



ST KATHARINE'S CE  
SCHOOL

**Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019

NEWSLETTER No. 6

Our Value This Term Is...



*Dear Parents,*

As always our life at school gallops on at a pace. There are only 4 weeks left of Term 2 and looking at the calendar they are full to the brim with things happening. Please see the calendar at the end of this letter to keep your own updated.

We have had a busy few weeks. Last week saw the collection of our Christmas boxes by the Trussel Trust Appeal. Each year we have challenged you to try and beat the year before total. Last year we made 60 boxes, beating our previous high score of 59. Just when I thought we might have peaked you all went and made 78 boxes!!!! This represents a wonderful example of sharing, kindness and compassion. Thank you for your ongoing support with this valuable project in the lead up to Christmas.

At the end of the week we wore our home clothes in support of Children in Need; we raised £82.20 on the day which has been sent off to join the £48million that was raised across the country on the day.

On Friday we celebrated St Katharine's Day. The children went to church on Wednesday morning for their usual collective worship. The Year 6 children did an excellent job of retelling the story of the life of St Katharine, we left a small bouquet by her statue and of course came back to school for the traditional eating of iced buns (with cherries on the top)! Our thanks to both Mrs Jellicoe and Mrs

Gordon for making 120 iced cakes which disappeared quickly during morning break. Another lovely example of the ongoing support provided by our small school community. Thank you

*Niki Jones*

Principal

### **Winter Coats**

It has been really cold this week and we have noticed that not all children are equipped with a coat. From now until the warmer weather begins, we will be insisting that children wear a coat at playtime. Children without coats will not be able to play outside. Please support your child to get into the routine of remembering not only their coat but the other equipment that they need to take a full and active part in school life.

### **Supporting Independence**

In discussion with teachers we would like to ask that you do not come in to school with your child in the morning and help them to get organised. Developing independence is critical if children are to make strong progress in the classroom. Please allow your child to organise themselves, gather the things they need for the classroom (forget, if that is what happens) and think for themselves. Sometimes we have to let our children make mistakes in order for things to stick.

### **Morning Routines**

The first bit of our morning (8:40 – 9:00) is a really important time for 'set up' routines and settling children into 'learning mode'. We are always keen to ensure that we are available to talk when there is a problem however, unless it is urgent, the time before school is not the best time to talk to teachers. They are very often busy in discussion with teaching assistants about the teaching day ahead, working with an individual or small group on something that might need addressing from the day before or talking to children and helping them to get started. Having parents in classrooms at this time does not always enable this part of the day run as smoothly as we would like.

If you would like to speak to a member of staff about an issue, please make an appointment through Mrs Stagg or talk to teachers if they are available on the playground after school. If we know what you would like to meet about it is really helpful as teachers can prepare in advance and ensure that they have information to hand when the meeting starts.

We are committed to a strong working partnership with parents and therefore ask you to help us by approaching teachers at a time that means they can give their full attention.

### **Mrs Hagerty**

As you will already know Mrs Hagerty will be leaving us shortly to take up her new post as a Key Worker at St Johns. We have an advert out for the recruitment of her replacement, which can be found by clicking on the St Katharine's logo on the Excalibur recruitment page: <http://excalibur.org.uk/join-us/recruitment/>. If you are interested in the position or know of others who would be perfect for the role, please encourage them to look at the advert and the job specification described there.

*We will be collecting in school for a gift for Mrs Hagerty. If you would like to contribute, please place in a labelled envelope and give to Mrs Stagg in the school office.*

**School Photo Reminder** please get your school photo order back by **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November** if you wish to purchase photographs in time for Christmas.

### **Parent mail update**

Staff training is underway and updating of parents details being carried out. Once this has been done the Parentmail link will be resent to parents in case you haven't already registered or have been having difficulties registering. We are planning for Parentmail to go 'live' in January 2020

### **News from the PTA**

#### **Bonfire Night**

Thank you to everyone who came to Bonfire Night and to all those who helped to get everything ready before hand, helped on the

night with the various stands, keeping the bonfire under control and to all those who did a frankly amazing job cramming cars into every available parking space – no idea how you manage to fit so many cars in! Thank you also to the Clemence family who once again organised the Bar and BBQ, cooked all the delicious hot dogs and made all the mulled wine, cider and hot chocolate to keep us warm. It is the last year that they will be doing this and we really can't thank them enough for the past 9 years!

### **Hot Dog and Movie Night – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Tickets will be on sale from **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November** for the Christmas movie night, which will start at 5pm with 'movie food' for the children. The movie being shown this year is 'The Grinch' (2018 version). Please can children bring an empty water bottle with them to avoid spillages, we will fill it with a drink for them. Children can come in their pj's, onesies etc and with sleeping bags or cushions and teddies, ready to snuggle down. Siblings are welcome too. Please buy your tickets as soon as possible so we know numbers for catering. Please note, we do need parents around for this event, please don't just drop off and come back later. Grown-ups can either join in with watching the movie, or we will have a grownups' area with food and drink available.

### **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>December</i>	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Group of 15 from Chestnut Class to the Jubilee Centre for Carol Singing</b> *Details to follow*
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Year 6 - Chemistry Lecture at Marlborough College</b> *Details to follow*
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Wiltshire Air Ambulance visit – all classes</b>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NSPCC assembly and Y5/6 work shop</b> *Details to follow*
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1:30 -2:30</b> 'Tea and Talk' with Ms Jones and Mr Sandall; <i>focus on learning and learning attitudes</i> <b>2:30 onwards</b> time in classrooms to share your child's learning
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Jumper day  PTA Christmas Movie Night
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Marlborough College Concert – Group of 15 from Chestnut Class</b> *Details to follow*
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Nativity Dress Rehearsal in Church 1:30pm – Families welcome</b>  <b>Choir singing in Waitrose 4:00 – 5:00pm *TBC *</b> *Details to follow*
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	School Nativity in Church 5:00 – 6.30 p.m. *Details to follow*
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Brady Christmas lunch <i>(followed by an</i>

	<i>after dinner walk</i> *weather permitting)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Christmas parties pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Service 2.15 p.m. in the school hall. Parents Welcome  Last Day of Term 2
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Choir singing at the 9 Lessons Service at St Katharine's Church</b> *TBC*– evening event *Details to follow*
<i>January</i>	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>First Day of Term 3</b>
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Deadline for Primary admissions applications September 2020</b>

**Remaining T D Days 2019/20**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020**