



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 8th October

NEWSLETTER No: 3

Our Value This Term Is...

Friendship



Dear Parents,

Whilst Covid is very much still a backdrop to our everyday lives, we are allowing ourselves to get used to what we have always considered *business as usual*. Whether it is the simple things like eating, playing and singing together or being able to come together for events such as Harvest Festival in Church it is really lovely to be remembering what normal used to be. We are also amazed at how busy we are!

Thank you to all of you that came to church, on Wednesday morning, to join us for the Harvest Celebration. It has been 2 years since we last held this service (one of my favourites of the school year). It isn't until you are forced to miss things that you really see their true value. I hope we can cherish more of these moments across the remainder of our school year. Thank you also for the generosity that you have shown with the giving of Harvest Food items. The basket is truly bulging with your contributions!

Last week we were lucky enough to have GB gymnast Kelly Simm come into school to support us with our big sporting fundraiser. As I write I haven't a total of funds raised to share with you but I know that it is going to be more than we could have imagined, judging by the personal fund-raising efforts of a few children that I have heard about. It was incredible to witness an athlete who has such mastery of her sport. The demonstration of 'no handed cartwheels' left many of us open-mouthed! What was also lovely to witness was the children making links between the words that Kelly shared with us such as resilience, effort and determination

and the work that we do in classrooms – every - day on the importance of being a purple learner. Kelly told us that to be a gymnast you must get up 8 times for every 7 times that you fall. I think that is a great mantra irrespective of the task in front of any of us.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



St Katharine's Eco Council

You will have received a parent mail about the Eco-Council that we would like to set up this year. The children were introduced to the idea in Collective Worship on Monday and will be talking in more detail about the creating of manifestos in class. **This is not a compulsory activity.** We would really like children who are motivated and interested to put themselves forward to be voted for by their class. If you think that your child is keen to take part, please support them to think about how they might present their ideas and why they think they would make a good Eco-Councillor. Some ideas might be...

- ✓ Writing a short speech or talk
- ✓ Preparing a power point to talk to
- ✓ Making a poster to talk about
- ✓ Writing a letter to their classmates

...or any other way that they would like to put their ideas across.

We are excited to see what they come up with and beginning to do some important work in school to improve our impact on the environment.

Use of the playground after school

There are not many playgrounds like ours, especially in the fact that parents and children are able to use the grounds after the school day is over. We are very mindful of the fact that in order for our community to *feel like a community* this opportunity to meet and chat with other parents is important; there is after all no park where you can all agree to meet up nearby.

Please help us to continue this by ensuring that the children play after school following the same rules as they would in school and that they are properly supervised and using the equipment safely. We also ask that the playground is clear by 4:00pm. There are occasions when staff have other off-site

commitments at the end of the school day and we are not able to leave until the site is empty.



Christmas Boxes

On **Tuesday 12th October** we will once again be visited by Richard Parsons from the Trussell Trust and Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion to talk to the children about the making of Christmas Boxes in support of this year's appeal. We have taken part in this initiative for a number of years and year on year we gather a greater number of these very special boxes to send overseas. The children will bring home a leaflet next week explaining how to make a Christmas Box; what to put in it and how to package it. There is so much value for our children in taking part in this simple activity. It helps remind them, at a time when they have so much, how that is not the case for other children in Great Britain and around the world.

Our box collection day will be Friday 5th November, if you want to get started take a look at the fscinet.org website via the link below.

[Please follow this link if you would like to know more.](#)

I hope that lots of us will get involved again this year.

Siblings to come early for photos

On 2nd November 2021 we have our school photographer coming in to take individual photographs of the children. They will be with us for the morning. Photographs of St. Katharine's siblings will also be taken together. If you have any siblings that do not attend St. Katharine's and you would like them included in a photograph, please feel free to turn up at school with them from 8.30am (until school starts). The children will be sent home with a card with a unique access code to enable you to purchase your child's photo/s online.

PTA News - Bonfire Night Friday 5th November

School Events are back! The PTA committee is excited to announce that Bonfire Night will be held on Friday 5th November. Tickets will be on sale shortly, available to purchase from the school office. As usual we will need lots of volunteers to help both in the run up and on the night. We can't do it without you all. Please look out for further details and please sign up to help. If anyone has

some wood spare that they don't want, please can they drop it off so that we can build the bonfire. Please no painted wood or wood with too many nails (as these have to be picked up afterwards). There will be an area roped off on the school field from 28th October, although the bonfire will be built on Thursday 4th so we need all wood donations before then. We would also like everyone to bring in a small bag or jar of sweets for the sweet stall. Please could everyone bring in their offerings at drop off on Thursday 4th November and somebody will be collecting them.

Key Dates Planner flag changes

We have had another look at our Key Dates Planner and decided to move the Parent Consultations in May to April. We now have Parent Consultations in Terms 2, 4 and 6 and as such they are more evenly spread across the year. Please see the new Key Dates Planner attached and it is this version that you will find on the school website. A new Key Dates Planner, with additional dates, will be sent out at the beginning of Terms 3 and 5.

Don't Forget - Reading Meeting

Hazel and Oak Class Parents

You will see from the diary dates that we are inviting all parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 to come to a reading meeting where we hope to provide you with some helpful insights into how reading is taught in school and how you can support children, as they learn to read, at home. **The meeting will be held in the school hall at 2:00pm on Tuesday 12th October** and we are looking forward to welcoming as many of you as can make it.

St. Katharine's Open Day

We are holding our Open Morning on **Tuesday 19th October from 9.30am until 11.30am** for any prospective parents to come and see the school at work. [Please promote this to anyone that you know who is looking at schools for September 2022.](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October	
Tuesday 12 th	Reception and KS1 reading meeting for parents 2pm in the school hall
	Christmas box assembly by Trussell Trust

Friday 15 th	Yr4 Oxenwood adventure day – details to follow
	Sycamore trip to Science Museum, London – details to follow
Tuesday 19 th	Open morning prospective parents 2022/2023 – 9.30am until 11.30am
	Eco-Council Elections – pm
	Last Day of Term 1
Wednesday 20 th	TD Day 2 – children not required in school
Sunday 31 st	Deadline for secondary school applications

November

Monday 1 st	First Day of Term 2
Tuesday 2nd	Individual school photos
Wednesday 3rd	Hazel class fire safety talk
Friday 5 th	Bonfire night PTA – details to follow
	Christmas box collection day – Trussell Trust
Thursday 11 th	Remembrance Collective worship – venue and timings detail to follow
Friday 12 th	TD Day 3 – children not required in school
Friday 26 th	St. Katharine’s Day service in church – 9.30am
Monday 29 th	Sharing our Learning afternoon – parents invited in 2.30pm until 3.15pm
Tuesday 30 th	Whole school Parents Evening 1 – 3.30pm until 5.30pm

December

Wednesday 1 st	Whole school Parents Evening 1 – 3.30pm until 7.00pm
Wednesday 8 th	Sue Brady Christmas lunch
Friday 10th	Christmas jumper day

Monday 13 th	Nativity Dress rehearsal – parents and grandparents welcome – 2pm
Tuesday 14 th	Nativity in church – 5.00pm until 6.30pm
Thursday 16 th	Christmas parties – pm – bring in party clothes to change into
Friday 17 th	Carol Service in school – 2.15pm
	Last day of Term 2

Items in bold have been added since the previous Newsletter.

Please also refer to your [Key Dates Planner](#) for all known date so far this academic year.

TD Days 2021/22

- Wednesday 1st September
- Wednesday 20th October
- Friday 12th November
- Tuesday 4th January
- Friday 22nd July

Please Note

We will close at 1:15pm on Thursday 21st July 2022

Other things you might want to know...

SCIENCE BAZAAR SATURDAYS

presents

"The secret life of the slow loris"

9th Oct 2021, 11am

Slow lorises are super cute, secretive and weird nocturnal primates. They cannot jump; sing in ultrasound; and are the only venomous primates!! Indonesia's Javan slow loris is one of the *rarest* primates on Earth.

In this online event, you will meet the researchers who study lorises, get to know some slow loris families, and become a wildlife researcher, identifying behaviours and seeing if you can tell them apart! Help us to celebrate international Slow Loris Outreach Week by attending this special event!

Suitable for 5-10 year olds; register at <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/research/public-engagement/>



Basset Down

HALF TERM PADEL

EXCLUSIVELY FOR ST. KATHARINE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Join your friends for a special chance to play at the new Padel4all centre at Basset Down during half term.

You'll be able to improve the skills you've been learning during term time and get to challenge the coaches on a full size padel court!

Friday 22nd 10-11.30am
Thursday 28th 1-2.30pm

[CLICK HERE to register for one or both sessions.](#)

Turn up in trainers and activewear, we'll provide all the equipment. Free onsite parking. £10 per child, per session. Sign up 15th October.

If you can't make our half term padel sessions be sure to sign up for Junior Club, starting in November. Details on our website. www.padel4all.com bassetdown@padel4all.com