

ST CATHERINE'S PREP NEWSLETTER

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

11 FEBRUARY 2022

TAKE A PEEK!

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A NOTE FROM MRS MCPHERSON HEADMISTRESS

Prep families and staff have had their share of challenges over this half term and shown great flexibility and resilience. At the time of writing, it is so pleasing to know that most girls and teachers are now back in lessons, and that those who have been unwell are recovering. My best wishes go to any member of the school community who is still ill; I hope that these sunny days help to restore energy to all.

It has been wonderful to see so many prospective parents visiting. As ever, they are so impressed by what they see, and offer particular praise for their engaging Year 6 guides. These pupils have also just received their formal offers to join the Senior School and I very much look forward to welcoming such a lovely and talented group.

Over the last few weeks, I've enjoyed watching energetic and noisy swimming relays, and admiring the girls' talent in the Shakespeare monologue competition, among other things. Your daughters are busy and thriving and I'm sure they are also looking forward to half term, which I hope is a happy time. Lastly, thank you for your ongoing support, in maintaining good relations with our neighbours, especially as regards parking around the site.

With best wishes,
Mrs McPherson

A NOTE FROM MRS MARSH HEAD OF PREP

What a whirlwind half term we have had. Despite being hit by illness, the teaching continued and the girls have been engaging and thriving with the varied curriculum we offer.

Day trips are now being enjoyed and I am sure you will appreciate the range of places, trips and workshops the girls have participated in this half of term, including our Early Years and their Forest School Adventure.

We have also been busy on the ISA competition front with a pupil being selected for the music final and two of our girls being entered into the ISA Drama competition. Not to be outdone, our sports teams have represented themselves with great success in recent competitions and fixtures.

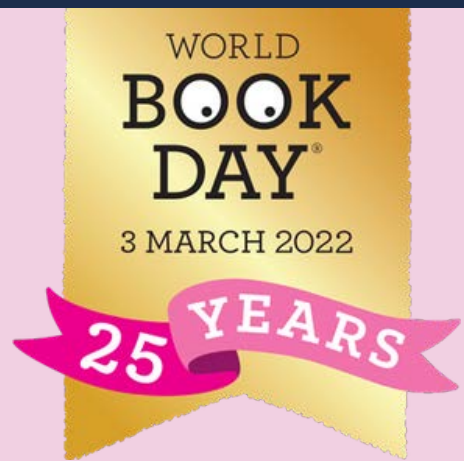
As we look forward to a busy next half of term, I wish you a restful break during the coming week.

With best wishes,
Mrs Marsh

NEWS & REMINDERS



In 2022, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of World Book Day – with the message for all children 'you are a reader!' We will have a visit from author Kirstin Riddiford and virtual shows from Michael Rosen and Catherine Rayner. As always, pupils will have the chance to dress up as their favourite fictional characters and there will be a host of activities, competitions, and reading events throughout the day to further their love of the written word.



FOSC Re-Dress Second Hand Uniform Sale

The next FOSC Re-Dress
uniform sale will be held on
Tuesday 15 March
3:00 - 4:30pm
Dining Hall



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	SPRING TERM 2023	SUMMER TERM 2023
Term Begins: Mon 5 Sept 2022	Term Begins: Thu 5 Jan 2023	Term Begins: Tue 18 Apr 2023
Half Term: Mon 17 Oct - Fri 28 Oct 2022	Half Term: Mon 13 Feb - Fri 17 Feb 2023	Half Term: Mon 29 May - Fri 2 Jun 2023
Return from Half Term: Mon 31 Oct 2022	Return from Half Term: Mon 20 Feb 2023	Return from Half Term: Mon 5 Jun 2023
Term Ends: Wed 14 Dec 2022 at 12.30pm	Term Ends: Fri 31 Mar 2023 at 12.30pm	Term Ends: Fri 7 Jul 2023 at 12.30pm

PREP LEARNING

Positively You

Natalie from Positively You delighted our Year 3 and 4 pupils with a wonderful workshop which explored ways for the girls to manage their well-being and self growth. Fun exercises and information was given to support the pupils with personal awareness and reducing levels of stress; great tools for our pupils to add to their personal tool kits for managing the rush of day to day life.

The afternoon was followed by a special session just for parents. If you missed the Parent Twilight presentation from Natalie the link is below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/yG0VyeFl4Oq5uYQJ3wf4x4RC7NLSMtof1o13LubmEotyUBZNysGfkVKjd3utDQyg.D1JAp2VFHxrl0dSO>

Please note that this link is active through 15 February.



Cakes for Charity

The Food Committee ran a fantastic cake sale for the school, publicising the event and organising the stalls. Despite the freezing weather it was a total sell out, raising £112.50 for our selected charities this year, ARC and the NSPCC.



PREP LEARNING

Tudor Houses

Year 5 have been exploring Tudor Houses through their Art and Design/Technology lessons. The girls have been researching the features of Tudor Houses in History this term, and then bringing them to life in their own designs.



This term, Years 1, 2 and 3 went on a trip to the National Gallery to see up-close some of the artworks they have studied. We had a go recreating royal portraits, recognised many of the famous impressionist artworks on display and enjoyed looking closely for hidden details in the artworks. The painting of Whistlejacket the horse, and Monet's Waterlilies were some of our favourites.

National Gallery Trip



PREP LEARNING

Breakfast Club



We had loads of sweet fun during Breakfast Club today, celebrating Valentine's Day!



Learning Together

Earlier this month, the Reception pupils welcomed their parents into the classroom where they watched a Phonics lesson and then sat with their daughter to look through her Learning Journey book together.

It was a fun and joyful occasion showcasing the reading and writing skills that Reception have been learning in class.



Forest School

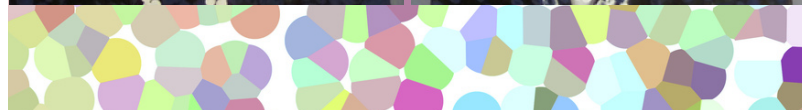
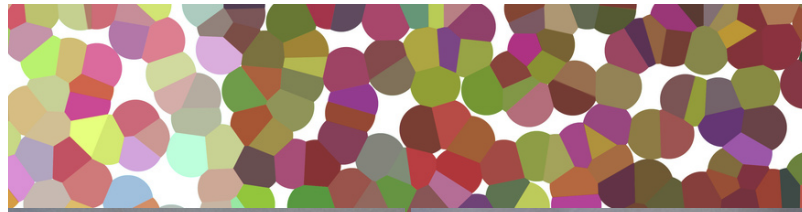


This term, Reception are going regularly to local parks on a Thursday afternoon to take their learning outdoors and appreciate the benefits of being in nature. On their first outing, the girls enjoyed completing a nature scavenger hunt and looking for early signs of Spring.

Stella found lots of sticks and seeds on the ground and Xanthe felt the rough bark on a tall tree.

Kiena and Charlie both got dizzy at the playground, spinning round and round and up and down on the play equipment.

Forest School is quickly becoming the highlight of the week in Reception!



Pointillism

The Reception girls used a cotton bud to transform a black and white photograph of themselves into a fabulous portrait in a pointillist style. They paid close attention to the colours they needed for their skin, eyes, and hair and mixed to create the correct tones.



PREP LEARNING

Thames Explorers

By Iona, Year 6

The Thames Explorer trip was very enjoyable. We did so many different experiments to do with the river. Our first impressions of the water were dirty and muddy; there were loads of birds and there was some plastic waste on the foreshore.

One of the first experiments we did was to throw dog biscuits into the river to see how fast the current is. The seagulls kept trying to get the dog treats so we all had to pretend to be a dog and bark. After that, we tested the cleanliness and pH level of the water by putting litmus paper into a bucket of river water. Luckily the water measured at 6 so it showed it to be neutral meaning that the river water wasn't polluted too much. We also found out that the water was actually clear and that it was the mud from the river bed that made the water go brown. When we tested the temperature in the water it was 10 degrees and the air temperature was 15 degrees. As a group we scored the river a 4 out of 5, because it wasn't that polluted.

We also went water dipping for different river animals such as finding fresh water shrimp, water snails and clam shells. Some people also found small leeches. Mrs Baylis was a bit squeamish and wasn't too keen on collecting leeches with a net; there was a lot of squealing. Afterwards, we learned about how humans had built over the natural river and how much waste, oils and chemicals were put into the river in the olden days. We also learned about the Great Stink and how Joseph Bazalgette told people how to save the River Thames by making a sewage system to clean the water. Although the River Thames isn't perfect, it is so much better than it was before and I can't imagine what it would be like if Joseph Bazelegate hadn't been alive. Ava and I both rate this trip a 10/10.



PREP LEARNING

Saxon Storytelling



Year 4 was transported back over 1000 years to learn about the Saxons in Kingston through a storytelling workshop with Kingston Museum. The Saxon King Aethelstan, crowned in Kingston, was the first king of all of England. Pupils took part in Aethelstan's coronation day, and even were able to ask questions of the king himself.



At the Year 5 retreat we had a wonderful time together. The focus of the retreat was 'What are our gifts?' and we acknowledged that everyone has different gifts.

After this, we decorated a jar each and cut up the scroll to fold them into little pieces to drop into the jar. In the jar's contents you could also find jelly beans and a scripture quote.

Firstly, the pupils each wrote their name at the top of a piece of paper and then left their sheet in a specific place in the room. Everyone then walked around the room writing down the gifts that that person had and folded it over so the next person couldn't see. At the end of the activity, everyone had a scroll to open with a list of the gifts that people see in them.

At the end of the day, we gathered around to say some prayers, thanking God for our gifts. We then wrote a prayer for the person sitting on our right and read it out one by one. We then gave our prayer to that person which was placed inside their jar. At the end of the day, everyone had a beautiful jar full of gifts.

Year 5 Retreat



Congratulations to Sophie (Y4), who has been selected for the National Cross Country Championships!

ISA Cross Country



Congratulations to the cross country runners who took part in the ISA regional finals on 4 February at Sherfield School. The U11 team finished 6th out of 19 teams whilst the U9 team finished 9th out of 17 teams. Sophie Reeve finished an impressive 7th place in the U9 event and now qualifies for the ISA National finals, to be held in Nottinghamshire on 19 March. We wish Sophie all the best of luck for the finals and cannot wait to see how well she does!



Year 6 ISA Netball Tournament

On Friday, 28 January some of the Year 6 girls played in the U11 ISA Regional Netball Tournament. In the group stage we won four, drew one and lost one. In the knockout stage we faced some tough opposition but put up a good fight, finishing eighth overall. The girls all played tremendously well, learnt so much and were a pleasure to take. Well done to all of those who took part.

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

