

ST CATHERINE'S PREP NEWSLETTER

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

15 DECEMBER 2021

TAKE A PEEK!

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A NOTE FROM MRS MCPHERSON HEADMISTRESS

This has been an exciting time for St Catherine's Prep. The Nativity and Prep Carol Service were some of the highlights of our school year, and it was so lovely to see the girls' understanding of these moments - they embodied our school spirit with their lovely singing and engagement in the Christmas message.

Last week the Year 6 girls took their entrance tests for the Senior School. Although they each have an automatic place in Year 7, the tests are a great achievement, and I was pleased to see them on their test day to commend their hard work. Of course, this approach to the transition from Prep to Senior School also means that the girls have lots of curriculum time to develop their curiosity and knowledge, beyond English and Maths.

As the term draws to a close the challenges of the pandemic are still with us, and I would like to thank you for your support and understanding. I wish you and your families a happy, safe and blessed Christmas.

With best wishes,
Mrs McPherson

A NOTE FROM MRS MARSH HEAD OF PREP

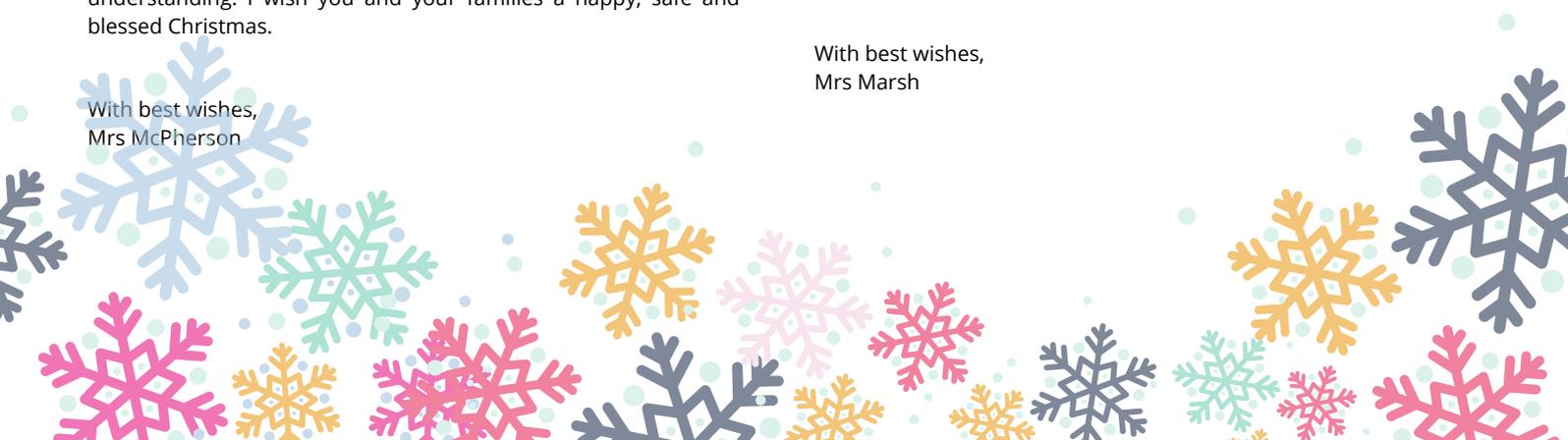
As we rush towards the end of term it has been wonderful to enjoy the beautiful Carol Service and Nativity in Prep and to take time to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

It has been a wonderful term in which we have been able to welcome families back into school to view our activities, experience events with the girls and continue to build the St. Catherine's community.

Our Prep pupils have enjoyed multiple trips, talks and workshops, forged ahead with their learning in every way, made new friends and, most of all, made us all very proud to be a part of their learning.

It's been a busy but enjoyable time and, as staff, we wish you all a restful, peaceful and very happy Christmas.

With best wishes,
Mrs Marsh



NEWS & REMINDERS

We wish all St Catherine's families a peaceful and joyous holiday.
We look forward to seeing your daughters on Thursday, 6 January 2022.

Merry Christmas



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
TWICKENHAM

TERM DATES 2022-2023

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that dates remain unchanged, we reserve the right to make adjustments if circumstances require.

AUTUMN TERM 2022

Term Begins:

Mon 5 Sept 2022

Half Term:

Mon 17 Oct - Fri 28 Oct 2022

Return from Half Term:

Mon 31 Oct 2022

Term Ends:

Wed 14 Dec 2022
at 12.30pm

SPRING TERM 2023

Term Begins:

Thu 5 Jan 2023

Half Term:

Mon 13 Feb - Fri 17 Feb 2023

Return from Half Term:

Mon 20 Feb 2023

Term Ends:

Fri 31 Mar 2023
at 12.30pm

SUMMER TERM 2023

Term Begins:

Tue 18 Apr 2023

Half Term:

Mon 29 May - Fri 2 Jun 2023

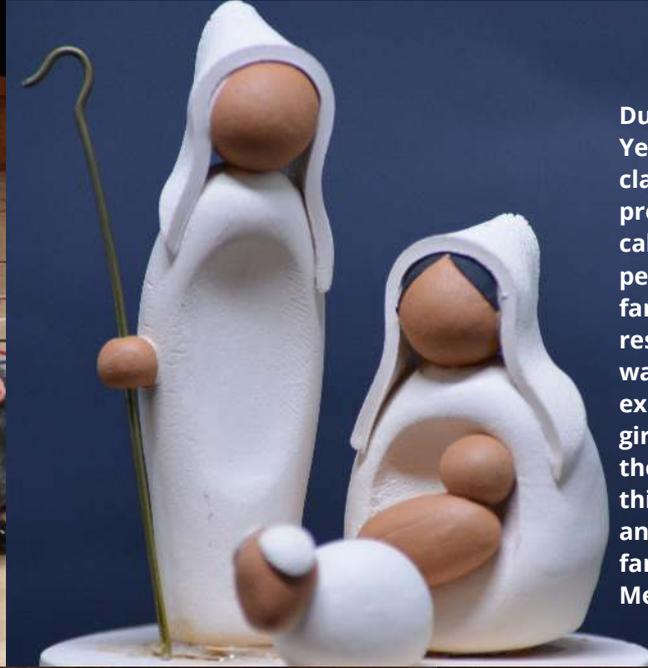
Return from Half Term:

Mon 5 Jun 2023

Term Ends:

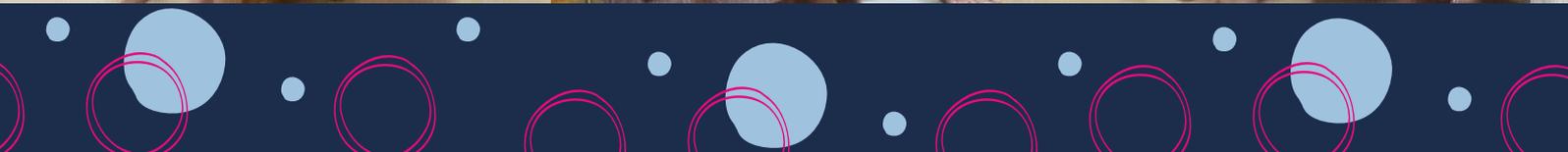
Fri 7 Jul 2023
at 12.30pm

EARLY YEARS NATIVITY



It's a Baby!

During Advent, the Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 classes performed a beautiful production of the Nativity called "It's a Baby!". They performed once to their families and then again to the rest of the Prep School. There was singing, dancing, and excellent acting from all the girls. They so enjoyed bringing the Christmas story to life in this fun, musical performance and getting to wish all their family and friends a very Merry Christmas!



PREP CAROL SERVICE



A celebration of Christmas

The Prep pupils in Years 3 through 6 put on a lovely carol service for family and friends. It was a special celebration of the Christmas season, and a welcome opportunity to gather again as a community. All of the pupils should be proud of their hard work and practice to create such a special event for all of us to enjoy.

FESTIVE FUN



Christmas Lunch

Our wonderful catering team produced a festive feast for us all to enjoy. With their hand made hats, the girls enjoyed the delicious food and the good company of friends.



House Quiz



Panto

Mance Productions thrilled the Prep School pupils when they visited this week for their performance of Sleeping Beauty. With the loudest cheers and boos in Twickenham from the girls the actors delighted us with their versatility and creative performance. A wonderful, fun-filled morning.

There was much excitement last Friday afternoon as all Houses gathered together to take their best shot at the House Quiz! The winner was too close to call, so a deciding round will be held next term.

BREAKFAST CLUB



Santa's Visit

In Breakfast Club, the girls enjoyed a super special breakfast of sausages in rolls with ketchup, pastries, brioche rolls, popcorn and hot chocolate with marshmallows.

The highlight of the party was, of course, the arrival of Father Christmas with two large sacks of presents for the girls, helped out by his Elf assistant, Mr Jingles.

VICTORIAN DAY

Year 6 hopped into their time machines and travelled back to the Victorian Era where they found out just how strict school life was! From having to stand up every time you answered a question to being made to wear a dunce cap if you answered incorrectly...they soon realised life is pretty "sweet" here in the 21st century! They also got to take part in traditional Ceiledh dancing - which left Mrs Baylis and Mrs Aarons rather breathless as they tried to keep up with everyone! One of their favourite activities was acting out Victorian nursery rhymes. "We love a bit o' drama, we do!"

Year 6



PREP LEARNING

Gravity and Air



Pupils in Prep are experimenting with gravity and air resistance by investigating which parachute will fall the fastest. In class the girls have planned their investigation thinking about variables in order to make a fair test. They each made three parachutes and we look forward to now making them fly!

Remembrance Day



Prep pupils created some beautiful handmade red poppies, which were 'planted' around the school to commemorate Remembrance Day.



PREP LEARNING

Year 5 Maths



Here are some recent Times Tables Rock Star certificate winners from Year 5. Well done for achieving their first rock speeds! How much faster do you think they can get at recalling times tables?



In Reception, our biggest project this half term has been to build our plastic bottle igloo. It has transformed our role play area into a corner of the North Pole!

The Reception and Key Stage 1 girls visited our local parish church to learn about the features of the church.

As part of the new EYFS curriculum, the girls had a visit from dentist Dr Shah and dental nurse Manisha to help them learn about good oral hygiene and how to brush their teeth carefully. They practised their brushing technique by using a clean brush on a cardboard "tooth".

Stella said, "Drinking milk is good for your teeth. We can look after our teeth by brushing them."

Trips and Visiting Speakers

Stella said, "I saw the cross and stained glass windows. My favourite thing was seeing the statue of Mary."
Kiena said, "My favourite bit of the church was the windows because they have pictures and colours."
Xanthe said, "There were candles. I saw poppies... to remember poppy day."

PREP SPORT



Interhouse Netball by Olivia, Year 6

Tuesday, 23 November 2021 was the big interhouse match day.

Year 6 played started the competition. First up was Bronte against Pankhurst and Cavell against Nightingale. In those two games footwork appeared often as everyone was still getting used to the atmosphere of being on the courts. The final scores for those matches was Cavell winning against Nightingale 4-1 and the other team drew.

The second match was Cavell against Pankhurst and Bronte against Nightingale. There was lots of switching of position. Interception of the ball happened often which meant that when Bronte passed the ball to another team member Nightingale got it mid throw. The final scores were Cavell beat Pankhurst 4-0 and Nightingale beat Bronte 6-1.

The final match was Bronte against Cavell and Nightingale against Pankhurst. Most people were getting tired due to it being the last match, but as soon as they got started everyone was energetic again. The scores of the match were Cavell beat Bronte 6-1 and Nightingale beat Pankhurst 3-1. At the beginning Nightingale got 2 bonus points, Cavell got 1, Bronte got 2 and Pankhurst got 1.

The players of the day from Bronte were Annabel and Tabby. From Pankhurst it was Sammy. From Cavell were Ottlie, Eleonora and Milly. Finally from Nightingale, it was Izzy and Florence.

Year 6 Results

1st - Cavell

2nd - Nightengale

3rd - Bronte

4th - Pankhurst

Year 4/5 Results

1st - Cavell

2nd - Bronte

3rd - Nightengale

and Pankhurst



ISA London West Swimming Finals

Well done to all the girls that competed in the ISA London West Swimming finals at the start of November. The girls performed so well in a really competitive event! Pictured above are the Prep medallists. Well done to Lucie (Year 6) for Silver in Butterfly and Isabel (Year 6) for Bronze in Breast Stroke. Congratulations also to the Year 4 Relay team who won Bronze and the Year 6 Relay team who won Silver.

SCHOOL MISSION



Our value of 'Community'

In Prep, we have been thinking this term about our new School vision and values, in particular the value of 'Community'. We talked in class about what makes us unique and how, though we are all different, we all fit together in one large community. Every girl and member of staff was then invited to represent themselves on a puzzle piece. These individual pieces were then fitted together to create a giant jigsaw of the Prep community as a simultaneous celebration of both our differences and our togetherness.

School Mission

We are inspired by St Catherine of Siena, who said 'Be who God wants you to be, and you will set the world on fire', to form young women of confidence and compassion, ready for service and leadership in the world. We fulfil our mission through these values:

Community: a place of cheerfulness, dignity and tolerance, where all are welcome

Faith: a Christ-centred school with time for reflection; a culture of gratitude and friendship

Courage: with self-knowledge, resilience and integrity, and a readiness for challenge

Scholarship: where gifts are developed through curiosity, imagination and ambition

Service: commitment to others, to stewardship, and to justice and hope for all