





St Catherine's C of E School

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St Catherine's Newsletter – Spring 5

"At St Catherine's Church of England School, we strive to educate our children to realise their aspirations and to contribute positively to society guided by our Christian principles."



Confirmed Diary Dates:

Spring Half Term Holiday: Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February

Spring 2nd Half Term: Monday 22nd February – Thursday 1st April

Easter Holiday: Friday 2nd April – Friday 16th April

Summer 1st Half Term: Monday 19th April – Friday 28th May

Summer Half Term Holiday – Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

Summer 2nd Half Term – Tuesday 8th June – Thursday 22nd July

Learners of the Week Awards





Children's Mental Health Week

Last week we joined in with the Children's Mental Health Week, which this year was based around the theme "Express Yourself". When children are able to find creative ways to share their feelings, thoughts or ideas it can help them feel good about themselves and who they are. Children can do this through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities they enjoy.

It's really important to remember that being able to express yourself is not about being the best at something or putting on a performance for others. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.



Given that the past year will have left many of us feeling out of control and helpless, supporting children and young people to express themselves is arguably more important than ever.





LOCKDOWN CHALLENGE - INSPIRATIONAL POEMS

As a response to children's Mental Health Week, we would love the children to 'express themselves' and write short, positive poems of encouragement and inspiration for staying strong during this lockdown, that we can then share with you all in our next newsletter.

Family members/staff at school are also welcome to contribute. The poems can be illustrated and could even be written as a joint family effort.

Please can poems be shared with teachers on Class Dojo and we may then add some to our Facebook page, to share the inspiration with the wider community!

Focus on Feedback

Definition of Feedback

■Feedback is information provided by an agent (e.g., teacher, peer, book, parent, self/experience) regarding aspects of one's performance or understanding.



Hattie, The Power of Feedback

You may have noticed that all teachers have continued to provide feedback to children, regarding their learning, throughout lockdown and that this can take a variety of formats:

- Written comments/suggestions/questions on posted work
- Videos posted on the class story to address tricky areas
- Live lesson presentations
- Photos of modelled work/examples on the class story to aid understanding.
- Examples of children's work to inspire peers.
- Personal messages (written or filmed) posted directly into children's portfolios

At St Catherine's, we are all committed to delivering the very best education we can, whatever the circumstances, and feedback has always played a crucial role as part of this.

Obviously in class we can pursue a wider range of strategies than we are able to online, but none-the less, we have made it our goal to provide as much as we can, in order that children can continue to move forwards and make progress. Feedback is then therefore, not a criticism or negative observation, but a positive, helpful suggestion, intended to allow the children to see clearly the steps needed for them to take control and realise their potential as learners.

How can you respond to feedback?

Feedback is intended to be helpful and dynamic and lead to better understanding and performance. Your response may be:

- 1. To read and talk about individual feedback together with your child in order to apply to future learning.
- 2. To edit work and make corrections/improvements as suggested (dependent on age and circumstances).

The most important thing to remember and share with children however, when considering feedback is **how proud**



we are of the work they submit, how much we value every piece of work posted and how strongly we believe in their ability to make progress and succeed, whatever the learning environment looks like.

Look at our Learning this Half-Term!

We thought you would enjoy to have just a small flavour of some of the amazing learning that has happened this last half-term. We have all been so impressed with the resilience and dedication children and their families have shown in not only maintaining good understanding and skills, but taking on challenges and striving to make real progress. We are all incredibly proud!

The Journey of Writing Spring 2021 From Reception to Year six



Reception, Year One and Year Two.

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It has been another half-term full of challenges and uncertainties, but, as always, you have responded amazingly, and we are so impressed with the hard work and creativity you have shown in coping with home learning and online lessons. We have always known that we have the best families and staff, but this last year has proved this in so many ways! From us to you a very big...

THANK YOU!

The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to You; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

- Numbers 6:22-27 NKJV

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