

ST. CATHERINE'S

RRS NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2016

ISSUE 3

OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES!

Happy New Year to everyone in our School Community. We look forward to an exciting year ahead.

As you know St Catherine's has successfully achieved the UNICEF UK Recognition of Commitment (ROC) for our Rights Respecting School work. This means we can now use the following logo on our letterheads and newsletters.



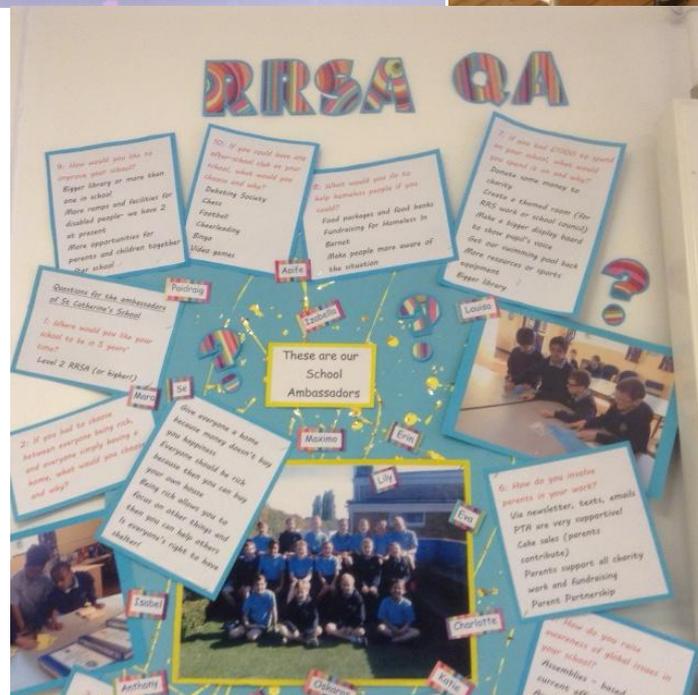
This is the brand new logo launched for the Rights Respecting Schools Award. UNICEF states "The new logo brings us closer to the Unicef brand, which gives us a louder voice and more powerful visual presence. By firmly aligning the RRSA logo with the UNICEF brand, we become stronger and more visible, and make it crystal clear that the Award is a prestigious UNICEF UK accreditation."

St Catherine's visit Brettenham School

On Wednesday 30th September the RRS Steering Group, Mrs Ainger, Mrs Ward and Mrs Isaacs went to Brettenham Junior School in Enfield. We were keen to collect ideas for St Catherine's so that we could achieve the Level 1 status by the end of the Spring Term/ beginning of the summer term. On arriving we were met by Mrs Brown and the RRS ambassadors who gave us a tour of their school. We loved the artwork displayed around the school and the displays related to the Rights Respecting School. We had the opportunity to ask many questions about their work and wrote down ideas which we felt we could easily

adopt at St Catherine's. We had a delicious lunch together, and then had the opportunity to play together in their school playground. We could all see that the values we discussed in the morning were evident in the play areas - respect, co-operation and encouragement. We had a great time playing football, hockey, basketball and board games. Thank you to Mrs Brown and the RRS ambassadors for making this such a wonderful experience.

As a result of our visit we plan to set up a classroom with board games at lunch times during the spring term. Many of our children want to have the opportunity to play chess, draughts, monopoly etc. Mrs Ward will timetable this opportunity and monitor the success during the term. The teachers have agreed that we can use the classrooms on a rotation basis.



Steering Group visit the Houses of Parliament

Steering group visited the Houses of Parliament this week. It was an amazing trip! We found out about the history of Parliament and how laws are made. We actually had the opportunity to go and stand in the House of Lords. We saw the Queen's golden throne and were amazed at the building. Our guides were so informative. The children come up with ideas for bills to present to Parliament and simulate the process of passing one of these bills into law through active role play. The group participated in debates and votes along the way, and learnt about the role of the Commons, the Lords and the monarch in making a law. Thank you to Father John and Mrs Lyons for accompanying us on this trip. We all agreed we wanted to come back with our families in the future.



The School Council

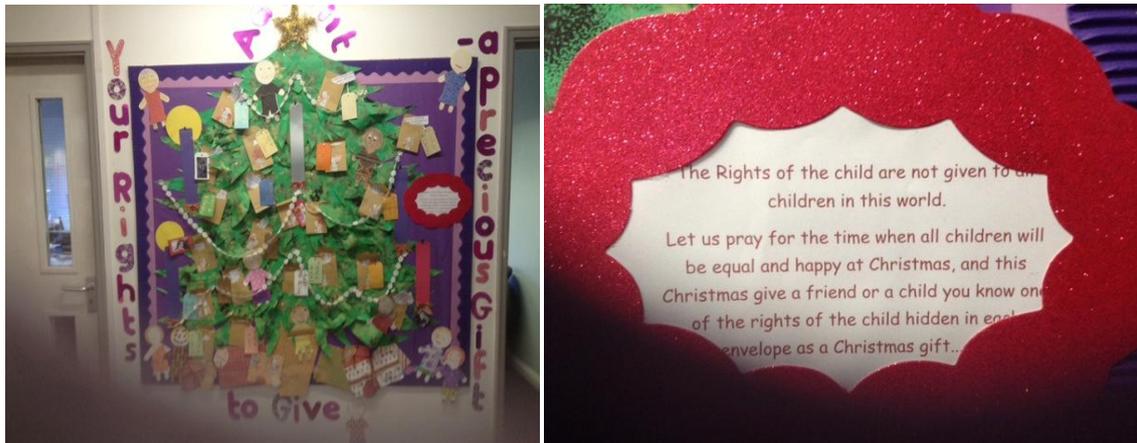
The School Council met regularly throughout the term. The minutes of the meetings are on the School Council website page. The representatives have made such a positive impact on the everyday running of the school. The children are delighted with the new dining hall experience with the cutlery, water and jugs on the table and the one way system introduced. They were so happy to see the introduction of tablecloths for special occasions e/g/ Christmas Dinner Day.

The representatives are the voice of their class/ year group and approach the meetings with enthusiasm and confidence. The Golden Rules are central to ethos of St Catherine's. These rules apply to everyone in St Catherine's.



Our Christmas Tree

In our main entrance Julie worked with children to highlight the needs of children all round the world. Inside each envelope was a right for a child. We discussed how we can give these rights to another child as a gift this Christmas. Members of the school community were encouraged to stop and look at the gifts inside the envelopes. Here is a picture of this special tree below.



Called To Serve

On Thursday 10th December Mr Bell took the Choir up to The Spires to sing a wide range of Christmas Carols. The money raised by contributions from the public will be used to support Cherry Lodge Cancer Care this year. Fundraising is vital to Cherry Lodge Cancer Care. Without it, they would not be able to offer free services to all their Members. Cherry Lodge Cancer Care is a charity committed to improving the quality of life for those living with cancer, their carers and families. The children were amazing! They sang beautifully and brightened up the day of so many. It was a lovely surprise to see so many of our parents there to support the children too. We received many lovely compliments from the public. Thank you to all the parents who helped to make this event so special by walking to and from The Spires with us. We were all extremely proud of our contribution. We also visited St Peter's to sing carols on two occasions. The children truly loved this opportunity and we were extremely proud of them.



What next?

We aim to display the 'Hall Charter', 'Dining Hall Charter', 'Playground Charter' and a 'Schools Charter'. Please take time to read these as you travel around the school. The 'Parents Charter' will be the focus for this term.

We look forward to welcoming an assessor to our school. These are the standards we will be assessed against.

Standard A: Rights-respecting values underpin leadership and management. The best interests of the child are a top priority in all actions. Leaders are committed to placing the values and principles of the Convention at the heart of all policies and practice.

Standard B: The whole school community learns about the Convention. The Convention is made known to children and adults who use this shared understanding to work for global justice and sustainable living.

Standard C: The school has a rights-respecting ethos Young people and adults collaborate to develop and maintain a rights-respecting school community in all areas and in all aspects of life based on the Convention.

Standard D: Children are empowered to become active citizens and learners Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken seriously. Young people develop their confidence through their experience of an inclusive rights- respecting school community, play an active role in their own learning and speak and act for the rights of all to be respected locally and globally.

Weekly Updates

Please read the weekly update in our school newsletter on our website. The RRS Newsletter will be half termly. If you have any ideas, suggestions or questions please send me an email or pop in for a chat. I welcome your involvement.

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