



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 20th December 2019

NEWSLETTER No. 8

Our Value This Term Is...



Dear Parents,

We made it! That certainly has been a long and busy term but I hope you would agree one filled with lots of varied and exciting learning opportunities for the children. Sometimes we can be so busy getting through our schedules that we don't stop to see where we have come from. Last night, watching our reception learners on stage, in front of a packed church - delivering their lines, was one of those moments for me. Their development since September is astounding and a reminder to me of how much we are all growing and learning all of the time.

The last couple of weeks have been busy with visitors of all kinds. Wiltshire Air Ambulance came into school on Monday 9th to work with our older children to teach a range of life-saving skills. The school hall was full of life-sized dummies that the children could practice their CPR on. Our newly appointed 'News Crew' have written a short article about this which will appear on the News section of our website soon.

The following day we were visited by Kevin West from the NSPCC. He worked with all children at different points throughout the morning to develop their understanding of how to manage worries and who to share these with when we have them. The children also learnt about the work of Childline, the vital 08001111 number to call and how this can help children if they are stuck with a worry and are not sure who to turn to.

Thank you to everyone that came in on Thursday 12th to listen to a short presentation from myself and Mr Sandall about the work we are doing to develop and strengthen learning attitudes in the children at St Katharine's and to take time to visit classrooms to share your children's learning with them. It was again a really well attended event. We will put the slides onto the website in the new year for anyone who was unable to make it.

On Friday it was Christmas jumper day. We raised £67.60 in support of Save the Children and the vital work they do in support of children worldwide.

This week has also been a busy one. On Monday our Choir sang in the entrance to Waitrose in Marlborough and in one short hour raised a whopping £254.00 from the kind donations of shoppers. I couldn't quite believe this total when I first heard. Thank you to our choir and their parents for supporting this now-annual event.

Tuesday was of course our nativity performance in church. This is always such a special occasion in our school calendar. There is so much hard work that goes into it but the end result when the candles are lit and the children are singing, is always worth it.

On Wednesday we all sat down to our Christmas Lunch. All staff turned waiter/waitress for this moment in our calendar. The children enjoyed their pigs-in-blankets, roast potatoes and turkey. We all enjoyed the fresh air after lunch in our short walk in the woods. It also enabled us to make a bit more room in our tummies for the mincepies (lovingly made for us by Year 6 on Tuesday morning) and the hot chocolate that was waiting for us on our return!

Thursday was Christmas party day. Games were enjoyed in all classes and whilst we didn't actually see him this year, Father Christmas did visit, leaving presents under the tree for everyone.

That brings me to Friday. Thank you for all of your hard work in making sure that your children have been where they need to be, at the right time with the right things. Thank you to everyone that joined us today for our Carol

Service in the school hall. It is always a lovely, peaceful way to end the term.

I hope that in amongst the often frenetic pace at Christmas you find some time to rest and spend time together with friends and family. To quote from a wonderful book I have just been introduced to;

*'doing nothing with friends in never
doing nothing is it? Said the boy.
'No' said the mole.*

Niki Jones

Principal

School Nativity Photos

If you ordered a nativity photo and haven't collected and paid for it please bring money into school before the end of term. If you didn't get one and would like one (Hazel and Oak classes) speak to Mrs Staggs in the school office. Photos are £1 each.

Information and Advice Session: *supporting your child with their worries* (see attached flyer)

We are teaming up with Burbage and Bedwyn primary schools to offer you a session run by CAMHS (children and adolescent mental health service), the focus of which is supporting you to identify the difference between normal worries and anxiety and how best to support this when you see it in your child.

This session is running at Burbage Primary School on Thursday 23rd January 2020 between 1:00 and 3:00pm.

This session has been run by other primaries and the feedback has been really positive. Please save the date and venue if you think this is something you would be interested in attending. Please feel free to speak to me about it if you would like more information. Register your interest with Mrs Staggs so that the team at Burbage school will know how many to expect on the day.

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	
Friday 20 th	Carol Service 2.15 p.m. in the school hall. Parents Welcome Last Day of Term 2
Sunday 22 nd	Choir singing at the 9 Lessons Service at St Katharine's Church *TBC* – evening event *Details to follow*
January	
Monday 6 th	First Day of Term 3
Wednesday 15 th	Deadline for Primary admissions applications September 2020
Thursday 16 th	Swimming sessions start for Yr5 & Yr6 at Hungerford pool – details to follow

Remaining T D Days 2019/20

Thursday 23rd April 2020