

St Catherine's C of E School Spring 1 Newsletter 2- 27.1.17

Dear Parents,

What a busy couple of weeks it has been! The children have been engaged in lots of different learning activities, developing a wealth of skills and their enthusiasm for their learning has been fantastic.

Visible Learning

We are continuing with our programme of whole school improvement focusing on visible learning. As part of this we are trying to encourage the children to talk, discuss and think about what they are learning as they begin to develop a self-responsibility for their own learning. To encourage this at home ask 'What have you learnt today?' rather than 'What have you done?'. This gets the children to think about learning they have achieved, rather than the activity they have completed. Other good questions include: 'What was the best question you asked today?' or 'What was the most useful mistake you made and what did you learn from it?'

We will include, in our newsletters quotes from children discussing their learning too. **This week children in Reception told me: "We learnt how dinosaurs died and how to cook pizza" Freddie B "We learnt about Chinese New Year" Brogan "We learnt how to cook biscuits" Skye " We learnt about jelly" Phoebe.**

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/>

Cooking Week

This week in school has been cooking week. Chartwells, our catering contractor has carried out cooking workshops for some classes and other classes have used the creative hub to cook a range of exciting dishes! Thank you for all the parents who have come in to help and support with the infant end activities. The time I spent in the classes was lovely as it showed me how engaged and excited the children were to be learning in a practical way.

Friends of St Catherine's

The Friends will be holding a Valentine's Disco on Friday 10th February (Last day of this half term). The times will be 6.15 - 7.15 for infants and 7.30 to 8.30 for juniors. It will be £2 entry to include a refreshment goody bag.

Collective Worship

Last week the collective worship group led a collective worship. They told and acted out the Bible story of Feeding the 5000. They did a great job and the children really enjoyed listening, watching and joining in.

SPAG term of the week:

Verb – Verbs are sometimes called 'doing words' because many verbs name an action that someone does; while this can be a way of recognising verbs. The surest way to identify verbs is by the ways they can be used: they can usually have a tense, either present or past (see also future).

Eg. He **lives** in Birmingham. [present tense] The teacher **wrote** a song for the class. [past tense] He **likes** chocolate. [present tense; not an action] He **knew** my father. [past tense; not an action] He **was** unhappy. (From the verb 'to be'). Not verbs: ♣ The walk to Halina's house will take an hour. [noun] ♣ All that surfing makes Morwenna so sleepy! [noun]

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

Shakespeare Stars

Over the last couple of weeks, children across the school have been participating in a Shakespeare project in conjunction with Launceston College, The Royal Shakespeare Company and other local schools. The children are going to be part of a performance of Julius Caesar which is very exciting! This week they have taken part in a Shakespeare Workshop where they had a chance to learn how to perform.

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evenings will be held after half term in the week beginning 21st March. Teachers will provide appointment times for you to sign up to come and talk about your child's progress and attainment. However, if you have any concerns, questions, etc in the meantime, please do pop in after school to talk to your child's teacher when needed. Reports will be sent out in the summer term.

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. This week's attendance percentages are:

Reception	85.5%	Whole School Attendance 92.6%
Year 1	94.3%	
Year 2	90.3%	
Year 3	94.5%	
Year 4	91.8%	
Year 5	95.5%	
Year 6	96%	

Children of the Week

Values in Action Children of the fortnight:

Reception: Freddie B and Leland
Class 1: Toby and Scarlett
Class 2: Rennimae and Sadie
Class 3: Lily and Melissa
Class 4: Zack and Sophie
Class 5: Anna and Thomas
Class 6: Caden and Sarah

Good Learner Children of the fortnight:

Reception: Feb and Freddy B
Class 1: Molly and Maria
Class 2: Blake and Oliver
Class 3: Karol and Miley
Class 4: Eran and Alex
Class 5: Ellie and Lonan
Class 6: Anton and and Saffron

Dates for the Diary

Tuesdays: Yr 3 Swimming
Yr 3 Class Trip 2.2.17
Yr 4 Trip – Life Skills
Valentines Disco 10.2.17
Half Term 13-17th Feb – Back to School on Mon 20th Feb

After School Club

From after Easter, we hope to have our After School Club up and running. This will be a paid child-minding service that will run from 3.15-5.15. It will be flexible on days and hours booked but places must be booked the week before, unless for an emergency. The club will run a range of activities for the children and offer snacks and drinks. Children who attend free after school extra-curricular clubs can be booked in for the 2nd hour only. More information and booking forms will come home soon.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Louise Hussey
Head of School

