



St. Peter's

Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Dear St. Peter's families,

We've had a very busy week preparing for our very first vision meeting. This was an opportunity for Mr. O'Riley and myself to summarise the impact of all the changes we've made at school over the last 18 months and also share with parents our plans for the future. We had an excellent turn out on both occasions and we'd both like to extend our thanks to all parents who made the effort to come and hear about our progress. I've had so much positive feedback about the meetings so we will hopefully host a similar event next year to keep you updated.

At our vision meeting, I was able to update parents about Accelerated Reader. We introduced this a year ago (hasn't time flown?!) and can now see the impact it is having. In every year group, children have met or exceeded the age related expectation. In fact, in 5 of our year groups, children have made between 4 and 7 months more progress than we'd expected. It is wonderful that this system has had such a positive impact on our children; that it has clearly embedded a love of reading and that it has enabled staff to target children who may not be progressing as they should.

On Tuesday, we introduced Sumdog; our new online maths home learning programme. In just 2 evenings, our children have answered over 19,107 sums! This is quite incredible! Sumdog has been trialled in school for a number of months and the results have shown that without exception, children have made accelerated progress. It eases children in with easier questions until it establishes a level which offers appropriate challenge. I'm really excited to see the outcome in a few months.

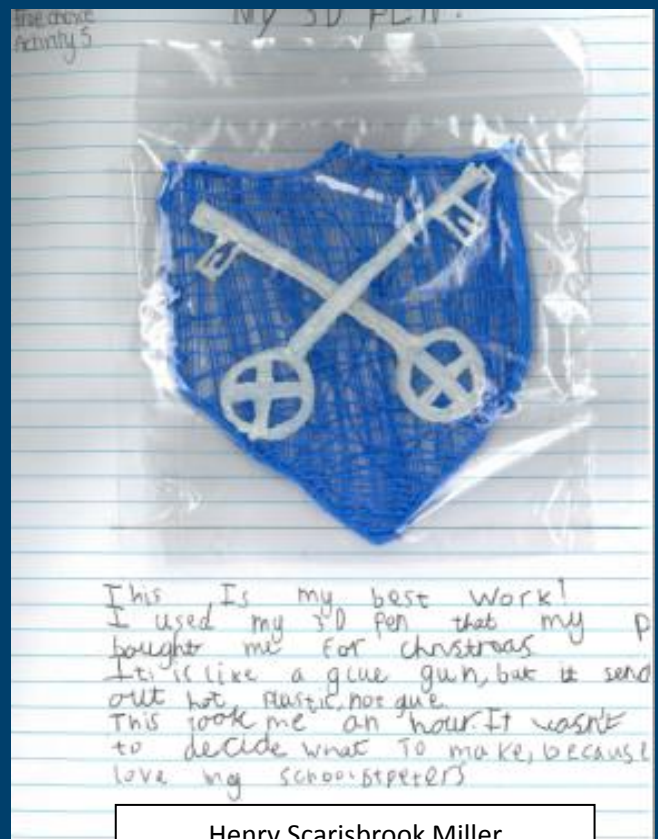
Yesterday was 'Census Day' and an excellent opportunity to review attendance figures. I'm delighted to see so much less unauthorised absence. Many thanks to all parents who are arranging holidays out of term time where possible. I understand how difficult this can be but it really does make a difference.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Miss McNamara.

Prayer for the Weekend

O Christ, our Morning Star,
Splendour of Light Eternal,
shining with the glory of the rainbow,
come and waken us
from the greyness of our apathy,
and renew in us your gift of hope. Amen.



Henry Scarisbrook Miller

Dates for the diary!

- 22/01/16 – Class 5 Class mass
- 29/01/16 – Class 4 Class mass
- 31/01/16 – First Holy Communion & Confirmation Enrolment mass
- 05/02/16 – Class 3 Class mass
– Please return Smartie tubes by today!
- 09/02/16 – Pancake races @3.15pm
– Resource committee meeting at 7pm
- 12/02/16 – Valentine's Cake Sale @3.15
– Break up for half term
- 22/02/16 – Term 4 starts
- 26/02/16 – Lent mass in Church
- 04/03/16 – Class 2 Class service
- 11/03/16 – Class 1 Class service
- 18/03/16 – Easter mass
– Break up for the Easter holidays

This week, we have been learning...



Class One have been discovering the colour purple this week. We looked at dragons, wizards and spells. In maths we have been working on capacity and then used our new skills in measuring the magic water in our potions. We have written recipes and will be keeping them all in our Class One potion book.

Gold Card winners

Class 1 with 56%

House point winners

St Francis with 107 points



We have really enjoyed reading the rest of *The Tempest* this week. We have written some beautiful descriptions of the island and worked in pairs to create some collages too. In the second part of the week we started our key text for the term, 'Meerkat Mail'. We were very excited to get a visit from the main character, Sunny!



Class 3 have been on a real journey of discovery this week, learning all about the roots of plants. We even went outside (on a very frosty afternoon) to dig up some weeds and examine the roots! We've also been starting to learn how to use watercolours, and will be improving this skill over the next few weeks. There has also been some truly incredible writing happening, making it difficult to choose which pieces to put on our new writing display. Well done Class 3!

This week, as well as planning for another beautiful class Mass, Class 5 have discovered what happened to *Endurance* once it reached Antarctica. We have immersed ourselves in poetry, learning one of Shackleton's favourites: 'If' by Kipling. We have written lots of our own poems using different structures and language skills. We have challenged our art skills by creating an extra-special piece of art inspired by the expedition which is worthy of framing, What a week!



Stars of the Week!



Class 1

Anna - for settling in so well that we feel she has been here since September! Anna has worked so hard this week in literacy and produced some fantastic handwriting.



Class 2

Mati - for some amazing maths, finding missing numbers in addition and subtraction calculations.



Class 3

Oli - for some excellent discussions about books.



Class 4

Thomas for a piece of writing that he did this week where he used a variety of time connectives appropriately. The piece of writing was very well written, correctly punctuated and enjoyable to read.



Class 5

Alice for superb, original, emotive and creative art which is inspired by historical facts.