



**St Katharine's C of E Primary School**  
**Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

NEWSLETTER No. 11

Our Value This Term Is... *Compassion*



## Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February

*Dear Parents,*

I am really pleased to finally be able to write this letter, bringing you news of the return to school for **all** children on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Next week is therefore our final week of remote learning. The children will return to school with the same arrangements in place as was the case at the end of Term 2, when we broke up for Christmas.

These will continue to be as follows:

- ★ Staggered drop off and collections for reception and KS1, lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2 (see below for specific details)
- ★ Staggered break times for bubbles
- ★ Bubbles are kept separate while eating lunch
- ★ Regular handwashing/sanitising throughout the school day
- ★ Enhanced cleaning routines on frequently touched surfaces, desks and toilets
- ★ Good ventilation of internal spaces maintained throughout the school day
- ★ Maintaining 'bubbles' to avoid any risk of infections between groups of children
- ★ Staff members assigned to bubbles avoid mixing where possible
- ★ Masks worn by staff in communal areas and where 2m distance cannot be guaranteed. Masks will not be worn by teachers when teaching in classrooms.
- ★ Twice weekly lateral flow testing of all staff in school
- ★ No parents or visitors on site and where this is necessary masks, sanitising etc are requested
- ★ Children to come dressed for PE and forest schools where applicable to avoid unnecessary changing and equipment in school
- ★ Procedures in place to ensure that bubble mixing in communal areas, such as toilets, does not occur
- ★ Signs of any illness in children quickly acted upon and parents contacted
- ★ Prompt communication of any Coronavirus infection and appropriate action taken swiftly

The levels of virus in the wider community are falling and this return to school does not, on this occasion, coincide with a wider re-opening of other services, thus prioritising a safer return for pupils and their families. With the continuing roll out of vaccinations this will enable data analysis of the impact of school opening and hopefully ensure that everything is done to keep schools open from this point onwards.

We are all delighted to be bringing this news and hope that you are re-assured that every possible measure, available to us, is being carried out and incorporated into our risk assessments, in order that we keep everyone in school as safe as we can.

It has been a truly unprecedented time and one that has presented everyone with considerable challenges. Our priority during the 4 weeks of term leading up to Easter will be to get the children settled back into school routines and enjoying being back with their friends and teachers. You will all have concerns about the impact of the last year on children's development and academic progress. Our experience, after the first lock down, has taught us that primarily children were just happy to be back in the classroom again. We did see some gaps in learning and areas where progress was perhaps not where it would have been had none of this happened. It is important to note however that at our Pupil Progress meetings in late November, teachers were seeing lots of strong progress being made and children, across all age groups, managing the demands of the curriculum that they were being taught. Where we had concerns around specific aspects of progress for specific children, plans were in place to address these.

Once we are back, we will begin a process of reassessing children, retesting spelling and reading ages and conducting other, low threat, assessments that will help us to re-baseline where the children are and make plans based on the information that these assessments provide. In the early part of Term 5 we would like to offer all parents a second parent consultation so that you are kept fully informed of any areas where your child might need additional support and what we have put in place to meet that need.

It is not our intention to downplay the impact that this past year will have had on our all children both emotionally and academically, but we remain convinced that a rich, balanced and vibrant curriculum delivered with the creativity and energy of our teaching team will enable all children to bounce back quickly and strongly.

We remain extremely grateful to you, as a parent body, who have enabled your children to continue their learning at home. Levels of engagement with the home learning offer have been extremely high; there will be gains - *that we have yet to see* - from this period of time; new skills learnt and stronger learning attitudes developed.

We look forward to seeing all of you on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and to slowly working towards a place that more closely resembles life at school before the pandemic arrived in our lives. We will continue to work with you over the coming months to ensure children are well supported and concerns are addressed quickly. With that in mind please do not hesitate to contact us using the [admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk) address if you have any questions or concerns about the return to school and we will do our best to get back to you as quickly as we can.

A letter will be sent out towards the end of next week with all the logistical information that you will need for to ensure the children have a smooth and happy return to school.

With kindest regards

*Niki Jones*

Principal

#### **Return to school staggered timings; beginning and end of school day reminder:**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Start Time – Drop Off</b>	<b>Finish Time - Collection</b>
<b>Hazel and Oak Class</b>	8:45	3:00
<b>Chestnut Class</b>	9:00	3:15
<b>Sycamore Class</b>	9:15	3:30

\*in the case of families with children in different bubbles please drop off at the time of your **youngest** child and collect at the time of your **eldest**. Bus, taxi and children whose parents use The Avenue will work to our normal hours of 8:45 – 3:15.

#### **A Date for your diaries!**

We plan to celebrate World Book Day in school on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Children come to school dressed as a character from a book (no film characters please – unless they started life in a story book) or they may choose to bring in a carefully selected 'clue' to a book, to get us guessing! Examples in the past have been a jar of medicine 'George's Marvellous Medicine', a porridge bowl for Goldilocks... you get the picture. We will take plenty of photographs of the day and share them with you via Seesaw. We hope this gives you enough time to plan ahead.