



St Catherine's C of E School Spring 1 Newsletter 1- 13.1.17

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and a happy new year to you all – I hope you had a restful and joyful Christmas break. It has been lovely to see the children back and so enthusiastic about their learning this last week.

Academy Trust Events

This term the children will be attending Academy trust events at Windmill Hill Academy. The events are all in school times in the mornings and the children will be transported to and from the event each time. Dates will go out in advance and if the children need anything other than the usual we'll let you know.

Friends of St Catherine's

The Friends will be holding a range of events this term and really need your support in organising and running these as they raise money for the children. If you think you might be able to help, please let Rachel Martin know or we can pass on your details. All help gratefully received!

The draw for the rugby tickets has now been drawn from those who purchased tickets last term and the winners are: Claire Pike, Maria Lawson, Marlow Bounsall, Kirsty Woods and Romaine Gill.

School Council News

This week the year 6 members of our school council have been busy. On Tuesday they visited the Youth Council and were able to discuss the school's concerns about traffic issues outside school. They also attended a meeting at St Stephens to meet with other school councillors from the academy schools, to discuss what they might work together and learn from each other's ideas. We have also had our visit to the House of Parliament with Scott Mann confirmed during the London Residential Trip.

School Improvement

In school we will continue to focus on building children's learning powers and a new display has gone up in the hall to remind the children. Pupil conferencing this week showed the children are really beginning to think about these skills in school.

Miss Davy will also be carrying out surveys with children across the school to find out how they read for pleasure – essential in developing key literacy skills! This will help us to provide the right books and activities to promote this in school. This year one of our key areas for development is spelling, punctuation and grammar skills in school – SPAG. To aid this we are going to have a SPAG term of the week which we will include in our newsletters to help you with encouraging your child to think about grammar in their home learning.

New Parent Support Advisors

We have begun a new service in school run by our new Parent Support Advisors -Tracy Grout and Claire Pike. This service is for parents to access for advice or support in a range of issues, as well as signposting for our sources of support run by county. A separate letter detailing this is coming home this week.

Cooking in school

Our new creative hub is open and the children have been making great use of the room already! This week year two were using a guided reading session to read instructions on how to cook jam tarts. To further promote cooking skills year 3, 4 and 5 will be taking part in cookery shows run by Chartwells, making their own dishes, in the week beginning 23.1.17. These shows help promote healthy lifestyles, learning about nutrition as well as great life skills, applying learning from literacy and numeracy.

Collective Worship

This term we are exploring the St Catherine's stories. These are the stories from the bible that help us to understand the values that we promote as a school. Classes from KS1 and KS2 will present a story each in Collective Worship to help the children learn the stories and understand their meanings. We will continue to have the Open the Book group once a week and either Reverends Jane or Teresa will continue their weekly

visits. In class this week, the children have been thinking about their New Year's resolutions linked to our school values and learning powers. Some of the children have created lovely prayers related to this which are displayed on class prayer walls.

School Clubs

On occasion, due to weather or staff absence clubs do unfortunately have to be cancelled at short notice. When this happens, the office will send out a text to let you know. Please check your phone, if your child is due to attend a club on a particular day, in case of this eventuality. Now is a good time to ensure that the office have up-to-date mobile numbers for you or if you know that you will need to be contacted in an alternative way on that day let us know.

SPAG term of the week:

Noun – are sometimes called naming words as they label people places and things and are used after words, like they and some. For example: My big **brother** did an amazing **jump** on his **skateboard**.

Nouns may be classified as common (e.g. **boy, day**) or proper (e.g. **Ivan, Wednesday**).

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

Attendance

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. I will include class levels for your information in each newsletter from now on.

| | | |
|-----------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Reception | 93.1% | Whole School Attendance |
| Year 1 | 93.3% | |
| Year 2 | 92.1% | |
| Year 3 | 96.1% | |
| Year 4 | 96.4% | |
| Year 5 | 96.8% | |
| Year 6 | 95.8% | |

94.8%

Children of the Week

Values in Action Children of the week:

Reception: Kalina

Class 1: Amelia

Class 2: Grace

Class 3: Beth

Class 4: Shanelle

Class 5: Josh C

Class 6: Kerry

Good Learner Children of the week:

Reception: Leland

Class 1: Aarushee

Class 2: Phoebe M

Class 3: Cerys

Class 4: Magdalena

Class 5: Matthew

Class 6: Tyler

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Louise Kussey

Head of School