



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 18th September

NEWSLETTER No: 2

Our Value This Term Is...

Dear Parents,

We have had an amazing two weeks of glorious sunshine and it has been lovely to use the field at lunch time for the children's play. Things are beginning to settle into more of a routine and the initial glitches that we experienced with keeping our bubbles as separate as possible seem ironed out and our systems are running smoothly. We do of course miss so many of things that we would ordinarily take for granted such as singing assemblies and celebration worship and keeping parents on the other side of the gate means that our community doesn't quite feel as connected as it once did. Please don't allow this sadly necessary distance stop you from raising issues with us. We are always happy to talk through concerns whether that is face to face, over the telephone or by email. Something that I often repeat to parents is that we can't solve problems that we don't know about. Please do continue to talk to us as issues arise so that we are kept aware and able to act quickly and allay concerns. We have had quite a lot of illness amongst the children in the past week; there is almost certainly a common cold doing the rounds. Please refer to the letter sent out earlier this week about keeping children off school if they are unwell and look at the guidance for parents document attached along with this newsletter for answers to some commonly asked questions.

Thank you for your continued support as always.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Teaching and Learning Update

You will all have received a 'Meet the Teacher' document that introduces you to the routines in your child's class. Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes will also have a knowledge organiser and parent termly learning web sent home in the coming days.

These documents help us to keep you informed of the areas of focus in school and give you opportunities to support learning at home through talk and other means should you wish to explore themes further.

In school we are busy observing and teacher assessing the children; given the disruption to the past academic year we are taking our time to see where children are and determine what lost learning needs addressing. For children in Y's 2 -6 we are conducting reading and spelling age tests that will give us some markers as to the impact of the months away from school, across all of our cohorts. Once we have a clear idea of our starting points we can begin to plan how we would like to target support. Rest assured that classes feel as they always have; full of happy, engaged and busy children.

Free School Meals

A number of children qualify for free school meals each year. If you are in receipt of any government benefits, please email the office to see if this entitles your child to a free school meal. Please note that this is still relevant if your child already receives a universal free school meal because they are in Reception or Year 1 and 2. The number of children eligible for a free school meal due to benefit entitlement also entitles the school to money under the pupil premium scheme. This money is used by us to provide educational support and intervention across the school. Please do get in touch if you think this may apply to you.

Sue Brady Lunches

Please remember to check that you have ordered a Sue Brady lunch for your child if you want them to have one. We are currently only serving a cold lunch in school and as such we do not have any extra portions should children come to school expecting a school lunch when one hasn't been ordered. Thank you for your support with this.

Individual and Sibling Group Photos

Please note that we have the school photographer booked for the morning of Tuesday 3rd November. All

children will have an individual photo taken and where children have siblings in school we will arrange for them to have a photograph taken together. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer for photographs with younger siblings (not yet in school) this year.

Optician Eye Tests for Children

The School Health Support Worker has asked us to advise parents that the team were unable to complete the Year Reception hearing and vision screening as a result of Covid-19. As of yet, they have not had confirmation from Public Health England (PHE) regarding the plans to review this cohort. Should you have any concerns regarding the vision or hearing of any of the children in this year group (now Year 1), please make contact with the team via the SPA number – 0300 247 0090, and ask to speak to the Duty School Nurse. Alternatively, speak to your local optician for vision concerns, or the GP for hearing concerns.

As a general note to all parents, please remember that all children should have an annual optician check and if there any concerns about your child’s hearing please visit your GP.

Virtual open evening at St. John’s - October 8th

St. Johns are holding these differently for the time being. The intention is that the open evening for prospective Year 7 students will be held virtually.

Harvest Food Collection

At this time of year, it is usual for us to hold a Harvest Festival in St. Katharine’s Church. It is looking very unlikely that this service will go ahead this year (if it does it is scheduled to be held in the morning on Friday 9th October). A Harvest food collection is typically carried out as part of the celebration and it is this that will plan to continue as normal. The food collected is donated to the Devizes and District Foodbank. The Foodbank cannot state strongly enough how important food donations are to food banks in our network. Without the boxes, packets and tins of items being regularly donated across the UK, food banks simply wouldn’t be able to run. And as they face an ever-increasing demand for their services, particularly in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, they need your help! Your food donations will go directly to people in crisis in your local community, making a direct and real impact this Harvest.

We are beginning to plan how we might make a focus on this food collection in school and ask that this year, more than ever, you give generously if you are able.

The Foodbank have asked that we focus on donating items from the list below.

- Tinned meat
- Tinned fish
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tinned custard
- Long life sponge puddings
- Chocolate biscuit bars
- Tinned spaghetti / ravioli
- Tinned macaroni cheese
- Chocolate
- Toothpaste
- Shower gel
- Soap

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>September</i>	
Monday 21 st onwards	Whole Reception class in school all day – 8.45am until 3pm
<i>October</i>	
Thursday 8th	Year 6 Open Evening at St Johns (details to follow)
Thursday 8th	Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination – all years
Friday 9 th	Harvest Festival – 9.30am in church *
Thursday 15th	Open morning for prospective parents 2021 *
Wednesday 21st	Last day of Term 1
Saturday 31st	Deadline for Wiltshire Council secondary school applications (year 7)
<i>November</i>	

Monday 2nd	First day of Term 2
Tuesday 3rd	School photographs – all year groups
Monday 16th	TD DAY – School closed to children
Wednesday 25th	St Katharine’s Day Service – 9.30am in church *
By the end of November	We would like to conduct parent consultations and are working to consider the best way to talk with parents meaningfully about their child’s progress without a face to face meeting. Watch this space.

*These events would usually be held on this date. It is yet to be decided whether they will go ahead this year.

Please also refer to your Key Dates Planner for all known date so far this academic year.

T D Days 2020/21

~~1st and 2nd~~ September 2020

16th November 2020

4th and 5th January 2021

