



ST KATHARINE'S CE  
SCHOOL

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

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

NEWSLETTER No. 15

Our Value This Term Is... *Creativity*



It seems like there  
could be no better  
time to explore and  
live out this value...

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

*Dear Parents,*

This is now the second newsletter since school closed at the end of March. I hope that this finds you all well and managing life in these extraordinary times. I hope that whilst it wasn't our typical Easter Holiday you will have had time to rest and relax; we were, at least, blessed with the weather. Long may this spell of sunshine continue!

#### **Reports**

You should all have received your child's annual report this week, except for children in Hazel Class (reception) whose reports are typically written at the end of the academic year. We would normally have held an optional parents evening next week for those of you that would like to discuss the report. If you have concerns or would like clarity around any aspect of your child's report and feel that this cannot wait until a time when we are back in school please contact your child's class teacher through the [admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk) email address, using 'for the attention of...' in the subject box. Mrs Thomas will ensure your communication gets to the right place. I really enjoyed reading all of the children's reports and writing my comments – overwhelmingly there was so much to be proud of.

#### **Free School Meals**

An email went out this week about entitlement to free school meals. The circumstances of many families across the country will have changed since lock down began. If you find yourself in a situation where you are now eligible for government benefits and support, please do get in touch; your child may now be eligible for a school meal and we can support you to access the free school meal voucher scheme that the government have put into place to support families at this time. These vouchers can be used at all major supermarkets and can really make a difference for families whose budgets are stretched at this time. If you contact Mrs Thomas using the admin@ email she will be able to help you. Please note that this does not apply to the Universal Free School Meal that all children in years R-Year 2 are able to access when school is running normally.

#### **Home Learning**

You should have seen a letter from me dated Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April setting out the details of our home learning offer to you in Term 5. There has been a bit of confusion about what we are offering on parent mail and Seesaw. For clarity therefore:

- ★ On Monday morning a **parent mail** comes out by 9:00am with the learning grids for the entire week; there is one grid for reception learners and 3 grids for Years 1 – 6 (English, Maths, and the Broader Curriculum). These grids reference other documents which can then be found on **Seesaw** i.e. the daily maths work out, a picture stimulus to support the writing

or perhaps a world map that the children can use in Geography. There may also be video links for e.g. clips that teachers have suggested would be good to watch. As such, the grids that come to your parent mail are used in conjunction with materials on Seesaw.

- ✦ We use Seesaw to support you not only with materials that you might want to use with your children but perhaps most importantly as a way of keeping the communication channel open between your child and their teacher. Please encourage your child to upload something to share. This can be a photo of something that they have done, are particularly proud of or would like help with. I have seen wonderful examples of skateboard ramps that have been built, video quizzes, art work, baking, pieces of story writing, lego projects, junk modelling and bike riding along with pages of maths and spelling lists. If the children post work the teachers will comment or offer support if that is what is needed. If you do not yet have access to Seesaw or are finding it difficult to work out the uploading functionality, please do get in touch via the admin@ email and we will get back to you as soon as we can.
- ✦ The BBC have this week launched their home learning website which is packed full of lessons that you can follow with your child <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>. These are organised by year group and include video clips, reading material and tasks. Having had a brief look at the maths materials I can also see that there is some great support for parents, especially on different methods for calculation. Please do dip in and have a look.
- ✦ Sycamore Class will also already know about the work that they can access via Office 365 with Mr Sandall.

I would also like to reiterate that our home learning offer is intended to support and not overwhelm you and that it is optional and not compulsory. We know that we are not able to get it pitch perfect for every child or for every family. The teachers are working hard to ensure you have materials should you wish to use them. You know your circumstances and the challenges that you are facing and must therefore use these materials accordingly and in a way that enables you to maintain a happy household. You are all doing a great job and we thank you for your support.

### **Something to share?**

I would really like to use this letter to share some of the things that our families are up to at home. Before Easter I sent out the Art and Music challenge for you to have a bit of fun with. I would like to keep this challenge open and ongoing (<https://www.sadanduseless.com/recreated-art/>) – for those of you that would still like to have a go. Please see below an example of how the D'Ath family interpreted the challenge! I know that there are a couple of families working on rewriting lyrics to well know songs and perhaps some sort of performance of that might be heading our way? If you have anything that you would like to share in the next newsletter, please send it in to the admin@ address with the subject 'something for the newsletter' (photos, video or simply a bit of text) it would be great to share what you have been up to and maintain the feeling that we all belong to our wonderful St Katharine's community, albeit virtually.

You will have heard various things in the press about when and if schools will re-open before the end of the summer term. At the point of writing I have no new information to share with you. We remain closed until a national plan is put in place that will enable schools to re-open their doors; we will be governed by advice from government, the local authority and of course our closest partners in the academy. We will make sure that we keep you informed at every step of the way and hope that it is not too long before we can see you all again.

With kind regards, stay safe and well.

*Niki Jones*  
Principal

What have we been up to? Celebrating our St Katharine's Purple Learners from home...



Thank you Minna, Coco, Katie and Jimmy for bringing a smile to our faces!

