



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 4th December

NEWSLETTER No: 7

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

Dear Parents,

Weeks seem to have a habit of lasting longer than they usually do at the moment. I say that because looking back to Monday, when we welcomed all of the Hazel and Oak children back to school, seems like a very long time ago already. It has been lovely to have a full school again this week, busy corridors, a noisier playground and the energy that we experience when everyone is here. I would like to commend all of our parents for accepting the need for home learning (even if this did inevitably scupper your own work-life balance) and engaging so well with it. It has been great to see the home learning that has come back to school, in addition to the many postings on See Saw. We know that there has been lost learning and catch up needed because of the disruption to education since March, but I genuinely feel that the impact has been considerably diluted because of the support that you offer your children. While I am on the theme of celebrating our parent community, it is worth noting that your commitment to the children's education is reflected in really strong attendance figures; significantly above those which are being reported nationally. Bask in the warm glow of having done a good job!

Whilst our normal lead up to Christmas is not a possibility, we are working hard to find ways to make the final fortnight in school still retain a festive feeling for the children; please note the Christmas specific items in the remainder of this newsletter.

The news this week that a vaccine is imminent leaves me hopeful that we will see out this **academic** year with something resembling business as usual. We may have to be patient for a little while yet but as we move into Spring and Summer I hope that we can restore some of the familiar things that provide us all with a sense of community.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Covid Update – Being in Tier 2

You will have all received a ParentMail at the beginning of the week about the procedures in place at school now that we have entered Tier 2. Little if anything has changed and we remain focussed on keeping bubbles separate and limiting the spread of potential virus by washing our hands, ventilating rooms well and (for staff) the wearing of face masks in communal areas. Please note that in Tier 2 we are not allowed to meet with people outside of our bubbles indoors and this includes strong messaging about avoiding lift sharing. In the interests of clarity **please find attached** a poster, produced by the Department of Health, giving details on what being in Tier 2 means for us all.

Sue Brady Christmas Lunch

You can now place your orders for your child's Sue Brady Christmas lunches on 15th, 16th and 17th December depending on which year group your children are in (see calendar). **Please be aware that you need to order your lunch by 9am on 11th December.** This is the cut-off date for Christmas lunch orders – don't miss out! If your child does not want a Sue Brady lunch on that day, please send them with a Christmassy lunch box so that they feel included in the festivity.

No Christmas Cards this year (unless you have already bought them)

We have decided that the children will not be sending each other Christmas cards this year but instead ask that you consider sending in a £1 minimum donation in support of Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day (see below). This is not about us having a touch of the 'Bah-Humbugs' but instead an attempt to limit items from home being shared around, reduce logistics and in truth a recognition of our need to limit waste and the desire to avoid recycling large quantities of card and paper. Please know that when we empty the cards out of your children's trays in January you would be tempted to agree with us.

Christmas Jumper Day

We would like to celebrate Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 17th. We urge you to think about how you might make an old jumper more Christmassy rather than buy a new one. There may even be a few chocolatey prizes for the most creative jumpers on display! Children will need to bring their donation of £1 (more if you like) and leave it in the

bucket at the school gate. We would love to hit the target of £100 this year.

Christmas Parties

Christmas parties are on the same day as Christmas Jumper Day (17th December). There is no need for children to bring food or any other party clothes as they will hopefully be wearing a marvellous Christmas Jumper (feel free to add antlers etc...). The afternoon will be spent in classrooms playing games, the sillier the better and enjoying time with their class mates after what has been a really big couple of terms.

Last Day of Term

On the final morning of term, we will turn our classrooms into Cinemas for the morning and ask that the children bring with them some popcorn to enjoy. Children will also be engaged in playing games and other creative activities that morning. Our intention is for us all to end the term with a bit of a treat by way of a reward for all the lovely things that we might have had to miss out on since September.

Nativity Alternative Arrangements

The children in Reception and KS1 are busy creating our very first 'virtual' nativity, as the current situation means our whole school performance in the church is not possible. We are planning to share the performance with you at the end of Term 2. You will have recently received an ParentMail form for consent. We intend to share this video in the same way we shared our staff lockdown film and the year 6 leavers' film by using our YouTube channel. As the final file will be too large to send out, this is the easiest way for us to share it with you, and for you to share it with family and friends. The video will be uploaded as 'unlisted' to YouTube. **This means that it will not show up in any search results and is only accessible by using the link.**

Bags-2-School

Don't forget if you are having a pre-Christmas clear-out and declutter, Bags-2-School are coming to take away bags of unwanted clothing, shoes, soft toys, textiles (not duvets, pillows or rugs) etc. on 11th December. You are able to use general bin liners, however, should you need them, a small pile of leftover Bag-2-School bags have been left in the Donation Station box. Please note that we **do not** have space to store bags here at school, so please do not send your bags in to school before the 11th December.

TD Days Reminder

School will not be open for children until Wednesday 6th January. We have chosen to combine 2 TD days in order that we can complete some really focussed work on the development of our curriculum. Despite Covid there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes to ensure that our curriculum offer is broad and balanced, that we have taken time to consider the threads that we want to be woven through that curriculum (equality and diversity, sustainability etc). We want to ensure that all subjects are given the teaching and learning time that they deserve across a school year, key stage and the full primary phase. We hope to share that work with you in the form of a parent information evening as soon as we are able.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| December | |
|--|---|
| Week Beginning 7 th | Y2 Phonics Screening Week |
| Friday 11 th | Deadline for ordering Sue Brady Christmas lunch - 9am |
| Friday 11 th | Bags 2 School collection |
| 15 th , 16 th and 17 th | Sue Brady Christmas Lunch Days Tuesday 15 th = KS1 (Hazel and Oak) Wednesday 16 th = Chestnut Thursday 17 th = Sycamore |
| Thursday 17 th | Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Party Afternoon |
| Friday 18 th | Last Day of Term 2 Cinema and Popcorn Morning Early staggered Pick up 1:30, 1:45 and 2:00pm |
| January | |
| Monday and Tuesday 4 th & 5 th | TD days |
| Wednesday 6 th | First day of Term 3 |
| Friday 15 th | Deadline for primary school applications |
| Wednesday 20 th | Fire safety virtual session – Hazel, Oak and Sycamore |

| <i>February</i> | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Friday 12th | Last day of Term 3 |
| Monday 22th | First day of Term 4 |

**we will resume the distribution of a Key Date Planner when we are in a position to begin planning dates far in advance. In the mean time we will ensure that you are kept up to date with near future dates via this newsletter and Parent Mail.*

T D Days 2020/21

~~1st and 2nd September 2020~~

~~Monday 16th November 2020~~

4th and 5th January 2021