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|  | St Catherine’s Catholic Primary School Newsletter |
| February 2021 | Live, Love and Learn Together |
| ***Important dates for your diary:***  ***Coming up…***  ***School Ends***  ***Friday 12th February at 3pm***  ***Inset day is on Monday 22nd February 2021***  ***School returns:***  ***Tuesday 23rd February 2021***  ***Breakfast Club****: Unfortunately, Breakfast Club is still suspended due to lockdown restrictions*  ***SPORTS COACH SESSIONS***  *Wednesday for ASH CLASS, please wear PE kit.*  ***Forest school sessions***  *OAK CLASS, every Friday please wear play clothes and supply wellies.* | **Message from Mrs Terrey:** It has been over a year since I came to St Catherine’s and what a year it has been for us all! Despite the challenges and the ever changing guidance from the government which means the staff, pupils and you, the parents, have had to adapt at very short notice, it has been amazing! The community we have created at St Catherine’s has supported each other through these tough times and I am so proud of all of you.  Half term is here and I would like to thank everyone for all their fantastic efforts in learning, teaching and supporting. Staff, parents and children, please enjoy the break and we look forward to seeing you (in person or on screen) very soon! **The School Governing Body:** We are delighted to say that St Catherine’s now has a Local Governors Board (known as LGB). This Board is made up of staff, parents and Father Keith Mitchell as well as other people who are dedicated to helping to nurture the St Catherine’s community. We also have a new Clerk to the Governors, Emily Fearn, who you can find in the office Monday to Friday mornings. We have a letter from the outgoing Chair of IAB, Teresa, introducing our new Chair of LGB, Georgina attached. Keep an eye on the Governance section of the website to ‘Meet the Governors’ and find out who they are and what they do.. **Face Coverings and Contact Tracing:** A reminder that all parents must wear face coverings unless they are exempt? We will offer coverings if you have forgotten. It is Trust policy and the policy of all schools locally that this occurs. Dorset Council have told us that schools will need to have a contact available for contact tracing for the start of term. This means that if you or anyone in your household have a positive test result for Covid-19 you will need to contact school so that we can inform close contacts and advise you what to do next.**We therefore ask that if you receive a positive result for Covid-19 up to and including February 22nd please immediately email the** **school office on**: [office@stcatherinesbridport.dorset,sch.uk](mailto:office@stcatherinesbridport.dorset,sch.uk) **and I will check during the day. Please do not phone the school as we not be monitoring calls**.**Accelerated Readers:** Who’s ready for some great news? Reading throughout the school is improving with all the fantastic efforts of our pupils both at home and in school. Children have made, are you ready? An average of 10 MONTHS progress from September to December! Astounding work!! Well done all of you. **Chrome Books:** We have lent out almost 20 Chromebooks to pupils who didn’t have suitable equipment at home. This means teachers could Zoom meet with their classes, record videos (check out Mrs Treble and her phonics!) and keep in touch with our pupils who aren’t able to come into school (if your child is in Mrs Dickson’s class, ask the about ‘Socks or Not’) Hilarious!! **Reading Packs:** If your child would like to borrow some books to read and share please email the [office@stcatherinesbridport.dorset,sch.uk](mailto:office@stcatherinesbridport.dorset,sch.uk) and we will make a pack up for you. **School Lunches:** Please remember to order lunches for next term by Tuesday 16th of February 21 **Interactive Whiteboards:** We are installing some VERY fancy new whiteboards in all classrooms over the half term break. Mrs Pirus will be overseeing the installation and we are very grateful to her for giving up her holiday! Interactive whiteboards are the size of a usual class whiteboard, but are connected to a teacher's computer, which means that whatever the teacher is doing on the computer will appear on the interactive whiteboard.  These boards allow pupils of different abilities to learn more effectively, helps teachers plan and structure lessons and, most importantly of all, they are heaps of fun! **The Month of February:** The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family in the Catholic Church. We think of Jesus and his parents but also of the family Jesus created with his disciples and friends. This is very like the family we have at school. We care about each other; we look after each other and we support each other. This is what makes us a strong community, based on respect and kindness and part of something to be proud of! **Trees:** We have had a Cherry Tree cut down on the bottom playground which, very sadly, had died and become dangerous. This is the start of essential coppicing that will be done throughout the school. This program will happen throughout the school year and is due to be finished next year.  “*May the blessing of joy abide within you; May the blessing of peace rest upon you; May the blessing of love flow through you; May all the blessings of the Lord be yours at Christmas and in the new year”*  **Thank you to all the staff, pupils, parents and carers, have a happy and safe half term and we look forward to seeing you all soon.**  **From the St Catherine’s Team** |
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**The Interim Academy Board (IAB)/Local Governing Board (LGB) Joint Briefing for parents/carers February 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As outgoing Chair of the IAB I am delighted to inform you that the first meeting of the Local Governing Board (LGB) took place on 3rd February. Georgina Coombs from the IAB is the new Chair of Governors and we welcomed three new governors; Paula Fearn (Foundation Governor), Rebecca Pattison Smith (Staff Governor) and Claire Hewitt (Parent Governor), along with Emily Fearn who is the new Clerk/school administrator.

Father Keith Mitchell remains on the LGB and I will continue in the short term as an Associate Governor to provide continuity. The LGB is a sub-committee of Plymouth CAST Board and fulfils a quality assurance role at a local level. Establishing a Local Governing Board is essential for the success of the school and we now have a wealth of skills and expertise from governors representing the interests of the parish, parents/carers, staff and wider community who will continue to support the school to move forward.

Local governance at St Catherine’s is underpinned by effective and aligned systems for reporting and recording. Our last two meetings have included the following:

* Updated risk assessments
* Presentation by Mrs Treble – Leader of Early Years Foundation Stage
* Head Teachers Report – Autumn Term
* Teaching and Learning Policy
* Remote learning provision
* RE and Catholic Life of the school
* Wellbeing of pupils and staff
* Governor monitoring visits: Safeguarding, Sports Premium, Pupil Premium
* Report from Mrs Terrey on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Thank you to those that completed the recent parent questionnaires, the responses were extremely positive. Your words of support and encouragement are gratefully received by our hardworking and committed staff.

**Teresa Sturtivant** (Outgoing Chair of IAB)

Dear All

As many of you will know, I have been involved with St. Catherine’s since my son was a pupil here. I have been on the Governing Body, in some form or another, for the last seven years. I am delighted that the school is now able to reform the Local Governing Board and that I have been elected the new Chair of Governors. I would like to thank Teresa Sturtivant, on behalf of the school, for all the help, guidance and support she has given to us over the last few years. I am delighted to say that she will still be with us for a little while yet. I shall continue working closely with everyone connected with the school and can be contacted via the Clerk to the Governors, Emily Fearn. We can now look forward to when we can welcome all of your children back to St Catherine’s and to the next part in the journey of our wonderful school.

**Georgina Coombs** (Chair of Governors)