



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities



St Catherine's C of E School

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Autumn 2019

Dear Parents,

Autumn term has got off to a really good start and it has been great to see how quickly all the classes have settled and are approaching their learning with such enjoyment and motivation!

New Year Paperwork

Thank you for returning the start of year paperwork regarding your children to class teachers. Copies of the forms are available on Dojo should you need a replacement set and we will also be sending out a Parental Consent form for off-site activities, which will give us permission to take the children on walks in the local vicinity and on local trips out in vehicles and also the generic photograph consent. We appreciate your support in the prompt return of these important documents, that are essential in the day-to-day running of the school.

Could we especially draw your attention to the part of the consent form that asks for medical information as it is very important that we have all of the up-to-date details regarding your child's health needs to ensure we can provide the best possible care while they are in school.

Wisdom

This half-term, our values for life theme in Collective Worship is Wisdom. From a Christian perspective, wisdom comes from God and as a believer's faith grows so too will their wisdom. In the Bible, wisdom is seen as both a gift from God and a characteristic of God. In his parables, Jesus taught that trusting God and recognising what is of real value, would lead to a fulfilled life.

As teachers we are also considering the role of wisdom in our teaching and learning and how through all subject areas and extra-curricular opportunities we can promote and develop children's capacity to use the knowledge they acquire to make good decisions for both themselves and those around them.

Homework

As we are several weeks in to term now, we thought this would be a good time to remind you about the policy for homework that we have agreed upon at St Catherine's. All classes from Year One to Year Six will follow the same pattern of weekly expectations:

- Knowledge Organiser for current class topic (information to learn for in-class quizzes)
- Times Tables Rock Stars (on-line tables resource)
- Spelling Shed (on-line spelling resource) and age appropriate common exception words
- Reading of school/home reading books.

The time spent on these activities may vary according to the age of the children and will have been outlined in the **"Meet the Teacher"** information sent earlier in the term. Can we again, really stress the **value of reading with your child**, even when you feel they are confident readers, as the discussion and language that accompanies this shared activity can make such a difference to their understanding and capability as learners. Please speak to class teachers should you have any questions regarding homework.

Values in Action

These wonderful pupils have been spotted demonstrating our school values in the last two weeks:

Reception: Tom- courage; Lily - compassion & friendship
 Class 1: Ella-May - friendship and compassion to others; Thomas - courage
 Class 2: Leah – compassion caring for others; Malachi - forgiveness
 Class 3: Annja – friendship to others; Eleanor - generosity
 Class 4: Jacob M – respect; Connor - compassion
 Class 5: Daria – friendship and kindness; Melissa - compassion
 Class 6: Reece – encouraging and supportive; Melissa - forgiveness

Good Learner

These are our star learners:

Reception: The whole class for settling well; Harvey - resilience
 Class 1: Gracie – great listening; Riley – responsibility for his own learning
 Class2: Ethan – responsibility; Konrad – pushing himself to do well
 Class3: Bella – responsibility; Freddie H - resourcefulness
 Class 4: Brandon – resilience and reflectiveness; Daniel – great listening and application of learning
 Class 5: Bertie – responsibility; Evie – responsibility for her own learning
 Class 6: Mollie – determination; Justin – taking pride in all his learning

End of Day Procedures

We have had several incidents at the end of the school day recently, which have prompted us to just clarify the procedures for sending children out of class when school ends at 3:15pm.

Teachers will ask children to remain seated when doors are opened and to only go when adults have called their name. This is essential in ensuring the safety of the children, so that teachers know all children are with the appropriate, appointed adults. Once we have released children to adults, it is then your responsibility to ensure their well-being and safety and we ask that you supervise them as you leave the school grounds to avoid any accidents. If you have collected children, and they then need to return to class for a forgotten item, could you please accompany children back to the classroom so that teachers are confident of children remaining safe as they leave. Many thanks for your support in these essential routines.

NSPCC

This week we have had presentations for all the children and workshops for Years Five and Six from the NSPCC as part of their "Speak out. Stay safe" campaign. They reminded children that nothing is too small or too big to share with a trusted adult and promoted the important message that children have a right to be safe and the power to speak out. In order to support the NSPCC with the vital work they carry out regarding these issues, we are holding a **non-uniform day** on **Friday 27th September** and request donations towards this cause should your child wish to take part.

School Payment

As most of you know the school now operates an online facility to make payments for trips, clubs, activities etc. We are hoping eventually that all monies coming into school will be paid using this method and really appreciate your support as we establish this. We understand that some families may find this difficult for various reasons so please come and speak to us should you have any concerns regarding this.

Many thanks for all your support

Ms Pippa Warner – Head of School