



ST KATHARINE'S  
C of E  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,  
& Honesty*

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

NEWSLETTER No: 2

*Our Value This Term Is...*

*Friendship*



*Dear Parents,*

I can't believe that we will be into October on Wednesday next week. I blinked and September was gone! Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who came out this week to 'Meet the Teacher' sessions and to our Governors Community Event. We hope that you found each of these things interesting and informative. We hope that the community event builds a platform for things to come and supported a better understanding of how the school operates behind the scenes and the people and structures involved in its successful operation. Our parent body, their support and engagement, are vital to our success. Thank you again for working with us to do the best we can for all the children in our care. Developing fluent, confident readers who enjoy a range of texts is one of the most important pillars of a primary school. We know that reading opens doors to other areas of the curriculum and supports children to have a fair access to that curriculum – we work hard to support our children to reach reading milestones throughout their time at St Katharine's. When they don't, we have things in place to support them to catch up. Last week Sycamore class took a trip to Pewsey as part of the Marlborough Lit Fest to hear author Catherine Bruton talk about her life as a writer of children's fiction. The children were able to hear her tips for great fiction writing and be inspired by some of the stories she has to tell.

They were also able to purchase signed copies of her latest novel, Bird Boy. I have seen a few copies on desks in my visits to classrooms. It is always a joy to see children engaging with and enjoying stories; they open the door to new places, people, experiences and adventures. Keep encouraging them to read and keep reading to your children - as long as they will allow it!

*Ms Jones*

Principal

*'From little acorns, great oaks grow'*



### **Maths Meetings for Parents**

An area of focus for our school development this year is Maths. This is a Trust-Wide objective and we are very lucky to have Kevin Sandal as part of our team who is an ELE (Excalibur Leader of Excellence) for maths. He will be co-leading maths development for all fourteen primaries in the Excalibur Trust throughout the course of the year. As part of our development plan, we want to support parents to feel confident to better support their children at home. In the first instance we have planned two short sessions: one for Reception and Key Stage One parents and another for the parents of Key Stage Two. These are already in the diary but we wanted to highlight them again here. The primary aim is to give you a bit of information about how the maths curriculum is organised and how we hope to support you, especially when children begin to bring maths learning home. We know that maths was, and I quote *'taught differently when I was at school'*. Our job is to help you to better understand current pedagogy and feel more empowered to help your children when they get stuck.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October - KS2 Parent Maths Meeting**  
3:15pm-4:15pm

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October – Reception and KS1 Parent Maths Meeting**  
3:15pm-4:15pm

We plan to run a creche for school aged children so that parents can attend. Unfortunately, we are not able to look after younger siblings.

### **After School Stay and Play**

I have written about children staying to play at the end of the day on quite a few occasions over the years. You will know that it isn't typical for schools to offer this and I know that it is something that our parents very much value and appreciate. I think it is an important element in supporting our parent body to become a community. It is 'our' village playground. It is however not without its challenges, not least the essential part that **you** play in ensuring that it is safe and that children are both well-behaved and respectful; we simply don't have the capacity to offer supervision from school staff

at the end of the day. With that in mind, please help us by watching what children are doing, making sure that you can see them and ensuring that this is in line with our expectations at school. The children know very well what we expect at playtimes during the school day and we frequently remind them to carry this into their after school play.

We have 3 simple rules: We are... **respectful**, **considerate** and **safe**: One at a time on the slide, no more than 6 at the top of the tower, we don't throw bark, pick up sticks or do anything that would hurt another person – we are kind. I don't want to write an exhaustive list and if you are at all unsure, please do ask. Your children are however the best people to check with. All but the very youngest know exactly what is and isn't Ok or allowed; they show us during playtimes and lunchtimes everyday day.

Darker nights will soon be with us but while there is daylight after school, we ask that you make your way home by 4:00pm. If your child has a club and it is warm enough to be on the playground you are of course welcome to wait. I would especially ask that you observe this on a Friday night – so that our teachers, most of whom are here well before 8:00 am can start the weekend too! Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

### Mid-day supervisor role

We are still looking for someone to fulfil this role. If you are thinking this might be something you could do but would prefer to do the role for part of the week or would be interested if we could flex the hours to ensure a smaller gap between finishing and school pick up, please come and talk to us. Equally, if you know someone who might be interested, please encourage them to look at the advert using the link below.

[Link to advert for MDSA role](#)

### Meet the Teacher Sessions

Still to come...

#### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October

3:15pm – Hazel Class

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.

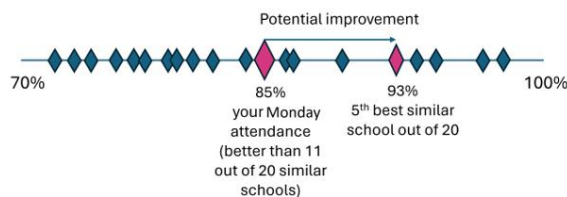
### Attendance Update - The Monday Attendance Anomaly

**Current whole school attendance data: 99.2%**

**Our end of year attendance target is: 97%**

Attendance at St Katharine's is strong; a recent government report on our attendance in the last academic year ranked St Katharines 5<sup>th</sup> out of 21 similar schools. Attendance for the academic year 2024-25 was 96.6%, 0.7% greater than other similar schools (demographically /size of school etc).

The graphic below, taken from this report, shows a bit of an attendance anomaly. Our attendance on Mondays was significantly below our average attendance, at only 85%. There are many things that might account for that but improving this statistic will definitely improve attendance overall. Children who don't attend on a Monday are at a disadvantage. It is often a time of change and transition there might be a new topic in focus or the beginning of a new unit of work. If you aren't here, you can feel a bit out of the loop for the rest of the week. We are going to be looking a little more deeply at Monday attendance and noting any patterns that might exist for individual children. Please work with us to ensure that the only reason for children not being here on a Monday is if they are just too poorly to make it in.



### Leave Only Pawprints Competition

You might remember a recent Newsletter article (Newsletter 19, dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025) inviting children to enter a 'Leave Only Pawprints' poster competition launched by the Dog Control Team at Wiltshire Council. Children aged 5 to 14 were invited to design vibrant, imaginative artwork that encouraged responsible dog ownership and cleaner public spaces.

We are delighted to let you know that our very own Elise Walker was a winner in her age group. Congratulations

Elise to receive her award. Look out for Elise's poster in Wiltshire!



### Open Day

Please see the poster on the notice board below advertising our Open Morning which we are holding on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October from 9:30 – 11:30am**. This event is primarily for the parents of those children starting school in September 2026. School is open for the morning and parents are invited to tour classrooms

(with one of our expert Upper Key Stage 2 tour guides) and to speak to staff, parents and governors. We will be advertising the event as widely as we can and ask that you spread the word to people that you know with young - soon to be school age – children.

We are never complacent about attracting families to our school. Remaining full enables us to stay well-resourced and to give all our children the very best offer. You and the children are our best advocates. **Please spread the word, widely, loudly and proudly!**

### Harvest Festival – reminder

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

### School Health Advice for Parents

With children now back at school some of them inevitably are going to get ill. Swindon and Wiltshire health bosses want parents to make the right decisions when they do. They are encouraging parents to refresh their knowledge of local NHS services so you know the right service to use at the right time. They have also created a useful planner which signposts where to go for everything from self-care to minor illnesses and injuries. It also has space for parents to jot down important contact details for the GP and other local services. More information is available via the following link. [The planner is available to download for free.](#)

### School Council Elections

As we did last year, we have decided that we would like to form a school council. We would like the elected children to consider changes that they might like to make or projects they might like to be involved in, e.g healthy eating or campaigning for slower speeds on the road into school or the planning of Gem Days. Once elected, we will find out about what it is they would like to put their energy into.

We would like to hold our election on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October**. We will be asking children to plan their manifestos over the next fortnight. **This is something that we ask them to do at home.** These will take the form of a short presentation to their class. Children can use things to support them such as PowerPoint a poster or props. They need to answer 3 questions:

- ★ Why I want to be a School Councillor?
- ★ Why I would make a good School Councillor and why you should vote for me?
- ★ What I might try to achieve if I was elected?

We will be supporting **in school** with ideas on different ways to present and how to make a presentation grab someone's attention. Children should aim for about 2 minutes as a maximum time. There will be time set aside in the week prior to the election for children to share their manifestos.

### 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.

We are currently reviewing and updating our constitution to ensure it reflects our school community's needs and remains aligned with current best practices. The constitution is the guiding document that outlines our charitable purposes and how the PTFA operates—from electing committee members to how decisions are made.

We are proposing that we adopt the **Parentkind** constitution to update our outdated procedures and ensuring compliance with relevant regulations. Our charitable purposes will remain the same: *to advance the education of the pupils in the school.* A draft of the proposed changes will available to view at reception along with the original document before it is discussed and voted on at the upcoming AGM on Wednesday 8th October at 7:30pm.

**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**.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>September</i>	
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Reception and KS1 Reading Meeting for parents 3:15pm – 4:15pm
	Sycamore Class visit to Science Museum London
<i>October</i>	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Hazel Class Meet the Teacher 3:15pm – 3:45pm PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 6 Open Evening at St John's (for Year 6 pupils, parents and carers)
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mobile Library visiting
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Church Harvest Festival 6:00pm
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Parent Maths Meeting 3:15pm-4:15pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival 9:30am in church
	PTA Annual General Meeting 7:00pm
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>First KAPLA After-School Club Oak Class</b>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Oxenwood Adventure Day
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Parent Maths Meeting 3:15pm-4:15pm
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Individual photographs
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning Prospective Parents 2026/27 (9:30am-11:30am)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Last school day of Term 1 for children

	School Council elections
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	TD Days 3,4 and 5 (children <b>not</b> in school)
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Deadline for secondary school applications
	Mobile Library visiting
<i>November</i>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	First Day of Term 2
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 - Restless Development Schools Triathlon assembly
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 5/6 Netball Festival Marlborough College</b>
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Bonfire Night PTA
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Katharine's Church Remembrance Service</b>
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Odd Socks Day (part of Anti-Bullying Week)
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3/4 Handball Burbage Primary School (small group)
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Collective Worship in school – 9.05am – parents welcome
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Flur Vaccinations Whole School
	<b>Final KAPLA After-School Club session Oak Class</b>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Sharing our Learning afternoon – parents invited from 2.30pm until 3.15pm
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening 1 – All Classes (3.30pm-7.00pm)
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	St. Katharine's Day Service in Church 9.30am
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening 1 – All Classes 3.30pm – 5.30pm)
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	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 resent at the beginning of Terms 3 and 5.

**Remaining TD Days 2025/26**

20<sup>st</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

**Please Note**

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

- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**
- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**
- **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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...

**in2sport**  
coaching

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY MULTI SPORT CAMPS

FOR AGES 5 - 12 YEARS  
**MARLBOROUGH**

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

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

Time: 9am - 3pm Cost: £28.00 (early bird price of £24 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](http://www.in2sportcoaching.co.uk)

## Is your child due to start school in September 2026?

St Katharine's Primary School,  
Savernake are holding an open  
morning on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
from 9.30am to 11.30am.

Drop in and see our  
wonderful learners  
at work.

St Katharine's  
Primary School,  
Marlborough,  
Wiltshire, SN8 3BG

01672 870492

[www.stkatharinesprimary.org.uk](http://www.stkatharinesprimary.org.uk)  
admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk

Excalibur  
Academies Trust

ST. KATHARINE'S  
SAVERNAKE

## October Half Term - Holiday Club

Tuesday 28th - Thursday 30th October 2025

Please book online by visiting our website  
[www.braeside-education.co.uk/holiday-club](http://www.braeside-education.co.uk/holiday-club)

Open to ages 8 - 12, with siblings welcome up to the age of 14.  
If you have any questions please do contact our admin team  
who will be more than happy to assist you.

## CROFTON BEAM ENGINES

### Special Event

### Evening Steaming & Star gazing

Join us for our evening steaming  
and see Crofton by night.  
We will be hosting an evening of  
astronomy with lectures from  
Newbury Astronomy Society and  
the chance to view the night sky  
with their astronomers.

27 September, gates open 6.30pm

For more details see our website:  
<https://www.croftonbeamengines.org>

**Opening Days**

Next Winter Works Open Day Saturday 4th October  
Next Steaming Weekend September 27th and 28th

What's On

2025 Season

**Private Group Tours 2025**

Throughout the year we offer private group tours via prior arrangement on selected days.  
A group is a minimum of 8 people.  
For more information or to book a visit, please contact us.

Contact Us



## SEPTEMBER STEAMING WEEKEND 27TH & 28TH SEPTEMBER

STEAMING WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 27TH & 28TH

GREEN STEAMING DAY SEPTEMBER 28TH

We are pleased to announce that our Pumping Station will have a full day's trial burning an environmentally friendly bio-fuel, or green fuel, throughout the public open day on September the 28<sup>th</sup>.

# WYVERN THEATRE SWINDON WEST END EXPERIENCE

BACK FOR 2026!

Aged 8-18? Love Musical Theatre?

MARCH 30 - APRIL 3

Whether you're a seasoned performer or simply curious about theatre, West End Experience gives YOU the opportunity to train AND perform with West End Professionals.

Shows include:



Scan for more info



AUDITIONS:  
Sunday 26 April 2026

PROJECT:  
2-15 AUGUST 2026

WYVERN THEATRE  
SUMMER YOUTH PROJECT  
2026

# LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Scan for more info



FLOWER SHOP

