



ST KATHARINE'S
C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Friday 12th September 2025

NEWSLETTER No: 1

Our Value This Term Is...

Friendship



Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone! At this point in the new term, namely the end of first full week, we have all forgotten that we were ever on holiday. Routines have been re-established, learning has begun in earnest and we are off and away on our 'academic year 25-26' journey. For those of you brand new to school (parents not children) this comes with a warning. Time flies when you break a year into 6 short chunks (terms), you will get used to my musings on how things seem to have gone by in a flash! On that same note I would like to welcome all our new reception children and their families: Florrie, Maia, Skye, George, Harry, Emie, Ellis, Hugo, Emily and Izzy. They have had a super, settled start to their time at school and we look forward to watching them blossom and grow as the year progresses.

As you will know from the Key Dates Planner, that went out at the end of term, there are many exciting things already in the calendar. This fortnightly newsletter serves to keep you updated with things as they arise including the dates section at the end. Please note things in bold. We have attached a copy of the Key Dates Planner V1 to this letter for your convenience. You can also find a copy on the school's website.

We pride ourselves on being a warm, welcoming and inclusive school and we have a strong reputation for living out that ethos. Please do speak to us if you are at all worried or concerned. As a staff team we would all prefer to address a concern early on than try to unpick things that have become complicated. You can

do that in a number of ways but I would urge you to speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance, especially if the problem is classroom or playground based. If you need to email a member of staff please send an email to admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk label that with 'for the attention of' followed by the class teacher's name. It is always our best endeavour to get back to you as soon as we are able.

Ms Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Celebration Worship
Dates for parents
Term 1 & 2

Friday Date	What?
5 th September	No Celebration Worship
12 th September	No Celebration Worship
19 th September	No Celebration Worship
26 th September	No Celebration Worship
3 rd October	Celebration Worship
10 th October	Celebration Worship
17 th October	Celebration Worship
7 th November	No Celebration Worship <small>Bonfire night</small>
14 th November	Sycamore Class Sharing
21 st November	Sharing our learning afternoon No Celebration Worship
28 th November	Chestnut Class Sharing
5 th December	Oak Class Sharing
13 th December	Celebration Worship
19 th December	Last Day of Term 2 No Celebration Worship <small>early finish: 1:15</small>

Governors Community Evening

You should have received messages through the class What App groups reminding you about our planned evening on **Wednesday 24th September at 7:00pm**. Please do come along. We are hoping this is an opportunity for you to find out a bit more about our school community, meet other parents and enjoy a glass of wine (other refreshments are available)! Our governors have put a lot of thought into the evening and the key messages they would like you to hear. Please come along and **fill** the hall.

Mid-day supervisor role

We would very much like to fill this role as quickly as possible. Having a full quota of staff in the middle of the day is important for everyone. If you or anyone you know might be interested in a role for 2.5 hours a day

please look at the advert linked below. It is not just about dishing up food and having recently streamlined our processes and equipment there is scope for some of the role (at times) to enable some work with children and the completion of some administrative tasks (depending on the skill sets of our applicants). This role has been a launch pad for previous holders of the role to other jobs within the education sector. We can also offer a little flexibility; not all days require quite the same timings and importantly, a genuinely warm and supportive team of people to work with. We are also willing to consider a job share for the right candidate/s. Please have a think about whether this is something for you, a friend or even a recently retired grandparent who is looking for a few hours of work to stave off boredom. Please spread the word. I am keeping my fingers tightly crossed for the next brilliant person to join our brilliant small team.

[Link to advert for MDSA role](#)

Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 99.6%

Our end of year attendance target is: 97%

Thank you to all of you for supporting our focus on improving attendance since the publication of [‘Working together to support attendance’](#) that came in to force August 2024. What a great start to the year!

Meet the Teacher Sessions

We are holding our *‘Meet the Teacher’* sessions in the week beginning Monday 22nd September. They are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday 23rd September

3:15pm – Chestnut Parents

Wednesday 24th September

3:15pm – Sycamore Parents

Thursday 25th September

3:15pm – Oak Parents

Wednesday 1st October

3:15pm – Hazel Parent

Teachers will spend time sharing routines, timetables, planned learning and their expectations. They will be able to answer questions relating to those things. If you have a specific concern or one that is unique to your child, please email via admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk and this can be addressed at an alternative, arranged time, in a 1-1 meeting.

Please note that we will put on a film, in the hall, for the children and their siblings so that parents can attend the meeting uninterrupted. Please note that we aren’t

however able to take care of younger (pre-school) siblings.

Celebration Worship

Celebration Worship is on a Friday at 2:45pm. Typically this worship is about sharing our learning from the week, celebrating children who have demonstrated our [‘Purple Learning’](#) attributes and have lived out our school values and behaviour expectations. Each class will also specifically share the learning they have been doing in Celebration Worship from time to time. This does take quite a bit of work to put together and as such we have decided that each class will do this **twice** across the year. Each seasonal term we will remind you of the Fridays when we would love to invite you in to share our Celebration Worship with us via the timetable in the Newsletter. **Please see below for the following dates that you can put into your diary should you wish to join us.** We ask that you support the high expectations that we have of the children and come into worship quietly, if you bring younger siblings who become upset, please consider taking them out for a walk around until they are settled.

Pickup Arrangements

If someone other than a parent is collecting your child from school, please remember to let us know in advance. You can do this by either sending an email to the admin@ address or by calling the office.

Traffic / Turning Circle Reminders

We are lucky to have a school in such a unique location. As you may or may not be aware, our numbers have more than doubled in less than 20 years and as such the lane and subsequent parking areas are at their maximum capacity. Please look after each other on the approach to school, being mindful of allowing people up the lane as they arrive for school in the morning and down the lane as people are leaving in the afternoons. There are a few spots where it makes sense to take turns, ensuring that we don’t end up with grid lock. Please also observe the turning circle in the morning, ensure that you pull in safely and that your children get out of the car **quickly**. Ideally children are ready to go when you pull up. There isn’t time for long farewells and getting things out of the boot space for example. If your child is not quite ready to be independent, please park up and bring them to the gate – there are no restrictions on cuddles at the gate!

If an adult is not on duty, in high viz, on the turning circle – please do not drop your child and leave.

Finally, when allowing traffic to pass please avoid driving onto the verges. Once we have some wet, cold weather they are quickly destroyed and our beautiful setting isn’t quite so beautiful any more.

When parking after school, please keep tight to the edges if you are parking in the lane (please avoid the top section opposite the carpark) and remember that we are able to use the church carpark – the walk across the field is quite a nice thing to do.

Uniform reminders

Everyone is looking smart and the new school shoes are shiny! Please take note of these reminders:

★ Jewellery

Children can wear a watch but no other jewellery other than a small pair of earrings. If ears are pierced, children can wear a small pair of studs and they should be able to independently manage them if needed

★ Hair

Long hair should be tied up to support with limiting the spread of headlice and to ensure that children can take part in all activities without hair getting in the way. Avoid excessively large or colourful hair accessories – please keep them for the weekend.

For all uniform suggestions [please see our website](#) for details.

Please can we ask that clothing is labelled. We have a lost property basket which often contains a lot of personal belongings because they are unnamed. This creates a lot of extra work to try and reunite the items with their correct owner. This process is simple when items are clearly labelled.

Free School Meals

All infant school children, those in reception, year 1 and year 2 have been entitled to free school meals since September 2014.

If your infant child **is also entitled** to free school meals because you are receiving qualifying benefits, (listed below) the government will give school a Pupil Premium of £1,515 for primary-aged pupils (2025-2026).

For the school and your child to benefit from this money you must apply to the Council so the Council know that you are receiving a qualifying benefit. Please complete the claim form which is available from school or you can download it from [Wiltshire Council](#).

For children in years 3 and above, free school meals are not provided automatically. **Even if you never take the free school meal, the school still benefits from this additional governmental support.**

They can be awarded only if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Job Seeker's Allowance (income-based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (income-related)

- support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - providing you are NOT entitled to Working Tax Credit and your family's annual income (as assessed by HMRC) is not more than £16,190 (as at 6 April 2012)
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment you may receive for a further four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

Table Tennis

During term 6 last year the KS2 children received an afternoon of table tennis coaching from a local table tennis coach. In the long term, we are considering purchasing an outdoor table tennis table for the school. So that we can properly gauge the children's interest before making this investment, we are looking for a second-hand outdoor table tennis table that we can practice on. If you happen to have a table in your garden that you are not using and are happy to part with it, or know somebody else who does, please can you get in touch with Hayley in the office - admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk
Many thanks.

Message on behalf of the PTA

A reminder that the PTA AGM will be held at School on **Wednesday 8th October from 7pm**. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided. The AGM is a great opportunity for us all to get together over drinks to listen to everything that the PTA has achieved in this past year. Lots of events have been organised and lots of money has been raised for our School. The return of the Savernake Fun Run was a real highlight at the end of the summer last year.

As you know the current PTA members would like to step down allowing fresh ideas to come to the table. Although we have 3 new members who have come forward, we are still short of one person. The PTA requires 4 trustees to continue - if anyone would like to find out more or would like to volunteer as a trustee or a general PTA volunteer please do get in touch. Find us on the playground!

Save the Date - St Katharine's Bonfire and Firework display will be held on **Friday 7th November**. Tickets will be limited and will go on sale from **Monday 13th October**.

If you can volunteer for this event, please get in touch.

Harvest Festival

Harvest festival comes around surprisingly quickly once we are all back at school. As in previous years we will be supporting the Devizes Food Bank with our donations. **Please see below the list of items that they most need at the moment.** We will start collecting in the lobby area, outside of the school office, from **Monday 6th October**. We will aim for donations to be collected at the end of the same week. Please note that our Harvest Festival service is in church at **9:30am** on **Wednesday 8th October**. You are all welcome to join us. We invite all parents to return to school to join us for tea and coffee after the service.

We need the following:

Tinned tomatoes
 UHT dairy milk (we don't need oat milk etc)
 Long life fruit juice
 Tinned peas / carrots / sweetcorn
 Tinned tuna
 Long life sponge puddings (minimum of 4 months until the best before date)
 Tinned custard
 Chocolate bars
 Instant mashed potato
 Tinned ham
 Tinned hot meat (stewing steak, chicken in sauce etc)
 Tinned potatoes
 Shower gel
 Shampoo
 Conditioner
 Jam / honey / peanut butter
 Dried rice 500gm
 Mugshots/Instant pasta
 Toilet rolls
 Deodorant (ladies' and men's)
 Adult toothbrushes

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>September</i>	
Monday 15 th	Reception Full Time 8:45am – 3:15pm
Thursday 18 th	Sycamore Class Litfest Talk 1:00pm Pewsey Leisure Centre
Tuesday 23 rd	Chestnut Class Meet the Teacher

	3:15 – 4:00 pm
Wednesday 24 th	Sycamore Class Meet the Teacher 3:15pm – 4:00pm
Thursday 25 th	Oak Class Meet the Teacher 3:15pm – 4:00pm
Tuesday 30 th	Reception and KS1 Reading Meeting for parents 3:15pm – 4:15pm
	Sycamore Class visit to Science Museum London

October

Wednesday 1 st	Hazel Class Meet the Teacher 3:15pm – 3:45pm PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
Thursday 2 nd	Year 6 Open Evening at St John's (for Year 6 pupils, parents and carers)
Friday 3 rd	Mobile Library visiting
Sunday 5 th	Church Harvest Festival 6:00pm
Tuesday 7 th	KS2 Parent Maths Meeting 3:15pm-4:15pm
Wednesday 8 th	Harvest Festival 9:30am in church PTA Annual General Meeting 7:00pm
Friday 10 th	Year 3 Oxenwood Adventure Day
Monday 13 th	KS1 Parent Maths Meeting 3:15pm-4:15pm
Tuesday 14 th	Individual photographs
Thursday 16 th	Open Morning Prospective Parents 2026/27 (9:30am- 11:30am)
Friday 17 th	Last school day of Term 1 for children School Council elections
Monday 20 th - Wednesday 22 nd	TD Days 3,4 and 5 (children not in school)
Friday 31 st	Deadline for secondary school applications Mobile Library visiting

November

Monday 3 rd	First Day of Term 2
Tuesday 4 th	KS2 - Restless Development

	Schools Triathlon assembly
Friday 7th	Bonfire Night PTA – this is yet to be confirmed
Monday 10th	Odd Socks Day (part of Anti-Bullying Week)
Tuesday 11th	Year 3/4 Handball Burbage Primary School (small group)
Wednesday 12th	Remembrance Collective Worship in school – 9.05am – parents welcome
Friday 14th	Children in Need
Thursday 20th	Flur Vaccinations Whole School
Friday 21st	Sharing our Learning afternoon – parents invited from 2.30pm until 3.15pm
Tuesday 25th	Parents Evening 1 – All Classes (3.30pm-7.00pm)
Wednesday 26th	St. Katharine’s Day Service in Church 9.30am
Thursday 27th	Parents Evening 1 – All Classes 3.30pm – 5.30pm)
Friday 28th	Mobile library visiting

Please also refer to the **Key Dates Planner V1**, that includes all the dates that we know of for the academic year 2025/26 (at this point).

Our aim is that we give you advance warning and enable you to plan well ahead for some of the main events in the year. As events come into the school diary they will be added to the dates sections of the Newsletter and to Key Dates Planners V2 and V3 which are resented at the beginning of Terms 3 and 5.

Remaining TD Days 2025/26

20st, 21st, 22nd October 2025

Please Note

We will close at 1:15pm on the following end of term dates:

- **Friday 19th December**
- **Friday 27th March**
- **Wednesday 22nd July**

Children will be ready to be collected from the playground at 1:15pm. *On these days we ask that children do not stay to play so that end of term clear-up and organisation can be planned to include any grounds maintenance that might be needed.*

Thank you

Other things you might want to know...



SCHOOL HOLIDAY MULTI SPORT CAMPS

FOR AGES 5 - 12 YEARS

MARLBOROUGH

@ St Katharine's Primary School, SN8 3BG Dates: 28th, 29th & 30th October 2025



Football - Dodgeball - Basketball - Hockey - Handball - Tag Rugby - Cricket - Tennis
plus many more!

Time: 9am - 3pm Cost: £28.00 (early bird price of £26 until 17/09) Clothing: Sports clothes & trainers

Additional hours available from 8am - 4pm @ £5.50 per hour

Items to pack: packed lunch (no nuts), water bottle, hat, sun cream, jacket

 @IN_2SPORT  in2sportcoaching

 07799 268115 (Tash)  07968 778732 (Vicky)  info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk

BOOK ONLINE AT  www.in2sportcoaching.co.uk



Dear Parents of Under 5s
"How are you?"

Parenting can be hard - we can help!

We support parents of under 5s who are experiencing tough times. Whether it's isolation, illness, poor mental health or multiple birth, we are here for parents when they need it most.

Our friendly volunteers visit families at home once a week - offering emotional and/or practical support. We also offer group support as well as phone, text, or online support.

We cover Devizes, Melksham, Marlborough, Pewsey, Tidworth, Calne, Chippenham & Swindon.

If you need support, please get in touch.
The Home-Start Team x

Text/Call Dawn on 07864 652349 E: hello@homestartnorthwiltshire.org.uk

www.homestartnorthwiltshire.org.uk

www.wiltshire.gov.uk



Braeside's Able, Gifted, Talented and Enrichment course pack for Autumn/Winter 2025/2026 is now available. The courses run from October 2025 – March 2026.

All details of individual courses can be obtained from our website, as well as a full downloadable pdf version of the whole booklet. Please visit [AGT & E Courses – Braeside Education Centre \(braeside-education.co.uk\)](http://AGT & E Courses – Braeside Education Centre (braeside-education.co.uk))

Braeside have launched a new website recently which enables parents/carers/schools to book spaces on our courses by either:

- **Completing our online application form on our website** www.braeside-education.co.uk

(Website applicants will need to be given a booklet reference code by the school)

- Sending paper application forms to the following address:
AGTE Coordinator
Braeside Education Centre
Bath Road
Devizes
SN10 2AP



MARLBOROUGH MINI STARS

2025-26 TERM DATES
FRIDAYS 10.30-11am

- TERM 1: 5th SEPT – 17th OCT 2025 (7 WEEKS) = £28
- TERM 2: 7th NOV – 19th DEC 2025 (7 WEEKS) = £28
- TERM 3: 9th JAN – 13th FEB 2026 (6 WEEKS) = £24
- TERM 4: 27th FEB – 27th MAR 2026 (5 WEEKS) = £20
- TERM 5: 17th APR – 22nd MAY 2026 (6 WEEKS) = £24
- TERM 6: 5th JUNE – 17th JULY 2026 (7 WEEKS) = £28

**BOOK
NOW!**

MAXIMUM OF 15 SPACES AVAILABLE
FOR BOYS & GIRLS
AGES 2 - 5 (PARENT & TODDLER SESSIONS)
INDOOR SPORTS HALL
PLEASE BRING TRAINERS &
DRINKS BOTTLE



MARLBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE,
BARTON DENE
SN8 1PB

**CONTACT US TO
BOOK YOUR
SPACE**

Please contact:
Matt Cosnett
07846 204174
mattcosnett@soccerexcellence.co.uk
www.sportingexcellence.co.uk
www.soccerexcellence.co.uk



SCAN HERE
TO VISIT
OUR WEBSITE



The
Singing Shell
A Musical Adventure!

for 0-3 year olds

Saturday 4th October
10am

Whale Song

for 4-10 year olds

Saturday 4th October
11.30am

Lucia
Vernon-Long
leader

Sam Peña
piano

Ramsbury
Memorial Hall
SN8 2PB
Tickets £12.50

Tickets available now at:
[**whitehorsefestival.co.uk**](http://whitehorsefestival.co.uk)

Registered charity in England and Wales: 1212485

