



ST KATHARINE'S C of E
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 18th March

NEWSLETTER No: 13

Our Value This Term Is...

Compassion



Dear Parents,

I like to think of myself as a bit of an optimist by nature. I have now lost count of the number of times that I have promised you lights at the end of tunnels or silver linings around clouds, since the pandemic began. I can't quite believe that last week saw us managing our biggest outbreak of Covid yet and taking advice from PHE tracing to reintroduce our bubbles and other mitigation measures. Sorry for the previous collection of empty promises!

I am however delighted to report that none of the children affected by this latest surge of cases have been too poorly; I do hope that this is the case for the adults in those households as well. I am also pleased to inform you that whilst we have a larger number of cases than previously, the numbers are now heading in the right direction. As soon as we can lift our current *outbreak management measures*, I will let you know.

We will of course be in new territory as of 1st April. I will write to you once we have been informed of what guidance, if any, we need to follow once restrictions and testing regimes have been lifted. I am increasingly conscious that school is a bit of a mystery to parents, given that you rarely get beyond the front door. Whilst the information flow in the last couple of weeks has been about managing difficult logistics and Covid outbreaks, the reality on the ground has been one of children getting on with life as normal; giving of their best

and making the most of an imperfect situation and one of staff pulling together, filling gaps and ensuring that school runs smoothly.

Whilst everyone pulled together to help us through a challenging time, I would like to make special mention of the children of Sycamore Class who last week had a virtual teacher, quite a few virtual classmates and yet continued to learn in the same focussed and effortful way that they always do.

Thanks also to Mrs Crewe who facilitated that to happen on the ground and in the flesh!

Again, I must wax lyrical about the wonderful children that we are lucky to teach, the brilliant and supportive team of staff that I am lucky to work alongside and of course, our incredibly patient, understanding and practical parents who I hope trust that the best is being done in challenging circumstances. Not all schools are equal when set against the above 3 measures. I believe that we are all lucky to be here!

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Parents Evening 2

We will be holding our 2nd of 3 parents' evenings on Monday 4th and Thursday 7th April. These will be held using the School Cloud software that we have purchased for this academic year. We hope that having used the technology once already, that these will run smoothly and provide you with an update of your child's progress and next steps. These meetings are not designed to tackle any significant concerns that you may have. If you want to talk at greater length about your child's learning or other school related matters, please email the school to book a face-to-face appointment with your child's class teacher.

Please note that you can ask for a meeting at any time in the school year, if you have a worry that you want to talk through. It is far better to come in and talk when concerns arise than to let things escalate. The feedback from last time was overwhelmingly positive. Our intention is to find a parent meeting solution that cuts down the need for unnecessary car journeys and hopefully manages the timing of these meetings in an efficient way. Many of you will all have spent unnecessary time waiting in the hall, for your parents evening appointment, in previous years. The flip side of this of course is that your time slot cannot extend beyond the time allocated. If you feel that something is uncovered in the meeting

that you would like more time to discuss again, please get in touch and we can find time for a face to face or a follow up phone call.

Y6 SATs information evening: change of date

Please note that we will be holding a SATs information session for Year 6 parents and children at 2:30pm on Monday 28th March. Year 6's will join their parents for this session.

SATs have not taken place for the previous 2 years; please do come along if you would like to refresh your knowledge of these assessments or if this is the first time that you have a child going through the process.

The session will be held in Sycamore Classroom. Please use the side entrance. Mr Sandall will ask you to sign in at the start of the session.

World Book Day Fundraising

Thank you to all of you who supported the British Red Cross on World Book Day this year. There was such a generous response to this from our families. We raised a total of £440 which will go to support the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

Thank you

Red Nose Day

We are delighted to be able to report that we have collected in excess of £67 today for Comic Relief. Thank you for your generosity and for pulling it out of the bag at the last minute by sending in children with red accessories in many different shapes and sizes!

PTA Fundraising

Thank you to everyone that brought in their old clothes for the Bags to School fundraiser this week. This initiative raised £63.60 which will go into the PTA funds in support of equipment and resources for school.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 23rd	Chestnut Composition Workshop
	Eco-Council visit to Great Bedwyn School
Monday 28th	Year 5 Tusk Force Workshop at Great Bedwyn School (details to follow)
	KS2 SATs information session for parents 2.30pm – 3.15pm

April	
Monday 4 th	3.30pm – 7.00pm Parents Evening 2 whole school
Tuesday 5 th	Bath Rugby Event for whole school
Thursday 7 th	3.30pm – 5:30pm Parents Evening 2 whole school (please note this date has changed from version 1)
	Final Oak Class Forest School
Friday 8 th	Last day of Term 4
	Easter Service 9:30 in Church refreshments to follow
	PTA Easter Trail Event 2.30pm – 3.15pm
Monday 25 th	First Day of Term 5
	Sycamore first swimming session (details to follow)
Tuesday 26 th	Sir Harold Hillier Gardens trip for Hazel and Oak class (details to follow)
	Chestnut Class First Forest School
Thursday 28 th	First Bath Rugby session of block of sessions for Sycamore (details to follow)
May	
Monday 2 nd	May Day Holiday School closed
Monday 9th – 13th	KS 2 SATs Week
Friday 13 th	Whole School Vision and Values Day
Monday 16th – 20th	KS 1 SATs Week
Thursday 19 th	Sue Brady Pizza Day
Friday 20 th	Vision and Values Day parent sharing afternoon. Parents invited from 2:00pm (timing TBC) <i>This represents a change from previous newsletter.</i>

Tuesday 24 th	Final Chestnut Forest School
	Year 6 Red Ridge Residential Parents Meeting 2.30pm <i>(details to follow)</i>
Thursday 26 th	Final Bath Rugby session of block of sessions for Sycamore
Friday 27 th	Last Day of Term 5

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.

Remaining TD Days 2021/22

- Friday 22nd July

Please Note

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

Other things you might want to know...



WPCC's Information Event 2022

A FREE event for PARENT CARERS of children and young people from 0 to 25 with SEND and PROFESSIONALS, to find out more about services and support in Wiltshire



Wiltshire Parent Carer Council's March Information Event 2022

Are you looking for Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) information to support you to help your child or young person?

If your answer is yes, we warmly invite you to join us at our information event.

Our event is free to attend, refreshments are provided, and parent carers will be able to claim travel and childcare expenses from the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC).

Friday 25th March 2022

Civic Centre, Trowbridge, BA14 8AH

Registration and Tea/Coffee from 9:30am

Event runs from 10am to 1pm



You can book using the QR code

On the day:-

A market place of approximately 30 information stands

Workshop: Supporting Children's and Young People's Anxiety

See the WPCC's Virtual Pre-Event Pack for more information

https://issuu.com/wpcc1/docs/online_advance_information_booklet_-_march_event_2

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

You can book online:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WPCC-March2022-Event-Booking>

Alternatively call us on 01225 764647 or email: admin@wiltspcc.co.uk

Booking Closes 5pm Sunday 20th March 2022



A Survival Guide for Parents



Stand Alone Sessions (mostly)

that run from 6:30 – 8:30 on Wednesday evenings.

£10 per person per two-hour session

Online via ZOOM or in person

from the EDAS Serenitea Cafe at

54a Ashley Road, Poole, Dorset BH14 9BN

Topic	Date	
How to Speak so they Listen and Listen, so they Speak	30 th Mar 2022	13 th Jul 2022
How to Communicate with Teenagers	6 th Apr 2022	20 th Jul 2022
Raising Self Esteem	20 th Apr 2022	31 st Aug 2022
Family meetings	27 th Apr 2022	7 th Sep 2022
Understanding Anxiety & Depression part One	4 th May 2022	14 th Sep 2022
Support with Anxiety & Depression part Two	18 th May 2022	21 st Sep 2022
How to Speak so they Listen and Listen, so they Speak	25 th May 2022	5 th Oct 2022
Understanding Anger Part One	1 st Jun 2022	12 th Oct 2022
Understanding Anger Part Two	8 th Jun 2022	19 th Oct 2022
Introduction to Autism Part One	15 th Jun 2022	26 th Oct 2022
Introduction to Autism Part Two	22 nd Jun 2022	2 nd Nov 2022
Introduction to ADHD	29 th Jun 2022	9 th Nov 2022
Addictive behaviour Awareness	6 th Jul 2022	16 th Nov 2022

To book a place please contact:

rachel.murphy@edasuk.org

St Katharine's
Easter Trail
2:30pm FRIDAY 8th APRIL

St Katharine's families please join us from 2:30pm for:

EASTER TRAIL
All participants will receive an Easter egg at the end of the trail!
KS1 and KS2 trail booklets are £2.50 and can be purchased by payment into the PTA PayPal account stkspta@outlook.com with the message 'EASTER followed by your child/childrens name' OR by cash payment on the day.

EASTER BONNET COMPETITION
If you would like to enter please bring Easter bonnets into school on the morning of Friday 8th April.

BAKE SALE & TEAS & COFFEES
Homemade Easter themed bakes and teas and coffees will be on sale during the event.

All monies raised go to the PTA to fund equipment and activities for the school.