



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 2nd October
NEWSLETTER No: 3

*This Term we are thinking about what is
Valuable to us?*

Dear Parents,

Despite the strangeness of these unprecedented times the term seems to be gathering pace as it always does. Whilst there are many things that are different there is still so much that feels the same and I can report that from our perspective classrooms feel happy and full of creativity. We are all missing our community however, being able to see and catch up with parents effortlessly after school feels like a missing piece in the jigsaw. I am mindful that we do allow this to equate to missed opportunities to share concerns and solve emerging problems, however small. We always say that we operate an open door policy – please know that school culture remains the same. If you have concerns please share them, ideally before they become too big. We are always happy to arrange a phone call, email or a face to face meeting if needed.

This week in Years 1-6 we watched The Big Anti-Bullying Assembly in our class bubbles. The key themes were around defining what bullying actually is, speaking out and showing respect and kindness to all. We will continue to work with the children on these key points, developing their understanding and the skills needed to seek support when things go wrong. In time, we hope to engage with the anti-bullying ambassador training programme. Children who would like to become trained as ambassadors and be able to offer that peer support. The training is currently suspended I look forward to bringing you news of getting started.

We are working on maintaining the News section of the website as a way of keeping you in touch with the things we are getting up to, as well as providing a vehicle to prospective parents looking for a school place in September 2021. Over the coming weeks please visit the home page to see the kinds of things that are going on in school and hopefully this will go some way to helping you feel a little more connected.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Harvest Food Collection

We are working with the Devizes District Food Bank again this year as part of our Harvest Celebration. You will have heard much in the press about the high uptake of food bank support during this pandemic. Thankfully the foodbank charity is reporting that there has been a generous response and as such they have good stocks of many items. So that we can support where there is the most need, please try to only buy items from the list below. These are items that are in shorter supply but that remain important items when filling a box for a family.

- ★ Tinned meat
- ★ Tinned fish
- ★ Tinned vegetables (not tomatoes or pulses)
- ★ Tinned spaghetti/macaroni cheese/ravioli
- ★ Tinned custard
- ★ Long life sponge puddings
- ★ Chocolate biscuit bars e.g. KitKat, Penguin etc.
- ★ Chocolate

The charity has said that they **do not need** UHT milk, soup, tinned tomatoes, baked beans, pasta, dried rice and cereal as we have plenty of these items.

We will sadly not have our usual celebration in church but will instead hold class assemblies around the theme of harvest, giving and sharing with others. I hope to display the items in the hall and will send you a photograph when the donations are all collected.

Thank you for supporting Devizes and District Foodbank again this year.

Contingency Planning for Home Learning

We have been busy working on our contingency planning should we need, at any time, to close a bubble or in the event that a family has needed to self-isolate, either in the case of a positive case of Covid or if they have been asked to do so through track and trace. We have worked on these with our Excalibur partners to ensure that our home-learning offer is as good as we can make it.

These plans are due to be approved by the Excalibur board of directors. Once approved the plans will be published on our website and a copy sent out to all parents via parent mail. We sincerely hope that this is a piece of work that will never need to be used but, that said, it is hopefully reassuring for our parent community that a well-considered plan is in place should be need it.

Parent's Evenings

We would typically hold parents evening early in October to find out how your child is settling in and

provide some early updates on progress. Things are of course a little different this year; the focus for teachers has been very much about assessment and establishing starting points after the extended period away from school. Now that those early assessments are complete we are beginning to plan the best way to share that information with parents. Our intention is to hold a 10-minute (pre-booked) telephone call about each child in the weeks after half term. We are in the process of working out the simplest and most time efficient way to book these to ensure the system runs as smoothly as possible. We have not forgotten this essential meeting at the start of the academic year. We will have more detailed information for you in the coming weeks.

Governors needed

A letter went out last week via parent mail inviting any of you who might be interested in becoming a school governor either to complete the application for or make contact with Will Stevenson (chair of governors) to find out more about the role. If you are interested, please refer to the ParentMail dated 25/9/20. There are two attachments to that email that will support you to take the next step.

Trussel Trust Boxes

We have collected Christmas shoe boxes for the Trussel Trust for the last few years, each year collecting more than the year before. There is a lot to be worried about right on our doorstep but perhaps now, more than ever, it is important for us to continue to look outwards and support people whose needs will not have gone away because of this pandemic. For that reason, we have decided that we would like to support this charity again this year. In brief, we are asking families to fill a standard shoe box with items that will be received by a man, woman, girl or boy living in challenging circumstances in Southeast Europe.

<https://www.fscinet.org/what-we-do/christmas-box-appeal/> Follow this link to find out a bit more about the work of the Trussel Trust in this part of the world and to find out about how to pack a Christmas Box and the types of items to include. Leaflets with all the information you need will be sent out next week. Teachers will be talking to children about the charity, supporting them with their understanding of the work they do. Becoming involved in projects such as this helps us to broaden the children's perspectives of the complex world that they live in, encourage global citizenship and an awareness of important concepts such as equality and diversity. The final day for boxes to come into school is **Thursday 5th**

November ready for collection early the following day.

You may start bringing your boxes in to school after half term; as soon as they are ready. I look forward to seeing the pile grow! Thank you in anticipation of your support again this Christmas.

Flu Vaccinations

The school nursing team are visiting on **Thursday 8th October** to give flu vaccinations to those children whose parents have consented. If you have not yet given your consent and still wish to do so, please click on the link below:

<https://schoolimms.virgincare.co.uk/flu/2020/wilts>

If for any reason you need to change any information or withdraw consent, please do not complete a second form, alternatively contact the team on 0300 247 0082 (09.00 – 16.00) or via email at vcl.immunisations@nhs.net where they will manually change any information and avoid any duplicates and errors.

A letter is being sent from NHS England to all parents/carers of children eligible for the flu nasal vaccination. It is causing some confusion around the process of consent. If you could please be reassured that, at this time, you don't need to bring these letters into school. As long as you have completed the consent link provided by Virgin Care Services (see above) your child will be vaccinated at the planned school session. This is not something the immunisation team have control of locally, it is a national NHS drive to ensure parent/carers of all eligible children are aware of the flu vaccination programme. The localised consent process is all you need to do at this point.

Deadlines for Primary and Secondary admissions

The primary school and secondary school application process is now underway for September 2021 entry. Parents can apply using the online system through www.wiltshire.gov.uk or by obtaining a paper application through the customer contact centre (01225 713010) or by downloading a copy from the Wiltshire Council website. Parents who apply online do not need to complete a paper application form and their application will be acknowledged electronically, they will also be able to log into their account on national offer date to view the outcome of their application. Applicants who submit a paper application will receive the outcome of their application by letter. This will be posted out to them, second class, on national offer date. Please find attached copies of the posters which advertise the national closing date for applications to

be received by the School Admissions Team, for both the primary school and secondary school intakes in 2021.

Super Fund Raiser Among Us!

A little bird has informed me that Dani Nelson (Harley's Mum) has recently raised £255 for Friends of St Katharine's by climbing Mount Snowden!!! I am sure that you might have already calculated the impact on the funds raised by our PTA by not being able to hold important events such as the summer fete and the fun run. I know that people are scratching their heads and coming up with new ways to support the school. Thank you to everyone that is getting involved and thank you to Dani for her generous contribution and mountainous efforts!

Road Use

We do have a few members of our community who walk or cycle in to school each day. Please observe our self-imposed 20mph speed limit in the lane but also take care on local roads as you arrive and leave school. The vast majority of us make a conscious choice to come to St Katharine's and no small part of that decision is about the very special environment that we are lucky to enjoy here. We talk to the children about how we need to take care of the world around us and are keen to ensure that themes such as custodianship and sustainability are woven into our curriculum. Driving carefully and considerately, looking after pedestrians, cyclists, wildlife, hedgerows and verges are all part of that important message. Thank you for your support with this.

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 Virtual Open Evening at St Johns (Live Q&A session at 6.30pm)
Thursday 8th	Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination – all years
Friday 9 th	Please bring your Harvest Donations in to school by this date
Thursday 15th	<i>We will not be holding an open morning this year</i>

	<i>as previously advertised on this date. Please spread the word to prospective parents that we are however conducting 1-1 tours. See Website.</i>
Friday 16th	Years 5&6 zoom visit with children's author, Gareth P Jones, as part of Marlborough Literary Festival
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
Wednesday 11th	Remembrance This will be the theme of our class Collective Worship this week
Monday 16th	TD DAY – School closed to children
Wednesday 25th	St Katharine's Day We will celebrate this event in school with the children and send photos to our parents so that you can still feel involved.
By the end of November	We aim to have conducted a 10-minute telephone call with all parents about all children by this time. More details to follow

**we are working on the Key Dates Planner containing all planned dates that we currently know of for the remainder of the school year. This will be with you at the beginning of Term 2. Please understand that this piece of work has been more difficult under the current circumstances.*

T D Days 2020/21

~~1st and 2nd September 2020~~

16th November 2020

4th and 5th January 2201

