



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 5th June 2020

NEWSLETTER No. 18

Our Value This Term Is... *Thankfulness*



Friday 5th June

Dear Parents,

It has been a big week for us here at St Katharine's. After much preparation and painstaking thinking through around the logistics of school re-opening, we finally welcomed the Year 6 children back to school on Wednesday along with the children of some of our Key Workers, joined on Thursday by Year 1 and our Reception learners on Friday morning.

We are using every available space to accommodate these groups of children and we have been keen to ensure that school still feels like school, albeit with tables set further apart and socially distanced drop off and collection routines. It has been lovely to have more children back in school once again and to hear their voices at playtimes. It is how school is meant to sound and we look forward to a time when we can amplify the noise with the voices of everyone. We will continue to communicate any changes to the current plans through this fortnightly newsletter and ParentMail. You will see that our value has changed this term to that of Thankfulness. I hope that this doesn't seem insensitive, especially to those of you who may have struggled with the impact that Coronavirus has had on your lives. We will be talking to the children about this in school and through the learning grids that come home and exploring how being thankful can support us all perhaps especially when things are toughest.

Albert Einstein has something to say on thankfulness:

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.'

I hope that you all stay safe and well in the coming fortnight. Please contact us if there is anything we can support you with.

Home Learning

As I wrote last time, we continue to support home learning for the children in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5. Teachers are continuing to plan for these year groups on the weekly grids and are also maintaining the grids, as a means of planning, for the children who are in school. These will continue to be sent out on a Monday morning. If your child is in a returning year group, but is staying at home, you therefore still have access to the work that the children are doing in school. Please also explore the links below for daily lessons supported by real teachers of your children's year group.

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

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



Yes... I am still going on about...

Please keep posting your children's work on SeeSaw and looking there for resources that teachers are posting, including video clips and other support materials. If you are not fully exploiting this aspect of our home learning package please don't think it is too late. Ask your child's teacher for support to get set up. Children are then able to post work that teachers can respond to. Perhaps now more than ever you will need support with motivating children to stay connected to school and the habit of learning. We are here to support you, please do get in touch if you need to be reminded of your code or any other setting up advice.

Virtual Gallery

I mentioned in my last newsletter that we would like to set up a Virtual Gallery of all of the children's hard work during this period of school closure. This might be a poem, a piece of writing, a painting, a sculpture, a DIY project, a photograph... anything that the children would love to share and are particularly proud of. We are planning to create an area of the school website for this purpose so please know that **you are consenting** to the item being on the website when sending in the work. There is no deadline for this as we will upload work as it arrives this term. Please email any pieces to admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk with the subject: **Something for the virtual Gallery**. Please include a short context for the work if needed. We would LOVE for this project to represent everyone so please consider helping your child/ren to find something to send in.

ParentMail – Forms

You are all now successfully receiving letters by ParentMail and the next phase is for you to be able to respond to a form online using ParentMail 'Forms'. We have trialled a couple of these with some groups of parents; one for those of you sending YR, Y1 and Y6 back to school and another for parents of the current Year 3 who we are hoping will be going to Oxenwood on their rescheduled residential in September. As things begin to return to something resembling normality please look out for messages from ParentMail that tell you that you have a form to complete. We are still planning to roll out the option to pay for items via ParentMail. We will launch this as and when we are all back under one roof.

Good Bye to Mrs Stagg

As you will know Mrs Stagg stepped down from her role as admin officer in March replaced by Mrs Hayley Thomas just a couple of weeks before schools were closed. Mrs Stagg took on the role of finance officer, a role with much reduced hours. Since spending time at home in the past weeks, Mrs Stagg has come to realise that she would in fact like to retire in full. Her last day in school will be Wednesday 10th June. I am glad that we managed to say our goodbyes in March when we held a tea party for her and the choir sang for her. She also received some lovely gifts at that point from the parents and staff. I know that you will join me in wishing her a rich and enjoyable retirement and I hope that she will always feel that she is a welcome guest at St Katharine's at any time.

A couple of extra bits

During lock down we have had the hall floor stripped and resealed so that it now looks like a brand new floor. I look forward to the first celebration assembly, on a Friday afternoon in the future, when we can all admire it together.

Clever Mrs Thomas got a buyer for the old piano on eBay, which means that it can no longer gouge chunks out of the aforementioned hall floor! In its place we have the beautiful new electric piano bought for the school by the PTA and of course the generous contributions that you have all made to PTA events. Mrs Pattenden is looking forward to a time when school will be again filled with the voice of the children, accompanied by said new piano.

With kind regards

Niki Jones

Principal