



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 4th October 2019

NEWSLETTER No. 3

Our Value This Term Is...



Dear Parents,

There is a nip in the air and a yellow hue on the leaves... it is officially **that** time of year.

We have had an exciting two weeks at school. The children are feeling really settled into their new classes and adjusting to new routines and ways of doing things. Both Chestnut and Sycamore classes have been on trips in support of their area of learning this term. Chestnut had an amazing day at Hampton Court, finding out about life in Tudor England and Sycamore extended their thinking to life outside of our planet, when they visited the science museum in support of their Space theme.

We have the life van outside of school today; you won't have been able to miss it! This is another opportunity to explore curriculum themes in another way – helping children to make learning stick. Thank you to the PTA whose subsidy for the life van enabled us to reduce the cost to parents and of course thank you to all of you whose support of the PTA enables them to raise these valuable funds.

Thank you to all of you who attended the recent 'meet the teacher' sessions (Oak Class rearranged for 9/10). We hope you found this opportunity to find out about how your child's class will be run this year a useful one. Thank you also to everyone who attended the 'This is your School' meeting last night; the aim was to send you away with more of a big picture about how school operates and the many partners we work with. It was also a chance to find out about how you can become involved at many different levels with life at school and understand

that every bit of support you give it hugely valued by us.

We also held a reading meeting for Key Stage 1 parents on Thursday afternoon. Again, thank you to those of you who came along. We recognise that not every meeting is at a time that you can make; please look on the school website in the parent resources section for support on aspects of the curriculum.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Harvest Festival

We are looking forward to welcoming you to church on **Friday 11th at 9:30am**. Please remember to donate something for the Trussel Trust. There is a basket for this in the entrance. We listed items that are most suitable to donate in the last newsletter. <https://stkatharinesprimary.org.uk/parent-info/newsletters/>

Christmas Boxes

The first mention of Christmas...

We have decided to support the Trussel Trust Christmas Box Appeal again this year. In brief, we are asking families to fill a standard shoe box with items that will be received by a man, woman, girl or boy living in challenging circumstances in Southeast Europe.

<https://www.fscinet.org/what-we-do/christmas-box-appeal/>

Follow this link to find out a bit more about the work of the Trussel Trust in this part of the world and to find out about how to pack a Christmas Box and the types of items to include.

Leaflets with all the information you need will be sent out next week followed by a talk from a member of the Trussel Trust on **Wednesday 23rd October**, helping them to understand a bit more about the charity and the important work they do.

Becoming involved in projects such as this helps us to broaden the children's perspectives of the complex world that they live in, encourage global citizenship and awareness of important concepts such as equality and diversity.

Last year we sent an amazing 60 boxes off in the Trussel Trust Lorry; a huge response from our small school community.

This year boxes are scheduled to be collected on Monday 11th November. With a TD day on the previous Friday we are asking for boxes to be with us **by Thursday 7th November.**

You may start bringing your boxes after half term; as soon as they are ready. I look forward to seeing the pile grow!



A walk in the woods with Mrs Arnold...

...an opportunity that you would be mad to miss!

As you know we are now a **Forest School** with Mrs Arnold as our, Level 3 qualified, lead practitioner. The children are getting used to having blocks of forest learning in their timetable and we are really enjoying seeing the development of Oak class as they experience their second opportunity for a block of forest school learning. We realise that some of you may not have seen the woodland yet and as such are offering 2 opportunities for parents to visit the spinney to find out more about this aspect of our curriculum:

When:

Thursday 21st or Thursday 28th November at 2:30pm

Where:

Meet at the far end of the carpark (near the gate to the spinney)

What:

Bring your wellies and clothes to keep you warm and dry.

Please sign up if you plan to come along on either date, on the list held by Mrs Stagg in the school office. We are releasing Mrs Arnold from the classroom to offer this opportunity to you and as such would like to know how many to expect.

Open Morning

As you know our Open Morning is on Thursday 17th October. This is largely for parents with a child starting school in September 2020. Existing parents are warmly welcome to come along but please also mention the date to anyone, that you may know, who is looking for a school place next year. Filling our 15 school places each year puts us in a stable financial position which in turn supports all the learners in our school.

Website

We hope that you have all had an opportunity to have a good look at our new website. We will be working over the coming year to build the content

and ensure that it remains current and easy for you to navigate. We genuinely are interested in any feedback you have for us and suggestions about how to ensure that it serves the community well.

A Few Uniform Reminders

We have a bit of a motto at school 'Look Smart and Think Smart'. We ask the children to tuck in their shirts and wear their uniform smartly. We really encourage children to leave accessories at home. You may be surprised how distracting an interesting hair band or over complicated watch can be to your child's ability to focus in the classroom.

Please be reminded:

★ **Jewellery**

Stud earrings only and a watch (if your child is ready) – no other jewellery is allowed in school

★ **Hair**

Long hair tied back and hair products/styling to an absolute minimum please (if at all).

★ **Shoes**

Suitable footwear in black or navy - School shoes should enable your child to have an active school life. Playtime involves running, climbing and ball games; school shoes need to make this possible.

★ **Coats**

It is that time of year when a warm, waterproof coat is an absolute essential. Please make sure your child has one in school.

Parents Evening Reminder

You have been sent letters giving you the opportunity to sign up for parents evening sessions (Years 1-6). Please return your appointment slip so that you can find out how your child has settled and understand the next steps that we are planning for their learning.

If you have returned your slip you will have received your appointment time.

If you need any further help with getting an appointment time please contact the school office.

Nut & Sesame Free School

We are a Nut and **Sesame Free School.**

Please note the addition of sesame in this paragraph. We have children in school with severe nut and sesame allergies. We are a 'nut/**sesame** free' school. This includes packed lunches, mid-morning snacks, birthday treats etc.

Please be vigilant when packing food for your children to bring to school.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>October</i>	
Thursday 10 th	Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination YrR-Yr6
Friday 11 th	Harvest Festival 9.30 am. In church
Friday 11 th	Yr5/6 Dodgeball tournament
Friday 11 th	No Celebration Worship today
Thursday 17 th	Open Morning for September 2020 Intake: prospective parents DATE CHANGE 3.30 – 5.30 Parents Evening whole school
Monday 21 st	3.30 – 7.00 p.m. Parents Evening whole school
Wednesday 23 rd	Last Day of Term 1
<i>November</i>	
Monday 4 th	First day of term 2
Monday 4 th	School Nurse in to do Height & Weight – Yr 6
Tuesday 5 th	School Photographer 1.30 p.m. (portraits and siblings)
Thursday 7 th	Trussel Trust Christmas Box collection deadline
Friday 8 th	T D Day 3 – children not required in school
Wednesday 13 th	Remembrance Collective Worship in school (led by Michael McHugh and Sycamore Class)9.10 – 9.40 a.m.
Friday 15 th	PTA Bonfire Night
Wednesday 20 th	St Kathrine's Day Service in Church 9.30 a.m. – Parents are invited to attend

Thursday 21 st	A walk in the woods with Mrs Arnold 1
Friday 22 nd	T D Day 4 children not required in school
Thursday 28 th	A walk in the woods with Mrs Arnold 2
<i>December</i>	
Thursday 12 th	1:30 -2:30 'Tea and Talk' with Ms Jones and Mr Sandall; <i>focus on learning <u>and</u> learning attitudes</i> 2:30 onwards time in classrooms to share your child's learning

Remaining T D Days 2019/20

- ★ Friday 8th November 2019
- ★ Friday 22nd November 2019
- ★ Thursday 23rd April 2020

