then grew and grew until they were fat and hairy. After about two weeks, the caterpillars each spun a chrysalis in which they grew into butterflies. The girls found it very exciting to see them emerge with their great, beautiful wings, and took great care when releasing them outside to fly away.



PREP LEARNING



Wild Fangs

Pupils in Early Years have been learning all about animals this half term. This included an exciting visit from Wild Fangs, who brought five amazing animals for us to see and learn about. Our favourite was stroking the fluffy chinchilla and seeing it take its "bath" in a bowl of sand.



Gardening Club

The Gardening Club has proven to be very popular, and the girls have been busy sowing herbs as well as creating handmade garden wind chimes using found twigs, twine and paint.



PREP LEARNING



Understanding Water Challenges

As part of their Geography topic on water usage, Year 5 compared water provision in Kenya and the UK. They experienced what it was like to not have water piped directly into our home, and just how heavy it was to carry! They learned that a high percentage of Kenyan people have to walk great distances everyday, carrying heavy containers of water for their families.

There was a lot of patient queuing in the hot sun, as well as team work from Bella and Lottie as everyone attempted to carry our buckets full of water the length of the field. Tabitha used her water wisely to water the dry grass, not wasting a precious drop.



Breakfast Club Easter Egg Hunt

Before the Easter break, the Easter Bunny for leaving all our girls in Breakfast Club chocolate eggs. The girls decorated baskets and cards to take home to their families.

