



ST KATHARINE'S

C of E

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect,

& Honesty

Friday 8th March 2024

NEWSLETTER No: 12

Our Value This Term Is...

Compassion



Dear Parents,

I write to you this week from my desk, looking out at a sunlit playground, dressed as a dog! It is World Book Day today and yet again the children have done us proud (and of course you who I am sure had quite a bit to do with the costume curation!).

We have wizards, witches, dinosaurs, dragons, cats, dogs and quite a fair number of characters whose USP is naughtiness! We have characters from classical children's fiction and those from books I have yet to read. What is clear from the way that children talk about their characters is that this is a 'Reading School'; books are treasured and St Katharine's Children read and have been read to.

There is so much research about the importance of literacy and reading. Not just in its obvious form of being able to decode the print rich world around us but also in the less obvious power that reading has to help us grow. Our value this term is Compassion; research tells us that children who engage in reading of high-quality texts can experience emotions and situations that they may not otherwise have encountered. Literature helps us to 'walk in someone else's shoes'. At a time when there is so much talk about an increasingly polarised world, it seems that getting our children reading and engaging with stories, is more important than ever. Thank you for all that you do to support us in this aspect of our work.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Reviewing our Vision and Values:

I would ideally like a group of at least 4-6 parents for this. So far, 2 people have said they would like to be involved. Please see below if you are interested and think you can spare an afternoon.

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!

The Condition of the Road

We are of course very aware of the poor condition of the road leading up to school. I spend more time than I would like, talking and thinking about it. Please know that in the last 18 months there has been a lot of time, energy, phone calls and a large number of emails about this issue, involving myself, the governing body, our school business manager and more recently the H&S team at Excalibur. If a resolution was straight forward, rest assured we would have sorted it out for all of you that are regular users of the road. Sadly, we have been on the receiving end of some unmet promises and a significant lack of communication from those, outside of the school community, that will ultimately be the people who have the power and where-with-all to resolve it. You will see that there are currently cones in the worst section of the road; the section that has recently caused damage to vehicles. We are promised a temporary fix in the

coming days and a permanent fix has finally been scheduled. Other remedial works, on other sections of the road have also been scheduled, as has a road sweep and clean. I know that it might appear that nothing is happening from your perspective but please know that more time than I would like to admit to has been spent on this. I share your frustration as I am certain that you too would like all of my energy to be spent on what really matters which is the excellent quality of teaching and learning at St Katharine's, that you all, rightly, expect of us.

On a similar note...

Traffic reminder

As you all know, the approach to and from school can be challenging at times. This comes with us having our school in such a beautiful setting. We are all keen to make pick up and drop off as seamless and stress free as possible. To this end, please can we all be mindful of pedestrians while driving on the narrow roads. I am sure at one time or other in our lives we might all have been on the receiving end of a car driving through a puddle. If we all drive considerately and with care it makes the journey a far more pleasant experience for everyone.

Church Yard Tidy

St Katharine's Church is inviting volunteers to come along and help with the spring tidy-up of the churchyard. It is an annual event and this year it falls in the Easter holidays. One of the improvements to be undertaken is the path that parents often use, which passes through the churchyard. Apparently, the free refreshments are always good! More information is given on the poster on the noticeboard page overleaf.

Scootability

We are looking forward to the Scootability sessions taking place on Tuesday next week. If you have signed your child up to take part, please remember to send in their scooter and helmet on Tuesday morning and ensure that their uniform allows them to take part in this activity. **PE kits are a suitable alternative.**

Red Nose Day – March 15th

We are asking that children come to school wearing something red or, if children have a red-nose day T-shirt or other item of clothing related to this annual fund-raiser, they can wear that. This is not a non-school uniform day so these items are in

place of an item of uniform. Class teachers will give clear instructions to the children about this. Please send your child to school with a donation for this worthy cause. We are suggesting £1 - £2.

Cricket Taster Day - Reminder

We have a whole school Cricket Taster Day on **Friday 15th March**. Please remember to 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.

Messages from the PTA

Easter Celebrations

Easter will be celebrated at St Katharine's on the last day of term 28th March.

After the Easter Service in Church we would like to invite all Children to participate (if they wish) in an Easter Bonnet Parade!! There will be an Easter Egg as a prize for the most creative bonnets!! There will be one prize for Hazel and Oak (KS1) and another for Chestnut and Sycamore (KS2) Hopefully we have given everyone enough time to create a beautiful Easter Bonnet!!!

Entry will be £1 and proceeds will go to "Friends of St Katharines School"

After the service and parade we would like to invite all grown-ups back to school for a hot drink and a hot cross bun!!

During the afternoon the PTA will be putting on an Easter Trail event for all of the children to participate in and on completion your child/children will receive an Easter gift from the PTA to go home with and to say Happy Easter! We really hope the children enjoy these plans and we are very much looking forward to the Easter Bonnet creations!

Please let us know if you have any questions!

Thank you for your support!

Smartie Challenge

The children raised a fantastic **£414.05** through their good deeds and chores during half term.

Thank you for supporting them and what an amazing amount!

Cake Sale

The recent cake sale raised **£134.93**. Thank you to all the Sycamore Parents who provided delicious bakes.

Easy Fundraising

£260.80 was raised through Easy Fundraising in the last quarter just from online shopping!! If you would have already joined but keep forgetting to checkout through EasyFundraising, make sure your donation reminder is setup. If you need help with this, speak to Pip Blanchard. Or to join www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofsthatharinesschool

Maypole Dancing Club

We are delighted to announce that the PTA will be running a Maypole Dancing Club after Easter! More details to follow soon!!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March	
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	Scootability Years 1-6 (if your child is booked on)
Wednesday 13 th	Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Tournament
Friday 15 th	Whole school cricket taster session
	No celebration worship this week
	Red Nose Day
Monday 18th	Reception Class Health Screening
Wednesday 20 th	Music Cluster Project Workshop Whole School Performance by DJ Harman Chestnut Workshop
Friday 22nd	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 (Oak, Chestnut and Sycamore) 3.40pm-5.30pm

Tuesday 26 th	Year 3/4 Cricket at St. Katharine's School (small group) <i>(details to follow)</i>
Wednesday 27 th	Parents Evening 2 whole school 3.40pm-7pm
	Hazel Class forest school pm Extra Session with Mrs Arnold
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 <i>(details to follow)</i>
	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 resent 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...



Autism Central
For parents and carers

Learn more about autism

Autism Central is delivered by parents and carers for parents and carers to help you learn more about autism and the services available.

What can I access?


- Resources:** find information from partners and other trusted sources.
- Find help:** one-to-one sessions with information and services available in your area from your regional hub.
- Events:** talk to people who share similar experiences.
- Online learning:** sign up to access further learning resources.

www.autismcentral.org.uk/southwest



Online Learning

You can also access free online learning modules on the Autism Central Website. You will need to register with an email address to access the learning portal. See access instructions below and find modules on understanding autism, wellbeing and Autism & Education.



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Register (mobile)

Go to www.autismcentral.org.uk

Select the menu (at the top right corner of the screen).

Click on 'Login or register'.

Click on 'Create new account'.

Add your details to register.

When you login you will be able to see your dashboard.

Select the resource you wish to view.



1



2



3



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| What's on February - March 2024

Bristol Autism Support is a registered charity (1186287) offering peer to peer support for parents and carers of autistic children in the South West of England. BAS is the South West regional hub delivering the Autism Central Peer Education Programme.

Upcoming Sessions:

Understanding Autism for Personal Assistants

This free online information session is for people working as Personal Assistants (PA) with autistic adults and children. Wednesday 28th February 10am-12pm.

Online Information Sessions, Booking Required:

- **Managing Anger** | Friday 2nd February, 12-2pm.
- **Autism & Associated Conditions** | Friday 9th February, 10am-12pm.
- **Sensory Processing Differences** | Friday 9th February, 1-3pm.
- **Support in Education** | Tuesday 20th February, 10am-12pm.
- **All About Autism** | Wednesday 21st February, 10am-12pm.
- **Autism & Masking** | Thursday 29th February, 10am-12pm.
- **Applying for Disability Living Allowance** | Wednesday 6th March, 10am-12pm.
- **Supporting Distress** | Wednesday 13th March, 10am-12pm.
- **The Interoceptive Sense** | Thursday 14th March, 10am-12pm.
- **All About Autism** | Tuesday 19th March, 12-2pm.
- **Autism & Sleep Online Drop In** | Thursday 21st March, 1-2pm.

1-1 sessions

Book a 1-1 session with our wrap around coordinators for families and carers of autistic people. This is an opportunity to talk to one of our team who can provide support and signposting to further information. This 1-1 service is only open to families and carers of autistic people that live in South West England.

Find out more & book sessions here:

<https://www.bristolautismsupport.org/autism-central/>

<https://www.autismcentral.org.uk/hubs/bristol-autism-support>

ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH

Churchyard Tidy Up Morning

Can you spare some time?

Saturday 6th April

Please come along to help us tidy up the churchyard. Join us any time from **10am** and stay as long as you can.

Plenty of jobs for all ages and abilities.

Please bring your own tools.

Refreshments provided in Thanks!



CROFTON Winter Works Open Days

BEAM ENGINES

10:30 to 14:30

Families are invited for a behind the scenes look at our winter maintenance and to take part in our FREE craft and STEM activities.

Saturday 9th March

STEM Activity - Build a Newspaper Tower

Build a famous landmark or design your own structure.



Craft Activity - Make a handmade card

Create a card for Mother's Day or for someone special.

Free entry to the Beam Engines (donations welcome).

Our Open Season begins Saturday 30th March.

Visit www.croftonbeamengines.org/events for more information.

in2sport coaching

SCHOOL HOLIDAY MULTI SPORT CAMPS

FOR AGES 5 - 12 YEARS

@ St Katharines Primary School
Marlborough, SN8 3BG

Date: Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th April 2024

Football - Dodgeball - Basketball - Hockey - Handball - Tag Rugby - Cricket - Tennis
plus many more!

Time: 9am - 3pm Cost: £25.00 Clothing: Sports clothes & trainers

Items to pack: packed lunch (no nuts), water bottle, hat, sun cream, jacket



07799 268115 (Lisa) 07968 778732 (Vicky) info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk

BOOK ONLINE AT www.in2sportcoaching.co.uk

DAY of DANCE

Wednesday 3rd April

St John's School

9.30-3pm

Street Dance

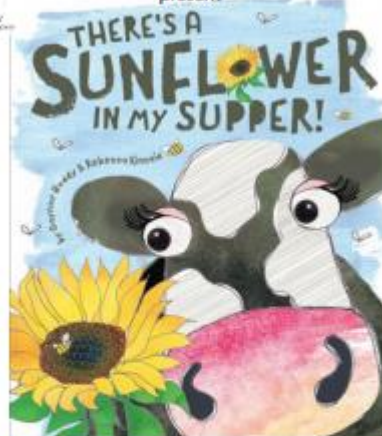
Contemporary

Jazz

Choreography



The Community of Hungerford Theatre Company
The Young Performers
present



AUDITION ACTIVITIES

Monday 11th March 4.00pm - 5.00pm

United Reformed Church, High Street, Hungerford

Rehearsals:

Monday 4.00pm - 5.00pm (except Bank Holidays)

Performance:

Saturday 6th July 2024 - 2.30pm

The Royal British Legion Hungerford, 20 Church Way, Hungerford RG17 0JU



Musical Theatre Day

Thursday 4th April

St John's School

9.30-3pm

DANCE

SING

ACT



Inspired Workshop Day

Tuesday 2 April

9.30-3pm

St John's School

Suitable for age 8-11

To book a place visit
www.mad-online.co.uk

