



ST KATHARINE'S CE  
SCHOOL

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

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

NEWSLETTER No. 7

Our Value This Term Is...



*Dear Parents,*

I think I might rename today 'Sensible Friday' as, whilst we do our best to keep school calm and settled right up until the end of term, the final two weeks before the Christmas Break do inevitably begin to feel... *what is the phrase?* ... glittery! Rehearsals are in full swing for our annual Nativity, many of you will be busy rehearsing lines and creating costumes. We have quite a few events for singers from our school to attend, starting with this week when Mrs Pattenden took a group of Chestnut children to the Jubilee Centre in Marlborough. The children sang to the elderly people who use the centre and enjoyed conversation, squash and biscuits afterwards.

Year 6 enjoyed a very scientific adventure yesterday when they attended a chemistry lecture at Marlborough College. This is the second year that we have been able to give this opportunity to our children and hopefully ignite the scientist within.

We say a very sad farewell to the wonderful Mrs Hagerty today. Some of you may not know that she began her relationship with St Katharine's as a parent, then chair of the PTA and then governor before joining the support team here 5 years ago. Over her time at the school she has given so much commitment, energy and expertise. She will be very much missed. We are very pleased however to be welcoming Mrs Johanna Groves to our team as of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December. She will take the role of EYFS learning support assistant and

mid-day supervisor. We were lucky to have had lots of interest for this role from some excellent candidates and are very pleased to have secured Mrs Groves as Mrs Hagerty's replacement.

*Niki Jones*

Principal

### **Sharing our Learning Afternoon**

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> you will be able to come into your child's from 2:30pm to share your child/children's learning with them. We did our first of these last year and the feedback was very positive. We are starting the afternoon at **1:30pm** in the hall for our imaginatively titled '**Tea and Talk**' session. Mr Sandall and I would like to offer the opportunity for you to hear about the importance of developing strong learning attitudes and give you some information about our approach to marking and feedback in the classroom. We look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it. We offer these opportunities as a way of keeping you informed about changes to learning approaches and so that you can see first-hand the work that has been going on in the classroom. The answer to the question 'What have you done at school today...' is never '*nothing*'!

### **Parent Mail**

We are really excited to be launching **Parent Mail** as of Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>. This service will replace our current email system, enabling us to send both texts and email. Email will be our default means of communication unless you do not have an email address; in this circumstance we will use SMS or traditional paper copies. The SMS service will be used only in the case of the need to contact parents in an emergency or in the case of an unexpected school closure. We have resent reminders today (via SMS text) to parents who have yet to sign up. In order for this system to bring about efficiency for you and us we do need everyone to get on board, register and activate their accounts. Please see Mrs Stagg if you are experiencing problems.

**Parent Pay** will be launched in February, once Parent Mail is running efficiently and any glitches are ironed out.

### Lateness

School registers open at 8:55am and close at 9:00am. After this point your child will receive a late mark. At 9:10am that late mark becomes an unauthorised absence for the session (2 sessions = 1 day). We monitor attendance closely and are working hard this year to promote attendance above the national average of 96%. Our attendance is currently 97% - we would really like to maintain this for the remainder of the school year. There are however an increasing number of children registering unauthorised absence at the beginning of the school day due to arrival after 9:10am. Please work with us to get your children here on time. It makes for a much more settled start to the day for everyone.

### Poppy Appeal raised £61.35

Thank you to all of you that supported the Poppy Appeal this year. We raised a really respectable £61.35 from the sale of poppies and pencils.

### Water Bottles

We are very keen for our children to stay hydrated during the school day and as such it is our expectation that everyone brings a water bottle to school with them every day. We are noticing that some bottles are filled with squash. Water is the best thing for staying hydrated and of course squash brings with it sugar which is something that we are trying to avoid (too much of) in children's diets. Please support us with this by ensuring that your child's bottle is filled with water only.

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

This will be the date of the last Art Club this year. Art club will begin again in Term 3.

### Sycamore Class Swimming for YR5 and Yr6

Please note that the first swimming session for Sycamore Class is **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January**.

Sycamore parents will have received information about this by letter.

### PTA News

We have finished the counting for bonfire night and are delighted to let everyone know that £1031 was raised on the night, and we have an additional £350 promised from match funding. Thank you to everyone for their help and for supporting this event and helping raise such crucial financial support for the school.

There are still tickets available for next week's Movie Night, please can everyone buy their tickets before **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December**, so that we have an idea of numbers for catering.

### 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

December	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Wiltshire Air Ambulance visit – all classes
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	NSPCC assembly and Y5/6 work shop
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>	Marlborough College Concert – <u>Group of 15</u> from Chestnut Class
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Nativity Dress Rehearsal in Church 1:30pm – Families welcome
	Choir singing in Waitrose 4:00 – 5:00pm *TBC * *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 after dinner walk *weather permitting</i> )
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	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>	Choir singing at the 9 Lessons Service at St Katharine's Church *TBC*– evening event *Details to follow*
<b>January</b>	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	First Day of Term 3
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for Primary admissions applications September 2020
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Swimming sessions start for Yr5 &amp; Yr6 at Hungerford pool – details to follow</b>

Remaining T D Days 2019/20  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020