



Term: Autumn - **Issue Number:** 07 - **Date:** 23rdz October 2020

A MESSAGE FROM MRS WALLIS

As we come to the end of the first half of the Autumn term, it has been one like no other! I am delighted with the way the children have returned to school; having to follow new rules about staggered timings, new lunchtime and break arrangements as well as remembering to wash their hands multiple times daily – they have been amazing. Children have settled back into learning and teachers have been identifying potential 'gaps' that may have arisen due to a lack of direct teaching for such a prolonged period over the spring and summer terms. However, they report positively about how much knowledge and understanding the children have retained from previous learning, which is encouraging.

I am aware that there is potential for the rest of this term to be disrupted by Covid with families, individuals and maybe whole year groups being required to self-isolate at times. We have been preparing for such an eventuality and should the need arise, we will be able to provide remote learning for children via Google Classrooms, which the children are becoming familiar with. We will keep you posted with any developments as they occur.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support, patience, cooperation and understanding throughout this half term. I know that there have been many changes to timings and other aspects of school life as we have tried to find the best way to keep everyone safe at this time. I hope you have a restful and enjoyable half term and look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 2nd November.

MSA VACANCY

If you enjoy being with children and would be interested in taking a role as Play Supervisor, either on a casual or daily basis, please contact the school office via admin@stcaths.herts.sch.uk for further information.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

26th – 30th October – half term week
2nd November – children return to school

POPPY SALE

We will be selling poppies this year on behalf of the Royal British Legion, these will be available after half term.

SECONDARY APPLICATIONS

A reminder that if your child is due to be moving on to secondary school in September, applications must be submitted by 31st October.

REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY DISPLAY

With Remembrance Day coming up, if you would like a craft activity to do with children over half term; why not make a poppy using an empty plastic drink bottle? If you follow the instructions on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVcsBo-VT5A> both ends of the bottle can be used to make an attractive flower. Please note, this clip advises the use of a tea light to melt the ends of the 'petals', so adult supervision will be required for this part of the process.

We would then like to make a display of poppies at school, so if you could send them in (with ties, as suggested in the video), after half term, we would be very grateful.



STEEL PAN WORKSHOP - BY MS O'ROURKE

This half term I've been lucky enough to support a steel pan work shop with two groups of year four students.

What started off as twenty children feeling quite nervous about learning a new skill, developed into both groups excitedly looking forward to Monday mornings arriving so they could get together and play their songs with the instructors.

Warming up with Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and Baby Shark, the children then went on to learn Dance Monkey and Happier on the steel pans. As you can imagine, in the beginning the beat wasn't always in time and the kids could be quite fidgety but the teachers were so much fun and really patient, which meant the groups could enjoy learning without the worry of getting it wrong.

The group wasn't full of children with musical ability, in fact some had never picked up an instrument before, let alone been shown how to play it properly, but over the last six weeks I've watched both groups gain in confidence and enjoy doing something that took them out of the classroom.

Alongside learning to play, they've also been taught the history and origin of the steel pan drums and the importance the Windrush Generation had on Britain after World War 2.

It's been such a pleasure to be part of such a great workshop during Black History Month and I'm so proud of the year 4 students who embraced learning their instruments.

SANTA SACKS

This year the PTA are able to offer you the chance to buy personalised Santa Sacks for your child for the very reasonable price of £9. The sacks are 100% cotton measuring 49cm by 75cm. There are a variety of designs and it is all done online following the link in this email. The online shop is open until Saturday 19th October, and although it may seem a bit early to be organising Christmas things just yet, the company want to ensure your order is fulfilled well ahead of the big day. There is no delivery charge and the sacks will be delivered to school in a sealed envelope. We will let you know when they have arrived and arrange a date and time for collection of them.

Every order raises money for our school so please have a look

[order here](#)

WANTED PLEASE

In early years we are looking to build a 'potions lab' in our outdoor environment. Therefore, we are looking for a 'firepit' or large shallow 'cauldron like' pot. If you have one, then please can we have it? It will get a lot of use! Also, we are looking for: plastic measuring jugs, weighing scales, ladles, mashers, grinders, pestle and mortars (or similar utensils) and plastic cutlery of all sizes - it would be much appreciated! Finally, if you have any spare exterior timber from a DIY project then we would gratefully receive it.

Thank you very much,
Mr Pring.



NEW RECEPTION – SEPTEMBER 2021

If you, or anyone you know, has a child who will be starting school in September, we will be holding some Covid-safe open sessions after school on:

- Monday 9th November
- Tuesday 1st December
- Friday 8th January



' I think St Catherine's is a brilliant school. Both my children seem so happy and look forward to going to school ' Early Years Family in 2020

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- State-of-the-art computer suite

BOOK A VISIT

09/11/20 - 4 - 6pm

01/12/20 - 4 - 6pm

08/01/21 - 4 - 6pm

St Catherine's C of E Primary School
Hadewood Avenue,
Hoddesdon
(Find us opposite Sainsbury's,
close to the Clocktower)



01992 463214

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AIM HIGH; IN LIFE, IN LEARNING, WITH GOD - TOGETHER



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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

