

Message from Miss Kelly

Thank you to every one for being so supportive in following our COVID procedures. The playground is looking less congested in the morning and at the end of the day. We welcomed the first 20 children to our Reception this week and will be welcoming the next 40 in the next 2 weeks. Once we have all the Nursery and Reception children in we will review our procedures. Thank you to everyone who has attended the Curriculum meetings this week. There are more scheduled next week. Slides will be put on the website and sent to parents by email.

Forest School

We are delighted to introduce Forest School sessions in our curriculum this year. They will be carried out on the school grounds by Mrs Grace who is a qualified Forest School Teacher. Forest School is an inspirational process that offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment. It is an ideal environment in which to develop problem solving, risk taking, creativity and teamwork. The Forest School ethos encourages children's natural curiosity – allowing them time to be self-directed in their learning. Activities and resources are planned however the children will always be given uninterrupted time during the session to fully engage with the Forest school environment. Activities will be dependent on the age, ability and experience of the children and may include working with wood and den building, as well as problem-solving and creative tasks. Where possible activities will be linked to their topic and other areas of the curriculum, to enrich their learning. We hope to run these sessions for as many classes as we can throughout the year.

Year 6

This week Year 6 took part in a Maya Workshop which gave the children a first-hand exploration of what life was like during the Maya Civilisation. Sally Spade, our Mayan enthusiast, helped the children to re-create the story of 'The Hero Twins' and they enjoyed taking part in a game of 'Pok to Pok,' a ball game where you have to score points by getting a ball into a hoop without using your hands and feet! The children also enjoyed working collaboratively in groups to play Guess the name of the Mayan Statue where they had to imagine they were a block of clay and be moulded into a Mayan figure with the help of people in their group. The rest of the class had fun guessing who each group was recreating.

This was a brilliant way to kickstart our Hola Mexico topic and we are looking forward to continuing this learning in class over the coming weeks.

Can you help with donations?

Old Welly Boots

Mrs Grace would like to have a box of welly boots for Forest School and would be very grateful for donations of any you may have at home that no longer fit any of your children. We welcome any children's sizes. Any wellington boots can be left at the school office. Thank you in advance.

Plant bulbs

During the Autumn term classes 1, 5 and 6 will begin planting bulbs in the woodland area of the playground. This will be carried out as a conservation activity during one of their Forest School sessions. If you can contribute any bulbs such as Bluebells, Snowdrops, Crocus, Muscari and of course Daffodils, they will be gratefully received.

Jeans for Genes Day – Next Friday

On Friday 17th September we will be celebrating 'Jeans for Genes Day'. This day is a chance for the St Catherine's community to raise money for children affected by a genetic disorder. An item on ParentPay will be set up where you will be able to donate £1 towards the cause. Due to the current climate, please do not bring any cash into school, only donations via ParentPay will be accepted. In return, your child can come to school wearing their jeans with the rest of their clothes being their normal school uniform (or PE kit if it is their PE day). Each class will also be completing a special activity linked to 'Jeans for Genes Day'. We are sure that this will be an enjoyable day for a worthy cause.

Coffee Morning for St Catherine's Parents – All Welcome

Unfortunately due to COVID the school isn't in a position to welcome large groups of adults into the building yet. However our very supportive PTA have kindly arranged a coffee morning at St Peter's Parish Centre to welcome new parents and for our current parents to have the opportunity to catch up with each other. It will be held on *Friday 17th September between 9am and 10:15am. Please try to come!*

**Safeguarding is
our TOP
priority**

Safeguarding and Child Protection at St Catherine's is EVERYONES responsibility and is taken extremely seriously. Leaflets for parents and visitors outlining the school guidelines on safeguarding are available outside the school office. We also have a dedicated Safeguarding page on our website with a number of associated policies and details of our designated Safeguarding team. Please contact one of the team at any time if you have concerns.

Barnet Medieval Festival

Did you know that this weekend marks the 550th year anniversary of the Battle of Barnet? The Battle of Barnet is a battle which was fought between the House of Lancaster and the House of York to decide who would win the throne. It was fought 550 years ago in Barnet. To commemorate this there will be a festival held at Elizabethans RFC, Byng Road, Barnet EN5 4NP this weekend, which will include battle re-enactments, gunnery and archery displays and talks, living history encampments and a medieval market and children's activities. It might be a great opportunity to learn about local history. Please see <http://www.barnetmedievalfestival.org> for more information.

Online Safety

As our new school year begins, we will be asking KS1 and KS2 children to sign the Acceptable Use Agreement which includes the things the children must remember in order to stay safe online both when they are at home and school. We are in the process of reviewing this and when it is completed, it will be available for you to view under the policies section of the school website. Here, you can also read our full Online Safety policy for more detail on our approach to online safety. It is always important to monitor your child's internet use at home and ensure that the necessary parental controls are set up. A useful website for advice on what you can be doing at home to keep your child safe is: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Mark 8:27-35

Sunday 12th September 2021

Then Jesus and his disciples went away to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Tell me, who do people say I am?"

"Some say that you are John the Baptist," they answered; "others say that you are Elijah, while others say that you are one of the prophets."

"What about you?" he asked them. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." Then Jesus ordered them, "Do not tell anyone about me."

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law. He will be put to death, but three days later he will rise to life." He made this very clear to them. So Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But Jesus turned around, looked at his disciples, and rebuked Peter. "Get away from me, Satan," he said. "Your thoughts don't come from God but from human nature!" Then Jesus called the crowd and his disciples to him. "If any of you want to come with me," he told them, "you must forget yourself, carry your cross, and follow me. For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for me and for the gospel, you will save it."

*God of light, as we try to follow you, give us the courage to reach out and help others, so that we can build a fairer world.
Amen.*



House Stars

What a great start to the term - well done to all of our children who have earned stars this week!

Gabriel	199
Michael	194
Uriel	229
Raphael	198

The Week Ahead: W/C 13th January 2021

Monday 13th	Tuesday 14th	Wednesday 15th	Thursday 16th	Friday 17th
Year 4 Swimming starts Year 2 Trip to Shoeburyness	9:30am Y4 Curriculum Meeting 1:30 Year 1 Curriculum Meeting	Year 3 Zoo Lab Visit		Jeans for Genes Day PTA Coffee Morning 9-10:15am St Peters Parish Centre

