



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 16th October

NEWSLETTER No: 4

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

Dear Parents,

Perhaps it is inevitable that a such an unusual term would have gone so very quickly. It now feels as if the months away from school never happened; the children are all very settled into their classes and our new routines and learning is in full swing once again. Our parent community definitely feel like a missing link at this point in time but please be reassured that behind the gate St Katharine's is the same happy place that it always has been.

If we were holding a Celebration Worship today and a class were sharing their learning with parents, you might have seen the amazing cranes that Sycamore have made as the end of result of their 'Mechanisms' block of learning. Or perhaps Chestnut class would have shown you the steps they have been making to learn the violin with Mrs Pattenden (yes that's 30 violins – 1 for every child!). You may have been treated to a rendition of the Three Little Pigs by Hazel Class or they might have shown you the amazing bridges that they have been building to help the Ginger Bread Man get across the river. Oak class might have shared their non-chronological reports about hedgehogs or demonstrated the wind socks that they made in support of their science... You would have smiled and been impressed with the enthusiasm and energy with which the children embrace their learning. If you ask your child what they have been up to at school never believe them when the answer is 'nothing'!

We wish you all a restful half term when it arrives. Thank you for your continued support during what is a challenging time for us all.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Home Learning: in the event of a complete bubble closure or if a family have been told to self-isolate

We have finalised our plans for home-learning should we have children self-isolating or in the event that we need to close a 'bubble' due to a positive case of Covid. These have been agreed by both the board of directors at Excalibur Academies Trust and by our own Local Governing Body. You will find two documents attached to the Newsletter that make clear the procedures that we have in place for either eventuality. We are hopeful that we will not have to employ either strategy in the coming weeks and months but hope that the detail contained offers some reassurance for parents that we are ready to support our families should we need to move quickly to home learning. If you have any questions having read the documents, please do get in touch and we will hope to answer them.

Christmas boxes for Trussell Trust

Please remember that we are collecting shoe boxes for the Trussell Trust again this year. Last year we collected 60 boxes that were then distributed in some of the most disadvantaged communities in South East Europe. I look forward to seeing the pile of boxes grow. We will be sharing a video with children in Collective Worships next week that explains where the boxes go. [Please follow this link](#) if you need more information about the type of items that can be included and to find out more about the charity.

Sue Brady Lunches Update

You might notice on the Sue Brady website that hot meals are being reintroduced for those schools that are able to serve them within Covid 19 restrictions, from Monday 16th November. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to be able to offer this at St Katharine's at this time.

The Sue Brady website will display the menus with clear instructions about who can and who cannot order a hot meal. The Web Designer has worked extremely hard to introduce a system whereby if a parent tries to order the hot option in a cold option/packed lunch only school, a message pops up reminding them this option is not available for their school at the present time. Vegetarians and special diets should order as normal and suitable alternatives will be provided.

Sue Brady has asked us to thank you for ordering your school lunches from her and she apologises for not being able to take late orders. Sue Brady is hoping to reintroduce the advanced ordering system for Terms 3 & 4 before Christmas.

We are hoping to be in a position to offer a hot Christmas lunch and are planning to stagger this over a 3-day period in the week before we break up. More details to follow.

Email address

When getting in touch with us via email please ensure that you use admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk. Please be advised that emails sent via ParentMail do not reach us.

ParentMail - Payments and Parents Evening

We are happy to announce that we are starting to use the electronic payment facility available through ParentMail. This facility enables us to take payments for trips and other events electronically, removing the need for parents to send in cash or cheques. I am sure you will agree that this is a great step forward given the current situation with Covid 19. The first payments taken using this method will be for the Year 6, Red Ridge Residential.

Parents Evening Telephone Appointments

We will be conducting telephone consultations with all parents in the weeks beginning 16th and 23rd November. We are planning to use ParentMail as a method for parents to book these parents evening slots. Look out for an email alerting you to this in the first week of Term 2; log on and book a slot for a phone call with your child’s teacher/s. We aim to have made contact with all families during the fortnight. If you have any concerns in the meantime that you feel need addressing more urgently, please make contact via the admin@ email address.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>October</i>	
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 Term 2
Tuesday 3rd	School Photographs – all year groups

Thursday 5 th	Christmas boxes for the Trussel Trust being collected
Wednesday 11th	Remembrance This will be the theme of our class Collective Worship this week
Monday 9th - 13th	Youth Climate Summit Week We are hoping to take part in this event through class discussion and activities throughout the week.
Monday 16th	TD DAY – School closed to children
Monday 23rd	Phonics Screening Week Year 2 This is in place of the phonics screening in May 2020
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.
Weeks Beginning 16th and 23rd November	We aim to have conducted a 10-minute telephone call with all parents about all children during this two week period
<i>December</i>	
Tuesday 15th (KS1) Wednesday 16th (Y3/4) Thursday 17th(Y5/6)	Proposed Sue Brady Christmas Lunch Days
Friday 18th	Last Day of Term 2

**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 2021

