

*“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.” — Phil Jackson*

This half term, we have focused on the importance of teamwork in our assemblies. Some of these have been led by children, who are able to teach each other very well. In a troubled world, it seems ever more important to understand that we are part of a bigger picture and that even the smallest actions can have a big impact. I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable spring break with lots of sunshine!

With best wishes,



Mrs Stephanie Gibson  
Head Teacher

### **Ali Baba**

What an amazing production this was! The children sang and acted with great flair and skill, showing how much time and effort they had put into their rehearsals. Scenery and costumes were again outstanding, thanks to Mr Ward and Mrs Small, and we were grateful for help and advice from Mr Mackay (sound) and Mr Thurston (filming). It was a fitting tribute to Mr Jones, for whom it was the last production – he can be so proud of all he has achieved with and for our children. DVDs for both performances will be on sale after half term. These have been added to all childrens Tucasi accounts. Please pay for them on Tucasi and email [info@stcatherines.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@stcatherines.surrey.sch.uk) and let the office know which night you would like.



### **End of term**

We now have our final assembly and prize-giving at 1 pm with the option to take children home afterwards or to collect them at 2 pm if parents wish to do so. This term, assembly will include a farewell to Mr Jones. If you haven't yet returned your slip, please do so tomorrow, as this helps us to dismiss everybody promptly and safely. Please note that no child is allowed to walk home unaccompanied before 3.15.



### **Class assemblies:**

Please note that Badger Class are swapping their class assembly date with Squirrel Class. Squirrel Class will now hold their assembly on FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY and Badger Class on FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE. The school calendar will be updated accordingly, but please put these dates in your diary if you have a child in these classes – thank you.



### **Staffing**

We have a few changes of staff for next term:

- We are sadly saying farewell to Mr Jones (although he will be in for piano lessons and Choir next term) who leaves due to pressures of work outside school. He will be hugely missed; we thank him for all he has done and wish him well.
- We are sorry to be losing Mrs Scott-Browne, who is moving on to new ventures. We thank her for her contributions to the school and wish her well.
- Mrs Jenvey is also moving on to a new role elsewhere. We are sorry to lose her and wish her well for the future.
- Mrs Carol Jowitt joins us for next term to teach music.
- Mrs Smithson will be taking over as our new Nursery teacher.
- Mrs Marshment will be taking responsibility for attendance next term.
- Ms Sophie Ellis joins us for next term to support learning in Phase 2.
- We look forward to welcoming them all to the school or to their new roles and wish them every success.



### **Vacancy**

We are looking for somebody to support in the office on Friday afternoons and at other times by arrangement. You need to be organised, flexible and aware of confidentiality issues. If you are interested, please speak to a member of the office staff as soon as possible.



## Collecting children at the end of the day

We keep all safeguarding procedures under review and are currently reviewing our dismissal procedures. These are explained in our Dismissal of Children Policy, which is available on our website.

To ensure a safe and efficient handover of children, please note and follow the following:

- Infant classes will come out a couple of minutes before the juniors. This does not mean that you are late if you are not yet there, but it reduces congestion at 3.15.
- Junior classes will come out once the infants are out on the playground.
- **From next term:** Parents and carers are asked to wait behind the line on the playground so that we can see you more easily. We will trial this until half term, and if it is helpful it will become a permanent arrangement.



Thank you for your cooperation.

## Academy Status

As you know, our target date for conversion was April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. Due to some outstanding issues with the handover of premises, the date has had to be moved to 1<sup>st</sup> May. This is the case more often than not, and we are as confident as we can be that the 1<sup>st</sup> May should be achievable. We will keep you informed as we move towards May 1<sup>st</sup>.



## Cash

In line with most other schools and good practice guidelines, we need to move towards becoming a cash-free school. In future, therefore, the majority of payments will be set up online through the Tucasi system. Please could any parent who is unable to access online payments speak to office staff to agree arrangements. Thank you.



## Parent Governor Election

If there have been nominations for this position, a ballot will be held next term. If there have been no nominations, the Governing Body is responsible for trying to appoint a parent governor.



## School Uniform



As the weather gets warmer, a reminder about uniform. From the beginning of the summer term, girls in RECEPTION will be able to join those in KS1 and KS2 in having the option to wear light blue checked summer dresses. We are aware that a number of retailers offer blouses, skirts and playsuits in the gingham cotton material: please note that these options are NOT part of our uniform; just the summer dresses.

Please also ensure that your child has **plain, black school shoes** for next term. For safety reasons, please choose shoes with fastenings rather than the open court style. Thank you.

**Lisa Thurston, Chair of Governors**

## Special Diet Requests

If your child has any special dietary needs that we do not know about or any changes to the children we are aware of please can you let the office know as soon as possible.

## Attendance

Orange Sapphire Class won the attendance award for last week with 98.50025 Well done to them!



## Online Safety Tip

### Delete old accounts

If you've stopped using a social media site or forum, then close your account down. There's no point in leaving personal information out there unnecessarily.

## School Dinners

You hopefully will have received the new menu for next term. If you want to make changes to your child's current arrangements please let us know on the first day of term. School dinner money for next term will be £2.20 per day, £11 per week, £59.40 first half term, £74.80 second half term or £134.20 for the whole term. As you are aware, school dinners need to be paid in advance and from 18<sup>th</sup> April this will be adhered to strictly, as we have had a number of issues this term. We are sorry to have to do this but non-payment leaves the school vulnerable to charges. Please speak to the office if you have any concerns or need copy instructions to set up Tucasi online payments.

### **Term Dates and Holidays 2016 -2017 and 2017 - 2018**

All term and holiday dates for this year and next year are available on the website. Please ask at the office if you cannot access them.

**Please note:** At this point we can confirm that **Monday September 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 will be an Inset day.** We expect the autumn term to begin for children on Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup>. However, all other holiday/Inset dates may be subject to minor changes – we will confirm the final dates as soon as we possibly can.

### **Inset Days 2016/2017**

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017 (giving families a long weekend, with Bank Holiday Monday)

Monday June 5<sup>th</sup> 2017

### **Coming Up...**

**TOMORROW** Friday 31st March 1 pm: Final Spring assembly and prize giving. Term ends.

**20<sup>th</sup> April 2017** – Phonics Screening Information meeting Year 1 (see letter in bookbag)

School re-opens at 8.50 on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

