



**St. Rose's**  
Inspiring Education, Therapy & Care

## Newsletter - Easter 2021

### NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is now more than a year since the pandemic took hold and as we come to the end of the latest lockdown we are thankful to look forward to life returning to a new normal and being able to resume some of the activities we have missed. After the Easter break we are really looking forward to welcoming back our students and staff who have been shielding.

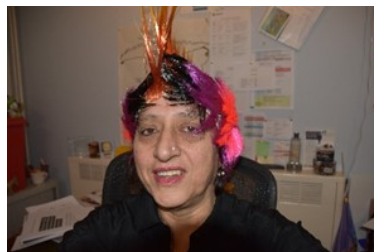
Looking back over the last term there have been numerous events to celebrate, some of which I am delighted to share with you.

Many of you will already know that the work to improve the residential facilities has begun. We are hoping that the first phase of the renovations will be ready for the start of term in September. Our thanks go to everyone who has fundraised for us so far. We still have a considerable way to go but are hopeful that we will reach our target.



This term we say goodbye to Elaine Steele who has worked at St Rose's as a member of the care team for over 40 years. We wish her well in her retirement and will not forget her dedication to St Rose's.

Although we have continued to remain on site for longer than I care to remember, staff have worked hard to ensure that the impact on students learning has been minimal. Students have continued to work hard and make good progress in spite of the situation and have enjoyed a wide variety of activities alongside their class based learning, culminating in a Crazy Hair Day on the last day of term.



We have been thinking about Easter and this year we were joined by Father Gary for our Easter assembly that took place via 'Zoom' – definitely a new experience for all!



Students made prayer gardens and we held an Austerity Lunch which raised £125 for CAFOD. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and looking ahead to the summer term we hope that we will be able to welcome visitors to join us.



**Sheila Talwar,**  
Principal

## CHRISTINGLE CELEBRATION



On Tuesday 15th December all of the classes in Nursery, School and College were able to enjoy a Christingle Service to celebrate Christmas and raise some money for the 'St Martin Centre Fastiv, Ukraine'. This is the focus charity being supported by the Dominican Order this year and it is a centre that does a huge amount of work to support disadvantaged children from all over the Ukraine. Each group involved presented readings, prayers and songs as the story of the Nativity and the meaning of Christingles was shared. We were joined by Father Gary Brassington who read the Gospel and gave a beautiful Christmas Blessing. We shared the light of the Christ candle through St Rose's and joined together in the light and love of Christ.

**Cherith Baxter-Steele**

## CAFOD - FUNDRAISER - WALK FOR WATER - 8TH MARCH

On Monday 8th March all of the classes watched the CAFOD's Lenten Focus Assembly - Water of Life - [Water of life: assembly for Primary schools | CAFOD](#). The students then talked to their class teachers about what we could do as our fundraiser for Lent and offered ideas about how they would like to do something for this cause. To start off the fund-raising Sheila will be providing staff with an Austerity Lunch on Wednesday 31st March and then there will be a whole St Rose's & St Martin's walk to raise money for CAFOD in the Summer Term when the weather 'WILL' be warmer. More details will follow once they are confirmed.



**Cherith Baxter-Steele**



## RED NOSE DAY - FRIDAY 19TH MARCH

We took part again to support the Comic Relief campaign and raised £61.25. We held a non uniform day and various activities took place throughout the day. Many thanks for your kind donations.





### Used stamps required

We are collecting used stamps for Support Dogs, a charity that works to increase independence and quality of life for people with autism, epilepsy and disabilities.

Please bring your used stamps to the collection box in reception.

Ideally, please leave a centimetre of envelope around the stamp.

**Thomas C  
St Martin's**



### NEWS FROM KINGFISHERS

Over the last term the social group (the Kingfishers) have been busy making their room homely with lots of crafts they have made these include:

Bunting to hang around the room which the students enjoyed operating the sewing machine.

Masks for the carnival in which the students chose their own design.

Valentines cards and decorations to send to their loved ones.

Students enjoyed decorating their personal balloons with different textures for our birthday board.

Mosaic bird pictures to hang in our room.

We also continue to walk our daily mile around the garden

**Jackie Vowles**



### PARENTS OF RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS

To contact our nursing team (after 4.30pm when reception is closed), please call 01453 763793, when asked for the extension number you require, please dial either 215 or 226 (for nurses in the residential house) and extension 218 for St Martin's bungalow.

Thank you.

## Charlie - SR2

Charlie in SR2 came into school delighted with a letter, signed postcard and a Blue Peter Badge. He had drawn a picture and a letter and sent it into them.

The letter and postcard are now displayed on our School Community board.

Well done Charlie - That's great news.



## WIZARD OF OZ - M & M THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS



The Wizard of Oz ran seamlessly for us in SR1 and the students in school really listened and enjoyed the singing and story.

The personalisation was lovely, it made it feel personal and staff enjoyed this element too!

The way it was put together was clever and although the quality on the large plasma screen wasn't brilliant, the story came together well. We always love M&M productions when they come into school and with the current restrictions, this was the next best thing.

Thank you M&M and thank you Happy Days charity for funding this event for us - what a treat!

## MUSIC

Lockdown three has not stopped the music making here at St Rose's. Orchestra has continued virtually with a large group all on Zoom on Thursday mornings. Some students have been zooming in from their homes and students in Post 16, SR2 and St Martin's have zoomed from their respective corners of the site!



Whilst it's not as great as being in person, I am very proud of what they have achieved. We have been exploring the music of the welsh composer, Grace Jenkins; specifically, her "Sea Sketches" and we have been improvising together using Clarion and percussion and our wonderful Soundbeam 6.

Linking to World Book Day we have also been using literature as inspiration for our music. We have created some music to accompany The Snail and The Whale by Julia Donaldson and the students have brought in short poems for us to use as a starting point for our improvising. We hope to pull all of this work together and record something to share in the summer term.

We have also been delighted that our friends at The Music Works have continued to keep in touch with us and we had a wonderful Valentine's concert online from Ceilidh Jo Rowe and Lee just before half term, livestreamed on YouTube. Ceilidh Jo and Lee have also helped us celebrate the brighter warm days of spring with spring inspired songs in the last week of term by the same means. On these live streams we know that we are also connected to all the other special schools in the area. Although we can't see or hear them singing along, we know they are watching and enjoying just as much as we are and that at some point, we will be able to perform altogether again with Ceilidh Jo and Lee to lead the way!

**Rachel Moody**, Music Lead

# SCOUTS

# EXPLORERS

## 1<sup>ST</sup> St Rose's Scouts and Explorers Update

Hi All

Scouting nationwide is now on an AMBER alert which means as it stands at the moment after 29<sup>th</sup> March, small groups can start meeting outdoors to do their Scouting as long as all the risk assessments and social distancing rules have been put in place again.

I am meeting with all concerned with 1<sup>st</sup> St Rose's Scouting to see if/how we can get this sorted in order for us to start up again as soon as we are safely able to do so.

Thank you all for your patience and support through all of the lockdowns as regards our Scouts and Explorers Group.

**Nicki Burcher**

Group Scout Leader for 1<sup>st</sup> St Rose's



**National  
Autistic  
Society**

**Accredited  
2021**



We are extremely proud to announce that St Rose's and St Martin's have been re-awarded Autism Accreditation status by the National Autistic Society, the UK's leading charity for autistic people. We have now been part of the NAS accreditation programme for 6 years and have been an accredited setting since 2018.

The award was given in recognition of the excellent autism practice at St Rose's and St Martin's, including strong person centred planning and multidisciplinary team working.

We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all of the staff, families and students who contributed in any way to this important and valuable accreditation. We should all be exceptionally proud of this achievement. Working together as a team to promote the best outcomes for our students is at the heart of what we do and this award is a true reflection of that.

**Katherine Marchant**

Lead Therapist

**Children read more when we  
Turn On The Subtitles.**

**We wanted to let you know how this  
brilliantly simple, free, small change to  
children's existing TV viewing habits can  
drastically improve their reading skills.  
Here is Stephen Fry to explain the benefits  
of turning on the subtitles in more detail.**

[www.turnonthesubtitles.org/](http://www.turnonthesubtitles.org/)

### TERM DATES

Students finish for Easter Thursday 1st April.  
Staff Only (Monday 19th April).  
Students return Tuesday 20th April.

Bank holiday: Monday 3rd May

Students finish Friday 28th May (half term)  
Half term 31st May - 4th June.  
Students return Monday 7th June.

End of term Wednesday 21st July.  
**www.stroses.org.uk**



## HATCHING CHICKS - ST MARTIN'S



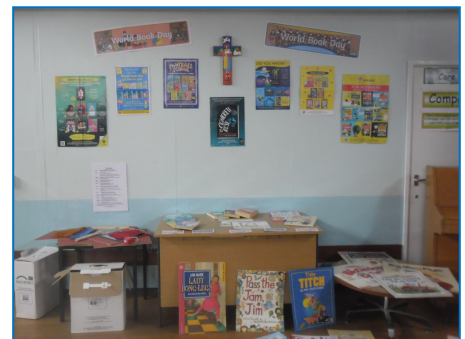
Katrina in St Martin's brought into college some eggs which we incubated and hatched some gorgeous chicks which our students are fascinated by.



## WORLD BOOK DAY SR1 - 4TH MARCH



SR1 have had a really great World Book Day today! They've shared their favourite stories and looked in detail at *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* by Judith Kerr – even the students at home joined in! Tomorrow, we'll be cooking some buns...let's hope the tiger doesn't come back to eat them all!



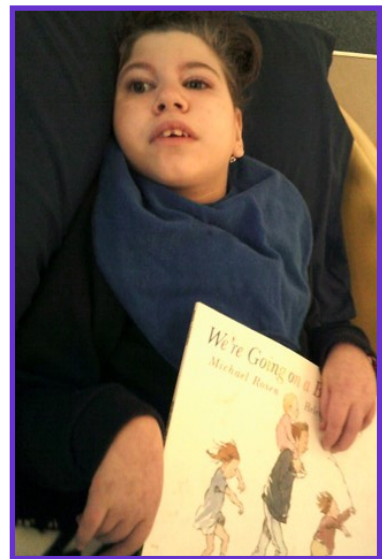
Karen Childs

## WORLD BOOK DAY - 4TH MARCH

On Thursday 4th March the students celebrated World Book Day in a slightly different way. We were unable to meet up and have whole school activities, so instead the students visited a display in the hall showing all the wonderful ways St Rose's shares books. The display included Sensory Books in a Box, large books, poetry, fiction for all ages and non fiction books. Many students sent in their favourite books to share with the class. Activities included a 'guess the story' book quiz, making personalised bookmarks and an orchestra session based around the story 'The Snail and the Whale' which was recorded and shared with all the classes later in the day.

One class looked at Travel books and discussed how books are mini time machines taking us to places we cannot get to, or would like to visit. Books have been more important to us all over lockdown, as they transport us away from our living rooms and take us to wonderful new places for a while.

We really look forward to World Book Day next year when we can all meet up together again and share our love of the stories and books that have helped us through the last year.



Louise Harper



We thought you might be interested in this guide to supporting children with online safety tips. It comes from a website called [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org) which has some useful resources. Also, <https://parentzone.org.uk/> which has a huge amount of information.



Some beautiful Easter cards made by students in St Martin's Group A.



## NURSERY NEWS

This term has flown by so quickly and we have welcomed five new children to the nursery and it has been great getting to know them and their families.



This term has been all about the farm and we have been talking about farm animals, exploring the noises they make and created our very own animal habitat. We have learnt about the different fruits and vegetables that grow on farms



(and tried them too!) and the children planted spring flowers for Mother's day.



We had lots of fun for World Book Day which we celebrated with a book themed week, focussing on a different story everyday - The Hungry Caterpillar, We're going on a bear hunt, What the ladybird heard, Aliens love underpants and The Tiger who came to tea. We made edible fruit caterpillars,



teddy bear shaped snacks, spring planting, had fun making and playing (or eating!) alien jelly, built a spaceship, drew our own aliens and we ended the week with a lovely tiger who came to tea party in the garden where the children were encouraged and supported to make their own sandwiches. We have been enjoying an Easter hunt in the garden and will be doing lots more Easter themed activities in the last week of term too. The children have also enjoyed being out in the sensory garden - fingers crossed we see more sunshine soon!

Happy Easter everyone from all of us in nursery!

**Lisa Taylor**

Nursery Manager