



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 20th November

NEWSLETTER No: 6

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

Dear Parents,

As you all know, it has been another unusual week. We had to close our Key Stage One Bubble on Monday and this has meant, that for many of you, children are back learning from home. We understand the pressure that this puts on families and hope that you know that these decisions are only taken when absolutely necessary and when guided to do so by the Public Health Team who are contacted as soon as a positive is confirmed.

Again, we have been so impressed with the way you embrace supporting your children to learn from home. We are working hard to ensure that we continue to learn about the best and most effective ways to support remote learning – your feedback is welcomed as part of this ongoing evolution.

We have also been delighted with the attendance of the children whose bubbles remained open. Our whole school attendance is currently at 95.3% which is only one percentage point below our average figure. Thank you for ensuring that your children are in school when they can be.

Please be reassured that we continue to operate as safely as we are able. Our procedures to date meant that whilst we can never entirely prevent a case of coronavirus we were able to identify exactly which children and staff were affected and maintain learning for more than half of our 105 children on role.

I think we all deserve a restful weekend. We are unable to go far or do much outside our homes; I hope you all use this opportunity to stay longer in your pyjamas, watch a bit of TV and enjoy some time in your family bubbles.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Sue Brady Lunches

A few of you have been in touch asking when we plan to return to offering a hot school lunch. As much as we would love to be in a position to offer this again, we do not currently have the staffing capacity to make this a reality. We are currently staffing 3 separate lunch bubbles and with only 3 MDSAs (mid-day supervisors) we are asking teaching staff to cover the supervision in addition to our normal staffing. The dishing up of hot food and the subsequent clearing away and washing up would currently put too much pressure on an already stretched arrangement. As soon as we are able we will restore our lunch time offer. We hope that you understand the difficult decisions that are necessary at this time.

We are delighted however to be able to organise for **all** children to enjoy a hot Christmas Lunch over a 3-day period in the final week of term, enabling us to keep the bubbles separate whilst still providing a bit of Christmas normality for the children.

****Please see the attachment to this newsletter outlining the arrangements for ordering a Christmas lunch for your child.***

Closing early on last day of term

Please note that we have decided to close early on the final day of term. This will allow us to deep clean the school and ensure that we end the term in a manner that ensures a calm and organised return in January.

We will still operate a staggered collection as follows:

Hazel and Oak- 1:30

Chestnut: 1:45

Sycamore: 2:00

Please adjust your times to collect at the time of your oldest child. We will hang onto younger siblings until that time.

School Photographs

Last week proofs of school photographs were sent home with the children. If you would like to buy any photographs, please remember to place your order by 24th November. This can be done either by ordering directly online or by returning the envelope with details of your order together with the money to school. You can find all of the details within the pack that was sent home.

Devizes and District Food Bank

These are extraordinary times and circumstances are changing for many families all the time. Please do ask for help if you find that you are unable to afford to buy enough food and remember that the Devizes and District Foodbank is there to help.

In order to provide the most appropriate help for the circumstances of your situation the Foodbank work with local agencies, including us here at St Katharine's. If the agencies feel you are struggling to put food on the table, they will issue you with a foodbank voucher. We have a small supply of vouchers in the office at school as well. The local agency can also provide long term support if needed to help address some of the issues behind the reasons for your crisis. Agencies include: Citizens Advice, Wiltshire Council, housing support officers, children's centres, health visitors, social services and some local charities.

CONTACT THE REFERRAL AGENCY

- Wiltshire Citizens Advice: 0800 144 88 48 (Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm)
- To email them, visit their website and complete the short 'Contact us' enquiry form:

www.citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk/get-advice

- Wiltshire Council (Local Welfare Provision) 0300 456 0110 – see their website for more information: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/benefits-help-crisis>

- Or contact your housing officer, social worker, support worker etc.

They will discuss your situation and supply you with a foodbank voucher where appropriate.

BRING YOUR FOODBANK VOUCHER TO YOUR NEAREST FOODBANK CENTRE

You can find a list of local Foodbank centres and opening times on the back of the voucher. They exchange your foodbank voucher for a parcel of three days of emergency food.

If you are unable to go out to the shops because you are shielding, contact your local Covid 19 support group or the Wiltshire Council Wellbeing Hub: wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk or by calling 0300 003 4576.

Please read below for some news from the PTA PTA News

Sadly, we have not been able to do any of our usual fun events this year and at the moment we have no idea which will be the first event we can put on. There is however still fundraising being done by everyone so thank you to all of you who have been involved. One thing that has proved a huge success

is the Donation Station, which has been doing a roaring trade and has raised almost £600, which is truly incredible!!

Also in the interests of having a pre-Christmas clear-out and declutter, we are arranging for Bags-2-School to come and take away bags of unwanted clothing, shoes, soft toys, textiles (not duvets, pillows or rugs) etc. There are things that they won't take and we will send out further information next week (along with the bags themselves) on how the scheme works and when the bags need to be dropped off. However, if you think somebody else at school might like something you no longer want, then please do offer it on Donation Station first, rather than put it in the Bags-2-school.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>November</i>	
Monday 23rd	Phonics Screening Week Year 2 <small>This is in place of the phonics screening in May 2020</small>
Wednesday 25th	St Katharine's Day <small>We will celebrate this event in school with the children and send photos to our parents so that you can still feel involved.</small>
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
Thursday 17th	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Party Afternoon
Friday 18th	Last Day of Term 2 Cinema and Popcorn Morning Early staggered Pick up 1:30, 1:45 and 2:00pm

**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