



Term: Autumn - **Issue Number:** 04 - **Date:** 2nd October 2020

OUTDOOR PLAY

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we are working with OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) to improve the quality of lunchtimes for children. As part of this process, children will have access to more resources over the coming months including sticks, logs, tyres and wood to allow them to play, build and create in engaging ways. We will be teaching children in assemblies and in class how to use these resources in a safe and responsible way. Further updates on changes to lunchtimes will follow over the coming weeks and months!

WARM CLOTHING

In order to try to limit the potential spread of Covid, we have been keeping windows open to ensure good ventilation in classrooms and communal areas. As the weather turns chillier, for this period, we will be happy for your child to wear their hoodie in class, although we will not allow children to sit in coats. Perhaps under layers could also be considered, such as vests or a short sleeved t-shirt as the temperature drops.

STAGGERED TIMINGS

Please can I remind you to keep to your child's class drop-off and collection times to avoid congestion at the gate; also to use the one-way systems in the morning and afternoon as this further decreases the chance of transmitting the virus, through social distancing. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



LOST LIBRARY BOOKS

On reviewing current loans from the school library, we now have over 260 books outstanding. Please could you check to see if any of our school books are at home? A school book will contain a bar code and the name of the school inside the front cover. If you find a book, please return it to the school. Thank you

SCHOOL PICK UP

Please let the office know in advance if your child is either going home with another child or is being picked up by another relative or family friend. Thank you.

NATIONAL OR LOCAL LOCKDOWN, SCHOOL CLOSURE

I am sure that you are aware of news of local lockdowns and school closures due to outbreaks of Covid-19 in various parts of the country – and some schools in our area. Please be assured that should there be a need for school closure – either full or partial – we will let you know immediately. Plans are in place for us to support children's learning remotely which will be different to what was experienced from March onwards this year. We have installed Google Classrooms onto our system and are currently undergoing training as to how to make the best use of this learning platform. I will let you know more once we have further details of this exciting new venture.



FAMILY CONFERENCING

As you will appreciate, this year, family conferencing will look a bit different to usual.

During the week commencing 12th October, we will be offering you the opportunity to have a phone conversation with your child's class teacher to discuss how they are settling in and to raise any issues or concerns you may have.

In order to accommodate everyone, we will be limiting the conversations to 5 minutes; if a follow-up call is necessary, we will arrange for that to happen at a later date.

Please book your appointments via Schoolcomms in the usual way – **the booking lines will be open from 2pm on Monday 5th October**

Date	Class and Time	
	8am – 12 noon	1pm – 5pm
Monday 12th	Clock Tower	Tower Heights
	Barclay Park	
Tuesday 13th	DLR	Hoddesdon Market
	Rye House	
Weds 14th	Hoddesdon Market	Lowewood
		The Lynch
		Rawdon House
Thurs 15th	New River	Dobbs Weir
	Pound Close	Tower Heights
Fri 16th	Rye Meads	Lampits
	The Lynch	



PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY SEPTEMBER 2020

We will have a parent governor vacancy from 30th September 2020, when one of our current parent governors will be completing their term of office. If you would be interested in applying to be a parent governor you can collect an application form from the School Office, or download the copy on the governor page. If you would like to discuss your interest, before making an application, you can talk to Mrs. A. Wallis or email the Chair of Governors, via the School email address (admin@stcaths.herts.sch.uk), and he will make contact with you.

What does being a School Governor involve?

As a governor you will be part of a corporate body known as the Governing Board. The role of the governing board is critical to the effectiveness of St. Catherine's School.

Governors come from every walk of life and there is no requirement for you to have an educational background. Your exact role will be discussed with the Chair of Governors, but will always contribute to the over-arching work of the governing body and link to the main focus of St. Catherine's School, thus ensuring our children and young people are able to achieve to the best of their ability, in a safe environment.

So, what would I have to do?

- Commit to attend;
 - Full Governing Body Meetings (1 per term, 2 hours long)
 - A Committee Meeting (1 per term, 1.5 hours long)
- Attend training
- Make visits to the school during the day
- Work as a team

