



# St Catherine's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

September 2020

*Live, Love and Learn Together*

## **Message from Mrs Terrey.**

Welcome back to school. I am sure that children and parents have had mixed feelings about the return to school but the start of the year has gone well with adults and children following the new rules! The children have settled well and are really engaged with learning. Please be patient as we work to resolve any issues. If you are experiencing difficulties in any way with returning to school or dropping and collecting your children please discuss this with your child's class teacher. School attendance is good and I would like to thank parents for being cautious and keeping their children at home if they display any COVID 19 type symptoms.

## **School Learning Hub.**

During the Summer break the building and redecoration work of the damaged areas of school was completed. The end result is very positive. In the reorganisation of school there has been an opportunity to create a Learning Hub. This space holds the computing area for the children. This will allow classes and groups to access IT teaching. All classes have weekly timetabled slots to access the IT resources here. In addition, within this space we have created a central school library and central area for all reading books. This area will be open to children and parents to use after and before school when restrictions are lifted further or removed.



## **The Foundation Stage- Birch and Oak Classes.**

During the Summer this whole area- both inside and out has been redeveloped and improved to make the learning experience for the children exciting. I

would like to thank the staff in the Foundation Team for all their hard work and creativity in making such wonderful learning areas for our children.

The classes have also benefited from new furniture and carpets all purchased from funds raised by the Parents Support Association, so a massive thank you to them and the volunteers who have worked so hard to fund raise. As you can see from the pictures and video on the website the environment is really lovely.



## Reading at St Catherine's

Reading is central to the learning for all the children. This year we are implementing Accelerated Reader for all children in Ash, Maple and Hazel classes. This system will allow children to read a much wider variety of books and support progress with reading. Pupils will first complete a multi choice reading test called a STAR reading test.

Teachers will show children the test and there are practice questions for the children. The tests are planned for the week beginning September 14<sup>th</sup>. Once the test is complete children will be given a range for reading not a book band. Children are then able to choose independently a book within their range from the Learning Hub. These books have all been levelled over the Summer and organised for the children to access. Thank you to Georgina

Coombs from the Governing Body and Mrs Pattinson-Smith for their help in the reorganisation of over 1000 titles during the Summer.

Once the book has been completed the children take a quiz. This quiz assesses their understanding and comprehension of the book. The quizzes are 5-10 questions and the children receive a percentage score. Children will record their score so that parents and carers can see how children are succeeding in addition to this information being stored in a class record. The quizzes are completed on a computer in school and the children will have their own password to access the site in school.

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## Recovery Curriculum

During the first 2 weeks teachers will be assessing your child's understanding of key learning concepts. This will be done through assessing completed work, low stakes quizzes and discussions with your child in addition to discussions with colleagues. Learning and support will then be planned. Each class will be provided with a knowledge organiser showing topic information and identified areas for targeted recovery learning. The knowledge organiser will be used in lessons and can support any additional home learning. It will also be available on the school website.

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## Homework

Homework will be English and Maths for all pupils using the learning platform IXL. All pupils will be given a log on and teachers will set tasks that link to the learning objectives taught during the week. The log on information for IXL will be sent to parents by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September. The information will also be included in your child's reading diary.

In addition, we would ask that children read regularly to an adult and this is recorded in the reading diary.

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## Forest Schools

We are very excited by the introduction of regular Forest School Provision led by Emily Duke. All children will have an opportunity to access this valuable learning as we make the most of our wonderful grounds and enrich pupils learning. Year 2 begin with their first session today.

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## Finally-

I would like to thank all the staff who have worked tirelessly through the holiday to prepare the school for opening. The enthusiasm and commitment to the school and children has been greatly appreciated.

We would like to welcome Mrs Kate Ivory to the school team. Mrs Ivory is supporting learning in Sycamore (Year 2) and we would like to welcome back Mrs Carrie Best from maternity leave. Mrs Best is enjoying her new role in Oak class with Year 1 and our newest children in EYFS.

The Team at St Catherine's Catholic Primary School.