

ST CATHERINE'S PREP NEWSLETTER



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

26 MARCH 2021

TAKE A PEEK!

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A NOTE FROM MRS MCPHERSON HEADMISTRESS

It has been a pleasure to see the school site once more full of the girls' smiles and energy over the last few weeks. In particular, the field has been alive with the noise of children happy to be playing with their friends. One little group also cheerfully informed me last week that it was great to be back in the dining room, having school lunches.

At the time of writing, we do not have any further guidance about the COVID 19 safety measures and arrangements that will be in place after Easter. Therefore, we are going forward assuming a continuation of our current situation; if there are updates over the break, we will be in touch as soon as possible, about any changes for St Catherine's.

While this gradual easing of lockdown still requires patience from schools and families, I hope that the Easter break is a happy and restful one for you and your families.

With best wishes,
Mrs McPherson

A NOTE FROM MRS MARSH HEAD OF PREP

It is wonderful to be back at school with all the pupils who are the life and soul of St. Catherine's. I will long remember the wave of chatter and excitement as I walked towards the gate on Monday, 8 March when we all returned to school after such a long absence.

I have to say, our feet have hardly touched the ground since that day, with a focus on pastoral needs and refamiliarisation with school routines and our wonderful Science Week. A special thank you to parents who have contributed with talks ranging from medicine to astrophysics, as well as to Mrs Henderson for encouraging such interest and enthusiasm in all things scientific. Year 6 have been putting their cycling skills to the test this week and we have been busy planning for our wonderful summer to come.

In the meantime, I wish you a wonderful Easter and I look forward to seeing you all again after the holiday.

With best wishes,
Mrs Marsh

NEWS & REMINDERS



Summer Term

Summer Term Begins:
Tues 13 April 2021

**Girls should return in
WINTER UNIFORM**

Half Term:
Mon 31 May - Fri 4 June

Summer Term Ends:
Fri 2 July at 12.30pm

Co-curricular Clubs will commence the week of 19 April. A timetable and booking information will be released once we can confirm government guidelines.

Chaplaincy News

It has been wonderful to welcome back all of our pupils to school. Upon their return, pupils in Prep participated in services that were planned and led by Miss Berry, our Chaplaincy Youth Worker, who has been getting to know many of the pupils in Prep.

Time was given over to acknowledge our delight at returning to school, as well as to address any continuing anxieties. We also recognised that we have much to hope for, and pupils left each service with a short, positive and hopeful passage from scripture to take with them. The focus here was how we have grown and continue to grow in hope and kindness towards others.

Ms Ryan
Chaplain



thank you


We are so appreciative of all of the parents who volunteered their time to give virtual talks to our pupils during Science Week.

The girls loved hearing about all of the different ways that they can be involved in Science as they grow.



HAPPY *Easter*

Wishing a wonderful
Easter celebration to all
of our families in Prep.



WORLD BOOK WEEK

AUTHOR TALKS



Jasbinder Bilan

Year 5 and 6 pupils were given the opportunity to ask questions of author Jasbinder Bilan during a virtual chat about how she became a writer and the writing process. Ms Bilan is the author of several books, including *Asha & The Spirit Bird*.

Were your books influenced by your own Indian background?

Ms Bilan told us a little bit about her childhood: her family lived on a farm and she was born in a barn. They had a pet monkey who used to carry her baby brother up a tree and could never be persuaded to bring him down again. She was very close to her grandmother, who was clearly incredibly special to her and was very influential in Jasbinder's life.

When did you decide to become an author?

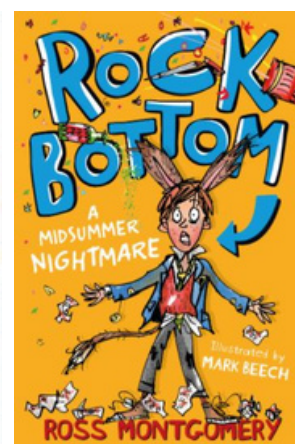
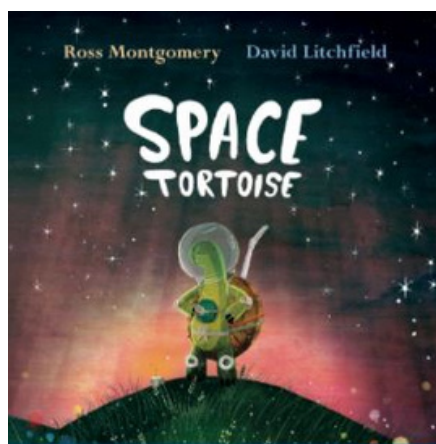
Ms Bilan was a teacher and then had a 'big birthday' and decided to give herself the present of training to be a writer. She gave up teaching and went on a writing course at university. On this course, she wrote *Asha & The Spirit Bird*.

What do you do when you can't think of what to write?

This happens a lot, and is a totally normal and expected part of the process. Go for a walk. Carry a notebook around and record different things you see and hear.



Ross Montgomery



We welcomed award-winning author Ross Montgomery, who gave a virtual author reading of several of his books. Early Years and Years 1 and 2 were treated to the adventures of *Space Tortoise*, while Years 3 and 4 enjoyed hearing *Rock Bottom*. Lastly, Years 5 and 6 listened to tales of childhood imaginary friends come to life in *The Midnight Guardians*.

PREP LEARNING

EARLY YEARS



Early Years have been sowing seeds and playing in their garden centre shop. They even found a dinosaur egg in the garden!



As part Science Week, the Early Years girls took a ride to outer space in their spaceship, and experimented with colour and water. Warm water was added to a ring of Skittles to create a rainbow. When cabbage leaves were left to sit in the coloured water, the girls observed how the leaves changed colour. The girls all made a prediction before the experiments and used lots of excellent scientific vocabulary to describe their observations.



PREP LEARNING

YEAR 1 & 2



Year 1 & 2 had an astronomer virtual visit from Mr Wallace (Daddy to the Deputy Head), tested how different drinks affect our teeth and learnt about fats and dairy in our diets by creating home-made butter.

PREP LEARNING

YEAR 3



As part of their History topic (Ancient Egyptians), Year 3 learned about the afterlife and made pyramid models.

In Science, Year 3 conducted an experiment on centrifugal force, and investigated the strength of different magnets.



"I am looking forward to playing with my friends."

"I am looking forward to seeing everyone in person."

"I am looking forward to swimming."

"I am looking forward to new lunches."



Year 3 shared some positive thoughts about returning to school after their period of remote learning.



During their first week back to school, Year 3 engaged in a collaborative mindfulness colouring art project and realised a beautiful butterfly.

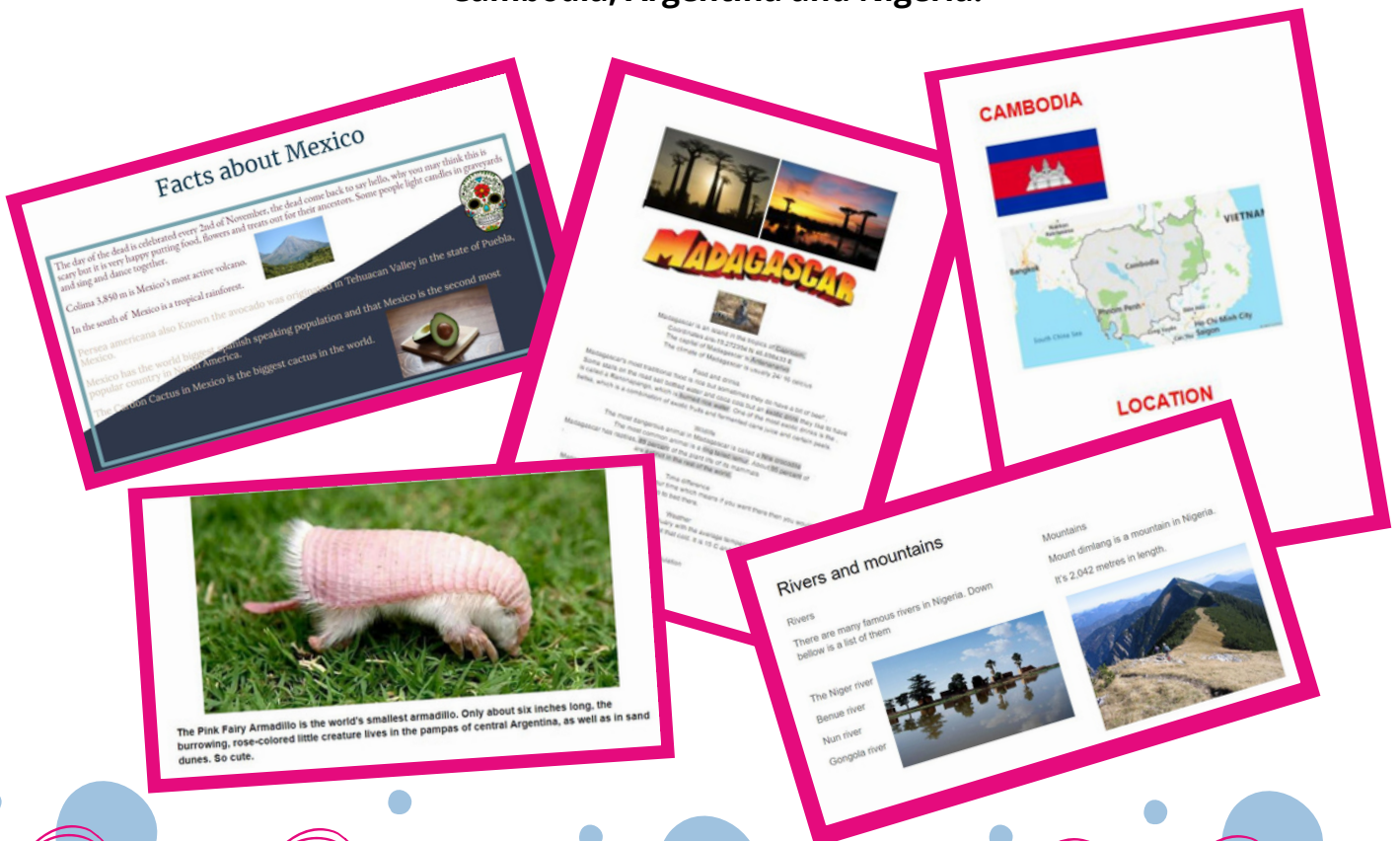
PREP LEARNING

YEAR 4

Year 4 shared the joy of books during World Book Week by spending some time reading to their fellow pupils in Nursery and Reception.



Year 4 worked independently and in small groups to research different countries around the world. They created their own presentations on the location, climate and culture of their chosen countries. Below are some examples of facts learned about Mexico, Madagascar, Cambodia, Argentina and Nigeria.



PREP LEARNING

YEAR 5



Year 5 listening to Jemima's dad talk about his job as an anaesthetist as part of our Science Week activities.



Year 5 rose magnificently to the team challenge of building a tower one metre high, made from one piece of A4 paper with no glue, sellotape, staples or paperclips. Our winning team's tower measured 79.5cm! Great teamwork and great engineering skills from everyone.



Reenacting the water cycle in groups



Year 5 "growing" their own happy rainbows during our first week back at school.

YEAR 5



Egg Drop Challenge!

Year 5 were given the challenge of creating a design that would protect an egg when dropped from the Prep School fire escape.

Using a range of materials, they did a brilliant job of working in teams to design, plan, construct and fix materials together to protect the egg.

Almost all the eggs survived unbroken!



YEAR 6

Dressing up as scientists and inventors for Science Week.



Year 6 enjoyed a series of fascinating talks from parents who work in scientific fields.



Fairtrade Fortnight



Year 6 have been learning about fair trade during our Fairtrade Fortnight. Learning about, and celebrating, the people who grow our food and drink and exploring the topic of 'Climate, Fairtrade and You', we have been considering how our choices as individuals can make a difference to the lives of people around the world and the planet we share.

In Art lessons, we have been creating work inspired by Fairtrade and using Fairtrade products, such as cocoa, coffee and beans.

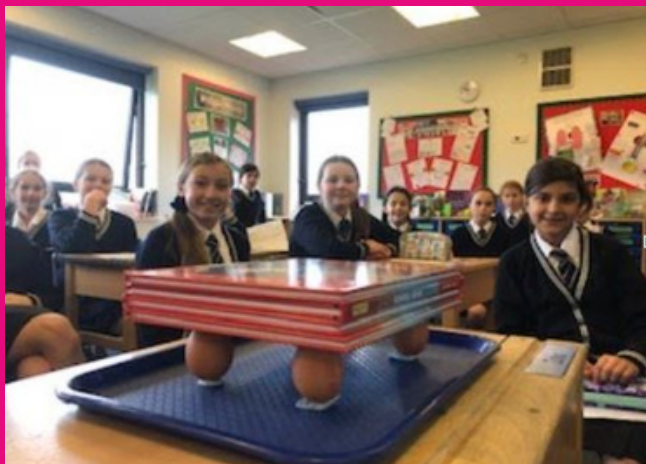


"This is inspired by Fairtrade Tuna fishermen. It is seaweed on wet sand. The sand is made from paprika and turmeric (fairtrade) with dry turmeric sprinkled with a thick paint brush on top like loose sand. The seaweed was made with Fairtrade coffee blown with a straw." - Lizzie

YEAR 6



Investigating different exercises to raise our heart rates: skipping, running, planks, burpees, dancing and power walking.



Eggsperiments: Exploring the Design and Strength of Eggshells
We investigated how strong eggs are by piling (heavy!) books on top of them. We also investigated whether half shells or complete shells were stronger and why.



Making Bath Bombs



YEAR 6 BIKEABILITY



“
"I have really enjoyed doing Bikeability and learning how to keep safe on the road. The instructors were really kind and answered all of our questions about road safety. I've learnt a lot of things that we didn't know before and found out how to do lots of turns. We loved doing the course and now are more aware of road safety."
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“
"I now know how to ride safely and what to do at a variety of junctions."
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“
"Bikeability is so fun. We have learnt so much from them. We have learnt how to make U-turn, when and when not to turn and how to indicate. Now we are much more confident when cycling on roads."
”

“
"The instructors were very funny and taught us so much about cycling, such as signalling and how to keep safe on our bikes."
”

“
"I've learnt how to complete a U-turn!"
”



PREP FOOD & NUTRITION

Prep Food & Nutrition have made delicious dishes styled using the theme, 'Under the Sea'.



Anaya (Year 3)



Millie (Year 5)



Florence (Year 5)

Tunnock's Tea Cake Challenge Winners

Congratulations to Sasha (Year 3) and Edie (Year 5), who were the winners of the Tunnock's Tea Cake Challenge.

They were presented with their prizes in the Senior Library by Mrs Proudfoot.

Easter Simnel Cakes

Year 6C made Simnel share and tear cakes to celebrate Easter

