



ST KATHARINE'S C of E
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 5th November

NEWSLETTER No: 4

Our Value This Term Is...

Hope



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 2 everyone!

The week prior to breaking up was another busy one. Sycamore Class visited the Science Museum in London in support of two blocks of learning: a science block about Space and in preparation for their current block of learning about Climate Change. As always, the children came back full of new knowledge and excited by their experience. Year 4 had an adventure day at Oxenwood on the same day. They enjoyed a packed schedule of archery, climbing, cooking over a real fire and a spooky walk at sunset. It was a great day, as always, and one this is now a firm fixture in the calendar for this year group.

In the final few days of term, we held our Open Morning for prospective parents. I am never sure, until the morning is underway how many visitors to expect. I am happy to report that we were kept busy throughout the morning and our Year 6 prefects did an amazing job of confidently and articulately touring our visitors around the school, answering questions and providing lots of detail about life at St Katharine's. As always, we hope to fill all 15 of our reception places in September 2022. Achieving this, year on year, ensures that we can maintain everything that we currently offer to our children and families.

Yesterday, Sycamore visited the moon - not a sentence that you can write every day! As part of the dark skies event that has been taking place in Marlborough over the last fortnight, we were able

to send this class along to the chapel at Marlborough College (again in support of their previous Science learning) to see the to-scale 7m model of the moon. They were met there by Charlie Barclay, Director of the Blackett observatory, who was able to give them an in-depth tour of the exhibit and answer their (many) questions!

Little by little we are expanding back into what was our 'typical' practice; please look at the 'news' section on the home page of the website, where we are making sure that we regularly add short write ups of all the various things that we have been up to in, and out of, school.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



St Katharine's Eco Council: Meet the Team!

We held our Eco – Council elections on the final day of Term 1. The children who wished to be considered for the role wrote manifestos and delivered these to their classes. After a very tight vote the following children will be our Eco-Council representatives for 2021 – 22:

- ❖ Max Wilsey
- ❖ Auberon Lee
- ❖ Violet Swift
- ❖ Alistair Gordon
- ❖ Tiberius Bhatt – Yates
- ❖ Eva May Franklin
- ❖ Jemima Lloyd
- ❖ Athena Lee



Mr Sandall and Miss Denton will be meeting with the team to begin to plan the actions they would like to take in the month ahead.

New MDSA – Ms Laura Denny

We are delighted to welcome Laura Denny (mum to Arla Y2 and Mack YR) to our support team at St Katharine's. Laura began her role supervising in the dinner hall this week and it already feels like she has been here for ever. It is an essential role in our school; ensuring that children have happy lunch times makes a huge difference to the whole day.

Smith Magenis Syndrome – Awareness Assembly

William (Y6) and Teddy (Y3) have asked to deliver an assembly to raise awareness of the condition 'Smith-Magenis Syndrome'. William and Teddy's sister Lily has SMS and they would like to talk to the

children about what this is and how this affects people with SMS and their families. At playtime, following the assembly, William and Teddy would like to sell cupcakes to raise money for the Smith-Magenis Syndrome Foundation, a charity that supports families living with this condition and one that is close to their hearts. Children can buy a cake **for 50p** on the day if they would like to. Please also see the flyer on the notice board section of the newsletter below.

Remembrance Service at St Katharine's Church

If you would like to join with other members of the St Katharine's community for a remembrance service, you are very welcome to attend the service at St Katharine's Church on Sunday 14th November at 10:45. There will be a short laying of wreaths at the monument followed by a service in church. Please see our notice board section of this letter for the flyer.

Poppies on Sale

We have a box of poppies in school. These will be on sale at playtimes throughout the week. If children would like a poppy, they can bring a donation into school Mon – Thursday next week.

Children in Need Day – add some spots day!

We will be celebrating and supporting Children in Need on **Friday 19th November**. Children can come to school with the addition of some spots to their normal school uniform. Please feel free to encourage creativity with the brief! If children are coming to school 'spotty' they need to bring a minimum donation of £1 with them.

Parents Evenings

This academic year we have made the decision to invest in software to enable our parent consultation evenings to become virtual. Many of you will already be familiar with **School Cloud**, the software used by St Johns to facilitate virtual parents' evenings.

We have taken many factors into consideration when buying this package, driven initially by the continuing uncertainty around Covid 19. Having conducted telephone consultations throughout last year we have also concluded that a video alternative would be preferable.

Additional considerations are the logistical difficulties that face-to-face meetings pose for many families. They have a tendency to run over time, parents have to ensure childcare and for most of you there is additional travel. In our attempt to

bring sustainability to the fore, we are also thinking about the environmental impact that multiple, additional journeys have.

We are hoping to be able to offer 'sharing our learning' sessions prior to each consultation this year. An opportunity at the end the school day for parents to come in, sit with their child and look at the work that is being done in books and around the room. This is by no means intended to lessen our contact with you or reduce the value of those conversations. *Please note that this may not be possible for this first parents' evening due to the current spike in Covid cases locally.*

For parents whose children have identified SEND we will continue to offer face to face meetings, in addition to virtual ones. If **any** parent has concerns that they would like to talk through face to face, **at any time** in the school year they can book a meeting using the admin@ email and class teachers will quickly respond with at date and time for a meeting.

Once we have tested the system in this first round of consultations, we would value any feedback on how this might be improved and how this was experienced as a user.

We will be sending out a data sheet (Friday 5th) to confirm that we have the correct details on the system for each family. Please respond quickly if you spot errors, as this will impact on your being able to use the virtual booking system.

A parent mail will be sent out (wk beg 15th November) with details of how to book your first parents evening and confirming if we are able to offer the sharing afternoon at this time.

Covid and Winter Illnesses Update

You will be aware that case rates in the South-West of England remain very high. A significant number of these are within the 10-14 age group with an obvious impact on the wider families of those children. Whilst there is some evidence that cases are beginning to drop, we are being advised to remain vigilant and ensure that we have robust plans in place to respond quickly should we experience an outbreak.

We have decided not to open to parents for Friday Celebration Worship for the remainder of this term and are in the process of putting plans in place for all other events leading up to the Christmas Holiday to ensure that we are managing group sizes whilst still hoping to offer some of the events that are an important part of the school calendar.

Public Health England are predicting that along with Covid 19 infections it is likely that there will be high

levels of other winter illnesses in the coming months.

The following is a helpful guide of what to do if your child is unwell with symptoms that could be the start of a range of winter illnesses, including Covid:

- Children who are unwell should not attend the setting and **should remain at home until their acute symptoms resolve (+24 hours for a fever)** This has always been the case
- **IF** these symptoms develop into a cough, temperature, changes to taste and or smell, they should isolate and get tested for Covid-19
- **IF** the test is negative for Covid-19, the child still needs to remain at home until at least 24 hours fever free and acute symptoms are resolved
- Parents and settings should not try and 'second guess' diagnosis – if have one or more of the key Covid symptoms, isolate and test.

Examples of acute symptoms with which children should not attend school/nursery/college include fever, muscle aches, hacking cough

Examples of symptoms with which children could attend school/nursery/college include persistent cough (if covid test is negative), runny nose, irritable cough (If Covid -19 positive, they must have completed their appropriate isolation period)

Wiltshire Council

Please also remember to keep children at home for 48hours following any symptoms of vomiting and diarrhoea.

Please help us by keeping children who are unwell at home.

Flu vaccinations

The nasal childhood flu vaccination programme being run by Virgin Care will be taking place on **Thursday 25th November** during the school day. Please be aware that this is only for those children whose parents have given consent directly to Virgin Care. **More information will be sent out as a separate parent mail.**

Auditing your MANY talents

We know that our parent community is packed with people who have rich and varied life experience, skills and talents. We pride ourselves on the strong relationships that exist between school and parents but it always surprises me when I learn about a particular job that a parent does or an interest or passion that they pursue that I don't know about and wished that I had. We are working really hard to create a rich, exciting curriculum that supports the children to develop academically, personally, socially and emotionally.

We are building blocks of learning that are relevant to the wider world in which we live and that also captures the many opportunities that our local area offers for deep learning.

If you have an area of expertise or interest that you think we should know about, please get in touch. It might be that you can lend a bit of time to come and talk to children or that you can identify a

learning opportunity out of school that you are able to assist with.

We will be sending out a short questionnaire in the coming weeks asking that you tell us what you do for a living, any out of work experience that you might have and importantly if you are willing for us to contact you should we think you could help us. Children love learning from people who are not necessarily their teachers and it is often these encounters that make their learning really stick.

TD day reminder

We have our 3rd TD day of this academic year on **Friday 12th November**. Please remember that this is a day for professional development for teachers and as such the school is closed to children on this day.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November	
Friday 12 th	TD Day 3 – children not required in school
Wednesday 17 th	Smith-Magenis Syndrome awareness assembly and cake sale <i>Children can bring money to buy cupcakes at playtime.</i>
Thursday 18 th	PTA Meeting 7pm
Friday 19 th	Children in Need – 'Add Some Spots Day'
Thursday 25 th	Whole School Flu Vaccinations
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	<u>Whole school</u> Parents Evening 1 – 3.30pm until 5.30pm EYFS/ Reception - Y6
December	
Wednesday 1 st	Whole school Parents Evening 1 – 3.30pm until 7.00pm

	Y1-6 only
Thursday 2 nd	Parents Evening 1 for <u>EYFS/Reception</u> (change of date) 3:30pm – 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 <i>Details to follow</i>
Thursday 16 th	Christmas parties – pm – bring in party clothes to change into
Friday 17 th	Carol Service 2.15pm <i>Venue and Details to follow</i>
	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.

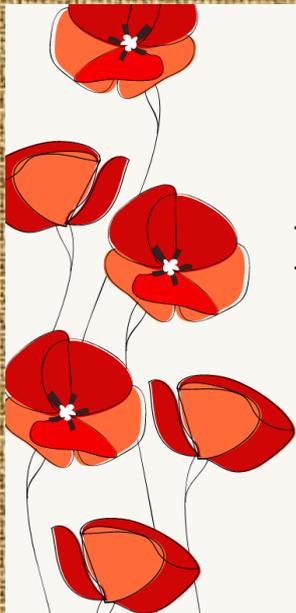
TD Days 2021/22

- ~~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...



ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH

Act of Remembrance

Sunday 14th November 2021
10.45am sharp
with church service to follow.

At the going of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.



Smith-Magenis Syndrome Assembly and Cake Sale

17th November 2021

William and Teddy Stevenson want to raise awareness and funds for Smith-Magenis syndrome.

Our sister Lily has Smith-Magenis syndrome (SMS) and not very many people know about it. We want to share with people what it is like living with someone who has SMS and why it can sometimes be tricky.

We also want to sell cupcakes to raise money for The Smith-Magenis Syndrome Foundation. Lots of little things add up and make a big difference! The money we raise will help support families living with SMS.



www.smith-magenis.org

To find out more about joining a worldwide community of girls who have fun, learn new skills and make their voices heard visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/guides
Contact: Emily Daubney erdaubney@btinternet.com
07775750472

WE DISCOVER, WE GROW
Girlguiding
1st Pewsey Guides

Pewsey Vale School
Tuesdays
6:30pm - 8:30pm



Aged 10-14?

At Guides you can: plan your own meetings, explore new places, go on camps and trips. Enjoy exciting events like our fabulous festival, Wellies and Wristbands.

Guides helps to make a difference in your community and about the issues that matter. You could get involved in our youth leadership programme and learn a huge range of new skills.