



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday

NEWSLETTER No: 13

Our Value This Term Is... Compassion



Dear Parents,

I hope this finds all of you well and feeling a little relief at having your children back at school and spending time with their friends. We have noticed that by Wednesday morning there were a few tired faces; it will take a while for all of us to build up our stamina to match the change of pace.

I hope that we can capture the children's enthusiasm at being back at school and enjoying face to face teaching and learning with their teachers. One child announced on their way through the gate on Monday morning that '*it is like Christmas*'; it has been a monumental year in so many ways but moments like that are to be held onto and cherished. We are also mindful that with the excitement about the return come other emotions and worries. We are working hard to put ourselves in the children's shoes and see life from their perspective. Please know that all of our teaching and support team are keen to take the time to ensure that the children settle back in really well. Time for discussion, brain breaks, circle times etc. are all built into teachers' timetables. On completion of a piece of training recently, Mrs Mackenzie shared the idea of '*going slowly to move faster*' in terms of planned learning. I think now more than ever it is a concept to take seriously.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Wedding Bells

We are delighted to share with you that Tash (director of In2Sport) is getting married to her partner Adele. Their wedding plans have been somewhat curtailed by the current limits on large events but they are going ahead and will get married on 8th May.

Tash has been working with us at St Katharine's for 10 years and as such is a very much a valued part of our staff team. I hope that those of you that know Tash, in her capacity as a sports coach, will join us in congratulating her. We would very much like to give both Tash and Adele a gift from the school. If you would like to contribute, please drop a labelled envelope into the school office. If you would like to leave a message please write it on a piece of paper and we will be sure to put it in the card when we write it.

Red Nosed World Book Day!

We have made the slight oversight of planning our World Book Day dress up on the same day as Red Nose Day. Children may add a red nose to their costume if they like or simply bring a £1 to school for the Red Nose bucket. It would be great to have £105 at the end of the day in support of a charity that does so much outstanding work in support of others.

Parent Consultations

You will be receiving a short assessment summary in the week beginning 19th April, prior to the next round of planned parent consultations. These will again be conducted over the telephone. This summary will contain information about reading and spelling ages and teacher assessment in relation to reading, writing and maths. We will also use this as a way of communicating any intervention that might be in place in support of your child's learning.

You will be receiving a Parentmail form before the end of term asking you to book your consultation. Please look out for this to ensure that you are able to book a consultation that is at a convenient time for you.

Home Learning Survey Outcomes

Thank you to all of you who completed the home learning survey, last term, on Parentmail. We have taken a look at the responses and been able to draw some general conclusions from those. The overall picture was really positive. I know that a huge amount of work went into the provision of our home learning offer and that teachers were

continually evolving that offer as they learnt better ways of doing things and as they developed their understanding of the most effective approaches. What has been really lovely is getting the feedback from the children this week; they have reflected that whilst they missed their teachers, this feeling was much reduced by how much contact they were able to have with them right throughout the 8 weeks of learning at home.

Please see below the generalisations that we were able to make from the completed surveys:

- ★ All those that answered said that 'on the whole' their child managed well with the amount of work
- ★ All those that answered said the time allocated for work was usually manageable
- ★ As expected children become more independent as they move up the school
- ★ All those that answered felt the support from school meant they could get help when needed
- ★ Writing was the most challenging subject
- ★ The vast majority of those that answered found the IT platform/s easily accessed
- ★ Children still felt part of the school community
- ★ Key strengths identified were; quality of feedback from teachers, lesson delivery and TEAMS sessions (including Friday Collective Worship)
- ★ The most common answer to 'What could we do to improve?' was 'Nothing More'.

I hope you agree that this is a really positive picture and whilst we know the enormous challenges that you faced as parents we are grateful for this endorsement of our homelearning offer.

Turning Circle

Please do use the turning circle in the morning to drop off your children, if your child is ready for this. This keeps the traffic in the lane moving smoothly. For the sake of safety, please remember to wait until you are fully in the turning circle (parallel with the school building) before opening car doors and letting children out.

Please don't use the turning circle at the end of the school day when collecting. It is helpful to drive through the turning circle on your way out, to avoid congestion, but stopping and waiting for your child here means they have to be sent to the car by staff and is at times causing traffic problems.

I understand that this might seem tempting while we have staggered drop off and collection but when we return to normal timings this will cause a considerable amount of chaos.

We ask that you park up and come to the school gate to collect your child.

Maintaining social distancing

Please maintain social distancing on the gate at drop off and pick up. We all have a part to play in reducing the transmission of Coronavirus. If you are not able to maintain 2m distance or if you are within 2m for a period of time, please consider using a face covering as an added precaution.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>March</i>	
Friday 19 th	Dress-up to celebrate World Book Day (and bring £1 for Red Nose Day)
Monday 22 nd	Sycamore WWII Day
<i>April</i>	
Thursday 1 st	Virtual Easter Service
Thursday 1 st	Last Day of Term 4
Friday 16 th	Primary School Place Offer Day
Monday 19 th	First day of Term 5
Tuesday 20 th	Fire Safety Session (virtual) Hazel, Oak and Sycamore
Monday 26 th	Parent Consultations This week
<i>May</i>	
Monday 3 rd	May Day Holiday
Tuesday 4 th	Parent Consultations This week
Thursday 6 th	'Stripes' Digital Performance Sycamore and Chestnut
Friday 28 th	Last Day of Term 5
<i>June</i>	
Monday 7 th	First day of Term 6

Monday 14th – Friday 18th	<i>planned</i> Year 6 Red Ridge Residential
Friday 17th	St Johns information evening for Y6 parents
Monday 21st, Wed 23th – Friday 25th	<i>planned</i> Y6 Bikeability <i>details to follow</i>
Monday 28th	St Johns uniform fitting evening
Monday 28th	<i>planned</i> whole school photograph
Wednesday 30th	<i>planned</i> Primary Summer Show Case <i>details to follow</i>
<i>July</i>	
Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd	Y6 to Y7 Transition Days @ St Johns
Friday 2nd	Reports to Parents <u>all</u> year groups
Monday 12th	Optional Parent Consultations this week
Tuesday 20th	<i>planned</i> Sports Day am
Wednesday 21st	<i>planned (back up) am</i> Sports Day
Thursday 22nd	Gem Day <i>details to follow</i>
Friday 23rd	Last Day of Term 6 <u>Early Closure 1:15pm</u>

we have decided that we will resume the Key Dates Planner in September 2021. For the remainder of this school year we will use this section of the fortnightly newsletter to inform you of all upcoming dates. Please note that new dates will be in **bold each time.*

T D Days 2020/21

We have **no more** TD days this academic year