



**Dear Parents,**

Halt term is here already and hopefully you will all have a lovely break. This week the children had a lovely surprise, when M&M productions visited and put on a production of Cinderella for them – a lovely end of term treat. Attendance unfortunately has continued to drop in some classes and overall as there has been a lot of illness. Hopefully a break will give children a bit of time to recover and as we move into spring we'll see an improvement.

**School Improvement**

We have been setting our annual school improvement targets to keep moving our school forward. We will be focusing on improving progress and attainment for all pupils, particularly looking at how specific groups of children in the school are doing. We will be working on Visible Learning to help children improve their learning skills and behaviour, and developing our curriculum to improve the provision for children in a way that incorporates more of what they want to learn, and related to real-life contexts. To see more detail please see the document called Academy Improvement in a Nutshell on the Key Information page on the school website. This week children in year 1 told me about their learning: "In science we have learnt about the 4 seasons, spring, summer, autumn, winter." Lola "In maths we have learnt about time. I can tell you half-past and o'clock." Kubus "Goldilocks came in to our classroom and ate Miss Rowe's porridge. We had to rewrite the story for Miss Rowe." Toby and Scarlett.

**Friends of St Catherine's**

The Friends Valentine's Disco is tonight: 6.15 - 7.15 for infants and 7.30 to 8.30 for juniors. It is £2 entry and includes a refreshment goody bag. **Urgent call from Friends** – Secretary needed for the Friends Committee. Also Friends are struggling to recruit sufficient support to continue to run a full range of events for fundraising/activities for our children. If you think you can help at all please drop your number into the office and we'll let Rachel know. A big thank you to Friends for funding the resourcing of our Infant Quiet room which will become the Rainbow room and be used to work with pupils on the Thrive programme supporting children's mental well-being.

**Confirmation**

Reverend Jane will be sending out a letter soon for any pupils interested in attending a club to prepare for confirmation. More information to follow.

**SPAG term of the week:**

The surest way to identify adjectives is by the ways they can be used: before a noun, to make the noun's meaning more specific (i.e. to modify the noun), or after the verb be, as its complement. Adjectives cannot be modified by other adjectives. This distinguishes them from nouns, which can be. Adjectives are sometimes called 'describing words' because they pick out single characteristics such as size or colour. This is often true, but it doesn't help to distinguish adjectives from other word classes. The pupils did some really **good** work. [adjective used before a noun, to modify it] Their work was **good**. [adjective used after the verb be, as its complement] Not adjectives: The lamp glowed. [verb] It was such a bright red! [noun] He spoke loudly. [adverb] It was a French grammar book.

**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**

**Parent View**

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

This week school-based parent satisfaction questionnaires have been sent home. We really appreciate you

spending time to complete and return these, as it helps us to continue our drive to make St Catherine's a fantastic school for your children.

### **Class 3 Trip**

Last week year 3 visited the Jo Downs factory in Launceston. This was part of their work learning about a local artist. The children told me that Jo Downs is inspired by the Cornish coast and that they are inspired by her work! Look out for art work by year 3, inspired by their visit.

### **Safer Internet Day**

This week (on the 7<sup>th</sup>) was Safer Internet Day. The children took part in a range of activities to learn about how to keep safe online. One of our Local PCSOs also visited and the children had enormous fun trying out the siren in the police car! Follow-up talks will be arranged for yr5/6 pupils and parents too. To find out more visit: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2017>

### **World Book Day**

This year World Book Day is on 2<sup>nd</sup> March – children can choose to dress as their favourite book character or as a clue to their favourite book, for example a balaclava and jewels for Gangsta Granny.

### **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. The last two week's attendance percentages are:

Reception	83.7%	75%
Year 1	83.3%	88.3%
Year 2	98.7%	96%
Year 3	93.1%	95.2%
Year 4	88.6%	83.9%
Year 5	91.3%	91.7%
Year 6	96.3%	91.3%

### **Whole School Attendance**

**90.8% 88.9%**

Attendance Certificates are being sent out this week.

### **Children of the Week**

#### **Values in Action Children of the fortnight:**

Reception: Joshua and Grecjan  
Class 1: Lola and Toby  
Class 2: Milli T and Darcey  
Class 3: Jayden and Luke  
Class 4: Jacob and Rihanna H  
Class 5: Jodie and Alfie  
Class 6: Alfie and Lucy

#### **Good Learner Children of the fortnight:**

Reception: Phoebe and Feb  
Class 1: Brandon and Jacob  
Class 2: Ethan and Jamie  
Class 3: Megan and Karol  
Class 4: Jasmine T-J and Owen  
Class 5: Josh and Megan W-L  
Class 6: Jess and Alex

### **Dates for the Diary**

Tuesdays: Yr 3 Swimming  
Valentines Disco 10.2.17  
Half Term 13-17<sup>th</sup> Feb – Back to School on Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Feb  
RSC Julius Caesar at LC 12.2 pm  
Yr4 ADMAT Event at Windmill Hill 24.2.17  
Easter Hols: break up on 30.3.17/back on Tues 18.4.17  
World Book Day 2.3.17

**Have a lovely half-term – see you on the 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Yours sincerely,**

*Mrs Louise Hussey*

**Head of School**