



St Catherine's C of E School Autumn Newsletter 6- 30.11.17



Dear Parents,

Remember tomorrow is our Christmas Fete – from 3.15pm – Hope to see you all there!

School Improvement – Maths

Our maths challenge areas and maths club are proving really popular. We will soon be hoping to add to these initiatives to start up a maths session for children and parents as well as monthly family maths challenges.

Mathletics and SUMDOG

We have subscribed as a school to two online programmes Mathletics and SUMDOG– both programmes are designed to help children develop their maths skills and pace of working. You should have received your child's log-ins by now (please let your child's class teacher know if this hasn't come home yet). You can access these games via: <https://community.mathletics.com/signin/#/student> and www.sumdog.com

Maths – helping at home:

Every family can help their child with maths and boost their own confidence at the same time. You don't need to be a genius to give your child the right head start.

Top tips for parents:

- Be positive about maths. Try not to say things like "I can't do maths" or "I hated maths at school" - your child may start to think like that themselves.
- Point out the maths in everyday life. Include your child in activities involving numbers and measuring, such as shopping, cooking and travelling.
- Praise your child for effort rather than for being "clever". This shows them that by working hard they can always improve.

The website: <http://www.familymathstoolkit.org.uk/> is full of ideas, resources and activities that can help children up to 13 years old explore maths in everyday life.

These also have some great ideas:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/maths-at-home/>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/maths-owl/expert-help--2/fun-maths-at-home>

Collective Worship

We are now focusing on Advent and preparation for our Christmas performances.

Friends

We have had an amazing amount of donations for the Xmas hamper raffle – 10 hampers will be raffled on 14th December. Raffle tickets will be on sale from Friday. The Christmas fete is tomorrow, 1st December from 3.15-5.15pm. There will be a great array of stalls, including each child's Christmas decorations that they have made to sell, a Santa's Grotto, Tea, coffee and cakes, games and competitions and more. Help will be needed to set up, run stalls and clear up afterwards if you are able. Cake donations can be brought into school tomorrow (Friday) morning.

School Money

From Monday, Breakfast Club and After-school cub bookings must be made via School Money – only in an emergency can a child be brought to Breakfast Club without a pre-booking and a phone call leaving a message to confirm this must be made to the school prior to dropping your child. Please remember all children must be signed in to breakfast club by an adult. These processes enable us to meet safeguarding and safety requirements. Many thanks for your support with this.

Launceston's Late Night Shopping

Launceston has its annual Late Night Shopping on 8th December – 6-9pm. Our school Choir will be singing in the Gateway centre too on this night.

Christingle

St Mary's Church will be holding a Christingle Service on Sunday 10th December at 2.30. Year 4 have been invited to make Christingles and attend but all families are welcome to join the Christingle Service at our link Church. It is also the last day of their annual Christmas Tree Festival so a great chance to see the Church looking wonderful.

Reverend Jane

Our foundation Governor, Reverend Jane is sadly leaving as she takes up a new position with the Church in the Midlands. Reverend Jane has been a big part of our school and will be greatly missed by us all. She will be coming into school to take her last Collective Worship with the children on Tuesday 5th December, then we wish her all the best in her new home and job.

Attendance

In-line with government expectations and other schools nationally, we are continuing to work hard on improving attendance in the school as it has such an impact on children's learning and progress. Following advice from our Educational Welfare Officer, who monitors attendance in the school, we will not authorise term time holidays unless in exceptional circumstances. Our whole school target is 95% - this includes lateness which is marked as unauthorised after 9.20am. The last week's attendance percentages are:

Reception	93.7%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	92.5%
Year 3	88.3%
Year 4	94.4%
Year 5	92%
Year 6	94.5%

Whole School Attendance

93.1%



A reminder that absence for reasons other than the child's illness or medical appointment do go down as unauthorised.

Values in Action and Child of the Week Awards

Reception: Kiera and Tian
Class 1: Eleanor and Adam
Class 2: Libby and Kubus
Class 3: Mawgan and Daria
Class 4: Ellie and Cerys
Class 5: Laila and Jasmine A
Class 6: Megan and Bobbie-Jo

Reception: Malachi and Gerard
Class 1: Harvey and Leland
Class 2: Frankie and Jessica
Class 3: Natalia and Ethan W
Class 4: Ostin and Jayden
Class 5: Millie P and Zack
Class 6: Jodie and Matthew

Dates for the Diary

Friday 1 st December Christmas Fair – 3.15pm	Mon 18 th December Christmas Craft Day
Thursday 7 th December – Last Yr5 Swim	Tuesday 19 th December – Christmas Parties
KS2 Christmas Concert St Mary's Church Mon day 11 th December 6pm	Wednesday 20 th Dec End of Term.
Wednesday 13 th December Christmas Dinner	Thurs 4 th /Fri 5 th Jan INSET DAYS for staff – no pupils in school
EYFS and KS1 Christmas Performance Thursday 14 th 4.30pm Central Methodist	Monday 8 th January – Pupils Return to School

Links for further info

Don't forget, you can access information about the school via our website:

<http://www.stcatherinescofe.co.uk/index.php> and twitter: [@StCathsAndaras](https://twitter.com/StCathsAndaras) and Facebook: [@stcatherinesandaras](https://www.facebook.com/stcatherinesandaras)

Parent View

As a parent of a child in our school you can complete an online survey for our school at any time via Ofsted Parent View <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Louise Hussey

Head of School

