

# ST CATHERINE'S PREP NEWSLETTER

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

**14 OCTOBER 2022**

## TAKE A PEEK!

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## A NOTE FROM MRS MCPHERSON HEADMISTRESS

It has been a pleasure to see so many parents this half term, and a joy to have our school events running without the serious impact of Covid 19.

The term began with a wonderful Mass, led by Father Mark Walker, who took particular care to explain the service to all pupils. As in our hymn practices, the Mass celebrated the great commitment St Catherine's girls have to singing, which is always a lovely sound in the Hall.

Other highlights have included the very enjoyable New Parents Drinks Reception, and the Sausage Sizzle and Prep Disco, when it was a pleasure to welcome families to a fun evening and to see so many parents helping at these FOSC events. The Prep Parent Forum this week was also a great opportunity to discuss School projects and provision with parents.

Otherwise, the site has been busy, the new lunch menus have been popular, and the preparation for Christmas events has already begun; I look forward to seeing you on site again soon.

With best wishes,  
Mrs McPherson

## A NOTE FROM MRS MARSH HEAD OF PREP

What a wonderful half term we have had. It has been great to see the girls back in school and enjoying their new year groups and to feel the buzz of learning permeating the building.

It has been a half term full of trips including a residential experience and visits to Kew Gardens, the Florence Nightingale museum, the National Archives, Hampton Court Palace, Sky Studios and an international tennis tournament. Your daughters have also taken part in study skills workshops, the Safer Walking Scheme and The Junior Citizen Project. Pupils experienced a range of cultures and languages during Languages Week and the whole Prep School came together for an uplifting Harvest Festival.

It just remains for me to wish you a restful half term and I look forward to seeing you all again when we return for the second half of the Autumn Term.

With best wishes,  
Mrs Marsh

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## Autumn Term 2022 - Second half term:

- 1 Nov: Years 5-6 - AI Computing Workshop
- 3 Nov: Years 1-4 - Charity Bake Sale
- 7 Nov: Year 5 - Trip to Strawberry Hill House
- 9 Nov: Year 6 - Football v Jack & Jill (Home)
- 10 Nov: Prep Food Committee Meeting
- 11 Nov: Remembrance Day
- 14 Nov: Odd Socks Day Fundraiser
- 14 Nov: Prep Flu Immunisations
- 15 Nov: Prep Swim Gala v Kew College (Home)
- 17 Nov: Year 5 - Football v Jack & Jill (Home)
- 17 Nov: Prep School Council Meeting
- 21 Nov: Year 4 - Residential Info Meeting for Parents
- 24 Nov: Year 6 - Netball v Newland House (Away)
- 27 Nov: ISA Swimming National Finals
- 29 Nov: Year 4 - Trip to London Mithraeum
- 2 Dec: Year 6 - Senior School Entrance Exam
- 2 Dec: Richmond Borough Cross Country Competition (Richmond Park)
- 6 Dec: Years 4-6 - Pupils leave early at 1.00pm ahead of Carol Concert at 6.00pm tonight
- 7-8 Dec: Year 6 - Scholarship Interviews for Year 7 2023
- 7 Dec: Years 1-3 - Nativity Service
- 9 Dec: Breakfast Club Christmas Party, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch & Pantomime
- 14 Dec: Last day of term (staggered finish times)

## FOSC Events:

- 8 Nov: FOSC Meeting
- 15 Nov: FOSC ReDress Second-Hand Uniform Sale
- 25 Nov: FOSC Cheese and Wine
- 1 Dec: FOSC Christmas Wreath Making
- 11 Dec: FOSC Christmas Fair



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

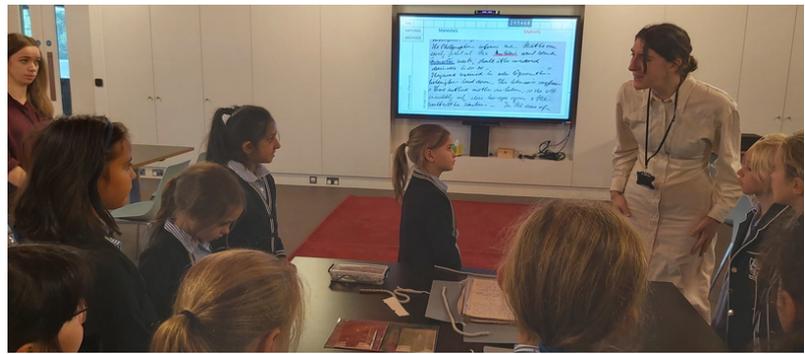
#### Term Ends:

Fri 7 Jul 2023  
at 12.30pm

# PREP LEARNING

## Year 4 National Archives Trip

Year 4 had a great visit to the National Archives. We learned how to be historians, by examining documents from the past, including criminal records of suffragettes, a map of the Great Fire of London and a Court document from the time of Henry VII.



Last week, the Prep school community was able to gather to celebrate the harvest season. Parents were invited into the Main Hall for a Harvest Festival with prayers, songs, poems and celebrations. There was a lovely display in the Hall with donations and beautiful artwork from the pupils. Alice in Year 1 stated, "I hope people like the food we brought them", and Klara in Year 4 commented that she "liked the harvest because we celebrated God and thanked God".

Mrs Mcfarlene-Barrow, our Assistant Chaplain, opened with a prayer to remind us of the reasons for harvest and we invited the parents to join us singing 'Plough the Fields and Scatter'. Then, Year 3 opened the service with a lovely poem and song followed by Years 1 and 2 who put smiles on the faces of everyone as 'The Singing Vegetables'. Year 5 gave two lovely accounts of autumnal poetry while Georgia and Bella in Year 6 delivered a reading about 'a time for everything' from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, and the whole Prep School sang together to praise God for everyone. Elena and Neeve closed the festival with a lovely prayer and drew our attention to the thankfulness that we all should have at this time of year.

## Harvest Festival



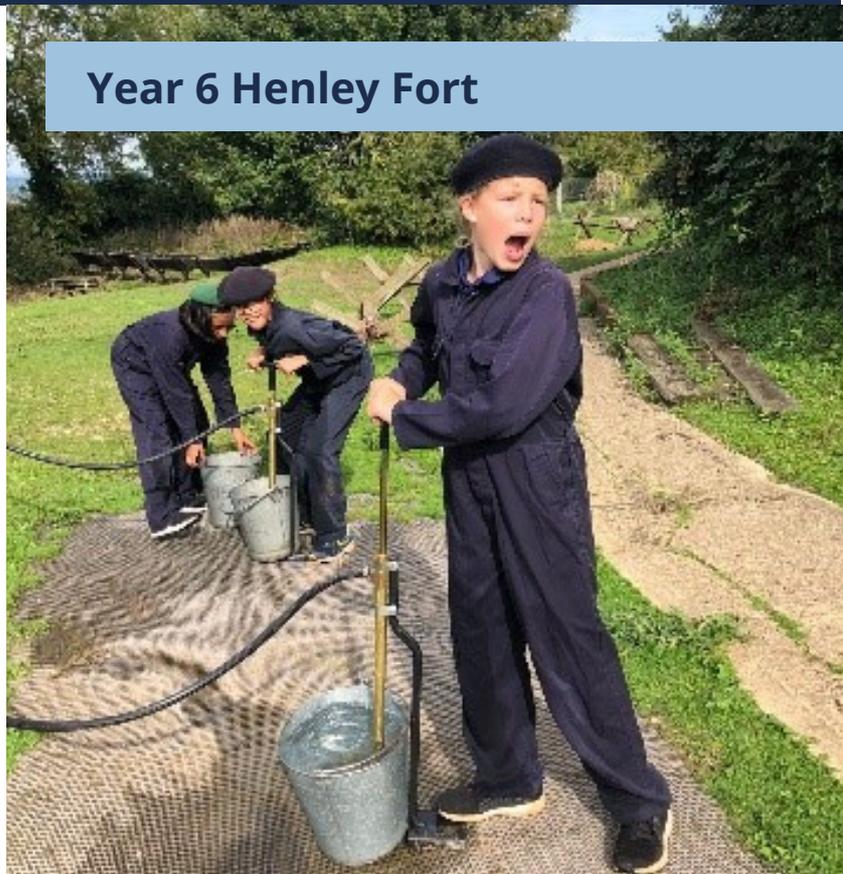
# PREP LEARNING

As part of our History topic on World War II this term, Year 6 visited Henley Fort in Guildford for an exciting overnight trip to experience what life was like during this time period on the Home Front.

Pupils learned about life as an evacuee and explored the roles of Air Raid Wardens as well as Home Guard soldiers.



## Year 6 Henley Fort



## Year 6 Junior Citizen Day



Year 6 ventured to Bushy Park and participated in the Junior Citizen workshop. During this session, they were placed in 'real life' scenarios and learnt about ways in which they could resolve a problem if one occurred. In addition to this, they learnt about fire safety, stranger danger, how to behave near water, as well as ways in which to conduct themselves properly on a train and bus. They also learnt about how to take safe routes when travelling. This was an amazing experience and all the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Dear Diary,

I arrived today with a skip in my step because today was the day I was going to Henley Fort! As I walked to the school gate my heart was pounding, my palms were sweating - I was so nervous but excited, too.

After the train journey, we went outside the station and took a photo; our bags got taken on a minibus to Henley fort. Then we had to walk all the way up the hill (it was very tiring). Soon after lunch we met our tour guide who taught us how to march and told us about World War II. We learnt about the weapons and got to hold them (well, only the not working ones) and we got to make roadblocks. As part of our home guard training, we got to charge at beanbags and after dinner we planted some seeds and made shortbread.

We slept in big yurts and played games like Chinese whispers and told lots of stories.

The next day we got to dress up as ARP wardens in blue jumpsuits. We learnt about how they used to put out fires and blackouts while going through a spooky tunnel leading to an air raid shelter. We saw how they had gasmasks for children, adults and even babies! Most of us fell asleep on the train on the way back. I couldn't wait to tell my family all about my wondrous first trip to Henley Fort.

Neeve, 6S

## Year 5 Hampton Court Palace



Year 5 went to visit Hampton Court Palace as part of their learning about the Tudors. The morning started with a workshop all about the different roles in the Tudor court. The girls did not much fancy being a gong scraper (someone responsible for cleaning the toilets!) or a laundry worker and preferred the idea of being a lady-in-waiting to the Queen. After the workshop, they explored the gardens. After lunch, the girls had a tour of the Tudor parts of the palace, including the kitchens and the Chapel Royal. They even got to see a replica of Henry VII's crown. The highlight of the afternoon, however, was getting lost in the maze. The girls were much better at finding the way out than the teachers were! It was an excellent trip and it was wonderful to see the girls applying what they have learned in their History lessons.



## Year 5 Laver Cup Tennis

Year 5 had the exciting opportunity to visit the O2 arena to see the tennis greats play warm-up matches in preparation for the Laver Cup. The girls had front-row seats in the arena, with an excellent view of the tennis court and in prime position to soak up the fun atmosphere on the day. The highlight was seeing Nadal, Federer, Djokovic and Murray all playing together on the court. What an amazing trip!



# PREP LEARNING



## Year 3 Kew Gardens



On a sunny day in September, Year 3 became plant scientists in Kew Gardens. The girls explored the different areas, from the Bee Hive to the kitchen garden, where they acted like squirrels – burying seeds for the winter and collected plant samples. Next, they examined different seeds and plants using microscopes and their investigative skills to appreciate the complexities and wonder of nature. After their hard work, the girls enjoyed exploring the wonderful children's garden before heading home with weary legs after a fun day.

## Pupil Voices

### School Council



Our Pupil Voice representatives have now been elected and have held their first meeting. Plans are under way for our first bake sale as well as discussions about which charities to choose to support this year.

### Food Committee



Congratulations to the newly elected Food Committee members. Mrs Marsh looks forward to meeting with these representatives to hear about their ideas.

# PREP LEARNING

## Languages Week

The 26 September was the European Day of Languages, and both the Prep and Senior Schools spent the week celebrating different languages and cultures.

In Prep, the Year 6 pupils enjoyed a French storytelling session, while Food and Nutrition lessons focused on recipes from around the world.

## Swim Galas

Prep has got the swimming year off to a fantastic start with a series of recent swim galas against Newland House.

In the first gala St Catherine's came away with a very convincing win, with a score of 100-78. It was a first gala for a number of our pupils, although you would not have known!

The following week, we held an additional gala, which was another opportunity for our pupils who had not yet had the chance to swim in a gala. Lots of them were very nervous but all managed to overcome their nerves and swim brilliantly. The score was 90-68 to St Catherine's.

All of the girls that took part should be very proud of themselves!



# PREP LEARNING

## Years 1/2 Florence Nightingale Museum



Years 1 and 2 went on a train to London to visit the Florence Nightingale Museum as part of their History topic. They saw many landmarks like Big Ben and The London Eye on their walk. We then went inside St Thomas's hospital where Florence first set up her own nursing training site.



# FOSC EVENTS

## FOSC Prep Disco



Prep girls love to boogie! The annual FOSC Prep Disco was a fun-filled evening, culminating in the girls versus parents Dance-Off, which was narrowly won by the girls. Thank you to all of the parents and senior pupils who volunteered their time to help make this event possible for all.





# 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

