



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 11th January 2021

NEWSLETTER No. 9

Our Value This Term Is... *Hope*



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Dear Parents,

I'm not even sure if I have managed a Happy New Year in any of my (many) communications this week. I think we are all reeling from what has been a truly intense few days. Thank you once again for engaging so readily with everything that has been asked of you – the boxes of learning packs that we put outside of the school gate were emptied within 24 hours and the engagement with home learning is already really excellent. Children have attended TEAMS sessions at the appropriate time and we have seen a fantastic stream of uploaded work (according to the timetables) on SeeSaw. We find ourselves once again trying to tread the very difficult line of providing you with the appropriate amount of home learning to meet the expectations that have been rightly placed on us as educators and trying, at the same time, not to overwhelm our parent community, who I know are balancing a great deal of other pressures. I think we can assume that whilst we continue to evolve our offer and work hard to support our learners and their families, getting it exactly right for everyone is almost impossible. Please do get in touch if you are struggling at all and need our support, whether this is with technological knowhow, access to equipment or any other barrier that there might be to home learning working for you and your child/ren.

We do have an obligation to keep a record of children's engagement with home learning, more in this period of school closure than before. It is important to us that children do not become invisible through lack of engagement on either of our virtual learning platforms (TEAMS and SeeSaw) and as such we will be making calls next week if we have yet to see sight of any of the children and have concerns about them. Again, get in touch if you have concerns about the problems that you might be encountering. We will do our best to support you to solve them.

I hope you all manage a restful weekend to regain a bit of energy that may have been zapped from you in this week of so many changes and demands.

With kind regards

Niki Jones

Principal

Sue Brady – Key Worker Families

If you have already pre-ordered lunch for next week and your child is attending school as a key worker or vulnerable child, Sue Brady will provide lunch for those children on the days that they are at school next week (if attending for a full day). All other paid orders will be credited by Sue Brady in due course. The Sue Brady website is now taking orders for weeks commencing 18th and 25th January. If your child is attending school as a key worker or vulnerable child, you can order Sue Brady packed lunches in the usual way (deadline for upcoming 2-week period is 9am on Friday 15th).

Virtual Celebration Worship

We are hoping to attempt a virtual, whole school, celebration worship next week. We are in the process of setting up a whole school 'TEAM' (Microsoft 365) which will enable you all to join, through that channel, at **2:00pm next Friday**. We will send out details before the date and provide instructions to those of you that might not have facilitated your child joining a TEAMS meeting so far. We hope to make this a weekly event in an attempt to create some connection for our school community. Teachers will be identifying children who have really shone out for being super Purple (home) Learners. I have yet to nail down how these children will have photos in the 'big leather book' but we will try and work that out. We have been meeting like this in school during Term 2 and it made a real difference to our school community to have that weekly gathering. We will try to make it work... put a note in the calendar in the meantime.

Our Value this Term

As most of you will know, we take a value each term to explore in our collective worship. Since September however, we have been exploring a range of themes that came out of the first lockdown. The children came up with a list of things such as; *Friendship, The Natural World, Family and Love* that had emerged for them as important things during the first period of time away from school. This term I have chosen *Hope* as our value. It seemed appropriate and I would like to touch on that theme in the whole school celebration worships over the coming weeks. I would love it if children could send in some reflections on that theme; something that has made them feel hopeful, something that would make others feel hopeful or their thoughts about what Hope is. It might be a few words, a poem, a quote, a drawing or a longer piece of writing (if they are inspired to do so). They can send these via SeeSaw for teachers to pass on to me or you can send 'words' as an email *for the attention of Ms Jones*. I look forward to hearing from our deep thinking children!