



St Catherine's C of E School Autumn Newsletter 1- 14.9.17



Dear Parents,

Welcome back! It has been a lovely first week back at school. The children have settled in quickly following their transition week last term and are learning at pace already. Thank you to everyone for your support with our new home time arrangements which have really reduced afternoon chaos at the end of the day! Hopefully you have been able to attend the Meet the Teacher Meetings this week, however, if not please do arrange to pop in and see your child's teacher if you have any questions about your child's topics, learning goals for the year or class routines (PE/Homework times, etc).

School Improvement

All of our results went up this year so we are really pleased with how the children are learning and progressing. Our results are published on the school website if you want to look in detail at them. Our key focus for school improvement this year will be maths and later in the term we will be inviting you in to a maths morning so you can see what and how the children learn maths in school.

Maths – helping at home:

Something you can do that really helps children with their maths is to help your child learn to tell the time both on a digital and analogue clock/watch. Try encouraging your child to tell the time independently. Ask questions that get the children to work out an interval of time such as: You have half an hour until dinner – what time will dinner be? What time will it be in an hour and half etc. There are lots of online time games your child can play as well as a range of free apps.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?q=time>

<https://www.education.com/games/time/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/telling_the_time/play/

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/shape_space/time/play/

Vote for St Catherine's in Tesco during July and August!

Our vote has ended now and we are awaiting the result- we'll let you know how much grant we receive as soon as we're informed. Thank you to everyone who supported this.

Building Learning Powers

We are continuing to work with our pupils to improve their learning skills and have displays in class to help the children learn what it is that helps them be effective learners. We also have the 'learning pit' that is about reminding the children when they are stuck (in the pit) what strategies they have to help them get through it. Coming home this week is a 'Building Learning Powers' home-school sheet which allows the pupils to think about their learning skills as something they use in all aspects of life. The back of the sheet has some examples of what these 'powers' might look like at home. On the front we encourage the children (or parents) to add smiley faces whenever the children demonstrate good learning at home. This can then be celebrated in school too.

Yr 6 Information

SATs week for this year's Year 6 is: May 14th – May 17th. It is important that pupils are in school leading up to and during this week.

We are hoping to run an optional residential for the year 6 pupils and details will be sent out when this is confirmed. For pupils who choose not to attend the residential an alternative activities week in school will be offered.

Grenfell Tower Appeal

Thank you to those who supported our appeal. We raised approximately £70.

Make September Gold

This month is 'Make September Gold' in support of childhood cancer charities. We will be selling gold ribbons in school and **next Friday** holding a **Super School Day** where pupils can **dress up as a super hero or wear something gold for a £1** donation (or £2 per family) to support this cause that touches so many of our lives and yet is very under-funded in comparison to adult cancers.

Launceston Museum

Launceston Museum have a weekend of events coming up towards the end of September as part of their Dark Skies: Bright Stars project, of which the astronomy printmaking workshop that Year 6 was a part of related to. There is a 'Full Circle

Creative Heritage Weekend' which takes place on and around Bodmin Moor from 22nd - 24th September and starts with an Equinox evening where they will show films made by other participating schools as well as live music, Poetry Postie and some very interesting astronomy! Flyers can be found in school or from the museum for more information.

Friends of St Catherine's

Friends is our PTA and supports the school in raising funds for your children for activities of resources that can't be funded through school funds. This is even more crucial as the government school funding cuts impact more each year. This year Friends helped fund school trips, theatre visits as well as the redecorations and resourcing of our 'Rainbow Room' in school. Friends are very under-manned at the moment and are looking for a new chair and committee members – please let us know if you are able to help in any way. A meeting will be set up to organise fundraising events for this year wry soon.

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	96.1%
Year 1	95.3%
Year 2	94%
Year 3	95.6%
Year 4	95.1%
Year 5	97.8%
Year 6	93.3%

Whole School Attendance

95.3%

A great start back! 😊

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

Summer Term – What Would Jesus Do Award and Child of the Term Awards

Reception: Joshua
Class 1: Aarushee
Class 2: Jake
Class 3: Lily
Class 4: Ben
Class 5: Ellie
Class 6: Sascha

Reception: Kornelia
Class 1: Brooklyn
Class 2: Ethan K, Aiden
Class 3: Riley, Beth
Class 4: Emily, Eran
Class 5: Lonan, Abbie
Class 6: Kerry

Dates for the Diary

Wk Beginning 11th Sept Meet the Teacher Meetings

Wk Beginning 18th Sept Clubs start

22.9.17 Make September Gold – Super School Day

Thursdays this term: Yr 5 Swimming- Collection from the pool.

Tues 17th Oct Reception and Yr 1 Trip – tbc

Friday 20th Oct Harvest Festival

Friday 20th Oct End of half term.

Wednesday 20th Dec End of Term.

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

