

ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



NEXT WEEK'S ASSEMBLY **HALF TERM**

Term: Spring - **Issue Number:** 06 - **Date:** 14th February 2020

SONGS AND SUNFLOWERS – 4TH MARCH 2020

As many of you will be aware, on 4th March, it will be two years since the passing of Mrs Staiano. This year, we would like to mark the occasion by once again inviting children to plant sunflower seeds in her memory. We will be sending the seeds home to be nurtured – one to be returned when ready for planting, and the other to keep at home. In addition, we will have a 'remembering assembly' where we will share memories of Mrs Staiano and singing some of our favourite songs. This will also be a non-uniform day where children are invited to wear colourful clothes in exchange for a donation towards the Music Suite fund.

FLOWER POT APPEAL

Have you got any flower pots floating around at home? Please allow us to reuse and recycle them...From next week there will be a collection box just outside the fence for small plastic pots. This is for planting sunflower seeds on the 4th of March

FESTIVAL ON THE FIELD

We have decided to hold this year's festival on Friday 10th July – from 3.30 – 9.30

We are delighted that popular local band – The Bonnet will be headlining this year – so make sure you leave that date free in your diary!

FAMILY CONFERENCING

Thanks to all who came to discuss your children's progress at school during this week's family conferencing sessions. We were pleased to see such a good turnout and staff welcomed the opportunity to share their views on your children's progress so far this year.

STAFF NEWS

After half term, there will be a few staffing changes we would like to make you aware of; Mrs Waring will be moving from Y1 to join the Y6 team and Mrs Hancock, who is well known to Y1 and has been working with them this week, will be returning to teach in Tower Heights class alongside Ms Maud until the end of this academic year.

EASTER PLAYScheme

We are running an easter Playscheme in the first week of the easter holidays from 6th – 9th April. If you are interested in securing a place for your child, please take a form from the carousel in the entrance area. The cost is £18 per day with a special Early Bird rate of 4 days for £65 if booked **before 2nd March**.



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We are starting to get excited for this year's World Book Day which takes place on Thursday, 5th March. This year, we will be marking the event in a number of fun ways. The whole school will be using a wonderful book as their stimulus for learning that week and children will be invited to design their own dream library - including of course their library's 'must-have' books! Instead of dressing up, this year we would love the children to make and bring in a 'Book in a Jar'. Simply take a clean glass or plastic jar and fill it with small clues to the identity of their chosen book. Children will have the opportunity at school to show their jars to their classmates and explain what went in it and why. We would love it if all jars could be in school by Wednesday, 4th March at the latest.

World Book Day book tokens have arrived at school and will be delivered to all children after half term. The vouchers can be used as payment for any of this year's World Book Day books, or alternatively, are worth £1 off any other book. They can be spent between 27th February and 29th March. We are planning to hold a book fair at school during that period for children to exchange their vouchers here.

And, most importantly that week, our staff will be sharing even more wonderful stories than usual with the children, as part of our drive towards getting all of our children reading for pleasure. We can't wait!

ASPIRATIONS WEEK

It has been a varied, busy and exciting week!

We started the week by offering children the opportunity to write letters to a range of people asking them to reconsider closing Lowewood Museum.

On Tuesday, Y5 and Y6 had a talk from Reg Bailey for Internet Safety Day regarding safe use of social media; all children had sessions focussed on how to use the internet safely throughout the day.

Yesterday, we welcomed visitors from the police, health services, local council and YMCA; we had a game artist, upcycler, dog first aider and a BBC film producer. Today we are joined by a scientist, England netball player, nurse, estate agent, artist and dance studio owner as well as representatives from the police service. Each visitor has been enthusiastically received by the children who have inundated them with questions about their chosen careers and life choices. All of our visitors have commented positively about the experience from their point of view; particularly noting the range of interesting questions and insightful comments.

SHROVE TUESDAY AND ASH WEDNESDAY

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday fall during the week we return from school after half term. This year, all children will have the opportunity to watch pancakes being made and cooked – and have the chance to sample one with a topping of their choice – please make sure that any allergy information is communicated to the office before this date so that alternatives can be provided as appropriate.

On Ash Wednesday, children from Y3 – Y6 will be walking to church to join some parishioners in their Ash Wednesday service – led by Rachel, our vicar. As part of the service, children will be invited to be 'ashed' if they would like to, in keeping with the tradition of the service.



HISTORY THEMED DAYS IN SCHOOL – ROMANS AND EGYPTIANS

Our pop up Prayer Space returns during the first week after half term. Within the prayer space, visitors will have the opportunity to take time to reflect and think about the themes of Justice and Fairtrade in a safe, interactive and fun way. Within the session, children can take part in the activities in their own way; it will be made clear that no one is expected to pray and that the activities provided are for everyone – of all faiths or none!

We warmly invite families to visit the prayer space themselves at 2.30pm on Monday 24th February before class sessions begin so that you can talk with your children about the activities and how they feel about them, if they wish to. **#prayerspaceinschools**

PTA NOTICES

The PTA are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 28th February in exchange for a small gift that would be suitable for Mothers' Day – this could be an unwanted gift or some other small token that would be appropriate for this purpose. If you do not have anything suitable, please can your child bring in £1 donation which will then be used to purchase gifts for the Mothers' Day event. Thank you

LAST MINUTE NEWS ITEM!! DONATION FROM SAINSBURY'S...

I am delighted to announce that this afternoon, Claire Hope – our link representative from Sainsbury's – handed over a donation to the school from Christmas fundraising efforts from her colleagues at the Hoddesdon Distribution centre.

They have raised a massive £4,000 for us and staff have been asked to make a bid for a project that will enhance the school to determine how this generous gift is spent. Watch this space for further details...

Thank you Sainsbury's!

Good time keeping means...

...making sure your child is at school and ready to learn, before the school bell rings!

Did you know? - being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing two weeks of school!



Every Schoolday Counts

but every minute is equally important! * Over one full academic year

OUTDOOR FOOTWEAR

Please can you provide wellies or a change of outdoor shoes if you would like your child to be able to go onto the school field during break times? These should be clearly named inside to avoid losing them.

GOVERNOR VACANCY

The nomination period for parent governor representative has closed and there has been one application. There will, therefore, be no election process and the one application received will go before the Full Governing Body for consideration.



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ATTENDANCE

Class Name	Possible	% Attendance
Hoddesdon Market	100%	93.3
Rye House	100%	83.2
Barclay Park	100%	94.8
Tower Heights	100%	98.1
Lowewood	100%	98.8
Pound Close	100%	94.7
Rye Meads	100%	99.6
Clock Tower	100%	97.8
Rawdon House	100%	97.1
Lampits	100%	94.4
New River	100%	93
Dobbs Weir	100%	95
The Lynch	100%	98.6
Dinant Link Road	100%	96.6

