

The Head Teacher writes ...

I wonder whether you cast a backward glance (metaphorically speaking) once you wave goodbye to your children at the school gate?

As you scurry off to work, the gym or, if you're sensible, the local coffee shop do you ever picture what you think may be going on in school?

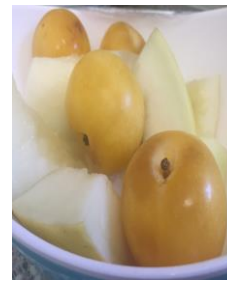
Let me enlighten you. On Tuesday morning, I took myself off on a wander to see exactly what was happening in each classroom at almost the same time. I often drop in on to various year groups throughout the week and manage to get a good feel for many of the exciting things being taught, shared and modelled by our talented band of staff. However, this 'whistle stop' tour gave me a unique view of the whole school from top to bottom and I thought it would be good to share with you what I encountered.

Half of year 6 were in the library with Mrs Stock, sitting in stunned silence as they listened to a recorded extract from the book they had just finished, 'Hana's Suitcase'. Based on a true story, it had proved to be an emotionally challenging read, leaving them with plenty to reflect upon. Meanwhile, the other half of the class were being 'arty' with Mrs Merritt as they began work on a secret project for the main entrance display board – watch this space!

Year 5 were busy tackling maths word problems. Working with 3 teachers in 3 small groups, this lesson was the culmination of their recent work on measurement; a great example of using the theory they had learnt to solve practical, real life examples. Ask them to help next time you are buying a new carpet or getting the bathroom tiled!

Having been set a holiday task, year 4 were presenting their balanced arguments on the subject of 'Should homework be banned? This is a hot topic with many strong arguments both for and against. It was lovely to hear Charan finish his prepared speech with the words, 'I love homework!' It is so important that all our pupils feel they have a voice that can be heard and listened to; what a great opportunity this exercise gave them all!

Year 3, in the lead up to break, were thoughtfully considering their own views on what they believe is meant by the term a global citizen. Having each been provided with a post it note, they were independently recording their ideas which ranged from caring for our oceans to being someone who makes a contribution to their community. So many lovely thoughts; the future looks bright...



Over to Pre-prep where year 2 were sitting comfortably and attentively on the carpet having just shared a story that introduced them to the new topic of 'possessive apostrophes'. Their understanding and knowledge was amazing for ones so young.

Year 1 were nearly ready for snack time, having worked up an appetite learning their new 'ur' sound – 'the nurse had a purse'... All was calm and orderly as they packed away the white boards and settled down for their delicious selection of fruit. And finally Reception. Always a pleasure and always a cheery welcome! Our youngest pupils this week have been learning about people who help us, with the focus this day being the police. Encouragingly, many of them knew exactly who would help them in different situations.

So this was us on Tuesday morning.

In many ways just an ordinary day but I would argue that no day at St David's is just ordinary. Every day is filled with a raft of great opportunities for learning, collaboration and creativity for each and every one of our pupils. I hope you agree with me?

DON'T FORGET WORLD BOOK DAY ON THURSDAY 1ST MARCH – PLEASE CAN CHILDREN BRING THE BOOK TO MATCH THEIR COSTUME!

BOOKS WRITTEN BY OUR VISITING AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR WILL BE AVAILABLE TO LOOK AT AND PRE-ORDER READY FOR SIGNING (£6.00 EACH) DURING PARENTS' EVENING ON MONDAY

MR HUNTER AND MRS CAMPBELL WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SPEAK TO FROM 3.00PM TO 4.30PM ON MONDAY

HALF-TERM AWARDS

PRE-PREP SUPERSTAR

Reception: Shreya
Year 1: Albert
Year 2: Teddy



PREP EXCELLENCE PLATES

Year 3: George
Year 4B: Rosa
Year 4S: Olivia
Year 5: Harrison
Year 6: Anika



Year 1 have been having fun whilst practising their comprehension skills. 'Let's Think English' gives every child the opportunity to contribute and share their ideas without the fear of giving a 'wrong' answer.

After listening to the opening of the poem *Kids*, they had fun discussing in groups, pictures that they thought may be Mabel (the child). They also worked out that Mabel's mum was talking at the end of the poem and thought that she was 'moany', 'stressed' and 'angry' with someone even commenting that they did not know why she had children!



Coming up next week:

FEBRUARY

Saturday 24th PTA Quiz night
Monday 26th Parents' Interview week
Year 5 Maritime Museum
Tuesday 27th Yrs 3 & 6 Sensational Science
Wednesday 28th Yrs 3 & 4 Football v Riverston (H)
Thursday 1st World Book Day – dressing up as your favourite character – no sports kit!
Friday 2nd David Lucas – Author and illustrator
U11 Football at Old Dunstonian's (A)

MARCH

Saturday 3rd ISA Cross Country finals at Rugby
Monday 5th Reception – West Wickham library
Yrs 3 & 4 Netball v Rosemead (H)
Wednesday 7th Quiz Club Bishop Challoner (A)
Thursday 8th Life Bus
Yrs 1 & 5 Bugman
Friday 9th Life Bus
Tuesday 13th Year 4: Sensational Science
Wednesday 14th Yrs 5 & 6 Football V Riverston (H)
Thursday 15th Yrs 4, 5, 6 Street Dance Workshop
Friday 16th Yr 2 National Gallery

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Following our Safer Internet Day assembly, we have had a super response from you. Thank you for talking to your child about this and returning the leaflet (Y2 to Y6) signed by you both. If you haven't yet done this, do ensure this is done asap. We will be chasing the last few. Your time spent on this is much appreciated.

Do look at <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

We are particularly concerned about the app ROBLOX which is a very popular game played by children from as young as 5. Many children have online friends in it and there are shocking statistics about messages from 'strangers'.

This is a post sent by another school:

"We are putting out this post regarding the popular app ROBLOX. After talking to a group of Year 1 & 2 students, we were shocked to hear that half of them were playing the app. Most of them confessed they had online friends and shockingly hadn't told their parents! We would advise parents to check their child's ROBLOX account to make sure they have not received inappropriate messages"

The O2 NSPCC Online Safety Helpline which we highly recommend, says:

"You can add security for Roblox by turning on their 2 step verification. Every time you log in an email will be sent to you with a security code which you will need to enter when signing in. Our helpline can help you to set up parental controls, adjust privacy settings or get advice on social networks. Call for free on 0808 800 5002."

Thank you so much for your co-operation.

On a very positive note, here are some photos of the great learning and fun we are having in robotics clubs!



'WE LOVE ROBOTICS CLUB WITH MRS CAMPBELL!'