



ST KATHARINE'S C of E
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 3rd December
NEWSLETTER No: 6

Our Value This Term Is...

Hope



Dear Parents,

So here we are with only two weeks to go until the end of Term 2. With Sue Brady Christmas Lunch on Wednesday of next week I think we have to agree that Christmas is upon us!

We have been busy as always. Our Year 5 and 6 children played in their first sports tournament in quite some time, competing alongside 5 other local primary schools. The children enjoyed getting out of school and mixing again with other children, many of whom they will meet again when they move on to secondary school. Sadly, the planned football tournament that was due to take place this week has had to be cancelled due to a continued high level of Covid infections in the area and concerns around the new Omicron variant. There are other sports fixtures in the calendar and we hope that these will be able to continue as planned in the new year.

It was lovely to see so many of you take the opportunity to come into school to see the work in your children's books and talk to them about the learning that they have been doing. We hope to offer this prior to every planned parent's evening so that you have a better picture of the things that we are talking to you about. We realise that we are still not able to offer the open door that we once could. I know that many of you are missing our Friday Celebration Worship. As soon as we are able, we will ensure that this is one of the first, regular diary dates to reinstate.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



We can't keep it a secret any longer...

We are excited and delighted to tell you that Mrs Baird and her husband Pete are expecting their second baby and a sibling for little Orla - who is already 2 years old! I know that for Chestnut Class that news will be mixed with a little sadness as we will be saying (a temporary) goodbye to Mrs Baird at Easter, when she begins her maternity leave. Mrs Baird will be happy not to have to wear her coat and scarf strategically placed any longer and to be able to share the good news with our children and families. We will be working hard to secure her replacement and will update you when we have more information to share.

Our Christmas Preparations

We are very conscious that the Covid picture is an ever changing one, not least with the recent arrival of the new Omicron variant. At the moment the guidance for school remains largely unchanged other than the reinstating of mask wearing for staff in communal spaces.

That said, we do have a responsibility to protect the staff, children and wider families in our community and as such we will be limiting the numbers of attendees to each nativity performance and the KS2 carol service to a maximum of 60.

We have decided to hold our dress rehearsal for the Nativity next week (behind closed doors) and to make Monday 13th a full run through, enabling us to hold two performances (Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th) for KS1 parents only. We will be in touch early next week with details on how you can book the performance you would like to attend (*2 parents per child for one performance or 1 parent at each performance over the 2 days*). We will also be asking Sycamore and Chestnut parents to do the same for the KS2 carol service, with 57 children in KS2 however only one parent will be able to attend this event.

We know that there will be disappointment for some of you, especially as we were not able to go ahead with our Nativity last year. We hope that you understand the decisions that we arrive at and know that our intention is to enable us all to have the best chance of spending a safe and healthy Christmas with our families whilst working hard to ensure that we are able to celebrate albeit more low key.

Parents Evenings

This week saw the first of our virtual parents' evenings (1 of 3 booked across the academic year). We will be looking to get your feedback in the new

year, inviting your comments on the length of the meeting, the technology and any tweaks that we can make to ensure that this runs more smoothly. Inevitably we will receive a range of comments, some that will be in direct contrast to each other. We will, as always attempt to listen carefully and make a plan that is the best fit that it can be for our community.

From the school's perspective we felt that this first meeting went as smoothly as we could have hoped for and were delighted by the readiness of parents to book appointments and attend.

Sue Brady Orders

The Sue Brady website is now live to take the seasonal orders for next term, this is from January until Easter.

The closing date for ordering for the whole term is 9am Friday 17th December (once it is closed no seasonal orders can be added).

The website will go live for week's commencing 4th & 10th January on Friday 10th December and the closing date for ordering will 10am Friday 17th December.

What to do when your child is unwell - a refresh

We believe that good attendance and punctuality give our children the best opportunity for success both academically and personally thus helping towards developing their skills for life. All children deserve to be able to make the most of the opportunities available to them at St Katharine's. If your child is unwell, we ask that you call the school office on the first day of the illness to explain your child's absence. If you know that the absence is likely to be for a couple of days (48 hours for a sickness bug, 24hours after a temperature) please let us know during the course of this telephone call /message.

If you are not certain when your child is returning to school, we would expect you to keep us updated on a daily basis, before the beginning of each school day. This can be done by leaving an answerphone message or by sending an email.

If we do not receive notification about your child's absence, we will call you to enquire as to why your child is not in school. This is in line with recommended safeguarding procedures.

If you are requesting that your child have time away from school for reasons not related to illness, please request a form from the school office.

Medical or other appointments in school time should be avoided if at all possible but if not a leave of absence form must be obtained from the school

office. A half day is considered sufficient for most appointments.

Christmas Raffle

Tickets are now available for the PTA Christmas raffle. We have some great prizes including:

- Homemade Christmas Cake
- Cocktail shaker set
- LK Matthews luxury manicure
- Old Pulteney Whiskey
- Bottle of wine
- The Body Shop goodie bags
- Tropic goodie bag
- LK Matthews goodie bag
- & many, many more!

To enter the draw, simply make a payment to the PTA PayPal account, skspta@outlook.com, and add a message to your PayPal payment detailing your name and 'raffle'. Tickets are £1 each and you can buy as many as you like. For example, to purchase 5 tickets, simply pay £5 using the message 'Raffle', followed by your surname. If you have any friends and family who may also be interested, please share.

Winners will be drawn by Ms Jones on Thursday 16th December at the end of the Christmas Party celebrations. Drum roll please!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December	
Wednesday 8 th	Sue Brady Christmas lunch
Friday 10 th	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 13 th	Nativity Performance St Katharine's Church Hazel and Oak only 2pm <i>*please note only 2 adults per family at this event</i>
Tuesday 14 th	Nativity Performance St Katharine's Church 5.00pm until 6.30pm Hazel and Oak only <i>*please note only 2 adults per family at this event</i>
Wednesday 15 th	In2Sport Christmas sports day all children in PE kit today
Thursday 16 th	Christmas parties – pm – bring in party clothes to change into

	PTA Raffle Draw
Friday 17 th	<p>Carol Service Chestnut and Sycamore only 2.00pm St Katharine's Church <i>*please note only 2 adults per family at this event</i></p>
	Last day of Term 2
<i>January</i>	
Tuesday 4 th	<p>TD day 4 No children in school today</p>
Wednesday 5 th	First Day of Term 3
Saturday 15 th	Deadline for primary school applications

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.

Remaining TD Days 2021/22

- 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...



Christmas raffle

£1 PER
TICKET

Prizes include:

- ✦ **Homemade Christmas Cake**
- ✦ **Cocktail shaker set**
- ✦ **LK Matthews luxury manicure**
- ✦ Old Pulteney Whiskey
- ✦ Bottle of wine
- ✦ The Body Shop goodie bags
- ✦ Tropic goodie bag
- ✦ LK Matthews goodie bag
- ✦ & many, many more!

It's simple to enter:

1. Purchase your tickets by making a payment to the PTA
PayPal account: sksppta@outlook.com
2. Please enter the message: *Raffle* followed by your surname

Tickets cost £1 each. There is no limit to the number of tickets you can purchase, and multiple tickets can be purchased simultaneously. For example, to purchase 5 tickets, simply pay £5 using the message 'Raffle', followed by your surname.

Winners will be drawn by Ms Jones on Thursday 16th December