



ST KATHARINE'S C of E
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 7th January

NEWSLETTER No: 8

Our Value This Term Is...

Truthfulness



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all! Finally, we have had a bit of sunshine; it was lovely to see the sun shining through the windows of our hall as we met for Collective Worship on Wednesday. There is very little time for normality during the Christmas break. As lovely as that is, it is also good to return to a bit of routine and some distinction between different days of the week!

Thank you, on behalf of all the staff for the kindness that you showed at the end of term. We still have a few tins of biscuits left to enjoy this term. It is likely that they won't be around for long. Again, we received some vouchers for book-buying at the White Horse Bookshop. We are very regular visitors, using this money to purchase high-quality titles to support all aspects of our curriculum.

We ensure that all the books bought, with the money donated by parents, for this specific purpose, have a book plate stuck in the front by way a record of the truly amazing generosity that you have shown. I have put a copy of that on the 'other things...' notice board at the end of this Newsletter for you to see.

We are sending out our Version 2 of the Key Dates Planner along with this Newsletter. This lists all the dates that we currently have for events etc that we know of from now until the end of this academic year. As new dates are entered into our diary between now and the beginning of Term 5 (Key Dates Planner Version 3 published) we will use the diary section of the fortnightly newsletter to keep

you informed, along with messages via ParentMail. Please note that we add new dates in **bold** so that it is clear when a new date has been added.

We are made aware, from time to time, that sent messages via Parent Mail are not being received. Please do keep us informed if you think that you are missing communications. It is important to us that you are kept informed, if you think there is a glitch in our IT systems, or yours, please come in and we can work with you to get it sorted.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Covid Update

Again, we are faced with regularly and fast changing rules around the management of cases of Covid 19 and the spread of the new Omicron variant. The information below was sent out by the local authority yesterday to clarify the new rules around self-isolation:

Self-isolation Clarification

In summary:

- You must self-isolate as soon as COVID-19 symptoms develop, or when you receive a positive test result if you do not have symptoms.
- Two negative lateral flow tests are required to end self-isolation: the first to be taken no earlier than day six, followed by a second test result 24 hours later. **Please consider the time of day you take your day six test. If you are aiming to return to work or school on your day seven (assuming two consecutive negative LFD results) you will need to take your day six test early in the morning as there needs to be a gap of at least 24 hours before taking the day seven test.**
- If both of those tests are negative, **and you do not have a high temperature**, you can stop self-isolating immediately.
- If the day six test is positive, further tests can be taken on subsequent days, but you must receive two negative tests, **24 hours apart**, in order to end self-isolation. **Once you have isolated for 10 days isolation ends at 23:59 of day 10 irrespective of test results unless you continue to have a high temperature.**

- If ending self-isolation after day six due to negative lateral flow test results on consecutive days **then please limit contact with others wherever possible until after the formal 10-day isolation period would have finished.*

We always take time to talk this through, with any parent who is confirming a new case of Covid. Please do not hesitate to ask for further clarity, should you need it.

**please note that this does not prevent a return to school despite this seeming to be a contradiction with limiting contact with others.*

Home Learning

We have strong contingency plans in place for when children are required to self-isolate because of a case of Covid. It is important for us to know whether children are well enough for this and we will establish that with you during the first telephone call. We then send you a letter outlining our home learning plans and processes and send a copy of your child's See Saw home learning code so that you can thereafter communicate with your child's class teacher, receive a timetable of suggested work and accompanying resources. This will also enable you to upload completed work for teachers to see. Please be mindful that this will not entirely replicate your experience of home learning during the full lock-down. Teachers still engaged in full-time classroom teaching while at the same time, potentially, managing individual home learning timetables for multiple children.

We are sincerely hoping that cases will remain in the very low numbers that we have experienced since our return in September. That said, we are keen to be as prepared as we can be should that change and to ensure that parents are as informed about what to expect should a period of home learning be needed.

UWE (University of the West of England) Student Teacher Placement

We are excited to be working with UWE this year by offering a 2nd Year student teacher placement. Miss Rebecca Colledge will be joining our teaching team for her 5-week 2nd year placement, in Sycamore Class from the beginning of next week. She will work with Mr Sandall as her mentor across the 5-week practice building her teaching skills and experience through a mixture of individual, small group and whole class teaching.

Historically we have always been keen to support student teachers new to the profession. The last two years have made it very difficult for trainee teachers to get into schools for placements. As with other public services there is a growing need to encourage great people into our profession. We are excited to be a small part of that.

Pizza Day – 20th January

To promote Sue Brady and encourage children to try a Sue Brady lunch, homemade pizza will be on the menu on 20th January. Orders can be placed via the Sue Brady website. Please select 'option 1' for pizza. Please note that on the website it will be listed as cottage pie that day for 'option 1', however it will in fact be pizza provided that day. Order before 4pm on Thursday 13th January. If you don't usually order, please log on to the Sue Brady website and give it a try!

Wood chippings

We have received a delivery of 5 dumpy bags of wood chippings intended for the children's outdoor play area. It would be much appreciated if anyone is able to spare some time to come along and help spread the wood chippings for us please. You will need to bring along your own rake. What a great opportunity to work off some of those mince pies!

Excalibur Brand Identity

Unless you have received recent communication or been on the website, you might not have noticed that the Excalibur Academies Trust logo has changed. The new logo is below, and on the attached school calendar. The new brand identity was inspired by nature and is an iconic symbol of uniqueness and community – a dandelion. The thinking behind the new brand identity captures the plant's ability to thrive and colonise in any land that has provided an opportunity for them to grow. All children love the dandelion. The traits of the dandelion are likened to the support we provide, with every element being useful and helping children to grow and flourish.



Friday 4th	World Book day <i>Details to follow</i>
Thursday 17th	KS2 SATs information session for parents 2.30pm-3.15pm

Items in bold have been added since the previous Newsletter.

Please also refer to your **Key Dates Planner Version 2**, for all known dates so far, this academic year.

School Calendar 2022/23

The first version of the School Calendar for the academic year 2022/23 is attached. Please note that the final staff development day is yet to be set. However, we thought it might be useful to parents for us to go ahead and issue it as it currently stands.

Remaining TD Days 2021/22

- Friday 22nd July

Please Note

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>January</i>	
Monday 10th	UWE student teacher placement begins in Sycamore
Saturday 15 th	Deadline for primary school applications
Thursday 20th	Sue Brady Pizza Day
Tuesday 25th	Lego competition for Lego Club members
<i>February</i>	
Monday 7th – 13th	Children's Mental Health Week
Monday 7th	UWE student teacher placement final week in Sycamore
Tuesday 8th	Sycamore hockey tournament
Friday 18th	Last day of Term 3
Monday 28th	First day of Term 4
<i>March</i>	
Thursday 3rd	First Chestnut Class forest school
	Oak Class visit to Sevington Victorian School

Other things you might want to know...



In 2019 we began a project to redesign our curriculum. A significant part of that work was to identify high quality texts that would inspire and support children in their learning.

Our criteria for choosing our texts were simple;

- * Beautiful high-quality design.
- * Strong language models and vocabulary.
- * High expectations of children; *texts that did not patronise or oversimplify.*

Our staff asked parents not to spend their money on end of term gifts, instead asking that they donate in terms of book tokens to be spent at The White Horse Bookshop. This bookshop is a small, local business with the expertise to help us locate titles and make suggestions.

This book was bought as part of this project; we hope that it will be enjoyed by many as our curriculum develops and we continue to build links across blocks of learning, key stages and year groups.

Thank you to the parents of St Katharine's Primary School in support of the project.