



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 18th October 2019

NEWSLETTER No. 4

Our Value This Term Is...



Dear Parents,

I can't quite believe that it is the last full week of Term 1. I'm sure that whilst it may have felt like a long term for some of you, you will join me in my surprise (yet again) at how quickly life at school passes. I sincerely hope that whilst we may now be past the balmy days of Indian Summer we might begin to enjoy a bit of late autumn sunshine when we return to school in November. The past few weeks have been a bit relentless in their wetness I am sure you will agree. Our Harvest Festival in church last Friday was again a lovely occasion and thank you to so many of you who came along. Our overflowing basket of groceries was collected this week by the Trussel Trust to be distributed to families in need of support. Yesterday was our open day for families looking for a school place in September 2021. We had so many people come to visit the school and look at the learning in the classrooms, our Year 6 prefects who were tasked with giving the guided tours were literally rushed off their feet! What was really special, from the perspective of a headteacher, was being on the receiving end of so many positive comments from our visitors. Our tour guides were very impressive but so too were all of the learners in the classrooms and of course the teachers and learning support assistants who deliver such a high standard of teaching and learning to the children every day.

Enjoy the final (short) week of Term 1 and we look forward to seeing you again on Monday 4th November.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



New Teachers – in Hazel

You will all know that we said farewell to Mrs Baird last Friday as she left to begin her maternity leave. Thank you to all of you that gave gifts for the filling of the Moses Basket. We had a lovely evening helping her to open her gifts and she was very touched by all of your kindness and care.

We are delighted to welcome some new faces to our team. Mrs Louise Mackenzie has joined the team and along with Mrs Clarri Freeman will be covering Mrs Baird's period of Maternity leave. Mrs Freeman will not be joining us until January however and therefore you will also see Miss Sammy Porter on a Monday and Tuesday in Hazel class. Miss Porter is currently teaching part time at Great Bedwyn and as such has been able to extend her contracted hours to support us until January.

We are really excited to welcome all of our new teachers, who each bring with them expertise and new ways of doing things; all vital to our continuing development and improvement as a school.

MDSA Position

We are looking to recruit a **temporary** MDSA to support with the lunch time period. The hours would be 12:00 – 1:00 Monday to Friday. Primarily the role would be to support the setting up of lunch, the supervision of the dinner hall and supporting the clearing up afterward. This role is paid at £9.00 an hour.

If you think you may be interested in this position on a temporary basis, please contact Mrs Stagg in the school office.

Christmas Boxes

Please remember that the deadline for bringing the boxes in to school is Thursday 7th November (TD day on 8th). The children are having an assembly next week to find out about where their boxes go and why it is important to make them.

Parents Evening

Thank you for your fantastic attendance at parents evening yesterday and for all of you who have signed up for your meetings on Monday. It is really important that you take these opportunities to meet with your child's class teacher. If you were unable to attend, please get in touch to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Children in Need

We have decided to hold a non-school uniform day for Children in Need on Friday 15th November. Children can wear Pudsey related items or simply enjoy a dress down Friday.

Art Club

A reminder that there will be **no** Art Club next Tuesday 22nd October. Art club will **resume** on **Tuesday 5th November**.



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.

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

October	
Monday 21 st	3.30 – 7.00 p.m. Parents Evening whole school
Wednesday 23 rd	Last Day of Term 1
November	
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
	Non School Uniform Day for Children in Need (Bring a £1)
Wednesday 20 th	St Katharine'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
December	
Thursday 12 th	1:30 -2:30 'Tea and Talk' with Ms Jones and Mr Sandall; <i>focus on learning and learning attitudes</i> 2:30 onwards

	time in classrooms to share your child's learning
Friday 13th	Christmas Jumper day – Details to follow
	PTA Christmas movie (provisional)
Tuesday 17th	School Nativity in Church 5:00 – 6.30 p.m.
Wednesday 18th	Sue Brady Christmas lunch
Thursday 19th	Whole School Christmas parties
Friday 20th	Carol Service 2.15 p.m. in School and last day of term

Remaining T D Days 2019/20

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

