



St Catherine's C of E School Autumn Newsletter 7- 20.12.18



Dear Parents,

School Improvement

As part of our continuing drive to enrich our children's learning and put learning into purposeful and contextual activities (School improvement priority 2) we have planned a range of opportunities over the next two terms. During the spring the following is planned:

Music Lessons

Each Tuesday during the spring term we will be having a specialist music teacher, Georgina Brindle in to work with each class on a range of music projects and lessons.

Year 5 Theatre Group

The Cornish Caretakers will be working with year 5 in a theatre workshop and putting on a performance afterwards.

Year 4 Residential Home Project

Year 4 will be visiting Kernow House on alternate weeks to work with the residents on creative activities.

Breathing spaces

An outdoor and wellbeing group will be coming into school to complete a taster session with the children.

Arena Sports

As well as providing specialist sport coaching in school, this group will be doing an emotional health and well-being MOT for the school to identify areas we can support pupils.

Next term's topics

Next term our children will be learning through the following exciting topics:

Reception: Snow and Ice

Year 1: Dinosaurs

Year 2: Wild Weather

Year 3: The Romans

Year 4: Dragons and Crime and Punishment

Year 5: Ernest Shackleton Explorer

Year 6: Music through the decades and Egyptians

Holiday Challenge

This Christmas holiday there is a good chunk of time after new year before the children return to school on the 8th January. Following the success of our Autumn half term challenge we have created a new holiday challenge. The Mayor of Launceston, Mrs Young, has asked the children to think about designing a new library for the town. The council are looking to build a new library within 2 years and are looking for children to contribute innovative and creative ideas to bring the library alive and into the 21st Century. The children can include in their designs what the library might look like, what additional rooms might be available for new technologies, what activities and events might be included in the library schedule and ideas to attract clients. Designs and ideas can come in to school in any format the children choose.

The second challenge is again to submit ideas for development of the local area, this time Priory Park which the council are looking to renovate. The children can design a new play area in any way they wish. They may want to consider local issues like parking, ideas for all age groups etc.

Please can children submit their chosen holiday challenge ideas by the end of the first week back into school – 11th January. All ideas will be shared with the Mayor but the school will choose a winning entry from each class again.

We hope we receive as many wonderful entries as we did for the animal habitats!

Staff news

An update on previous news: Both Mrs Maguire and Miss Davis will be moving up to Central Office after Christmas. Miss Davis has been offered a finance position which is where her interest lies - so we are pleased for her but of course sad to lose both our office staff. I am delighted that Mrs Penn has agreed to step in to be our school secretary. Mrs Barker will be returning to year 4. We also congratulate Mrs Every who is moving on from our nursery to a full time position in St Stephens ARB where we know she'll be just as amazing as she has been here and we're delighted to announce that Miss Abbie Davey has been recruited to our nursery team. Mrs Jo Parish will also be joining our team to cover the breakfast club vacancy. We are pleased that Mr Hudson's role becomes permanent after Christmas also. We will be interviewing to replace Mrs Cavey's lunchtime position early next term.

Collective Worship

We were very proud of our children in their Christmas performances this term. KS2 put on a lovely Christmas Concert, with the theme of refugees at Christmas, at St Mary's on Monday and the infants produced a wonderful nativity on Tuesday, themed around the WWII Christmas truce, at Central Methodist. Many thanks to all those who were able to come along and share this Christmas celebration with us.

Annual Crib Service

St Stephen's Church warmly invite you to share in their Annual Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 3pm. It is a wonderful way to begin to celebrate Christmas as a family and children are invited to come dressed as their favourite Nativity Character.

Attendance

The national government target for pupils' attendance is 96%. 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	92.1%
Year 1	93.3%
Year 2	97.3%
Year 3	98%
Year 4	93.4%
Year 5	98.8%
Year 6	92.8%

Whole School Attendance

94.9%

Due to a rise in persistent absence the Educational Welfare Officer for Cornwall County Council will be holding an attendance clinic in February to support parents in improving attendance. Invites to this will be sent out in the new year.

What Would Jesus Do Awards

These wonderful pupils have been spotted demonstrating our school values throughout the term:-

- Reception: Oscar – example of all our values
- Class 1: Ethan – always polite, helpful and thoughtful
- Class 2: Kornelia – always be relied on, kind and caring
- Class 3: Connor – caring and thoughtful of others
- Class 4: Jhah Jhah – thinks of others first, always kind
- Class 5: Ellie – thinks of others first, generous with time
- Class 6: Eran – kind, caring and considerate

Child of the Term Awards

These are our star learners this term:-

- Reception: Joshua – shown a passion for learning
- Class 1: Phoebe – positive learning role model – 100% effort
- Class 2: Lewis – fantastic progress/Freddie H – fantastic role model
- Class 3: Cerys – consistently demonstrates learning powers
- Class 4: Georgia – 100% effort in all learning/Joe – working so hard to make progress
- Class 5: Chloe – 100% effort in everything
- Class 6: Laila – positive attitude meaning progress in all areas.

Dates for the Diary

- Monday 7th January – Staff training – **no pupils**
- First day back Tuesday 8th January

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/>

We wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas and look forward to welcoming pupils back on Tuesday 8th January 2019!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Louise Hussey

Executive Head

