



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Executive Head Teacher: Gerida Montague MA

School Senior Lead: Eleanor Prince BA PGCE

April 2023 Newsletter

Dear Families,

What a sunny start to our summer term! We hope the children had a lovely Easter break and we welcome them back, ready to learn.

Sun hats and sunscreen are essentials for safe outdoor play. Please may I remind you to send the children into school ready for the sunny weather with hats and sun-cream already applied. We provide plenty of fresh water in our classrooms and the lunch hall. It is always available and therefore water bottles are not required. Thank you for your support as always – it makes such a difference.

Curriculum and Enrichment:

Year R

During this term, we have been lucky enough to have our very own caterpillars and tadpoles! We are going to watch them grow into frogs and butterflies, whilst developing our knowledge of life cycles. We are so excited to see the different stages they go through. During Writing, some of us are deepening our knowledge of our Pink Phase sounds as well as being exposed to our Green Phase sounds - we will soon be learning split digraphs! In Maths, we are learning to measure. We are exploring rulers, their uses and how we can use them purposefully.

To find out more about our learning, please use these links to the Year R curriculum page on our website:
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62fe504e009fb30bb9cc92c0/t/62fe7a6b8c77e107e155e5ca/1660844651546/EYFS+-+Spring+2.pdf>

Year 1

Year 1 have been reading 'Supertato!' by Sue Hendra. Supertato needs Year 1's help! He wants to defeat Evil Pea once and for all and he has asked us to enter our own Super Veggies into a competition for his superhero army! We are working on up-leveiling our adjectives and adding superlatives to our sentences to create the best character descriptions that we can.

We have been learning about the difference between volume and capacity in Maths. We have had lots of fun measuring how much liquid is needed to fill different containers and following this up with written explanations.

In History, we have been learning about castles exploring the different types, their key features and the evolution of castles in this country. We have also linked this to our DT work, where we have been creating castles and considering the best materials to use to make them.

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)

[Maths: Fractions](#)

[PSHE](#)

[English](#)

[Music](#)

[RE](#)

[Geography](#)

[PE](#)

[Science](#)

Year 2

Although we have said a fond farewell to our little ducklings, our Science learning continues! We have started planting and learning all about plants! We had a fabulous trip to Marwell Zoo where we visited the Tropical House to support our learning. Back in school, we have also started growing runner beans! In Writing, we have started our new Eco topic, looking at our beautiful Earth and thinking about how we can produce powerful writing to address climate change. In Maths, we have revisited our key concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division!

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)

[Maths: Money and Fractions](#)

[PSHE](#)

[English](#)

[Music](#)

[RE](#)

[Geography](#)

[PE](#)

[Science](#)

Year 3

Year 3 are learning all about Australia's magnificent Great Barrier Reef. This fascinating ecosystem will be explored in great detail throughout this term and the children will be given many opportunities to research and explore the creatures that call this special place their home. We will also be using our understanding of climate change from previous units of work to think analytically about the serious threats that the Great Barrier Reef currently faces. This knowledge aims to continue to empower the children to take action now in regards to saving our precious planet, near and far, one small step at a time. In Science, the children are continuing to deepen their learning about plants by exploring different plant adaptations. Over the course of this term, the children will also conduct an investigation to diagnose plants who have become 'poorly' and nurse them back to health by making sure the plant has all it needs in order to survive and thrive! Our writing topic uses last term's class read - 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane' - as its stimulus. Here, the

children are aiming to take the reader on a journey themselves and write descriptively about a new setting that Edward has found himself lost within. When the time comes, I know Year 3 will be so excited to show you all of their hard work from this term - it's set to be a jam packed full of fun, learning and celebrations!

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)

[MFL](#)

[RE](#)

[English](#)

[Music](#)

[Science](#)

[History](#)

[PE](#)

[Maths: Fractions and Money](#)

[PSHE](#)

Year 4

We have made an exciting and enthusiastic start to this term. In Geography we are completing a case study about the River Colorado, which builds upon our learning last term about rivers in general and the Water Cycle in Science. In this half term's Science topic we are learning about ways to classify animals including humans, studying biological classification systems to support us with our studies. Within our Writing work, we will be focusing upon what makes us a 'School of Sanctuary'. This is a chance for children to write within a non-fiction context about an issue they feel passionate about and want to raise local and global awareness about.

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)

[English](#)

[History](#)

[Maths: Statistics, Fractions,](#)

[Decimals and Measures](#)

[MFL](#)

[Music](#)

[PE](#)

[PSHE](#)

[RE](#)

[Science](#)

Year 5

Year 5 will be creating an action story from the stimulus of Alex Ryder, from the Stormbreaker series, by Anthony Horowitz. They will be designing a new gadget for Alex to use in his missions, focusing on technological language and use of detailed description. They will also focus on their persuasive writing skills and techniques to persuade Alex to use their product! In Maths the children in Year 5 will be learning about statistics and data handling. They will solve a variety of questions on bar graphs, line graphs, pictograms, timetables and pie charts.

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)

[MFL](#)

[Music](#)

[PE](#)

[Maths: Fractions, Decimals and Percentages](#)

[PSHE](#)

[RE](#)

[Science](#)

[English](#)

[History](#)

Year 6

In Geography, Year 6 are evaluating the sustainability of coastal management. We are having a debate as to which system would be the most effective to protect a coastal village, whether it be soft or hard engineering. We have studied the pros and cons of each and are now holding a local council meeting! Some of us are playing the part of coastal management engineers and others are playing the parts of different people from the local community. We are having a debate to work out the system that is most appropriate for us! Watch this space to find out what we decide!

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)

[English](#)

[History](#)

[MFL](#)

[Maths: Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, Measures and Shape](#)

[Music](#)

[PE](#)

[PSHE](#)

[RE](#)

[Science](#)

Year 6 Residential to Adventure Bude

Year 6 are becoming very excited about the residential to Bude in June. Many parents are paying in regular instalments and I would like to thank you for ensuring these are up to date. Full payment needs to be made by 19th May 2023, as Bude requires payment at this time.

Tea, coffee and biscuits morning drop-in



Thank you to those who have attended our coffee mornings. The next one will be on **Thursday, 4th May** and will be held in the hall. We hope this will be another way to drop in and have an informal chat and cup of coffee or tea with a member of the senior team. We do have an open-door policy, but hope that this regular slot will enable more of our families to come in and share any positive or development items that you may have.... or just pop in to say hello!

School Meals

Please check out the new Summer term menu from HC3S on our website that is now available.

School meals are £2.80 per day. Year R, 1 and 2 are all entitled to Universal free school meals. If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals due to your personal financial circumstances, please use the below link to run an eligibility check.

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>

Stations of the Cross

Year 5/6 performed a wonderfully emotive Stations of the Cross at the end of term.

The children took us through each Station with a beautiful tableaux, readings and dramatic performances. It truly was a very mature, reflective and thoughtful presentation.

A very big thank you to Linda Guilding and Fr David for all your organisation. The performance is featured in the Diocese E News this week - <https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue405> - about three quarters of the way down.

Eco News

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our very own Mrs Rothwell has reached the finals of the Royal Horticultural Society School Gardener of the Year competition!

She has been shortlisted as one of just five finalists across the country, which is an absolutely fabulous achievement. We will be creating a video for the panel in school to showcase Mrs Rothwell's amazing outdoor work – watch this space for more news!

Additionally, Zach from CARITAS has been in school, supporting children with developing the 'wild garden!'

The children made 'flower bombs', using soil and seeds to scatter around the grounds. We are taking part in the New Forest Big Bee Rescue - we hope the flowers we have planted will support local bees with their pollination work. The bees can also take a rest on the bee 'hydration stations' in our wild garden that we made last year!

Pupils also planted tree saplings that have been kindly donated by the Tree Appeal and by the Woodland Trust and tended to the Lavender Hedge that we have been planted in aid of 'Go Purple for Epilepsy'. We can't wait to see what springs up in our wild garden this summer as a result of our hard work!

Charity

We raised £152.50 for Support Dogs as part of our 'Go Purple for Epilepsy Day' and £541.10 for CAFOD as part of our Big Walks for Lent! Many thanks for your continued support.

PTA

A very big thank you to the OLSJ PTA who have purchased a speaker for the school, complete with microphones! We look forward to debuting it as part of our Coronation Picnic event on 5th May! The pupils and staff are absolutely thrilled!

Competition Winner

Across the partnership, we held a 'Pip and Pap' Design an Easter Egg Box competition for Years R to 2. We had so many entries - and some absolutely spectacular designs!

Congratulations to Esme who was the winner at Our Lady & St Joseph! David Tomkins, Pip and Pap series illustrator, took her design and turned it into a real life Easter Egg box. We hope that Esme enjoyed her chocolatey treat!

Take a look at our gallery of entries at:

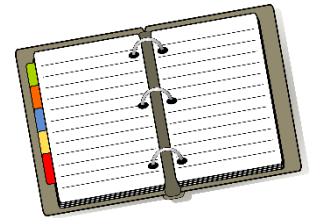
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxMEsJis00c>





The Pip and Pap Shop is now live – you can order decodable reading books for home use at www.pipandpapshop.co.uk. There is no obligation to buy, children will continue to borrow books in school as usual.

Dates for your Diary



- Monday, 1st May – May Day Bank Holiday
- Thursday, 4th May – Coffee morning and Uniform Swap Shop
- Thursday, 4th May – PTA Quiz night
- Friday, 5th May – Coronation Picnic 1pm
- Monday, 8th May – King's Coronation – extra bank holiday
- Tuesday, 9th May – Friday, 12th May – Year 6 SATS Week
- Wednesday, 17th May – Winchester Planetarium Astrodome workshop (in school)
- Monday, 22nd May – Sports day and Family Picnic 10.15am (16th June if rained off on 22nd May)
- Monday 22nd May – PM – Coronation Picnic (if rained off on Friday 5th May)
- Tuesday, 23rd May – The Big Help Day (**Parents in YEAR R, 1 and 2 – please ensure any grandparents/special adults attending have registered in advance with the office.**)
- Wednesday, 24th May – Fiver Challenge Fete
- Thursday, 25th May – Inset Day
- Friday, 26th May – Inset Day
- 29th May – 2nd June – Half Term
- Tuesday, 6th June – 13th June – Scholastic Book Fair
- Friday, 21st July – Break up for the Summer Term
- Monday, 4th September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5th September – Pupils return to school

Have a wonderful Summer Term

Gerida Montague

Executive Headteacher