



Tuesday 12th January 2021

Achievements

This week's Stars & HT's Awards:

EYFS JHN:

Star: Karina, Dylan & George.

EYFS Vieira:

Star: Nela, Natalia & Miles.

Year 1 Jacinta:

Star: Harry, Ella, Aaron, Sofia & Alana.

HT Award: Karina.

Year 2 John Paul II:

Star: Clara & Holly.

HT Award: Tiegan.

Year 3 Faustyna:

Star: Jamie & Tiana.

HT Award: Sienna & Elissa.

Year 4 Teresa:

Star: Annabel, Diogo, Aidan & Mya.

HT Award: Adam & Olivia

Year 5 Drexel:

Star: Lucy G, Sam W & Lucie T.

HT Award:

Sam W, Lucy G, Zofia & Darcey.

Year 6 Bakhita:

Star: Temisola, Ronnie & Yasmin.

Year 6 Orione:

Star: Jemaria & Lexie.

Weekly Newsletter:

When looking back over this week, I couldn't believe that we have had less than two-full weeks of home-learning. I'm sure that to many of you - like me - it already feels like a lifetime! However, if you find yourself close to despair, please remember that some of this will get easier as time goes on. The children will get used to the 'new normal', find more of a routine and become increasingly independent.

Ofsted

I'm sure you will have seen that Mr Williamson has advised parents who are unhappy with their school's remote learning to contact Ofsted. For once, the threat of Ofsted holds no fear - as Heads, we are far too busy worrying about the damage that Covid poses to our school family to care about an inspection!

However, I look forward to a time when Covid is a distant memory and school is back to normal. Many of you have been incredibly kind in your praise of me, the SLT and staff at St Catherine's and the way we have dealt with the past year - including the last lockdown, our approach to pupils' (and parents') mental-health and wellbeing and this current lockdown. I can't emphasise enough how much your emails have meant to us. I can honestly say that they have had a huge impact on my own mental health and buoyed my spirits at times when I have felt overwhelmed.

When Ofsted next visit, they will be looking at how the leadership team and staff have supported you and your child during these challenging times. Ofsted look at the feedback received on Parentview in each academic year - this year there has been only one comment so far! Sadly, (but understandably) it is often the aggrieved parent who shares their views. Parentview is anonymous and I cannot see the comments made. If you have the time, please use the link below and then click on 'Give your views now' (left side of the page) to share how wonderful you think we are!

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/25086/1>

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Dance Lessons

Thank you to Miss Chater for organising our online dance lessons! I have had some great feedback about the sessions, which will be running until half-term. Dancing might not be for everyone, so we are investigating similar workshops to add variety to home learning.



Weekly Newsletter:

Asymptomatic Testing

This week all our on-site staff attended St Michael's School, where they were tested for Covid. We are so grateful to Mr Conway and all the staff there for accommodating us and their professionalism in administering the tests. It was a real reassurance to staff to know that they, and those they are working with, all tested negative.

There is a massive element of chance in who contracts Covid. However, there are also extensive risk assessments, policies and procedures in place to make our school as 'Covid-secure' as possible. The very small number of cases we have had, despite being in such a high-risk area, are testament to our staff following the rules in and out of school. I'd also like to give special thanks to Mrs Robinson. As well as overseeing all the cleaning within the school, she is also responsible for ensuring that all procedures are followed. She has done an amazing job of keeping staff and pupils safe.

Staff Illness/Absence Training and PPA

Throughout lockdown, there will be times when staff are absent due to their own sickness or that of their child/family – just as in normal school life. Additionally, there will be times when staff are required to attend online courses, meetings with external professionals or have leadership/planning time. While TAs can cover these absences in normal times, they currently cannot, as they are supporting pupils in school. When this happens, we will notify you that there will be no face-to-face teaching on Google Classroom.

Ms Kane's Tip of The Week!

Take each day as it comes. Don't be afraid to 'bin' a lesson or a day.

School staff know that some days kids just aren't in the right frame of mind to learn. As educators, we have the experience and freedom to adapt. We don't expect much of pupils in the first week back after a school holiday – they struggle until they are back in a routine. It might sound crazy, but kids go nuts on a windy day (I didn't believe this when I was told it by an experienced teacher, until I saw it for myself!) – good luck to any teacher trying to get a child to learn on a windy afternoon! There are some days when educators just 'bin it' and do something fun and engaging instead! We abandon the plan and just accept that the kids aren't in the right frame of mind to learn about expanded noun phrases or long multiplication. Please be kind to yourself – there will be days when it really isn't working and that is okay. It is the same in normal school life!

Wishing you a safe and relaxing weekend.

God bless,

Ms Kane