



ST KATHARINE'S
C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Friday 7th November 2025
NEWSLETTER No: 4

Our Value This Term Is...

Hope



Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone. I hope that the extended half term did the trick in refreshing and restoring what looked like quite tired children at the end of Term 1. Our final week was a busy one. We opened our doors to new parents on our Open Day. It was well attended and as always our Sycamore pupils did an incredible job of touring parents around the school. I have lost count of the number of times parents have told me that their child-led tour of the school was one of the important factors that impacted on their decision to choose St Katharine's. Happy, confident, articulate children are brilliant advocates for choosing our school. You of course are also important advocates. Filling our 15 places year on year enables us to be as well resourced as we can be and continue to thrive. The deadline for parents to apply for their reception school place is January 15th 2026. I have heard lots of lovely stories from the prospective parents that I show around about how they came to hear about us via our existing parent community. Be loud, proud and persuasive and keep up the good work!

I have used this phrase at the beginning of many Term 2's and Term 6's...hold onto your hats. It is a busy time of year in schools. We pride ourselves on maintaining our normal curriculum right up until the final week of term. That said, songs will need to be learnt, nativities cast and practised; glitter season will soon be upon us.

Ms Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Celebration Worship Update

Please note change to 13th December

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
12 th December	No Celebration Worship <small>Nativity Dress Rehearsal in church</small>
19 th December	Last Day of Term 2 No Celebration Worship <small>early finish: 1:15</small>

Mid-day supervisor role

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed Rebecca Womersley to the role of lunch time supervisor. This is a substantial role, involving the set-up, management and clear up of the dinner hall, ensuring that our children have a happy and well-supported lunch time. It has not been easy to find the right candidate but we are delighted to have found Rebecca and to welcome her to our brilliant staff team.

By way of an introduction:

Whilst raising her 3 sons Rebecca was involved in various volunteering roles at Shalbourne Primary School. She later joined the Savernake Forest Scout Group as a parent helper in the Cub section before she ran the Beaver colony, followed by running the Cub pack. More recently Rebecca has become a leader of the Explorer unit. Rebecca's involvement in the Scout movement has spanned a 12-year period and she has loved every minute of it. She enjoys walking, yoga, gardening and more recently floristry. Rebecca is very excited and proud to be joining St Katherine's as a MDSA.

Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 98.4%

Our end of year attendance target is: 97%

Thank you everyone for taking attendance seriously, strong attendance correlates to great achievement and settled happy children. We would very much like to meet and even exceed, our ambitious target of 97% by the end of the academic year.

Thank you for your support.

School Council Elections

We held our school council election on the final Friday of Term 1. Congratulations to: Ferne, Auberon, Ned, Theo, Iona, Sophie and Poppy.

Who will support Mrs Ellaby across the year to find ways to improve and enhance our school.

Parents' Evenings

Parents will receive an email next week giving details about the upcoming Parents' Evenings happening on 25th and 27th November. The sessions are being held via video call. The booking window for making appointments is 17th to 21st November.

Sharing Our Learning Afternoon

Prior to parents' evenings (on 25th and 27th November) there is an opportunity for you to come into school from **2:30pm on Friday 21st November** to share books with your child/ren. We hope this will give you a bit of context before meeting with your child's teacher and enable you to share the progress that your child is making and the things that they are proud of. Once you have finished, we are happy for children to go home a little early providing you let the class teacher know. Please use the classroom entrances or come through reception.

Children In Need - reminder

On Friday 14th November we are taking part in the Children in Need fundraising campaign by asking children to turn spotty. They might wear a spotty school jumper with the rest of their school uniform, a spotty pair of trousers or skirt or a spotty pair of tights. The theme this year is 'Challenge yourself to 25'. Use your imagination! We are asking for a donation of £1 to come in spotty attire which will be collected in the morning as the children come into school.

Odd Socks Day

To mark the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week we will be taking part in *the nationally celebrated* Odd Socks Day on **Monday 10th November** by asking everyone to wear odd socks to school on that day. The idea behind this day is to celebrate diversity and talk with children about the importance of inclusion and the beauty of difference. The theme this year is 'sock it to stigma'. The brighter the socks the better!

We will be talking to children about equality and diversity and bullying, how to recognise when another person's behaviour could be called out as bullying, discussing how to stay safe and get help should this ever happen to you. For your information as parents, we have a clear definition of bullying: ***The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face-to-face or online.*** We help the children to come to understand this, at an age-

appropriate level. Bullying typically happens over time and is not a one-off event. That is not to say that unkindness of any kind isn't taken seriously but that it is important to define and understand how bullying is different to this. Having an accurate definition helps everyone to report what is happening using the right language.



Harvest Festival

Devizes and District food bank have been in touch to thank us for the 52kgs of donated items we collected as a school for Harvest Festival recently. As always, thank you for your generosity.



Clubs and Music Providers – contact details

We are fortunate to have a range of different clubs to offer our children. If you are interested in signing your child up for clubs or additional music lessons, please use the contact details below to make an enquiry about spaces.

Music:

Drumming: Matt Clements
mattcdrumtuition@gmail.com
Year groups 3-6

Guitar: Tom Evans
nextgenmusic tuition@gmail.com
Year groups 1-6

Piano: Michael Lucas
MichaelLucaspiano@icloud.com
Year groups 1-6

1-1 singing: Carla Holley
carlajade1988@hotmail.co.uk
Year group 1-6

We also have the following clubs available:

Drawing Club: Hannah Phillips
tillyandwilson@hotmail.com
Tues after school – Year groups 3-6

Cricket

info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk

Lunch time – Mon: Year groups 3-6

Multi-sport

info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk

After school – Mon: Year groups Reception-6

Dodgeball

info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk

Lunch time - Wed: Year groups Reception-3

Dance

info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk

After school – Wed: Year groups 3-6

Football

info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk

After school – Wed: Year groups 4-6

Nativity and Nativity Dress Rehearsal

We have our Reception and KS1 Nativity performance in church on 16th December, 5pm-6.30pm. It is a lovely event to which everyone is invited, parents and grandparents alike. We also have a dress rehearsal on the Friday before, on 12th December (**please note that this is a change of date**). Parents and grandparents are welcome to attend the dress rehearsal if this is more convenient.

Children In Need

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St Katharine's Day – Bun Making

We aim to celebrate St Katharine's Day on Wednesday 26th November with a short service in church at 9:30am. As has become one of our St Katharine's traditions (it's a long story) the children get to eat an iced top bun or more recently an iced cupcake on this day after the Church service. We are happy to go and buy some iced buns but in recent years a group of parent volunteers have joined forces to make cup-cakes. If you would like to volunteer as a small group (there are 100 cakes needed) please let us know by emailing or calling Hayley in the school office.

They look a bit like this:



Christmas Lunches

This year our Christmas Lunches will be served on Wednesday 10th December. Sue Brady will only be providing a hot Christmas lunch on that day. There will be no sandwich/cold options available. Please order Option 1 for that date (A for meat, E for vegetarian). Any meals ordered for Wednesday 10th December will automatically receive a Christmas lunch. The cut off for ordering the Christmas Meal is **Friday 14th November**. Sue Brady is unable to accept any orders after this date.

Primary School Applications

The national deadline for applying for a primary school place is 15th January 2026. Please ensure that you have your application in by that date if you have a sibling (of a child already in school) due to start with us in September 2026.

Poppy Appeal

We have had poppies for sale this week, for which we have suggesting a minimum donation of £1. They will continue to be on sale at play times on Monday and Tuesday next week.

Message on behalf of the PTA

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our pumpkin picking event before half term. We hope you all had fun.

We're delighted to share that, thanks to your support, we raised £174 for the PTA. Every penny goes straight back into supporting our school and creating fun experiences for our children.

Your enthusiasm and community spirit make all the difference — we couldn't do it without you.

We're really looking forward to welcoming everyone to tonight's Bonfire Night celebration! It's always a fantastic evening for families to come together and enjoy some autumn fun.

If you haven't got your tickets yet, don't worry — there are still a few available which can be purchased online.

Wrap up warm, bring your sparkliest smiles, (and torch!) and we'll see you there!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>November</i>	
Friday 7 th	Bonfire Night PTA
Sunday 9 th	St Katharine's Church Remembrance Service
Monday 10 th	Odd Socks Day (part of Anti-Bullying Week)
Tuesday 11 th	Year 3/4 Handball Burbage Primary School (small group)
Wednesday 12 th	Remembrance Collective Worship in school – 9.05am – parents welcome
Friday 14 th	Children in Need
	British Museum Ancient Egypt online Chestnut Class
Thursday 20 th	Flu Vaccinations Whole School
	Final KAPLA After-School Club session Oak Class
Friday 21 st	Sharing our Learning afternoon – parents invited from 2.30pm until 3.15pm
Tuesday 25 th	Parents Evening 1 – All Classes (3.30pm-7.00pm)
Wednesday 26 th	St. Katharine's Day Service in Church 9.30am
Thursday 27 th	Parents Evening 1 – All Classes 3.30pm – 5.30pm)
Friday 28 th	Mobile library visiting
<i>December</i>	
Monday 1 st	Year 6 height and weight check
Wednesday 10 th	Christmas Lunch
Sunday 14 th	Carol Service in Church 6.00pm
Friday 12 th	Reception and KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal 2pm – parents and grandparents welcome NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME
Tuesday 16 th	Reception and KS1 Nativity in Church (4.45pm drop) 5.00pm-6.30pm
Thursday 18 th	Christmas Party afternoon and Christmas Jumper Day

	<i>Children will be in Christmas jumpers, no party clothes or food needed</i>
Friday 19 th	KS2 Carol Service in Church 9.30am
	Last day of Term 2

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

20th April 2026

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...




SAVERNAKE
Wraparound Care
SAVERNAKE FOREST AND FARM NURSERY



Open Weekdays, 8-9am and 3-6pm
EMAIL: CHARLIE@SAVERNAKENURSERY.COM FOR MORE INFO
COLLECTION FROM ST KATHARINES SCHOOL


FREE SEND INFORMATION EVENT 26th November 2025
10 am to 2 pm
Corn Exchange, Devizes



Primary and Early Years
for
Parent Carers and those Working to Support Them

Registration from 9.30am
Free buffet lunch and refreshments
Travel and childcare expenses paid
For enquiries, call the WPCC on:
01225 764647 (option 1)
Hosted by Wiltshire Parent Carer Lounges (WPCC)

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL
See the Pre-Event Information Pack for more information about what to expect on the day.
Or go to...
www.surveymonkey.com/r/1m0savernake25
to book your place





JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM

Are you interested in supporting Wiltshire's SEN decision making process?

Find out more by joining us in Devizes on Tuesday 11th November 2025

10am to 1pm

See over for more information...

Attendance does not mean an expectation to commit

Travel expenses reimbursed

Free refreshments

3 lucky attendees will each win a £50 voucher!

The local authority has a quality assurance process to make sure that SEN decision-making is consistent, fair and in the best interests of the child or young person.

As a result of coproduction with parent carers, Wiltshire Council changed from having one 'SEN panel' to having a series of 'Discussion and Decision Groups' (DaD Groups); these are referred to as DaD1, DaD2, DaD3 and DaD4.

Appointed volunteer parent representatives from the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC) have been attending DaD1 Groups in an observer/moderator capacity for some time. The moderation does not alter existing decisions but ensures feedback from their observations supports opportunities for review of the process, and promotes consistency and transparency. WPCC volunteer parent representatives also seek to ensure that parent carer and child/young person voice, aspirations and wishes are presented in each case.

WPCC involvement in DaD1 Groups has been so popular, the WPCC has been asked to extend our volunteer parent carer involvement into some of the other DaD groups.

If you are interested in finding out more about the different DaD groups and volunteering for this role, including what would be expected of you and what the WPCC can do to support you, we invite you to join us for our **Volunteer Recruitment session on Tuesday 11th November 2025 from 10am to 1pm, at Devizes Open Doors, Southbroom Centre, Victoria Road, Devizes SN10 1HG.**

The day will include an opportunity to learn more about the role, induction, training and support, as well as an opportunity to meet and hear from existing volunteer parent carer reps who will talk about their experiences of attending DaD1 Groups.

The WPCC will pay your travel and childcare expenses incurred by attending this session, and we will provide free tea, coffee and cake.

There will be **no expectation on you to commit to volunteering for this opportunity** if you decide it is not for you after attending the session; we would really love you to join us even if you decide it's not for you.

*****3 lucky attendees will each win a £50 voucher*****

If you are interested in joining us, please let us know by completing the **BOOKING FORM:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DaD-November-2025>

Bookings for this event will close at 5pm on Thursday 6th November 2025.