



# St Catherine's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

4<sup>th</sup> November  
2022

Live, Love and Learn Together,  
Growing with God, in Knowledge and Faith

## **Important dates for your diary: Coming up...**

**End of Term:**  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup>  
December

**Back to School:**  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
January 2023

**LEE CUFF SPORTS  
SESSIONS:**  
SYCAMORE CLASS,  
every Wednesday.  
Warm PE Kit is  
essential

**FOREST SCHOOL  
SESSIONS:**  
HAZEL Class please  
bring wet weather  
gear and wellies



## **Message from Mrs Terrey:**

Well, we've been back a week already! I hope you all had a wonderful half term and managed to rest and I can see our brilliant children are raring to get back into studying!

We have a jam packed calendar this term and making sure we fit everything in has been a tough job!

Hazel Class have started weekly swimming lessons at Freshwater. The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares are coming in to run creative writing workshops. Our sports teams will be competing in Netball and football tournaments and our Running Club will be taking part in the Colmers Hill Run this Saturday!

We have secured a Christmas Tree at the United Church so please do go and look at it in December.

I am so looking forward to our first traditional Carol Service and Nativity for three years!

These are just a few things coming up and I know our brilliant children will take on every challenge with determination, a great sense of sportsmanship and gusto! Here's to a busy and exciting new term!

Mrs Terrey

## **Konflux Theatre Group:**

Hazel Class created their very own Play in a Day just before the half term break. It was called: Invasion: Here Come the Saxons and it opened to rave reviews! This was a fantastic experience for the children to bring part of their curriculum to life and grow their self-confidence and knowledge.

### School Uniform:

Our expected school uniform is listed, clearly on our website [My School Uniform](#). We expect all our children to come into school in the correct uniform. As of next week, if your child is not dressed correctly they will be given clothes from our donated uniforms and wear them. Children should have natural hair, no dyes or hair (chalk) and long hair must be worn up. There will be no exceptions and it is your responsibility to make sure your child is dressed correctly whilst at school.

### Colmers Hill Run:

Due to unsafe ground conditions the run has been postponed to **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November**. We wish our team the very best of luck!

### Parents Evening:

We held Parents Evenings at the end of October which were well attended. We passed out some Parent Questionnaires, thank you to those of you who filled them in. The analysis from them is attached at the end of this Newsletter. We had 51 completed questionnaires, and 94% were extremely positive.

### Tag Rugby:

What's that you ask? How did our most excellent team get on in the Tag Rugby Tournament?? Well, they only won for the NINTH (pardon, did we say NINTH!!!!!!) year in a row! Our sports team, once again, were gracious in victory and so deserving of the win. We would like to sincerely thank Mr Vercoe and Mr Stephens for being wonderful coaches!

### Re-use, Recycle:

Don't forget as you pack away your summer clothes, we have a recycling bin in the school grounds that is ready and waiting for your unwanted clothes!

### **PE Kit:**

Most children are now coming into school in their PE kit (the tiddlers are changing in class as it is an important part of their development) and they must wear the correct kit. The expected list is below:

- Trainers for outdoor sport
- Navy or grey shorts
- White T Shirt with round neck
- Plain black/navy sweatshirt and jogging bottoms
- P.E. Bag

Long hair tied back

For safety reasons the only item of jewellery that may be worn is a watch. Earrings, if they cannot be removed, must be covered with medical tape or a plaster.

Everything should be clearly marked with your child's name.

### **PE Schedule Autumn 2022:**

The PE Schedule from 1st November 2022 is:

OAK - Wednesday with Class Teacher

SYCAMORE - Wednesday with Lee Cuff

ASH - Monday and Friday with Class Teacher

HAZEL - Swimming on Wednesdays and Forest School on Fridays

MAPLE - Tuesday and Thursday with Class Teacher

### **School Times - Collection:**

Our school day finishes at 3pm and, on the odd occasion when plans go wrong, we are happy to supervise your children if you are a few minutes late. However, if children are persistently collected after 3pm they will be placed in the After School Club and parents and carers will be charged. If you are running late, please do call and let us know. 01308 423568.

### **Daffodils:**

We would like to thank Groves Nursery for, once again, giving us some beautiful daffodil bulbs and compost and pots to plant them in. Mrs Butchart has been busy planting the daffodils hither and yon so look out for them in the spring.

### **Wraparound Care Clubs:**

Breakfast Club and the paid for After School Club are already very well attended. The cost is £3 per hour (with a sibling discount) and they run from 7.30am till 8.30am and 3pm till 5:30pm every day. If you would like your child to attend, please email the office.

### **School Office:**

We have appointed a new member of staff for the office, and she will be joining us in January. In the meantime, we would ask for your patience while we are short handed and we thank you for your understanding.

### **School Photos:**

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November Tempest Photography will be in to take individual and sibling photos. Please make sure your child comes into school in school uniform even if they have PE or Forest School. They will need to bring their PE kit and Forest School gear in with them to change (don't forget wellies!). They don't need to wear school trousers or skirts because the photos focus on their adorable faces!

### **Absence:**

We have had clear instruction from the Dorset Local Authority that no holidays will be authorised during term time and that Dorset Council will start to fine parents who take their children out of school. It is the expectation that children attend school every day unless there is a very good reason for absence, such as illness.

The children will never be so able and open to learning as when they are at Primary School and instilling a love of learning at a young age will help them continue, happily, in education.

The fines are up to £60 per child per day. If a child attends for less than 95% this is equivalent to missing one day a fortnight which equates to four weeks in a year.

### **Bikeability Hazel Class:**

Ben Timberlake will be back in school on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of December to take Hazel Class through the Bikeability training so the children will need to bring their bikes in on both those days as well as warm/waterproof clothes and bike helmets.

### **Harvest Festival:**

Thank you so much for all your donations, which are being given to Cupboard Love Food Bank. The children sang beautifully, made flamboyant headdresses and all joined in to give thanks for all our blessings and to pray for those in need. It's such a special time of year because it encourages us to look at what we have and really appreciate all our gifts. If you are finding times particularly hard, come and talk to us. We can recommend practical help and we are here to support you as part of the St Catherine's family.

## **Star of the Week**

It could be argued that every one of the St Catherine's Family is a star, and they are! But every week a child is chosen from each class for recognition. Here are the Stars so far..!

### **Oak Class:**

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 22 – Hallie R:** Great work in Phonics

**7<sup>th</sup> October 22 – Kayson W:** For always trying his best

**14<sup>th</sup> October 22 – Daisy W:** For making great progress with her writing across the curriculum

**21<sup>st</sup> October 22 – Daisy W:** For trying really hard with her writing

### **Sycamore Class:**

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 22 – Louie C:** Working so hard on concentrating in Phonics

**14<sup>th</sup> October 22 – Kinsley:** For excellent writing progress

**21<sup>st</sup> October 22 – Don:** For amazing vocabulary choice in Geography. Well done!

#### **Ash Class:**

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 22 – Malachy S:** Challenging himself in Science. Choosing his own examples to explain balanced/unbalanced forces

**30<sup>th</sup> September 22 – Milo:** For always making good choices. Always listening well and always putting in his very best effort

**7<sup>th</sup> October 22 – Ruby:** For putting in a lot of effort, listening well. Improved presentation, taking pride

**14<sup>th</sup> October 22 – TJ:** For always putting in her very best effort and being such a well-behaved member of the class

**21<sup>st</sup> October 22 – Sophia S:** For putting in effort in all areas of the curriculum. Your perseverance is paying off!

#### **Hazel Class:**

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 22 – Willow:** Persevering in Maths and having the confidence to help others

**30<sup>th</sup> September 22 – Rylo:** Fantastic attitude to learning

**7<sup>th</sup> October 22 – Rohan:** Excellent Team player and improved attitude to learning

**14<sup>th</sup> October 22 – Gabby:** Excellent Maths work and confidence

**21<sup>st</sup> October 22 – Teodor:** Always having a good attitude to learning and for being a brilliant actor in the play

### **Maple Class:**

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 22 – Rubie B:** For persevering with her writing and her interesting diary entry

**30<sup>th</sup> September 22 – Louie MacD:** His effort to learn his spellings so carefully

**7<sup>th</sup> October 22 – Olly D:** For his wonderful poems on National Poetry Day

**14<sup>th</sup> October 22 – Martha:** Working well and guiding others in her science group, a good role model

**21<sup>st</sup> October 22 – Harrison:** Good work in Maths

Well done to all our Stars!!!!

### **The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares Workshops:**

We are thrilled to have the talented artists at The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares in on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December to work with Sycamore Class and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December to work with Hazel Class to devise and design their very own story books! We know how talented our children are and it is such a brilliant scheme for them to take part in. This follows on nicely from the work the whole school did with the Magical Martyn Maudsley to help extend their creative minds.

### **Netball Tournament:**

Our enthusiastic Netball Team, ably coached by the multi-talented Mrs Pirus, will be taking part in a Netball Tournament on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November at Beaminster School. We wish them huge amounts of luck and we know they will represent St Catherine's RC School with grace and perseverance. We are so proud of you all.

### **Re-use, Recycle:**

Don't forget as you pack away your summer clothes, we have a recycling bin in the school grounds that is ready and waiting for your unwanted clothes!

### **Carol Service:**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December we will be holding a 2pm Carol Service at church and we would love you to come.

### **Message from Father Keith:**

#### **I love pigs!**

Yes, I really do. If I go to a country show, I can be quite happy to spend a whole day looking at them. Sadly, I couldn't make the Melpash Show but a friend sent me some lovely photographs as illustrated.

My love for pigs probably goes back to my early formative years in a monastery, where we kept pigs among other animals. They taught me about God's love than much reading and lecturing. I used to love to spend time with them, especially when things seemed hard going. They seemed so much more sensible than some of my brethren and we spent most of the day in silence anyway!

When we want to know something of God's love, we are often told to look a beautiful sunset, a rough sea, a lofty mountain. I found it in the pigs.

We don't necessarily need God to see that the beautiful things in the world are beautiful but a God who can find beauty and worth in those pigs, well, that's the God for me.

A God who can laugh softly at their funny antics, at their self-satisfied expressions is for me. Pigs are absurd and messy and funny – and so am I -and probably most of you too. The God who I can understand is the One who created and values those bundles of incompetence and stupidity that pigs often are, because then I understands that he loves me too.

Yes, if God can love pigs – and I am sure he does – then he can love and value you and me too.

**Monsignor Keith Mitchell**



### **Mary, Mother of God:**

October is the month of Mary (I know we are in November now but, I think you'll agree, Mary deserves a mention!) My absolute favourite story about Mary and Jesus is the wedding in Cana. This was when Jesus performed his first miracle, to please his mamma!

Jesus was at a wedding with his family and disciples when Mary noticed they had run out of wine (horrors!!) Mary asked Jesus if he could help. Jesus said no. Mary said it was ever so sad for them and he'd be such a kind boy if he could help. Jesus said no, his time had not yet come. Mary spoke to the servants and told them to do whatever Jesus asked of them (and I bet she winked!) EVENTUALLY, Jesus changed large stone jars of water into the best wine anyone had tasted!

Now I love this story because it shows the human, natural love Jesus has for his mum. He was the son of God but he was most definitely the son of Mary. If you have a Catholic mother you will know it is rare that they ask and do not receive (and they don't mind asking and asking and asking again!)

Jesus loved his mum, as we love her. She protected him, as she protects and intercedes for us. Mary accepts us as we are, no questions. We can always turn to Mary Mother of God in times of need.

### **Prayer to Mary, Mother of God:**

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.

Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen