



St Catherine's C of E School Autumn Newsletter 5- 23.11.18



Dear Parents,

School Improvement

Our school improvement plan for 2019 is now available on our school website. We have been looking into the importance of vocabulary on life-long learning and how a good vocabulary can help pupils in all aspects of learning and also helps them to make links and connections. Please click on the following links to see how you can help support your child at home and the range of books that will help with this: <https://blog.oxfordowl.co.uk/why-the-word-gap-matters-and-what-can-you-do-at-home-to-close-it/>
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/9114392/Ask-Lorna-top-100-books-for-children.html>
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/100-best-books/>

Collective Worship

Next week we will be beginning to think about the Church time of advent. The children will learn about the lead up to, and the story of, the birth of Jesus and begin to prepare for their Christmas performances.

Parents' Evenings

Many thanks for coming along to our parents' meetings last week. We hope you found them useful. If you've not yet been able to meet with your child's teacher, please do pop and see them for an alternative time. We really like to try and see every parent whenever possible.

Remembrance Display

Many thanks to Miss Davy and all the children and adults who helped make and put up our remembrance display this year – despite the weather last week it did look beautiful!

Christmas Tree Exhibition- St Mary's

The school will be displaying a Christmas tree with children's decorations on during St Mary's annual Christmas Tree Festival. The Youth Council are also displaying a tree with contributions from our members here. You can see the trees between 30th November and the 9th December. St Mary's will also be holding a Christingle service which all the children are invited to attend on Sunday 9th December at 4pm. Christingle collection pots are available in each class for any children who wish to take part.

Children in Need

Many thanks for your contributions to this great cause. We raised £224 for Children in Need this year.

Anti-bullying Week

All classes took part in some interesting and informative anti-bullying awareness activities and learning last week. You can find out more about this year's theme 'Choose Respect' here:

<https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/anti-bullying-week-2018-choose-respect>

Christmas Performances

KS2 will perform on **Monday 17th** December at **St Mary's Church** from **6pm. Reception and KS1** will perform on **Tuesday 18th** at **Central Methodist Church** from **5pm**. Information about rehearsals will be sent out nearer the time.

Holiday Challenge

Winners and runners of our Holiday Challenge have been chosen- the entries were all amazing so it was a tough job choosing! There was an overall winner in KS1 – Finlee and in KS2 Rennimae and runners up in each class: Nursery – Lucy, Reception - Nora, Year 1 – Louis, Year 2- Oliver, Year 3 - Maria, Year 4 – Blake, Year 5 - Noah , Year 6 – Jasmine T.

Breakfast Club Position

We are looking for someone for breakfast club cover every Thursday morning from 8.15-8.45am. Please let the school office know if you are interested in this.

Parent Governor Position

Please let the school know if you are interested in joining our governing body. You can find out more about the role of a governor here: <https://www.nga.org.uk/Be-a-Governor.aspx>

Attendance

The national government target for pupils' attendance is 96%. Our educational welfare officer questions us about any pupil's attendance that is falling below this. We understand and appreciate illness happens but unfortunately this means we cannot authorise other absences unless for extenuating circumstances. There is very clear research showing that low attendance has a negative impact on children's progress. If you are struggling with this, we are have a number of ways we can support you so please do pop in and see us. As a result of this statutory requirements we will send a reminder letter home to parents when their child's attendance is flagging up as below national expectations. The last week's attendance percentages are:

Reception	99.3%	Whole School Attendance 94.7%
Year 1	94.8%	
Year 2	99.3%	
Year 3	88.7%	
Year 4	91%	
Year 5	96%	
Year 6	94.3%	

A reminder please, it is a statutory requirement to inform the school if your child is off school. If we are unable to ascertain a reason for a child's absence we have to record them as an unauthorised absence.

Values in Action Awards

These wonderful pupils have been spotted demonstrating our school values this week:-

Reception: Oscar – Kind and thoughtful/Kian - responsibility
Class 1: Bill –Responsible/Leah – friendship, creativity and compassion
Class 2: Jack – Respectful/Roseanna – Courage
Class 3: Brandon –Kind and thoughtful/Honey – Kindness and generosity
Class 4: Jennifer – Honest and thoughtful/Jhah Jhah – Respectful
Class 5: Harvey – helping younger pupils / Sarah – kindness and respect
Class 6: Sophie – Courage/Alex – all our values

Good Learner Awards

These are our star learners this week demonstrating our learning powers:-

Reception: Lily M – Determination/Isaac – resilient
Class 1: Lacey – Independence/Ethan – Exemplary attitude – all learning powers
Class 2: Lewis – Responsible and Resilient/Kezia – focus and attitude
Class 3: Anna – Respectful Learner/Alfie – determination
Class 4: Evie – Hardworking, resilient/Daria – mature learning attitude
Class 5: Miley – perseverance and positive attitude - /Abbi – Being resourceful
Class 6: Laila –Positive attitude, 100% effort /Cameron –Resilience and resourceful

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 23 rd 5pm Full Governors Meeting	KS2 Christmas Performance – St Mary's – Monday 17 th
Friday 23 rd November Yr5 Ancient Greek Day	December 6 pm
Yr1 Hearing Screening 27 th November	KS1 Christmas Performance –Central Methodist –
Science Day in School 30 th November	Tuesday 18 th December 5pm
Thursday 6 th December Youth Council Meeting	Wednesday 19 th December Christmas Lunch
Christmas Craft Day 14 th December	Last day of term Thursday 20 th December
Choir visit to Bowden Derra 18 th December	First day back Tuesday 8 th January (Monday 7 th INSET)

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 Facebook: @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/> We also share class information via Class DoJo <https://teach.classdojo.com/>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Louise Hussey

Executive Head

