



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 23rd April

NEWSLETTER No: 15

Our Value This Term Is...

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Easter Holidays. I hope that whilst things are still not as they once were, you were able to enjoy some time beyond your own 4 walls.

The weather has been very kind to us this week and we have been able to spend our lunch times out on the field. It has been lovely to watch the children playing, enjoying the space and the freedom that our amazing outside space offers them. We are all hopeful that we can enjoy the rest of this academic year without interruption and begin to feel a real sense of continuity in our work with the children. We will continue to monitor our practise against the government guidelines as wider society opens up in line with the 'road map'. We will communicate any changes to our current logistics and planning as soon as we are in a position to do so.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Fire Safety Sessions

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services organised sessions to be delivered virtually to years R, 1 and 5 this week. The children really enjoyed the sessions and I hope learnt lots of new information about how to stay safe around fire.

The sessions leader from WFS were really impressed with the behaviour and engagement of the children. Particular mention to Hazel class – she had apparently never delivered the training to more impressive 5 year olds! Well Done!

Family and Community Learning – Reading Course

If you haven't already seen the ParentMail message flagging a reading course for parents, please click on

[this link](#) to find out more. This course has been developed to provide parents with the tools to help their children improve reading skills. This is an exciting five-week course (5 x 2 hour online sessions) that will encourage families to spend time together and recognise the fun and fulfilment that can be enjoyed through words and pictures. We know that reading is an essential skill for children to master as part of their Primary journey and are delighted that a course, that supports parents, is being offered. It would be great to hear feedback from any of you that have decided to take part.

The Big Ask

Please see the letter below from The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza. We will be taking part in this survey; providing the opportunity for our KS2 children to take the survey at school and asking for KS1 and Reception children to be supported by parents to take part at home. We will let you know when we are ready to do this. Please follow the link below if you want to see the types of questions that they will be asking.



Get your child's voice heard and make a difference

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, is launching a once-in-a-generation review of children's lives.

It's called 'The Childhood Commission' and it will identify the barriers preventing children reaching their full potential and propose policy solutions to address them.

At its heart is 'The Big Ask' – the largest ever consultation held with children.

In this survey the Children's Commissioner is asking children and young people what they think is important for their future and what is holding young people back. The Children's Commissioner will use what children and young people tell her to show the Government what they think and what they need to live happier lives.

It's an exciting opportunity to help us think big and it's a chance for every child in England to have their voice heard.

[Find out more and take part](#)

Drop off and Collection

The two, instead of three, drop off times in the mornings are working well. Thank you to all parents who remembered this week.

8:45 – 9:00 – All Reception Children, Year One, Year Two (and their siblings).

9:00 – 9:15 – Key Stage Two (with no KS 1 sibling).

Parent Consultations

Next week we begin our parent consultations - via telephone. You will have received a pre parent consultation summary report, via parent mail, this week that gives you some information based on our recent round of assessments. Please be mindful that we have allocated only 10 minutes for each phone call. If you have something to discuss that you think is likely to take longer, please email the school via the admin@ address and request either an outdoor meeting with your child's teacher or an alternative time for an additional phone call. It is important that we stick to the time allocated to each parent consultation call for the convenience of everyone.

Thank you

World War II

Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a talk via zoom from Mr Leslie Kotting, also known as Minna's (Year 5) Grandad, on his experiences locally in World War II at the end of last term. Sycamore would like to thank Mr Kotting for sharing his experiences.

PTA Easter Raffle

I would like to say a big thank you to the PTA for its continuing and tireless support and fundraising. I had the pleasure of announcing the winners of the Easter Raffle at the virtual Easter Service on 1st April. Thank you to our community of parents and everyone else who contributed.

Side Door

It is likely that you will have noticed our new side entrance door that we had fitted during the Easter holiday period. We are very happy to have this additional entrance which we anticipate will make day-to-day life much easier for Years 5 and 6 in the long term and be a great advantage to us from a Health and Safety perspective.

Race to the King Ultra-marathon

Russell Walker, father of Oliver in Year 4, has set himself a challenge to complete 'The Race to the King' which is a 53-mile Ultra-marathon in June this year. It starts just outside Arundel, with the route winding along the South Downs Way, finishing on the steps of Winchester Cathedral. It is Russell's 1st Ultra-marathon, which he aims to complete in 2

days; 23.4 miles on Day 1 and 30.2 miles on Day 2. Quite a challenge I am sure you will agree!

Russell is generously raising funds for the St. Katharine's PTA. He says that "Due to the affect Covid has had on the school being able raise funds through different events, I thought it would provide an opportunity to raise some money for the school." If you would like to find out more, the link to Russell's just giving page is here:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/st-katharine-run-challenge?utm_term=ZVZXk8Zgy

We are really grateful to Russell for his support of the school and wish him the very best of luck with his challenge. Purple Learning is not just for children!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April	
Monday 26 th	Parent Consultations This week
Friday 30 th	Deadline to accept Primary School Place offers
May	
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
June	
Monday 7 th	First day of Term 6
Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th	<i>planned</i> Year 6 Red Ridge Residential
Friday 17 th	St John's information evening for Y6 parents
Monday 21 st , Wed 23 rd – Friday 25 th	<i>planned</i> Y6 Bikeability <i>details to follow</i>
Monday 28 th	St John's uniform fitting evening
Monday 28 th	<i>planned</i> whole school photograph

Wednesday 30 th	<i>planned Primary Summer Show Case details to follow</i>
<i>July</i>	
Thursday 1 st and Friday 2 nd	Y6 to Y7 Transition Days @ St Johns
Friday 2 nd	Reports to Parents <u>all</u> year groups
Monday 12 th	Optional Parent Consultations this week
Tuesday 20 th	<i>planned Sports Day am</i>
Wednesday 21 st	<i>planned (back up) am Sports Day</i>
Thursday 22 nd	Gem Day <i>details to follow</i>
Friday 23 rd	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