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|  | St Catherine’s Catholic Primary School Newsletter |
| September 2019 | Live, Love and Learn Together |
| *Important dates for your diary:** ***Wednesday 11th September – Mass at St Catherine’s Church 9.30am .***
* ***Wednesday 11th September – your child’s year ahead 3pm meeting with the Class teacher.***

***C:\Users\Amanda\Desktop\amanda3purple.jpg***Image result for private secretary keith mitchell***Welcome to******Father Keith Mitchell***Image result for Daily mile | Message from Mrs Burt- Interim Head teacher I hope you all enjoyed the summer holiday with your families and are feeling refreshed and the children are ready for the new term. This newsletter is very much an information giver – I hope that there will be lots of news in future communications. What’s been happening during the school holiday.* Improved security: the path across the field between the Victoria Grove gate and the pre-school building has been laid. This path will be used by parents and carers for the pre-school so they can be observed as they enter and/or leave. This increases our on-site security.
* Website- with the support of Trudi Sherrin in the office and Mrs Franklin – many thanks - I have been able to set up a website run by Eschools which hopefully will be more user-friendly for families, teachers and governors. We are waiting for Dorset IT to press a switch so it as accessible through a search engine – replacing our old one. Teachers will be updating the website in the area CLASSES by the end of this week to inform you of the details of the curriculum, so please go and have a look.
* Extra capacity: as I am only physically in school for 3 days/ 2 days a week, I have been able to secure extra teacher capacity this term to ensure that Mrs Blake or a Safeguarding Lead can easily take time out of class should there be a safeguarding emergency. This teacher will also be supporting different groups of children who need a boost to their progress.
* I am really looking forward to meeting and then introducing the school community to Father Keith Mitchell, who is moving to St Catherine’s at the beginning of September. We will celebrate Mass with him on Wednesday 11th September at 9.30am in the church-parents are most welcome and of course even more if they can help us to walk the children down! Please let us know if you can do this.

New arrangements in the school week for this term* Liturgy and celebration assemblies- at 9am each Monday morning, all our children will join together in the school hall for a celebration of the previous week’s successes. The weekly assembly will focus on our values, and teachers and pupils will identify and promote our values in action - our Stars of the Week. This will be immediately followed by the whole school Liturgy.
* Once each half term there will be a Celebration Assembly to which parents are warmly invited. The date for these will be announced on the website.
* Key Stage assemblies. These will happen weekly and will include a celebration of the children’s efforts both in and out of school.
* Dropping off in the morning – punctuality is key for all our children in preparation for life. Our pupil Chaplains- newly trained- will now support a member of staff out on the playground to welcome and guide the younger children to their classrooms. Doors open at 8.30 and we expect children to be in class ready to work by 8.40. Thank you.
* ‘Daily mile’. I quickly became aware that a number of teachers and parents were interested in making sure this becomes established at St Catherine’s. We will be trialling this during the first week. Year 5 and 6 will complete their run in the mornings before break as will Year 3 and 4. Year 1 and 2 will do theirs in the afternoons. This is an all-weather activity so please ensure your child has a waterproof in school. Children will wear school trainers or – in Y1/ EYFS plimsolls.

Mrs Burt’s time* I am committed to supporting St Catherine’s this term and I intend to spend the majority of my time in school developing and continuing to improve the teaching and learning through visiting classes, talking to the children about their progress and their learning and acting on my findings. I will also be developing the curriculum with your children’s teachers. I have created an OFSTED action plan with priorities for this term and I will be accountable to the Interim Academic Board – Chair Teresa Sturtivant – for its completion. Parents will be sent the first updates within the next ten days alongside a letter from the IAB. There will also be parent forum at the end of September.

In general I will be available on Mondays from 8-8.45 and from 2.30- 3.30, and on Wednesdays from 8-9 and from 2.15 –3.15. There will be exceptions to these times as the term continues so please do not come to the school during these times and expect to see me without an appointment. Please follow the procedure below for communicating / raising concerns about your children The future for St Catherine’s * I am really looking forward to working with the St Catherine’s teachers this term and establishing good communication with you. However it is most important that the school has a substantive head teacher who can establish a vision. The advertisement for a Head Teacher is going out this week and we sincerely hope to have someone in place by January 1st 2020. I will keep you posted on this.

Contact:Procedures for communication /raising concerns about your child. Please can I remind you of the following: sometimes you may wish to raise a concern about your child with a member of staff. Through the openness of the school, any grievance or complaint should be addressed in the following order:1. Informal or formal communication with the class teacher: please confine this to after school. \*
2. Arranged meeting with the class teacher- please make an appointment via the school office.
3. Arranged meeting with the class teacher and Phase Leader.
4. Arranged meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

\*Teachers are focussed on welcoming children and settling them to learning in the morning; please avoid this time and do not enter the classrooms. If you need to pass on some information in the morning please visit Trudi n the school office and she can pass it on. Thank you for your cooperation in this.Swimming Pool – current closureI have not prioritised progressing the swimming pool situation as this will need an investigation into availability of staff/ costs of training to maintain as well as health and safety when children are being taught. My priority is to ensure children are able to swim confidently as soon as possible. Swimming lessons are therefore organised at Bridport Leisure Centre for Key Stage 2 this year. A separate letter is going out to parents with details of this.  |