



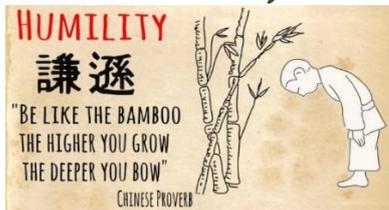
**ST KATHARINE'S
C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Friday 13th May 2022
NEWSLETTER No: 16

Our Value This Term Is...

Humility



Dear Parents,

Talking with a group of other headteachers on Friday, we were all reflecting on how school-life feels more 'like normal' than it has for quite some time. Events are stacking up in the diary and by way of an example of this, the last two weeks have been full of exciting things that bring learning to life and make it memorable.

Oak Class has a wonderful trip to the Harold Hillier Gardens where they learnt about habitats and the miniature life all around us. The children were beautifully behaved and a credit to the school. Sycamore and Chestnut classes were able to go on their, previously postponed, trip to explore life in the river Kennet, supported by the team at ARK (action for the river kennet). Again, this supported the science work in the classroom on habitats and life cycles. The children returned soggy but with a wealth of knowledge about the natural world on our doorstep.

The walk-safe team paid us a visit last week, setting up a scaled down road system in the school hall. All classes took part in age-appropriate learning, helping them to become both road and traffic smart. These are important life skills at all ages. We have now completed our 3rd week of Bath Rugby lessons and clubs. This has proved extremely popular with all our Key Stage 2 learners and helped all of them to have an experience of high-quality rugby teaching. This has been a key component of our sports grant spending this year, initiated and

organised by Mrs Freeman (PE lead) and Mrs Crewe (PE facilitator). They are both working extremely hard to ensure that sporting opportunities like this are a regular feature of our calendar, providing all children with the chance to take part in sporting events as they journey through the school. Again, it is such a pleasure to see children taking part in and embracing experiences such as this, experiences that were missing from their lives for such a long time.

Whilst for parents this is a busy term (we know that when the children's lives get busy then so do yours), we hope that you value the return of a much fuller and richer school calendar and the opportunities that this brings for the children.

Our Year 6 children, along with all the 11-year-olds across the country, have had SATs (standardised assessment tests) this week, in Grammar, spelling and punctuation, Maths and Reading; they sat 6 papers in total. It is the first time that SATs have taken place since the summer of 2019. Our current Year 6, like all our children, have had 2 years of disrupted learning; they were in Year 3 the last time that they had a full and uninterrupted year of school. Whilst we haven't experienced a full lock-down in this academic year, we have had a fair number of disruptions. It was only a few weeks ago that we were forced to re-introduce bubbles and we had 25% of the school self-isolating.

All of this is a very long-winded way of celebrating our oldest learners who, this week, approached their tests with resilience, good humour and huge amounts of effort. We are extremely proud of each and every one of them.

Thanks also to our troop of Mums who came in each morning to prepare bacon sandwiches and multiple rounds of toast so that the Year 6's could begin the day relaxed and happy. It has been a tough week for the staff as (secretly hoped for) leftovers have been very thin on the ground!

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



At Few Heartfelt Thank You's

There are so many of you that give time to the school, in so many ways throughout the year. Whether that is the volunteering that you do as members of the PTA, as governors, at events, or in school listening to readers. We are always grateful;

our school would not be the community that it is without the support of our parents. With that in mind I would like to thank Lauren Martin (Ruby's Mum Y1) for bringing in the chicken eggs that she is incubating. The session with the children was brilliant and they learnt so much from her as 'expert' in support of their science learning on life cycles. They were able to look inside the eggs (by egg-candling) and think deeply about how chicks develop. Ms Denton and Mrs Jowdie reported that they had learnt things that were brand new to them! Thank you, Lauren, for sharing your expertise and knowledge with us.

Thanks, as always, to Sam Phillips (Charlotte Y6), for her continued dedication to watering our outdoor plants and for filling the baskets at the front of the school with flowers again this year. She does this, every year, with quiet humility. She will hate me giving her this shout out but please join me in thanking her for this volunteering.

Finally, our thanks to Georgie Franklin (Eva-May and Leo Y3 & 5) who recognised a need to support our young netballers. She is currently running an upper KS2 club, on a Friday after school to give the children a chance to grow their skills and expertise. We have so much expertise in our community and so many of you keen to offer help and support. If you think that there is something that you could share and you have the time and capacity, please do get in touch.

Parent Meeting: Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) reminder.

There is a meeting, in school, on Tuesday 24th May at 2:15 for any parents that would like to find out more about the SRE curriculum that will be taught through the 'Changing Me' unit of work in Term 6. The meeting will be held in Sycamore class. *Please see newsletter 15 for full details.*

**This is the same date at the Sycamore trip to Lulworth Cove which will not be the most convenient for all of you as the trip has a later pick up. I apologise in advance. We can offer refreshments and access to Wi-Fi after the meeting if people would like to stay in the classroom to get some work done.*

Vision and Values Day and Parents Sharing Afternoon

If you would like to come into school to share the work we have been doing around our vision and values, please join us at **2:00pm, Friday 20th May**. We will begin together in the school hall; this will be followed by an opportunity to visit classrooms to see what the children have been up to.

Save the date – PTA family fun day

The PTA are organising a Family Fun Day at St Katharine's on **Saturday 11th June 3-8pm**. There will be live bands, pony rides, BBQ, bar, traditional fete games and much more...

More information to follow – keep your eyes on ParentMail!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>May</i>	
Monday 16 th – 20 th	KS 1 SATs Week
Monday 16th	Chestnut Class Cricket Festival at St. Katharine's (small group)
	KS 2 after-school Running Club block of 6 sessions start today
Tuesday 17 th	Year 6 pre-residential parents meeting 2.30pm (<i>note date change from previous newsletter</i>)
Thursday 19 th	Sue Brady Pizza Day
Friday 20 th	Vision and Values Day parent sharing afternoon. Parents invited from 2:15pm (timing TBC)
Saturday 21 st	Trip to Bath Rugby
Tuesday 24 th	Final Chestnut Forest School
	Sycamore trip to Lulworth Cove
	Parent Meeting on the Sex and Relationships Curriculum 2:15 – 3:15 (Sycamore Classroom)
Thursday 26 th	Final Bath Rugby lessons, lunchtime and afterschool clubs block of sessions for KS2
Friday 27 th	Last Day of Term 5
	Celebration Worship – Parents welcome (Sycamore sharing)

<i>June</i>	
Monday 6 th	First Day of Term 6
Monday 6 th – 10 th	Phonics screening check week
	Year 4 multiplication check week
Thursday 9 th	Chestnut trip to Mary Rose in Portsmouth <i>(details to follow)</i>
Friday 10 th	Accelerated maths day at St. John's (small group)
	Celebration Worship – Parents welcome (Chestnut sharing)
Saturday 11 th	PTA Summer Festival 3 – 8 pm <i>(details to follow)</i>
Monday 13 th	Year 5 only swimming session
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th	Year 6 Red Ridge Residential Trip
Monday 13 th (week commencing)	Nursery visits for 2022 intake begin this week
Tuesday 14 th	Music Cluster Project – Chestnut Class <i>(details to follow, St. Francis School pm only)</i>
	New Reception parent information evening 6-7pm (note date change from previous newsletter)
Thursday 16 th	Y6 Transition Information evening for parents only (St. John's)
	Y5 Quadkids <i>(details to follow)</i>
Friday 17 th	Y4 Orienteering <i>(details to follow)</i>
	Celebration Worship – parents welcome (Oak sharing)
Monday 20 th (week beginning)	Nursery visits continue
Tuesday 21 st (am), Thursday 23 rd & Friday 24 th	Y6 Bikeability (groups to be decided) <i>(details to follow)</i>

Tuesday 21 st	Whole School Bath Rugby Workshop (pm)
Friday 24 th	Celebration Worship – parents welcome (Hazel sharing)
Monday 27th	Uniform fitting evening at St. John's
	KS 2 after-school Running Club block of 6 sessions final one today
Tuesday 28 th	Whole school photos and Y6 group (pm)
	Y6 trip to Junior Good Citizen Event (am only) <i>(details to follow)</i>
Wednesday 29 th	KS 2 Mini-marathon Event <i>(details to follow)</i>
Thursday 30 th	Summer performance dress rehearsal 1-3pm (children only)

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...

Admin Officer Vacancy - Term time only

Excalibur Academies Trust is looking for an organised, efficient admin assistant with good communication skills who enjoys working as part of a team. Based at St John's Marlborough flexible working is encouraged. Hours are part time between 22 – 30 per week, salary £10.61 – 11.47/hour + pension. Apply [here](#) or contact nicola.hickford@excalibur.org.uk to find out more.