



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 6th November

NEWSLETTER No: 5

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

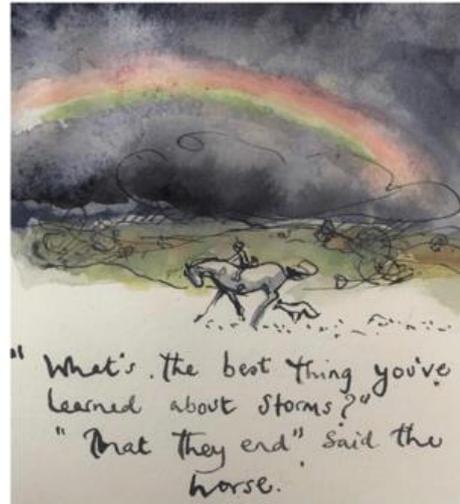
Dear Parents,

I am sitting here with the sun streaming through my office window watching Year 5 and 6 rehearsing outside for their recordings of the Edgar Alan Poe poem; The Raven and again reflecting on what a beautiful setting we have to both work and learn in. I hope this newsletter finds you all well and navigating our new circumstances as well as you are able.

We are really glad that schools are able to remain open, the children are, as always, enthusiastic and full of life. I have ventured into the new territory this week of the 'virtual parent tour', a necessity of the new measures from government. As part of that process I have made lots of visits to classrooms and it has been lovely to witness the scientists in Chestnut class, the artists in Oak and the historians in Sycamore, as they all begin their new blocks of learning (you will have received the knowledge organisers related to this via Parent Mail). Every time I step into Hazel it brings a smile to my face, the highlights for me this week must be the wonderful constructions that have been a daily occurrence with the new building equipment, the group firework painting hanging proudly outside and the wonderful conversations and form filling that have happened in the post office!

Please remember that whilst we are less of an obvious presence as a team that we are still here and happy to talk through any concerns that you may have. Emails to the school admin account are being quickly passed on and dealt with.

I have shared with the children many times that one of my favourite books in the last 12months is 'The boy, The mole, the fox and the horse' by Charlie Mackey. It seemed apt to share this page from the book with everyone today...



Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Parents Evenings

You should by now have received a Parent Mail explaining how to book a telephone consultation with your child's class teacher. If you think that we may hold outdated telephone contacts for you on our MIS system, please inform us of any new numbers and importantly the best one to contact you on before week beginning 16th November. It is important that teachers are able to contact you at the allotted time and that the 10minutes are stuck to. If it were to become apparent that a longer conversation is necessary teachers will make sure that this happens at another time.

Appointment of Governors

We are delighted that Stephanie Coates and Jim Lee are to join our governing body as new parent governors. Giving time in support of the school is a truly generous act and we are not only excited to welcome them on board but also grateful for their interest in the role.

Deadline for secondary school applications – Sat 31st October

Please note that if you have a child in Year 6 who will be transitioning to secondary school at the end of this academic year, you needed to have completed the application process by 31st October. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have

encountered difficulties and need help in this regard.

Face coverings for staff NOT children

As a result of the new national restrictions which came into place on Thursday this week, there have inevitably been a few adjustments to the recommendations for schools. One of those has been that Primary schools can elect for adults working in the school environment to wear face coverings when keeping a 2m distance is not possible and when walking in communal areas. We already have procedures in place to ensure that, where possible, staff are not crossing bubbles. There are exceptions to this when the education of the children cannot take place without it. Our academy trust has decided that we will adopt this measure and so I write to tell you that from Monday 9th November all adults working in school will wear a face covering when in communal spaces that are not their main working space. We **will not** be wearing face coverings when teaching and in classrooms and there is **no advice** at this time for us to implement the wearing of face coverings by children.

We will be talking to the children about this on Monday in our collective worship and helping them to understand the reason for this change. We aim to manage this calmly and in such a way that the children are comfortable and happy with it.

Ventilating Classrooms

Since returning to school in September we have ensured that classrooms are well ventilated; windows and doors (where possible) are kept open during the school day. We continue to heat the classrooms but understand that children may find the learning environment less comfortable than is usual. Children are invited to wear coats if they need to and we urge you to layer up your children with long-sleeved vests and T-shirts if you know that they feel the cold. Ventilation is really important in keeping us all as safe as possible, not least our teaching and support staff who remain a very precious commodity to us all.

Thank you for your understanding.

TD Day

Please be reminded that we have a TD day on **Monday 16th November**. We use this day to review pupil progress, support the write of Class Action Plans which identify the support in place for all groups of children and adjust planning in the light of our recent assessments. We have come to view

this day as a vital part of our assessment and planning cycle.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>November</i>	
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 16 th and 23 rd November	Parent Telephone consultations will take place over 2 weeks
<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~~

Monday 16th November 2020

4th and 5th January 2021