

ST CATHERINE'S PREP NEWSLETTER

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

10 FEBRUARY 2023

TAKE A PEEK!

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A NOTE FROM MRS MCPHERSON HEADMISTRESS

The cold weather has not been an impediment to Prep girls this half term - they have been full of action and enthusiasm. The Young Voices Concert at the O2, the various retreats and trips, and the Times Table Rock Stars have been just some of their adventures. We have also been pleased to see the girls enjoying their sporting activities - competitions for football, cross country and swimming have helped them to show ambition and have fun.

It was delightful to see the Year 6 at their Transition Afternoon; creative activities were followed by a delicious tea (younger pupils can anticipate the famous ice cream cone cupcakes!) As always, it was good to meet with parents too and to talk over this important time for the girls, as they move into the Senior School. I can certainly see that this Year 6 group will be a wonderful addition to Senior School life.

I wish all St Catherine's families a very happy half term, and I look forward to seeing parents soon at the Shrove Tuesday Parents Drinks Reception. This event will be especially exciting; we will celebrate recent developments and I will introduce the new Music and Art Building.

With best wishes,
Mrs McPherson

A NOTE FROM MRS MARSH HEAD OF PREP

What a busy and invigorating term we have had so far.

This term, our Pupil Voice committees have elected to support NHS charities and the Shooting Star Children's Hospice organisation, alongside our current initiative to support the fantastic organisation, Mary's Meals.

The Food Committee organised a successful bake sale and the School Council has selected final colours for our forthcoming Friendship Bench. Last year's School Council were involved in choosing a new, more practical winter coat. We hope to phase this in from September 2023.

We have had some wonderful musical events already this term, with Years 5 and 6 performing with 9000 other children at the O2 arena. Other Prep pupils are currently rehearsing in preparation for the forthcoming Richmond Music Festival.

The girls have worked extremely hard in the last few weeks and I would like to wish you all a very restful half term break.

With best wishes,
Mrs Marsh

DATES TO REMEMBER

You are warmly invited to our

Shrove Tuesday Drinks Reception

Feb
21

[please click here](#)
to RSVP

6.30
pm



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

Proposed Music and Art Development Project

St Catherine's is currently seeking to develop our Music and Art provision for pupils and has submitted an application to Richmond Council to redevelop our existing music building. All plans for improvements are conceived as part of the school mission to offer outstanding education for girls.

The opportunity to improve Music and Art provision is a chance to focus on an area of the School that has not received investment for many years. The project is a response to the girls' talent and enjoyment of these creative subjects, a commitment to the very important part music and art play in education, and to fostering pupils' gifts and talents.

The current music building is a single-storey brick building from the late 1980s, which is in need of modernisation; it accommodates music lessons, choir and orchestra rehearsals, and large pupil meetings. The central music room and the smaller rooms for individual music lessons are no longer suitable for the range of opportunities we offer our pupils. The new design creates a space to suit the aspirations and talent of our pupils, and will allow the School's current programme of performance and exhibition events to be hosted in a more attractive and comfortable manner. We envisage a sustainable building programme to run from summer 2024 to summer 2025, subject to the approval process.

Please look out for the display at the Shrove Tuesday event on 21 February where we will share a visual representation of this exciting development. For more information or to share comments or suggestions, please contact developments@stcatherineschool.co.uk.



Existing view from Cross Deep



Proposed view from Cross Deep

Architectural renderings will be on view at our Shrove Tuesday Drinks Reception on 21 February

PREP LEARNING

Times Tables Rock Star Day

We had the opportunity this term to dress up as rockstars for our own Times Tables Rockstars Day. During the day, we practised our times tables and even had battles against other groups. We had such fun and cannot wait to continue making times tables a core part of our learning.



Maths Mentors

We have recently chosen Maths Mentors in the Prep School. These mentors will be able to guide and support their peers, while also developing their own mathematical understanding and reasoning skills in the process. The Maths Mentors will participate in monthly meetings where they will discuss their successes as well as explore how to overcome challenges.



Prep Uniform



The Prep School Council has been exploring options for a new and more practical school coat. This will be phased in from September 2023. Thank you to Alba for modelling our sample, above.

For Prep pupils, there is also now a new beanie at Stevenson's; this is the only woolly hat that should be worn into school, except the usual school hat for pupils in Years 1-5.

Save the Date!

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

2 MARCH 2023

World Book Week commences on 27 February and our Prep Librarian, Ms Knights, would like to remind everyone of these upcoming events to celebrate all things literary!

- Pupils should **bring their reading book to school every day** for Drop Everything and Read.
- If you are in Year 6, get writing! **Entries for the 'My So-Called Life' creative writing competition are due on Monday 20 February.**
- Where's the most WILD place you like to read? **Snap a pic and enter your photo by Monday 20 February.**
- Bring in a gently used book for the Book Swap on 27 February.
- **Dress up as your favourite book character on 2 March.**
- Wear your cosiest pyjamas or onesie for the **Prep Pyjama Party** on 3 March.

Save the Date

Shakespeare Monologues Evening
Friday 24 February
4 - 5.30pm

PREP LEARNING

Year 6 Senior School Transition Afternoon



The Year 6 girls had their first taste of senior school life during our Senior School Transition Afternoon. The event kicked off with a talk from Mrs Saunders and Miss Feenan about what the girls could expect from life in the senior school at St Catherine's. Next, the Year 6 girls had two minutes to quiz a Year 7 pupil in a speed-dating style session, before the buzzer rang and they moved on to the next Year 7 girl. This gave the girls an opportunity to get to know lots of the Year 7 pupils as well as find out the answers to all of their burning questions, such as "can you decorate your locker?".

Following a quick refreshment break, the girls then headed to the Sixth Form Common Room to play some fun teambuilding games with the Sixth Formers. Their favourite game was creating a super St Catherine's pupil with special powers. Miss Feenan's favourite superpower was the 'power to brainwash teachers into not giving us homework'! Wonderful costumes were created for the super pupils, some of which you can see in the photo above.

The afternoon wrapped up with pizza and ice cream cone cake, which was a big hit! We hope this afternoon was fun for the Year 6 girls and helped to build their excitement about moving on to Senior School next year.



Year 6 Sing at Brinsworth House



Last term, Year 6 had a wonderful opportunity for outreach when they sang some war-time songs and 1940's favourites to the residents at Brinsworth House in Twickenham, which, for over one hundred years, has become the home of many retired artists and those of who have spent their lives serving the entertainment industry.

The residents enjoyed singing along to songs such as 'Blue Skies' and 'We'll Meet Again' which the girls learnt as part of their study about World War II.

After singing, the girls received a thoughtful snack provided by Brinsworth House, and they had time to visit with the residents and ask about their life experiences during the war. Some residents had some amazing stories to share about being evacuated as children.

It was a delightful and informative event for all involved.

Food Committee

Bake Sale

Thanks to all of the pupils and parents in Years 5 and 6 for providing a huge variety of goods for sale. It was a roaring success! The Food Committee members were able to set up a large table at break time, with enough items for an additional sale at the end of the day at home time.

The event raised a fantastic £165.38 to go towards the chosen Prep charities, NHS and Shooting Star Children's Hospice, as well as to our whole school charity, Mary's Meals.



PREP LEARNING

Young Voices 2023 at the O2 Arena



Prep pupils in Years 5 and 6 went to the O2 Arena in London in January to participate in the Young Voices concert, the largest school choir in the world. Over 9,000 students from different schools sang together, alongside performances by Heather Small, The Beatbox Collective and Urban Strides dance group.

The pieces performed were a combination of songs from the British Isles, songs celebrating the poetry of Spike Milligan and some classic pop that got everyone up on their feet. It was an amazing experience to be part of the powerful sound of 9,000 voices together, and the lighting and atmosphere were electric. The arena was literally twinkling with the torches held by all of the Young Voices singers.

This concert was sung to promote singing in schools and in support of the charities 'Place2Be' and 'Fare Share' food bank.

The Young Voices organisation promotes the benefits of music and singing for children, citing that the opportunity to perform in such large-scale events helps children's self-belief, self-motivation, confidence, and ability to communicate as part of a team - which is invaluable!

Leading up to the concert, the pupils spent a lot of time rehearsing and preparing for the event, and they should be very proud of the hard work they undertook to make the concert a success. The girls had a brilliant time and have returned to school with a renewed enthusiasm for singing!

Artificial Intelligence Workshop



Pupils from Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a hands-on workshop on the topic of Artificial Intelligence led by Standup Computing. Pupils learnt how computers are trained to recognise objects and why computers are not always able to solve the problems correctly.

Later, the girls created their own Machine Learning (ML) system and competed in teams to improve the accuracy of their ML creations. Pupils went away with an enhanced understanding of AI and had lots of fun in the process.

PREP LEARNING

Year 4 London Mithraeum

Year 4 had a really interesting day at the London Mithraeum. We were lucky enough to handle objects that had been recovered from the archeological dig site in order to find out what life was like in Roman Londinium.

The highlight of the day was the atmospheric visit to the temple of Mithras where we learned the heroic story of how he created day and night. The girls asked interesting questions and learned a lot.



Forces of Nature

This term, Year 5 have been learning about forces in Science, including gravity, friction and air resistance. We have enjoyed exploring Newton's laws of motion, learning how to use force meters to measure the effects of friction on a moving object and this week, have experimented with how parachutes use air resistance to slow their fall. Each group tested a different parachute-building variable and observed how it affected the fall in a fair test.



PREP LEARNING

Year 3 Trip to British Museum



To launch Year 3's Ancient Egypt topic this term, we visited the British Museum to marvel at the fascinating artefacts and explore some of the many questions we have about the ancient Egyptians. Our visit started with a hands-on 'Excavating Egypt' session, where the girls had the chance to use their archaeology skills to learn more about different objects and then place them on a timeline from 3000 BC to today.

Next, having researched some key items within the museum before our visit, the girls enjoyed exploring the Ancient Egypt galleries and the wonderful exhibits including the huge sarcophagi and Ancient Egyptian board games; the beautiful, detailed tomb paintings and the Rosetta Stone.

It was great to see the girls' enthusiasm for our new topic and also hear them making comparisons with Ancient Greece, which we studied last term.



PREP LEARNING



Years 1 and 2 Sea Life Aquarium Trip

Years 1 and 2 went on a trip to the London Sea Life Aquarium as part of their 'Oceans and Seas' topic in Geography. We saw penguins and jellyfish and even got to touch a starfish. We also loved looking at the sites of London as we walked during our day.



U11 ISA Cross Country



Pupils from Years 5 and 6 formed our U11 team and showed real grit and determination on a difficult, undulating and muddy course. The girls completed a distance of 2.3km with a fantastic team performance, finishing fifth out of 17 teams. Our best individual performance came from Poppy, who finished an impressive 14th out of 98 runners.

U11 ISA Netball



Our U11 netballers gave an excellent account of themselves at the recent ISA competition. In the group stages, we won four games, drew one and lost one, with Rose and Bella teaming up to be an excellent shooting team.

After playing six games in the group stages the girls' efforts began to take their toll and unfortunately we could not reproduce our excellent earlier performances in the knockout stages. The girls finished 8th out of 16 teams and were excellent representatives of the school throughout the competition. Well done to all involved!

Please support our
FUNdraising
and charity
initiatives!

DATES for your DIARY

St Patrick's Day Quiz:
17 March – tickets on sale
after half term

Prep Disco:
21 April

Summer Cheese & Wine:
19 May

Please reach out via your class rep if you are able to join the planning team or volunteer at any of these events.

FOSC Facts - why we exist

- To enrich the experience of school life at St Catherine's.
- To foster a strong community at St Catherine's for all families.
- To support those less fortunate in our local community.
- Put simply we are all about FUN, FRIENDSHIP and FUNDRAISING.

FOSC Support

In summer 2022, FOSC made a £60,000 donation to enable the transformation of the Sixth Form Centre and it is great to see the girls making the most of the enhanced space. We look forward to supporting further 'big ticket' items and continuing to support Nessie, Stride, the libraries and a range of activities.

Special thanks to all of the class reps for their support of FOSC and an extra special thank you to the ReDress team who drive the FOSC circular economy, kit out the girls and already this year have raised £4500. Watch this space for details of the ReDress store grand opening!

Words from the Chair

It has been a busy start to the academic year for FOSC. Last term we welcomed in the start of the year with the popular St Cat's Sausage Sizzle and Prep Disco (which were held on the same day due to Queen Elizabeth II's lying-in-state and funeral). Lots of fun was had, wonderful memories made, and friendships formed and strengthened. Thank you to everyone who helped make the events a success and to everyone for coming along and joining in. We raised £1896 that day!

Later in the term, we held our second Cheese and Wine evening, curated by Tom Doran from the fabulous Doran wines and delicious cheese pairings from Teddington Cheese. The ever-popular Wreath Making event followed, culminating in the FOSC Christmas Fair, which raised an amazing £3K. Many thanks to the parent helpers, teachers, face painters, cake stall entries, St Catherine's Choir, Hot House dancers, Fr Christmas, stall owners and everyone else who attended. *Simone*

Giving Back

Giving back to our community is something we take great pride in and we have a lot to be proud of:

- We supported Richmond Christmas Day Dinner with a pledge of 30 books, stocking fillers, chocolates and supermarket vouchers for young care leavers
- Donated surplus (uncooked) sausages to a local charity
- Recycled any uniform that could not be used to Choice and sent the fees paid for our clothes to our uniform charity partner in Tanzania
- Donated 8 crates of leftover books from the book stall to The Children's Book Project and Fara Book Shop.
- And we'll keep doing more across 2023!



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

