



ST KATHARINE'S CE  
SCHOOL

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

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

NEWSLETTER No. 21

Our Value This Term Is... *Thankfulness*



**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

*Dear Parents,*

I normally find it hard to believe that the end of the academic year has arrived but this year more so than ever. We said our goodbyes to Year 6 on Friday and our 'farewell for-nows' to Reception and Year 1. Friday felt like the end of term and yet Monday felt like a brand new start. It has been fantastic to welcome back the year groups that have until now been learning at home. They have brought with them both joy and excitement; a wave of renewed energy to carry us all to the end of term proper. Whilst I know that a few days back in school will not have compensated for the long weeks at home, I hope that children feel re-connected with school, have enjoyed being back in classrooms with their friends and teachers and have some slightly fresher memories to look back on come September.

It has been an extraordinary time. Sometimes it is hard to quite remember what life, both in and out of school, used to feel like before Covid 19 arrived. Overwhelming I feel extremely grateful to be a member of our school community. As a staff team, we have been really impressed by the vast majority of children that maintained their learning throughout the time at home, supported by parents despite the challenges that this presented. We can see that the children may not have made quite the progress that they might have under normal circumstances but learning has certainly not been lost and I feel confident that it will not take long to get all of our learners back on track in September. Perhaps the need for children to have completed learning more independently coupled with what for many is a new found appreciation of school will even lead to accelerated learning when we all return fully.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the staff that make up the team here at St Katharine's. They are always willingly to do what is necessary to support children and families and do it with such good spirit and energy. I could not wish to work with a more supportive, open minded and positive group of people. I feel lucky to count them as colleagues and friends. Thank you for the many kind words that you have already shared with them in cards and emails; I know that it means a great deal to each of them when you take the time to put your gratitude into words.

We are busy working on our plans for September. We aim to keep school feeling as normal as possible while working within the spirit of the new guidelines. There will be some necessary changes and I will be writing to you before the end of term with key information that you will need before we start back on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**. Our aim is to keep you as informed as possible.

I know that the summer holiday is not the summer holiday that any of us were expecting and that many plans have needed to be cancelled or postponed. I am also fully aware that the support for working families that you would normally rely on might make the next few weeks difficult. I hope, despite the continuing challenges, you are able to find a little time to recuperate and relax and that a little of the lock-down sunshine returns so that we can sit in our gardens and get into our paddling pools! We look forward to seeing you all in September and wish you a safe and happy few weeks until then.

With kind regards

*Niki Jones*

Principal

## Farewell Year 6

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July was a special day indeed. the usual way to our Year 6 learners by us in the service. We did however manage playground and in keeping with tradition we were able to conduct a socially sure how the children ended up so very enthusiastic in helping their children to get the apples from the buckets! At no point were members of staff to be seen dousing children with water from water pistols either!



We were not able to say our goodbyes in going to church and inviting you all to join a socially distanced outdoor service in the and by explicit request from the children, distanced apple bobbing race. We are not wet... their parents were perhaps a little

Good bye and good luck to: *Georgie, Alfred, Blythe, Faye, Issey, Robyn, Harry, Daisy, Bethany and Kayleigh - Leavers 2020*

## Keep Learning Ticking Over

We all need a rest and we are not expecting you to maintain home learning throughout the summer. We also know that learning is happening all the time. Please do however keep your children ticking over with some of the absolute essentials to support the transition back to school in September.



**Reading:** until children become fluent, practise is the key. Please support regular reading at home and importantly read with and to your child. If your child is a fluent reader, we are looking for children to read for pleasure. Encourage regular reading and support your child to read broadly. The website link below is a useful one if you are looking for high quality titles to engage young readers in the primary years.

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/>



**Talk:** Whilst more talk may not be what constitutes a peaceful summer holiday – there is a huge bank of evidence around the importance of talk for children’s learning. [This article](#) is just one of many that explores the essential link between high quality talk and brain development in young learners. Expanding the vocabulary of our learners is a focus for us as educators. Talking with your children, explaining words and introducing children to more complex vocabulary is time very well spent. The beauty of this is that it is a very natural thing to do, no equipment needed just time to talk. Think about the rich vocabulary that would come from a walk in nature; *tree, branch, stem, wing, leaf, bark, lichen...* the list is of course endless. Reading with your child and encouraging them to read is also an excellent way to develop vocabulary further. There are words in the pages of books that children may only ever encounter in this context.



**Maths:** use the [Passport Maths targets](#) on the school website to support your child to keep practising everyday mental maths. Your child will know which continent they are working on. A particular focus as always is x tables. Fluency with this really supports learning in all areas of the maths curriculum. Children are expected to know all times tables at speed by the end of Year 4. Times tables Rock stars and other games to support times table learning are a great way to build both fluency and speed.

## September Opening

You will receive a letter next week detailing our plans for a full return to school in September. There is new guidance for the extending of bubbles to incorporate full class sizes and support to ensure that we are able to operate effectively and without any negative impact on children’s learning. We are also in the process of creating our contingency plans for home learning should we find ourselves in the position of needing to roll that out in the event of a second spike in infections or a localised outbreak. Please look out for the letter on Parent Mail before we break up.

## Virtual Gallery

Please use [this link](#) to take you to the new Virtual Gallery Page of the website. Our thanks to Leeann Stevenson for setting this up for us and enabling the sharing of some of the excellent work that the children did during lock-down.

Please send in pictures, poems, construction projects, videos, gardening projects... anything that the children were proud to achieve during their period of time learning at home. We are really proud of the work that was done and would love to see the gallery full to overflowing. We are not able to put work up without permission so please send in examples. I know from my visits to SeeSaw and Teams that there are some amazing pieces yet to be shared. *\*Please be reminded that by sending in the work you are in turn giving consent for us to share it in this way.*

**Keep the work coming it by email to the admin@ address**