

# ST CATHERINE'S PREP NEWSLETTER

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

**1 APRIL 2022**

## TAKE A PEEK!

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## A NOTE FROM MRS MCPHERSON HEADMISTRESS

As the term draws to a close, St Catherine's Prep is a happy place and the girls have much to be proud of after a busy few months.

I have been especially pleased to see many of them in lessons recently, and enjoyed their curiosity and creativity, whether they were at their desks, in the playground or playing musical instruments. It has also been a pleasure to see the girls' poetry and music in concerts this month, and especially lovely to see Years 1 and 2 and Reception showing such skill and enthusiasm in their Spring Concert.

There is much to look forward to as we move into the Summer Term, when I know the girls will enjoy the better weather, any chance to be on the field and the many special events and activities that are planned. It will also be very good to welcome families on site, and I look forward to seeing you then.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very happy Easter.

With best wishes,  
Mrs McPherson

## A NOTE FROM MRS MARSH HEAD OF PREP

Spring has sprung in Prep.

From the amazing sports lessons on our wonderful pitch to Maths lessons and music taking place in the great outdoors, we have definitely been enjoying the weather.

We have had a great time with Harlequins working with Year 6 and rugby is proving popular with other years too, not to mention the fantastic footballing success of Years 5 and 6.

Residential trips are now back on the agenda and Year 4 had the most wonderful time at Phasels Wood. Residential for Years 3, 5 and 6 will take place in the Summer Term.

Great plans are underway for the various productions for the Years 3 and 4, and 5 and 6 and we enjoyed wonderful concerts from all of the girls this term with their beautiful voices and expertise on a huge range of instruments.

Looking forward to the summer will mean a change to summer dresses nearer to half term, but please return in April in the usual winter uniform.

Wishing you a restful and peaceful Easter,

Mrs Marsh



*Wishing all of our pupils  
and their families a very  
joyous Easter holiday.*



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

**Pupils should return to school wearing their Winter uniform.**



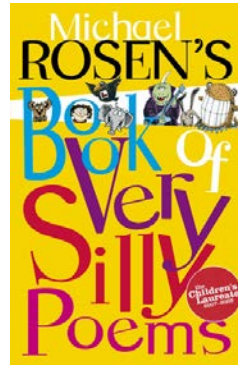
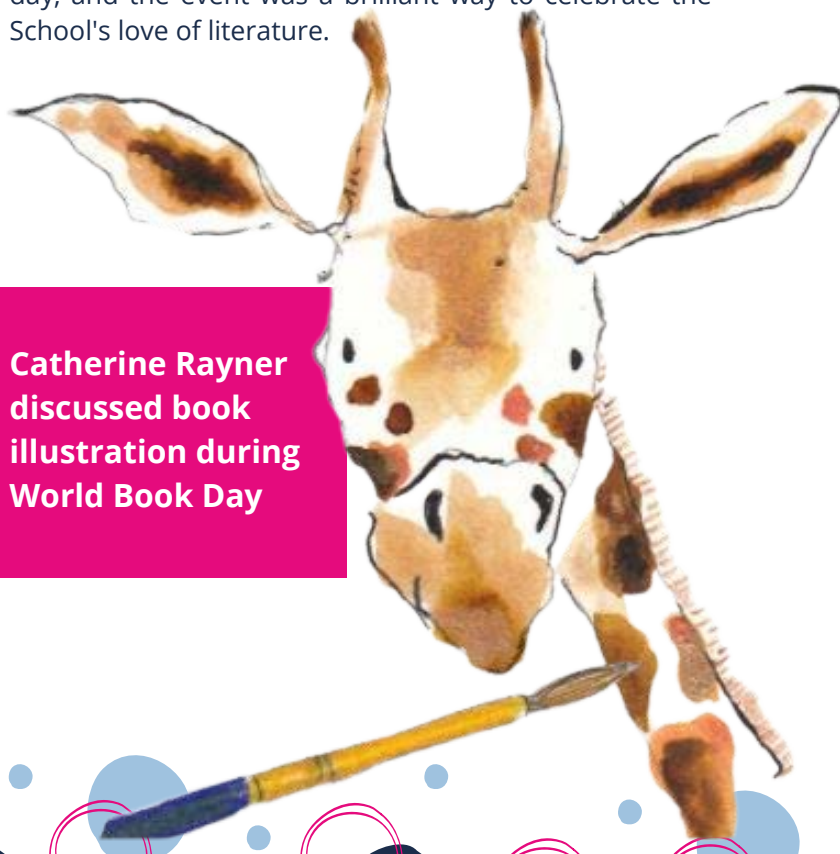
## World Book Day

On 3 March, the girls celebrated world book day with a host of marvellous activities. Author Kirsty Riddiford gave some inspirational talks to Years 3-6 on the writing process and how to stretch their imaginations. She also gave the girls practical methods for planning and editing which they can bring to their own writing, and then stayed for a book sale and signing.

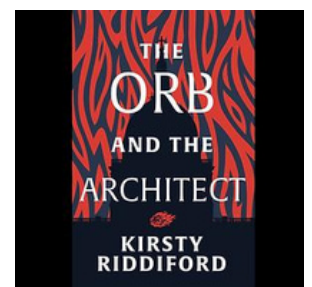
Pupils in Years 1-2 got creative with an online talk with famed author and illustrator Catherine Rayner who gave the girls a crash course in combining storytelling and art. Her tips on drawing and brainstorming characters led Reception and Years 1 and 2 to draw their own characters and create their own character stories. Award winning poet, Michael Rosen, also gave a hilarious online talk to Years 3-6 in the afternoon that had pupils and teachers in stitches. Year 6 also got a peek into life in the Senior School with a visit to the Senior Library.

Naturally, there were some stunning book themed outfits on the day, ranging from Cruella De Vil to Dumbledore. Among a variety of other reading-related activities such as "drop everything and read" events and mystery books in the library, the girls were treated to guest readings from staff and parents who read extracts of their favourite works. Overall, everyone had a magical day, and the event was a brilliant way to celebrate the School's love of literature.

**Catherine Rayner  
discussed book  
illustration during  
World Book Day**



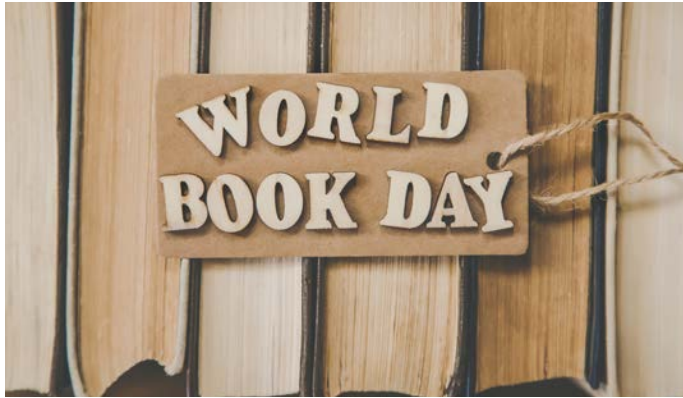
**Michael Rosen**



**Kirsty Riddiford**



# PREP LEARNING





# PREP LEARNING



Year 4 enjoyed a recent Retreat Afternoon. The focus was on Forgiveness and Reconciliation and pupils reflected on the story of the Lost Son and how our choices can sometimes lead us to hurting others.

We considered our own need for forgiveness, too, and learnt that Lent is a time where we can grow closer to being who God calls us to be.

We planted sunflower seeds as a reminder that we need to pray and be kind to others in order to grow. We look forward to seeing the seeds sprout over the next few weeks.

## Year 4 Retreat



## Forest School



This half term, the Reception girls have been enjoying learning about spring and farm animals. We've been looking for signs of spring on our Forest School excursions and playing at being farmers in the new farm role play area.

## Meditation Club

Some pupils from Years 5 and 6 participate in a Mindfulness and Meditation Club with Mrs Aarons, where girls have been learning a range of meditation, breathing and relaxation techniques.





# PREP LEARNING

## Mother's Day at Breakfast Club



In Breakfast Club we celebrated our wonderful mums, who were treated to a full English breakfast, home-made cards and gifts. What a lovely way to start the day!



## Spring Concerts

The Prep girls enjoyed performing in their first 'post-Covid' Spring Concert this month, which featured musicians from Years 4, 5 and 6. All the staff were incredibly proud of their performances, especially Mrs Graham, of course!

From Bach to Stormzy we were treated to a plethora of fabulous musical experiences and it was lovely to see the girls really enjoying showing off their skills.

Additionally, the Reception and Years 1-3 pupils also treated their parents to their own Spring Celebration with fantastic performances of poetry, music and a prayer, all in the theme of the new beginnings of Spring.





## National Science Week

We celebrated National Science Week with a wealth of science, engineering, technology and maths-based activities on the topic of 'growth'. From making recycled paper and investigating how different plants and vegetables grow, to finding out why our oceans are salty, pupils explored how science is an integral and fascinating part of our everyday lives.



The girls did a fabulous job of researching and dressing up as important and inspirational women from the world of Science. It was a fitting homage to the countless female scientists that have forwarded our knowledge and understanding of the world.

The week also saw several parents come in and speak to the girls about their roles in various scientific fields. This was a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to learn about the many different career opportunities linked to STEM.

On Friday, we finished the week with an action-packed science show from Professor Bubbleworks who had us all captivated with his fire tornados, amazing giant bubbles and many interactive hands-on experiments.





# PREP LEARNING

## National Science Week



As part of Science week, Year 5 learned how recycled paper is made by making it themselves. What a successful project!

In Early Years, the pupils enjoyed dressing up as scientists, doctors and vets during Science Week. They also enjoyed taking part in daily science experiments on the theme of "growth". We grew sprouts from seasonal root vegetables, and are still watching to see what will grow with our "mouldy bread" experiment.



## Parents are Scientists, too!



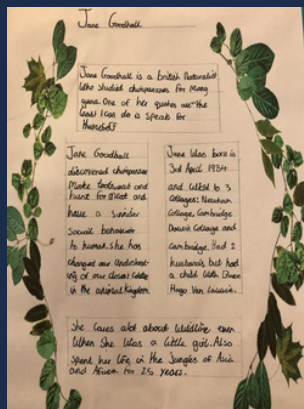
Our parents got involved with Science Week, to deliver some talks in the classrooms. The girls really enjoyed learning about how science can be used in many areas of our life.



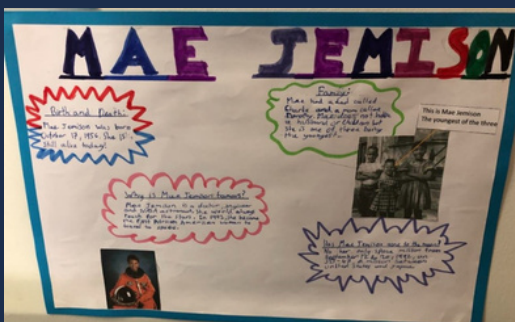
## Inspirational Scientists



Jane Goodall



Mae Jemison

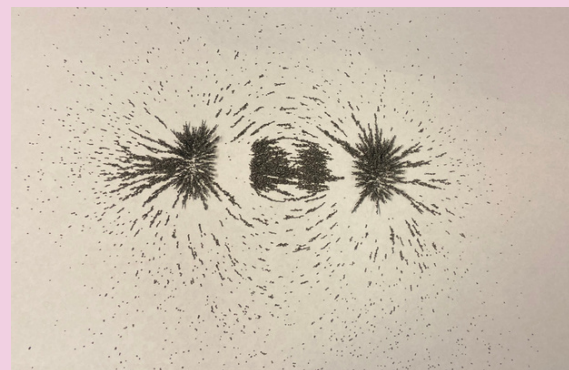


Pupils created fact files about inspirational women from science, including Mae Jemison and Jane Goodall.

## National Science Week

In Science this term, Year 3 have been investigating the magnetic field of a magnet. Using a magnet we were able to observe the iron fillings on the paper as they gravitated towards the poles.

For Science Week, Year 3 investigated the permeability of different soil to see which soil would be best for the growing of plants. After investigating, we found out that loam soil has the best permeability to allow water to soak through to the roots of a plant.





# PREP LEARNING

## Wildflower Seed Bombs

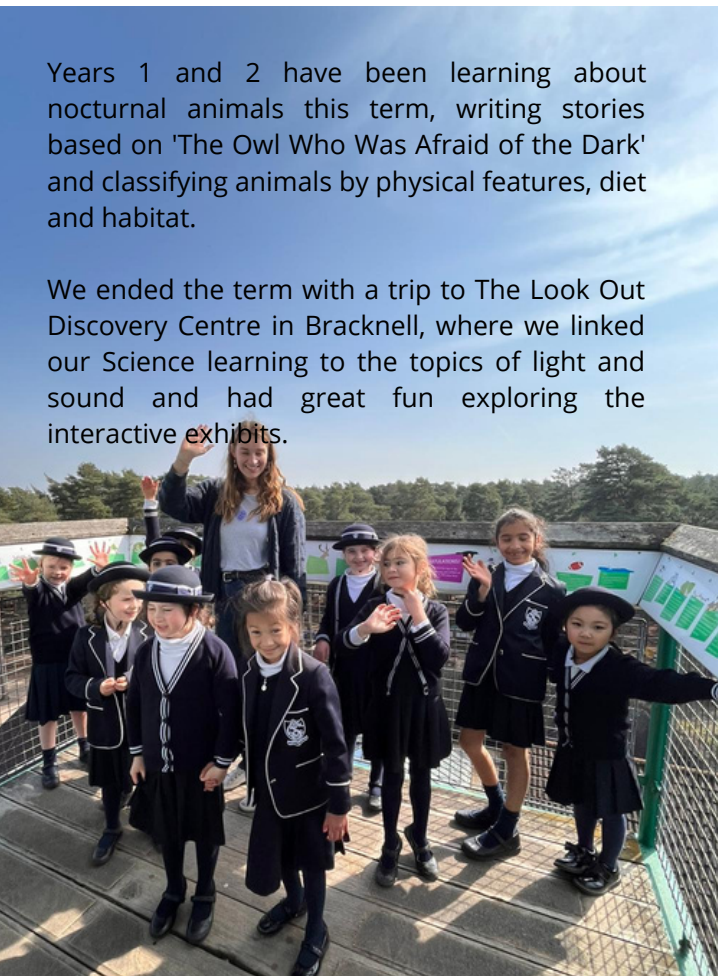


Year 4 created seed bombs, a ball made of compost mixed with flour and water into which seeds have been embedded. These little balls can then be thrown and once the seeds begin to germinate, the bomb will slowly break apart. The soil will then provide a base for the seeds to start growing.

## The Look Out Discovery Centre

Years 1 and 2 have been learning about nocturnal animals this term, writing stories based on 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' and classifying animals by physical features, diet and habitat.

We ended the term with a trip to The Look Out Discovery Centre in Bracknell, where we linked our Science learning to the topics of light and sound and had great fun exploring the interactive exhibits.





# PREP LEARNING

## Hounslow Urban Farm

The Reception girls had an excellent trip to Hounslow Urban Farm at the end of March. They saw lots of different farm animals as well as some exotic reptiles and fish.

Highlights included feeding the goats and sheep, seeing newborn baby lambs, and bouncing on the bouncy castle at the end of the day.



## Writing Club

Writing Club has really taken off this term with the girls producing a fantastic range of writing from kennings poems to potion recipes and stories.

There is always something to inspire and the girls love being able to share what they have written at the end of each lunchtime session.





# PREP SPORT

## Scrum Queens!



This half term the Year 6 girls have been enjoying rugby sessions led by Harlequins coaches during their PE lessons. They have been learning how to pass, score tries and tackle safely. We have been impressed by how the girls have taken on this new challenge and the resilience they have shown getting stuck into a very physical sport.

## Harlequins Rugby Assembly



The Year 4 and 5 girls have also been enjoying their first experience of rugby in their PE lessons, with the Year 4 pupils managing to conquer the difficult concept of defensive lines and the offside rule and the Year 5 pupils showing incredible determination and toughness when tackling. A special shout out to Mavis in Year 5 who has proven herself to be a tackling machine!

There is certainly an appetite for rugby amongst the girls and we hope to continue with the sport on the curriculum next year.



**Huge thanks to the Harlequins Foundation, who have not only provided coaching but also donated rugby balls, bibs and tag rugby belts.**

The pupils in Prep and Years 7-9 listened to Sheree and Lee from Harlequin's Rugby, who delivered an inspirational talk on the importance of staying positive and aiming high as part of their double-champions trophy tour. The pupils enjoyed seeing both the men's and the women's Premiership trophies from last season in assembly.



## Football Tournament v Newland House



Our U11 girls took part in the first annual Newland House football tournament at Bushy Park sports club. Despite the weather's best effort to dampen spirits, the girls put on a dominant display of skill, teamwork and dogged determination. The girls played six teams in total, winning five of their games and drawing the final game against a strong Newland House team, which meant they finished first overall. Well done to all involved!

## Swimming Galas

After the initial disruption to galas at the start of term due to Covid, it has been an eventful term for swimming, hosting galas against Newland House, Harrodian School and Kew College.

It was nice for the girls to swim against tough opposition including mixed races. For some of our younger pupils it was their first ever gala and we are really proud of how well they all swam. In lessons the girls have been developing their dives and turns; it was so pleasing to see how well they used them in the competitions.



## Interhouse Rugby by Imogen, Year 5

During this half term, the Year 5 girls have been playing rugby, which as most people know includes tackling, running and lots of teamwork. I was among the many girls in my class who, like me, played rugby in their PE lessons and immensely enjoyed every second of it.

Last week, we played our Interhouse Rugby tournament and to my delight, I found out that my house (Bronte) had won. I am very proud of my team in all ways from making excellent defensive tackles to breaking through gaps in the other teams defence that led to scoring numerous tries. I would also like to applaud the other Houses for being great opposition. However, I think that everyone played amazingly, all tried their best and should remember this day for the rest of their lives.



## Mission Marathon Fundraiser



A massive congratulations to all of the girls in Prep who took on the 'Mission Marathon' with wholehearted determination. The aim of the challenge was to see how many marathons we could collectively complete over two weeks, while raising sponsorship money for our charities.

The girls ran around a 200m track before school and at break and lunchtime, recording their laps daily. Reception and Year 1 were set a target of two laps per day, Years 2-4 were set four laps and Years 5-6 were set eight laps. Lots of the girls smashed these targets with some girls covering 8km in a day. Incredibly, several girls managed to complete individual marathon distances over the two-week challenge! The girls collectively managed to run 2,437km which equates to 57 marathons (42.195km). At the last count, the girls had raised close to £1,500 for their chosen charities, NSPCC and ARC.

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**The girls collectively managed to run 2,437km which equates to 57 marathons.**

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## Interhouse Football Years 4-5 and Year 6

The Interhouse Football was fiercely competitive, with the girls putting into place all of the skills and tactics they have learnt during their PE lessons. They displayed their wonderful leadership and teamwork skills when organising their positions and substitutes for each game and had a brilliant time!

### Year 4/5 Results:

1st: Bronte  
2nd (Tied): Cavell and Pankhurst  
4th Place: Nightingale

### Year 6 Results:

1st: Nightingale  
2nd: Pankhurst  
3rd: Bronte  
4th: Cavell

## Year 5 Football v Jack and Jill School

On a very damp afternoon, two Year 5 teams played a football fixture against Jack and Jill school in Sunbury.

The girls completely forgot about the weather as soon as they started playing, showing great resilience and team work. It was readily apparent that skills learned through their football lessons and interhouse games have greatly improved their game awareness.

The A team won 3-0 and the B team won 5-1. **Players of the game were Annabella and Harshini.**

## Gymnastics Club

The Prep girls have been delighted to have our very own Polly from Year 13 leading gymnastics sessions on a Monday morning with Ms Feenan.

Polly works part time for Little Gym and is an accomplished gymnast herself. Her excellent demonstrations, clear instructions and calm and friendly manner has ensured that the girls have been receiving excellent coaching.

Next term Polly will be concentrating on her exams and we wish her every success in the future.



# 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

