



ST KATHARINE'S CE  
SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty*

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May

NEWSLETTER No: 17

*Our Value This Term Is...*

*Creativity*



*Dear Parents,*

I felt genuinely excited by the prospect of writing Newsletter 17 of this academic year, largely due to the very exciting learning that has been going on, in the past fortnight; learning that has involved actual visits and visitors!

Last week, in support of their block of learning on the Stone Age, Chestnut class were visited by some experts from Oxenwood who brought with them stone age artefacts for the children to handle and explore. They looked at a timeline of British history and could see how this period of history relates to other historical events and the present day. Most excitingly, the children then ventured over to the spinney to find that a real stone age man had set up home there! He had already made a shelter out of sticks and animal skins by the time the children arrived and proceeded to light a fire and gut and cook a fish in front of the children. He also mended his spear with pine resin and attempted to communicate with them. On returning from the spinney the children were bursting with facts and information. Their interest and engagement had been truly set alight and for us it was lovely to see the impact that experiences, such as these, out of the classroom - have on learning.

Sycamore class were able to visit Warren Farm last week in support of their Design and Technology block of learning. They are in the process of developing their own smoothies, thinking about the flavour, texture and taste of well-known smoothie brands and in turn developing their own smoothies that will go through a rigorous judging process in order to judge if their product can make it to the marketplace. They will be thinking about branding, packaging, sustainability and environmental impact as well as selecting produce for particular dietary and life-style choices.

The trip to the farm was to learn about how milk is produced, how that product makes it into our homes as well as learning about how the 'Milk Yard' came into existence. It is learning experiences such as this that we are committed to building into our curriculum. We know that it supports the work that we are doing in the classroom, helps learning to 'stick' and brings learning to life. It is also exciting for the teaching staff to be able to think about extending their planning beyond the classroom, once again.

Thank you to all of you who support the work of the PTA when you are able. These recent events have been funded by the money that is given each year to class teachers in support of trips, visits and visitors.

*Niki Jones*

Principal

*'From little acorns, great oaks grow'*



#### **Important 'Bubble' Changes**

With the gradual easing of restriction in the wider world, we have decided to slightly alter our Covid practise and protocol in school. As of **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May**, we will be operating 2 bubbles instead of 3. We will have a KS1 bubble (as we have now) and a single KS2 bubble (replacing the current lower and upper KS2 bubbles). This will enable Chestnut and Sycamore classes to have play times together and when appropriate get together for collective worship or other in-school activity. This will also lessen the restrictions that we currently have around staffing parts of the school day and enable us to take another step towards normal operational practise.

We will continue to regularly sanitise desks, other touch points and toilets throughout the school day and ask children to wash hands at frequent intervals such as before and after playtimes and before and after eating. We will also ensure that classrooms are kept well ventilated and doors opened to flush clean air through at key points in the day and when it is safe to do so.

Staff will continue to wear masks in communal areas when it is not possible to maintain a social distance and continue to take lateral flow tests at key points in the week to help in the identification of asymptomatic cases.

We hope that this carefully considered change, will help not only with staffing and capacity but also in

supporting the children to socialise a little more outside of current classes. From **Monday** we will also be condensing our morning drop off times.

**8:45 – 8:55:** Hazel and Oak classes (KS1) + older siblings

**8:55 – 9:05:** Chestnut and Sycamore classes (KS2)

**All children will have arrived by 9:05 at the latest.**

This represents a 'nearly' normal start to the day and ensures that we have lost as little of our learning time to Covid related operations as is possible.

**We will continue with our staggered end to the day – there is no change to pick up times.** This enables adults to continue to maintain social distance and eases parking and congestion that we want to avoid at the present time.

We would like to look forward to a time when we can treat the whole school as one bubble. This would not be until 21<sup>st</sup> June at the earliest and will of course very much depend on the guidance to schools at this time. We will keep you informed at every step of our decision making.

### **Statutory Changes to the Sex and Relationships Curriculum**

Many of you may already be aware there have been some significant changes to the way we are expected to teach SRE across all Key Stages. Those changes became statutory as of September 2020 and schools have been given until September 2021 to ensure that these are fully implemented.

As part of that process, it is our duty as schools to consult with parents; in the first instance on the SRE policy and thereafter supporting parents to understand how SRE and PSHE (*personal, social and health education*) are taught and the themes that are being covered.

Please find attached the draft policy that is being sent to you today for consultation. Once parents have had this opportunity for comment, this policy will be agreed by our local governing body (LGB) when they next meet in July. We have used the agreed Excalibur model policy as our starting point and have ensured that it is personalised for our setting. As such, parents can be confident that our approach is in line with other primary schools in the trust and has been developed with input from a wide group of professionals.

We have recently purchased a new scheme of work for PSHE (including SRE), called Jigsaw. This is a set of teaching plans and resources used by many schools and it will support our teachers in the high-quality delivery of the new statutory content.

Please also find attached the Jigsaw guide to SRE for parents.

In September I would like to set up a small working party of parents to act as 'parent experts' on our SRE/PSHE curriculum. I would like to work with this group to introduce them to the Jigsaw materials, provide opportunities for that group to see lessons in practise and join in discussion with me and class teachers. This group can then support other parents when questions arise. If you would be keen to get involved in that working party, please send an email to our admin address with your expression of interest.

### **Mrs Phillips**

Some of you may not know Mrs Phillips (mum to Charlotte in year 5) but she has been very quietly, with no fuss at all, looking after the plants and planters at St Katharine's for several years. She is the sole reason we have beautiful hanging baskets, watered planters and tidy willow domes. There was an occasion, a couple of summers ago, that she even took it upon herself to rebuild the wall around the base of the apple tree. Sam will not thank me for this special paragraph in the newsletter, but I feel that it is important to say thank you properly from time to time. We do not have a caretaker but we do have someone who takes a lot of care. We are enormously grateful.

Thank you, Sam, from all of us!

### **Careful Driving Please**

Several parents have commented recently on a lack of careful driving in the lane. Please adhere to our (community agreed) speed limit of 20mph in order that we keep everyone safe. Please also make use of the passing places in the lane to give way to oncoming traffic if people have been waiting for a while. We do try to avoid a build up of traffic at the road end of the lane as this becomes dangerous if people are stationary on the main road. We all have, what we think are, legitimate reasons to forget our courtesy at times but as a small community it seems we have a duty to each other to be kind and respectful. Please also avoid driving on the verges. Inevitably there is a footprint being left by the volume of traffic in the lane. Please do your bit to keep that to a minimum.

Thank you for your help with this.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>May</i>	
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Class Great Fire of London <u>forest</u> session
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Sycamore Smoothie Day
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of Term 5
<i>June</i>	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	First day of Term 6
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	<i>planned</i> Year 6 Red Ridge Residential
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Class visit to Marlborough and the Merchant's House am only
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	St John's information evening for Y6 parents
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> , Wed 23 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>planned</i> Y6 Bikeability <i>details to follow</i>
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	St John's uniform fitting evening
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	<i>planned</i> whole school photograph
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	<i>planned</i> Primary Summer Show Case <i>details to follow</i>
<i>July</i>	
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> and Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Y6 to Y7 Transition Days @ St Johns
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Reports to Parents <u>all</u> year groups
	Move up morning & new reception school visit
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Optional Parent Consultations this week
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	'Healthy Me' & 'Adventurous Me' Whole school activity days <i>details to follow</i>

<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Zoolab with Hazel pm</b>
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<i>planned</i> Sports Day am
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>planned (back up) am</i> Sports Day
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Gem Day <i>details to follow</i>
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	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