



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 18th December

NEWSLETTER No: 8

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

Dear Parents,

We have arrived at the final day of Term 2. It certainly hasn't been full of our normal festive activities but the children have enjoyed a lovely week in school with parties, Christmas lunches and a visit from Father Christmas included on the list of things that we have been able to do to celebrate. I do not want to wish our lives away but I have found myself thinking this week about how very different next Christmas might be; the church filled with parents, children singing and candle light will feel all the more special for its' absence this year. I am going to commit to taking time next year to really treasure those moments when they return.

I would like to thank the teaching and support staff for everything that they have done since September to make school still feel like it always has, to enable the children to feel happy and secure in their classrooms and to ensuring that our systems and routines are working well. Behind the scenes a lot of doors and desks have been wiped and complex figures returned to the DfE! I never take it for granted that I work with a special group of people who genuinely do everything that they can to support the children, parents and each other.

As a staff team we are grateful to the support that we receive from you as parents. I know that school life is more remote that any of us would wish it to be and as such responding to your concerns quickly remains a high priority for us. Learning does not happen in a school vacuum and despite the challenges that the current situation creates, we know the importance of team work when it comes to success for children. Please keep talking to us when the need arises.

I hope that whatever shape your Christmas takes, you are able to enjoy some time together. I was recently

listening to a radio programme extolling the virtues of Danish 'Hygge', the dictionary definition: *'a quality of cosiness and comfortable conviviality that engenders a feeling of contentment or well-being'*

I am certain that we all know the exact feeling that this encapsulates and I hope that all of you can experience a bit of something resembling Hygge in the days to come!

The St Katharine's team wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 6th January.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



White Horse Book Shop Vouchers

We have plans in place to begin a 'legacy books project' using the White Horse Bookshop, a brilliant local business, to support this. Our idea is that instead of giving gifts this coming year, we ask parents, who would like to, to buy a book from a designated list that is held for us at the White Horse Book Shop in Marlborough.

We have been undertaking a big piece of work on the development of our curriculum (more on that later) and we plan to turn our attention to our non-fiction library – restocking the shelves with high quality non-fiction to support our blocks of learning.

We wanted to launch the concept properly for this Christmas but lock down, shop closures and our own bubble closure made this difficult. You have however already 'got wind' of our plans and we are genuinely overwhelmed and grateful to have received £270 in White Horse Book Shop vouchers already. Ms Denton and I, as English leads, already have a date in the diary to meet with the manager of the book shop and work out the process for holding the list and enabling those of you that wish to donate a 'legacy book' in the futures, to do so. We would like to ensure that all books are inscribed with the names of our children and families who donated the book, so that we can remember who gave them when we enjoy them time and again in the years to come. The books that we buy with the vouchers you have generously given this Christmas will be inscribed with the kind words that were in the cards.

As a parent community you are always full of lovely surprises! Thank you from all of us.

News from the PTA

Despite our capacity for fundraising having been significantly curtailed in 2020 it has not stopped you entirely. The donation station has raised a whopping £1170 since it was first set up in September which is an amazing achievement. I hope that we can keep this going in the coming months to make up a little bit for the events that it hasn't been possible to run. The chocolate house itself has raised £317 and the Bags to School initiative £150. Thank you for continuing to support us and please get in touch with any member of the PTA if you have a fund raising idea that you would like to run with! Thank you again for pulling together in support of the school.

T D Days 2020/21

~~1st and 2nd September 2020~~

~~Monday 16th November 2020~~

4th and 5th January 2021

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| <i>January</i> | |
|---|---|
| Monday and Tuesday 4 th & 5 th | TD days |
| Wednesday 6 th | First day of Term 3 |
| 11th, 13th and 18th January | Rescheduled Parents' Evenings for Oak Class |
| 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 |
| Thursday 4th March | World Book day |

**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.*

