



St Catherine's C of E School

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Spring 2020 – 10.2.20

Time for another newsletter! Hope you find it helpful and informative.

Values in Action

These wonderful pupils have been spotted demonstrating our school values:

Reception: Ethan-respect; Henry-truthfulness; Harper-friendship.

Class 1: Gracie-all values; Samantha-care; Oscar-compassion.

Class 2: Pippa-friendship; Jasmine-generosity; Joshua-responsibility.

Class 3: Finlee-responsibility; Phoebe-courage; Freddie H-all values.

Class 4: Connor-humility; Cerys-compassion; Kubus-compassion.

Class 5: Jhah Jhah-compassion; Kacie-Joe-forgiveness; all bikeability children-courage.

Class 6: JV-generosity; Charlotte-kindness; Abbi-friendship.

Good Learner

These are our star learners:

Reception: Holly-resilience; Tom-resilience; Ruby-responsibility.

Class1:Dante-responsibility;Louis-reflectiveness; Alexis-resilience.

Class2:Lacey-responsibility;Orla-resilience;Tian-resilience;Archie-resourcefulness;Leah-reflectiveness ;

Class3: Freya-resilience; Holleigh-reflectiveness; Roseanna-responsibility.

Class4:Scarlett-responsibility; Harry-responsibility; Tommy-responsibility.

Class 5: Rennimae-perseverance; Milli T-resilience; Jennifer-resilience;

Class 6: Jayden-positive attitude; Luke-curiosity; Ostin-responsibility.

School Improvement – Reading

We know that the research tells us that the ability to read well is at the heart of the capacity for individuals to be successful both in education and in future working careers. To this end, we continue to be determined to do our very best to give every child the chance to become the best reader they can possibly be.

We continue to deliver the early phonic knowledge vital to reading in EYFS



and KS1 through our **"Read Write Inc" scheme** which has proven to be extremely successful since its introduction. We have recently added **new home reading books** to accompany this scheme that allows children to independently practise the sounds that they meet in their daily lessons. Some parents have asked if the books are challenging enough as children seem to read them fluently, but this is exactly how the books are designed to work, because good reading follows on from successful repetition of the sounds learnt. We hope you have found the books a helpful addition to your child's reading journey and that you enjoy sharing them each week.

We cannot stress highly enough how vital it is to continue **reading for enjoyment** with your child, however young or old they are! Sharing the love of books and talking about the characters and events has enormous impact on a child's reading ability and learning in general. To this end through March we will be joining in with **National Book Week's challenge** to reach a million reads across the school community, which could include you and your family sharing together too! We will send out more details of this challenge nearer the time.

We have a committed band of **Reading Champions**, who come to school every week to hear readers from Reception to Year Six. This is extremely beneficial to the children and we are really grateful for the time and effort they put into this.

All teachers plan for **meaningful reading opportunities across the curriculum** and expectations are high for all children. We are creating stimulating, welcoming reading areas in all classes and raising the profile of reading across the school with our staff "Look who's been caught reading" displays. We would love it if families also joined in and posted their own pictures of being caught reading on Dojo!

As you can see in the picture below, we have had a complete make-over in our library, with the help of the librarian service from Babcock. We now have a great selection of fiction and non-fiction books, neatly arranged in alphabetical and numeric order and we have a small group of Year Four/Five children who have been trained as librarians to help staff look after this wonderful resource. This will greatly enhance our provision for reading across the school and we are all really excited to start using it!



Lost Property

We now have a central store of lost property that is kept in the main office. Please continue to ask your child's class teacher in the first place, as most items are found in the class or cloakroom areas, but if this is unsuccessful please call into the office to look in the central store.

Guitar Tuition



We have been given the possibility of offering individual guitar tuition to children during the school day. Please send a note into school expressing your interest and if we receive enough enquiries we will then send out more detailed information regarding the tuition and cost etc.

Collecting at the End of Day

**Please do not
park on the
ZIG-ZAGS**

Can we make a **polite reminder** about parking behaviour when collecting children at the end of day as we have had a number of complaints over the last few weeks. We understand the road is not ideally designed for the volume of traffic, particularly between 3.00 and 3.30pm, however, there is a legal requirement for all drivers to adhere to the **no parking regulations** as dictated by the **zig zag lines** on the road and to not block the school entrance by parking in the gateway.

Many thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Church School Focus - Spirituality

All Primary schools are required to provide pupils with opportunities to experience and express **spirituality**. This is not an easy concept to define, but one way to view it is as the way in which we can understand ourselves, our relationships with others and our place in our community and the world.

As a church school, we place great importance on collective Worship and the teaching of RE (Religious Education), and spirituality is without doubt an important feature of these areas, but it also influences all areas of the wider curriculum and life generally. As **OFSTED point out "Spiritual development relates to fundamental questions about the meaning and purpose of life which affect everyone, and is not dependant on a religious affiliation."** As such then, it is about us finding out who we are, how we can make relationships with others and how we can respond to the challenges and dilemmas we face in life.

As a "**visible Learning**" school, where we promote the use of learning powers and enable children to be responsible, reflective learners, spirituality becomes a natural daily occurrence in all learning situations. Every time a child thinks about how they approached a task and if they could be even better they are reflecting on their own spirituality. Every time a child expresses an opinion in a class discussion, they are expressing their own spirituality. Every time a child appreciates the beauty of nature or the power of a poem, they are further developing their own spirituality.

To make it a little easier to talk and reflect on spirituality in the classroom, we use three spirituality icons with the children from Reception to Year Six.



Windows = Encounters learning about: opportunities to look at the world

“I learnt that....”



Mirrors = Reflection learning from: look at themselves/others/world/God Big questions!

“It made me wonder.....”



Doors = Transformation Action Doing/creating something.

“I decided that”

We use the icons to think about the learning and experiences we have in school, so for instance, children may complete icons after a Collective Worship to record what they have taken away from it.

I had some amazing responses to a recent collective Worship and here are just a few of the comments made:

“I learnt that no one is too small to make big changes.”

“I learnt that it doesn't matter who you are, you could always help people in need.”

“It made me wonder if the mouse in the story of “The Selfish Crocodile” was someone who helps people, even if they're bad and if I should change my behaviour.”

“I have decided to be nice to the people I'm not a big fan of.”

“I have decided to do the right thing and be more aware of other people.”

As you can see, we have incredibly thoughtful and courageous children who are confident to express their own ideas and beliefs and are brave enough to look at themselves and ask difficult questions. A perfect illustration of why we uphold and promote the importance of spiritual development for all within our school.

Confirmed Diary Dates:

Spring Term Dates 2020

Half Term holiday: 17th – 21st February

Spring 2nd Half Term: Monday 24th February-Friday 27th March

Easter Holiday: 30th March – 14th April

Summer Term Dates 2020

Return to school: Wednesday 15th April

Half Term holiday: Monday 25th May to 1st June

Summer 2nd Half Term: Tuesday 2nd June – Wednesday 22nd July

Summer Holidays: 23rd July – 6th September

Spring Bank Holiday

Just to forewarn you that the usual ***Spring Bank holiday has been moved from the Monday to Friday 8th May.*** This is so that the day can be added to a weekend of celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Enrichment

Year Five Bikeability

Last week, children in Year Five were given the opportunity to develop their bike riding skills and road safety awareness through Bikeability sessions with Arena. The children were taught how to ride with confidence and awareness of risks on main roads and were able to achieve either Level 1 or 2 depending on their performance over the time of tuition.

This is a hugely beneficial scheme with increasingly busy roads and children wanting greater independence as they get older and gives those that take part the opportunity to experience the challenges of main road riding within a supported, supervised situation.

All the children enjoyed the challenge and were really proud of the progress they made during the day. Well done to all those who took part and make sure you put into practise everything you have learnt when out on your bikes.

Children said: ***"It was really good. I used to be scared on the road when cars came but now I feel confident." "It taught me that when I signal to turn the most important thing is to look behind me."***



An Daras Trust

For news about job vacancies within our Trust school please visit: <http://www.andas.org/web/vacancies>

Parent Surveys

The results of our parent survey are now published on our school website. You can find them here: http://www.stcatherinescofe.co.uk/web/parent_survey_/449052 Many thanks to all who responded. We had 78 in total.

After School clubs

All clubs will recommence after the half-term holiday in **the week beginning Monday 2nd March** and will then run for 4 weeks.

Plymouth Argyle Half Term Activities



launched for February 2020
16 to collect!

ARGYLE COMMUNITY TRUST

FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2020

Book our courses online
www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk

SOCCER ROADSHOW
Our Soccer Roadshows are age and football specific with the emphasis on fun, enjoyment and development. Sessions include skills, technique, competitions and small sided games.

FEET SPECIAL
From the February half term with an action packed day of football activities from shooting contests to World Cup Round-robin. Match incentives for participants will include items such as Argyle related prize items like coaches holding some random draws at the end of the day for a selection of prizes.

GIRLS ONLY ROADSHOW
Our Girls Only Roadshows are age and football specific with the emphasis on fun, enjoyment and development. Sessions include skills, technique, competitions and small sided games.

MINI PILGRIMS
Mini Pilgrim football sessions are aimed at three - six year olds, who are experiencing their first taste of a structured coaching session. The sessions are staffed by a range of 4 coaches to 16 children. The emphasis is to improve the children's listening and concentration skills whilst working on balance and coordination. The children can develop in a safe and fun environment over the duration of the sessions.

DISABILITY SOCCER ROADSHOW
A fun-filled day packed with football games in an inclusive and supportive environment. The day is tailored for children with a physical impairment, learning disability or mental health condition.

TRAIN LIKE A PRO
Involves only a selection for players to receive additional training during the school holidays.

PL STARS
Plymouth League Future Stars offers multi-sport activities that include football, football and badminton. From learning the sports to engaging written competitions we focus on the core 5, 5+ Star values - Be Connected, Be Ambitious, Be Fit, Be Inspiring. Can you be the next future star?

MULTI SPORTS
Chance for participants to undertake a wide range of sports throughout the day. Sports will span football, handball, tag rugby plus many more. Each venue and area will attract different sports to keep participants engaged.

Prices from £5 - £32
Registration opens at 9.40am

All courses for boys and girls of all abilities aged 5 - 15 years
Courses run from 10am to 5pm with the exception of Mini Pilgrims 10am to 12pm
Additional activities are available

LEARN.
PLAY.
SUCCEED.

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www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk
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Valentine Disco



**VALENTINE'S DAY
DISCO**
FRIDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY

Infants: 4:30 to 5:30pm
Juniors: 5:45 to 6:45pm

£1.50 entry * Tuck Shop

Hosted by Friends of St. Catherine's.
All proceeds benefit our wonderful school.

Please Note: Badminton club will finish early at 4.10pm to allow time for the hall to be set up for the disco.

Many thanks for all your continued help and support.

Ms Pippa Warner – Head of School