



ST KATHARINE'S

C of E

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect,

& Honesty

Friday 23rd February 2024

NEWSLETTER No: 11

Our Value This Term Is...

Compassion



Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone. I hope this finds you all well. We've had a great return to school this week, we are at the halfway point with everyone having grown at least a centimetre or two! The difference in the space we fill, when we gather as a school, at the beginning of the year compared to now is marked; the hall starts to feel much smaller at this point in the year. Our reception children don't look nearly as small as they did in September and our Year 6 children are beginning to challenge a few members of staff in terms of height!

On Wednesday Sycamore Class had a visit to Crofton Beam Engines to launch a project called 'Crofton for kids by kids'. Over the coming months Sycamore will be working with the team at the Beam Engine to create short videos about the Beam Engine and a working model which will then form part of the exhibition to visitors. I am looking forward to seeing how this project progresses and hearing from the children about what they have learnt from the experience. There are a few extra-curricular activities on the horizon that enhance the learning that is done in the classroom. We are always mindful of the additional time and effort that this requires from parents in terms of organisation, logistics and sometimes cost; we do not take your support for granted.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



World Book Day

We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day on Friday 8th March. Please note that the official World Book Day is Thursday 7th March but we have chosen to celebrate this on **Friday 8th March** this year.

We encourage the children to come as a character from a book (rather than a film) or if they prefer, they could bring a clue to a book. It is always lovely if children bring a copy of the book to school too, however this is not a requirement. Please ensure any props or books are clearly named.

This is one of the highlights of our calendar. We love the first bit of the morning when the children arrive in an array of different costumes and share these during our assembly.

We look forward to seeing all of the wonderful costumes when the children arrive at school on 8th March.

Reviewing our Vision and Values

For those of you that have had children in the school for a while, you will have come on a journey with us when we looked at our vision narrative and joined the story of the mustard seed with our school motto of 'From Little Acorns Great Oaks Grow'. Our recent SIAMs inspection acknowledged this work and how well the children could articulate the concept of growth from the tiniest of starting points and how we all have the ingredients within us to be mighty oaks!

This is my 10th year in post as headteacher. It was during my first year that we asked our community and all our stakeholders to share their thoughts about what values should underpin our school. After a collaborative process we arrived at four: ***Friendship, Effort, Respect and Honesty***. Other than members of staff and perhaps a small group of current parents, there are very few people in our school community who were here for that piece of work and as such it is time for a review. I am looking for a few interested individuals to work with me to review those values and to make sure that the values we choose reflect the thinking of our current stakeholders and properly reflect the other elements of our school vision. If you are interested in taking part, please email admin@stkatharine.co.uk expressing your interest and we will be in touch. A commitment of one or two afternoons is all that is required. Tea and biscuits are a given!

Staying and Playing After School

As the weather improves and the evenings are lighter, more of you decide to linger a bit at the end of the school day to allow your children to play and allow yourselves an opportunity to catch-up with other parents. This offer is not typical for schools but we allow this to happen in order to facilitate the important connections within our community. As I often hear myself saying to prospective parents, we are a school without a village and as such St Katharine's is unique. Supporting our community to spend time together is important, it is our version of the village green or village playground. To confidently offer this, we need everyone to be on board with a few simple things:

- Please ensure that your children are playing safely and using the play equipment appropriately, for themselves **and** for those around them. *The children will be able to tell you the rules that apply in school at all times.*
- Please supervise all play on the equipment and ensure that pre-school siblings are kept close by. From 3:15pm the children are the responsibility of parents.
- Please don't allow your children to take school equipment from the box (bats and balls etc). This is tidied, *meticulously* by our Y6 prefects at the end of lunch time and is for use during playtimes only!
- When it is wet we don't allow children to play on the equipment as it gets slippery, please ensure that you do the same.
- Please avoid requesting access to the building after school hours. Staff are often in meetings or involved in planning and preparation at this time and as such won't always be available to facilitate you. If you intend to stay, always encourage your children to use the toilets right at the end of the school day.
- We do love to see you all coming together as a community but ask that everyone has left the premises by 4:00pm (4:15pm if you are staying because your child has a club).

We appreciate your help and your understanding around this.

MCAS – Details held at School

Please can we ask that all families log on to MCAS and check that your contact details and the details for your child/ren (including doctor surgery) are correct and up to date. If anything needs updating, you trigger this change electronically. Or, if you

need assistance, contact Hayley. It is important that the details we hold for our families are correct at all times.

Please also remember to always let us know if there are any changes to the medical information we currently hold for your child/ren.

Emergency Helpers

There are times when we find ourselves in need of a bit of emergency help. This might be due to a delivery arriving that needs a few hands to bring into school, bark that needs spreading or more recently a little help to clear up after lunch, including a little washing up!

We are looking to hold a list of parents who are happy to be called upon on these rare occasions, safe in the knowledge that if they are not available there is absolutely no guilt attached to them saying no.

From our perspective it is, at its simplest, a directory of people who don't mind us asking and who at times might have a bit of time to spare. Please be assured that this is only on the **rare occasion** when we find ourselves in need of an extra pair of hands.

If you think this describes you, please let us know by emailing Hayley in the school office.

admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk

Cricket Taster Day

We have a whole school Cricket Taster Day on **Friday 15th March**. Please can you send all children in to school that day in their PE kits. Each class will take part in a taster session with a cricket coach at some point during the day and therefore will need their PE kits.

Reminder Message – from the PTA Cake Sale

The PTA will be holding the first cake sale of the year on Friday 23rd February after school. Please remember to bring in some money to buy cakes. They will be sold at £1 each and all proceeds will be going towards the EYFS project.

The class selected to provide cakes for this Friday's sale is 'Sycamore'.

Many thanks for your support!

Mother's Day Pop up shop

As you know Mother's Day is coming up. Our fabulous PTA are opening a Mother's Day pop up shop. The shop will be open on **Friday 8th March**, during school hours, to all St. Katharine's students. All our lovely gifts are priced at £5. We are hoping the children will enjoy the independence of picking their own present for their mums.

All profits will go to the PTA and support our

ongoing early years project. Please send your child/ children in with their money on the 8th and support our shop. Thank you.

Sue Brady New Ordering system

Sue Brady has sent the following information to help clarify the changes to the new ordering system:

You can order for any days right up to the end of term and amend those meal orders too without having to let us know. However, there is an 8-day rolling period where you cannot add/amend/cancel meals. This means that 8 days in advance are not editable. If your child is sick, you need to let us know by emailing schools@suebradycatering.com before 8am on the day in question, and we can sort that for you.

Vegetarians are no longer a special diet. On the old system you were either a vegetarian or you weren't. Now everyone has the chance to order a vegetarian meal just like the other options. This means parents no longer have to advise us if their child is vegetarian, they just order the correct option. Special diets are reserved for allergens. Below is an 8-day rolling calculator, to assist you in working out the cut off dates for ordering.

Rolling 8-Day Calculator

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
T	X	X	X	X			X	X	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O
	T	X	X	X			X	X	X	O	O			O	O	O	O	O
		T	X	X			X	X	X	X	O			O	O	O	O	O
			T	X			X	X	X	X	X			O	O	O	O	O
				T			X	X	X	X	X			O	O	O	O	O
					T		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	O	O	O
						T	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	O	O	O
							T	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	O	O

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March	
Monday 4 th	Oak Class visit to Sevington Victorian School
Tuesday 5 th	Sycamore Class Life Exhibition at St John the Baptist Church, Pewsey
Friday 8 th	World Book Day Dress Up
	PTA Mother's Day Shop 1pm-3pm
	Final Sycamore Tag Rugby after school club
	No celebration worship this week
Tuesday 12 th	Scotability Years 1-6
Wednesday 13 th	Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Tournament

	(details to follow)
Friday 15 th	Whole school cricket taster session
	No celebration worship this week
Wednesday 20 th	Music Cluster Project Workshop Whole School Performance by DJ Harman Chestnut Workshop
Friday 22 nd	Sharing our learning afternoon – parents invited in from 2.30pm until 3.15pm
	No celebration worship this week
	Mobile Library visiting
	Choir Performance – 8:45am For the parents of choir children
Monday 25 th	Parents Evening 2 whole school 3.30pm-5.30pm
Tuesday 26 th	Year 3/4 Cricket at St. Katharine's School (small group) (details to follow)
Wednesday 27 th	Parents Evening 2 whole school 3.30pm-7pm
Thursday 28 th	Easter Service in Church 9.30am
	Easter trail, Bonnet Competition and Cake Sale 2pm-3.30pm
	Last Day of Term 4
<i>April</i>	
Monday 15 th	First day of Term 5
Wednesday 17 th	Year 4 Braeside Parent Meeting 2.30pm – 3.15pm
Friday 19 th	Oxenwood visiting Chestnut Class at St. Katharine's (AM) Anglo-Saxon Day (details to follow)
	Mobile Library visiting

Please also refer to the **Key Dates Planner V2** that includes all the dates that we know of for the remainder of the academic year 2023/24 (at this point).

Our aim is that we give you advance warning and enable you to plan well ahead for some of the main events in the year. As events come into the school diary they will be added to the dates sections of the Newsletter and to Key Dates Planner V3 which are resnt at the beginning of 5.

TD Days

There are no remaining TD days this academic year.

Please Note

We will close at 1:15pm on Wednesday 24th July 2024.

Other things you might want to
know...

We have nothing to add this
time!