



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 3rd July 2020
NEWSLETTER No. 20

Our Value This Term Is... *Thankfulness*



Friday 3rd July

Dear Parents,

We are really rocketing towards the end of the academic year with the last day in school for our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children being Friday 10th July. It has been a strange few weeks for those children as they have adjusted to school life without many of their friends and classmates. Whilst we have missed the usual buzz that school life brings with it – it has been lovely to have children in school on a daily basis.

We are very much looking forward to our re-opening on Monday 13th and getting all of the Y2, 3,4 and 5 children back in school albeit for only a few school days. We hope in that time to offer the children time to reconnect with school, their teachers and importantly their friends. Teachers are already busy planning the days back in school so that we can not only make some judgements to support our teaching in September but also to settle the children and ensure they take some happy memories of school into their summer holidays.

There is a lot of talk in the press at the moment about catching up on lost learning and gap filling. We are very hopeful that there may even be some funding to support us with this work. It is important however to remind ourselves that assessment for learning is an everyday part of teaching; teachers are continually making judgements about what has been understood in order to inform the next step in a learning sequence. It is what we do and is therefore a vital component of good quality teaching and learning. We will of course be making adaptations to our planning and giving time to key assessments in the early part of next year. We will also identify areas that some individuals may need some additional support for. We remain committed however to a broad and rich curriculum. It is what our children need. There has been some learning that hasn't been possible and we will be identifying how best to teach those areas. Our experience with the children that have been back with us this term is that whilst some aspects of learning may have initially been a bit rusty, existing learning hasn't been lost. Whilst I know that this unprecedented period of time, in the lives of the children who have been at home since March, has given rise to significant concerns I ask you to not to worry, know that children up and down the country are in the same position and that we have the expertise within our team to identify areas of focus and implement the right interventions to best support our learners.

With kind regards

Niki Jones

Principal

Home Learning

Supporting the learning of our children at home has been a huge learning curve for all of us. Given the very immediate need to create a home learning offer in late March, we hope that you have found the materials provided by your child's teachers supportive and useful. We can never hope to replicate the real classroom and we applaud all parents who have done such a great job in maintaining learning in such difficult circumstances. Next week; week beginning 6th July is the final week of planned home learning. You will receive your home learning grids on Monday morning to support the learning for next week. For children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 the week beginning 13th July is therefore the beginning of the

Summer Holiday. We will write to all of you again with some suggestions for keeping learning ticking over throughout the summer and some resources you can turn to should you wish, but urge all of you to ensure that you get a proper break and that the children really enjoy the summer in spite of the restrictions that will still be in place.

September Opening

Yesterday we received the latest government guidance stating that all school will be in a position to re-open fully in September and return all year groups to full-time education. We are now beginning the work to adjust our risk assessments and ensure that we have reviewed all aspects of our operational practice to make that return as safe as we can for all members of the school community. Please be aware that there is an expectation that children will return to school in September. Normal registration procedures and reporting will be in place once again and parents will not be able to opt out of their child's daily attendance.

Appointment of Finance Officer

I am delighted to inform you that we have been lucky enough to recruit Mrs Katy Munro to the position of finance officer at St Katharine's school. Katy will work in school every Wednesday morning. I hope that, in time, you will be able to meet her and that she will begin to get to know the children and parents in our community.

Answerphone

The school answerphone is now up and running again after the previous one seemed to give up the ghost after the lightning strike a few weeks ago. Please know that we listen to messages regularly throughout the school day and ensure that important messages get passed on to the appropriate person.

Transport Application Forms

Free transport is provided if a child aged less than eight years old lives at least two miles from **and attends the closest school to the home address**. For children aged eight to fifteen years old, free transport is provided if the home address is at least three miles from the closest school. There are also some other situations in which you could be eligible and there is a spare seat scheme. If you think you might be eligible please email the office and we can provide you with an application form. Alternatively, more information and the application form are available at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk.

Second-hand school uniform

The PTA has lots of great quality second-hand uniform for sale. This includes Mapac school fleeces, sweatshirts and school book bags as well as lots of grey trousers, skirts, pinafores, shorts & gingham summer dresses & sports kit.

Save yourself some money & raises funds for the school at the same time! It can also be really useful to work out sizes for different brands. Simply ask for a range of sizes & return those items not suitable.

The PTA is also very happy to receive donations of any outgrown uniform or football boots etc. Please only pass on clean uniform in good condition with no stains or holes. ☺

Please contact Emma Sayer on esayer893@gmail.com or 07718 821128.

New Order For Personalised Sports Hoodies

The PTA will be putting in an order for green sports hoodies which can be personalised with your child's name on the back as early as possible in the new term. It would be really helpful to get a sense of demand so we can negotiate as good a price as possible!

Please email Emma Sayer on esayer893@gmail.com to express an interest.

Virtual Gallery

Please keep the children's work coming in. We are looking to create a space on our school website where we can celebrate some of the children's achievements during this period of school closure. Please send work to the admin@ email address with the subject *something for the virtual gallery*. It would be lovely to have a piece of work from everyone. I will let you know when the virtual gallery is up and running so that you can go and take a virtual tour! **Please be reminded that by sending in the work you are in turn giving consent for us to share it in this way.*