



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 22nd May 2020

NEWSLETTER No. 17

Our Value This Term Is... *Creativity*



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Dear Parents,

I can't believe that we have spent an entire half term without seeing our children and families at the school gate, it really has been the strangest of times for all of us. I hope that this Newsletter finds you all doing well, managing to juggle what has become our new normal and navigating the everyday challenges that this presents us with. Next week would have been (still is?) half term. We are not setting work for next week, and whilst some of you will be continuing to work, we hope that you can at least take a bit of time to enjoy some more relaxed time together.

Reopening School

You will all have heard that we are planning to reopen for children in reception, Year 1 and Year 6, as well as continuing to offer school places to vulnerable children and the children of Key Workers. We have been working hard on our preparations for this and I can tell you that we will be opening in a phased and careful manner from **Wednesday June 3rd**. The parents of children in those year groups, specified above, have been informed of our plans and the details around that. There is an aspiration from government, that all children will return in some way prior to the end of this academic year. As yet we have no detail or information on that more general return. We will of course be writing to all of you as and when we know more.

Home Learning

We will of course continue to support home learning for the children in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5. Please understand that our teachers are now working every day in school with children and as such our home learning offer will need, in part, to reflect that change. Home learning grids will continue to be uploaded at the beginning of every week. We would also like to encourage all children to share that work via our online platforms; Seesaw and Office 365 (Year 5 and 6). Teachers will also continue to comment and respond to the work being done at home – we ask you to be patient as teachers are likely to respond to your questions and concerns with a little less frequency and immediacy that you have been used to. Please also become familiar with the resources on the Oak National Academy and BBC Daily Lesson websites. You will find virtual lessons and resources here on a vast range of subjects, that can supplement the work that is being sent out from school. Please visit these sites using the links below.

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

Seesaw: continuing to use it or getting started



We have loved seeing the work that the children have been posting on SeeSaw over the past weeks. For teachers, seeing the outcomes of the work they have set for the children is hugely rewarding. From the many conversations that I have had with staff I know that seeing the childrens' posts is often a highlight in the day. Being able to support the children with comments and feedback has created a sense of the classroom - albeit a virtual one. The feedback that we have had from parents, that are regularly uploading, is that this feedback is hugely motivating for the children; teachers have provided written comments, voice recordings and have given out a large number of virtual gems in response to the work posted, whether this is from the learning grids or of other projects that children have become involved with. As we enter this second phase of home learning, with some children in school and others remaining at home, please consider using the SeeSaw platform if you haven't already done so. You may find that it is just the thing that you need to re-energise your children and help to motivate them further. Don't let lost log-ins or concerns about the IT element of this stop you having another go. We are here to help. Please make contact with us via the [admin@](mailto:admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk) email address if you need support to get started.

Virtual Gallery

As we move into the final term of the academic year we are aware that many of things we had planned will inevitably not happen; sports days, visits, exhibitions, leavers' services and summer productions to name but a few of the events that we all look forward to at the end of the year. There has been so much creativity and hard work going on at home since school closed that we would like to find some way of celebrating and sharing this with everyone. We would like everyone to share their favourite piece of work with us so that we can compile a gallery that can be seen by all. This might be a painting, a song, a video, drawing, piece of poetry or other writing, a scientific experiment... the list is long. If children already have something that they would like to send in please email it to admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk with the subject: **Something for the virtual Gallery**. We will collect these and find a way to share them with everyone towards the end of the summer term.

When I was in school yesterday, I spent some time watching the House Martins, who are busy rebuilding their nests, in the exact same spot at they did last year, under the eaves of the main school building. They are of course oblivious to the tumultuous events of the past months. This time will pass and our community will be together again soon. Next year, the children will be able to watch the House Martins with me, building their nests in the exact same spot as they are doing this year.

We miss you all and hope that you continue to stay safe and well. Have a very happy half term.

With kind regards

Niki Jones

Principal