



**ST KATHARINE'S
C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

**Friday 16th January 2026
NEWSLETTER No: 8**

Our Value This Term Is...

Truthfulness



Dear Parents,

So much has already happened since the last Newsletter that wishing you a Happy New Year seems a little mistimed! Shortly after 9:00 am last Monday we received the call that we would be expecting Ofsted the following day and again on Wednesday. Whilst our 4 year anniversary, since the last inspection, had arrived, with a new framework to roll out and the inevitable delay that we assumed would follow, we were a little shocked to get this call on the first day back!

What followed were an intense 3 days. Every element of our procedures and practise were scrutinised and reviewed. Meetings were held with various members of staff in line with the new framework areas, classrooms were visited, children, staff and parents spoken to and views sought via a range of surveys. The team of one HMI and one Ofsted Inspector were phorensic, fair and respectful in equal measure. As a whole staff team we felt that this was a process where a two-way dialogue was encouraged and valued.

We are very much looking forward to reading the report (18 working days from the date of inspection), giving any feedback that we might have (5 day window) before receiving the final report to share with you (5 days after that). By the time you get to read it, It will seem that the inspection is a little in the distant past and I am sorry that we are not able to share more with you at this stage. What I can share is that there was a lot of positive parental feedback (survey outcomes are already on the Ofsted website [here](#)) and many lovely things were

fedback to us throughout the 2 day process. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the survey and to those of you who spoke with the inspectors on the school gate.

This is a **very** new framework; there are new descriptors and headings against which schools are now judged. Importantly, one word judgements such as Outstanding or Good no longer exist. Instead, the new report cards will provide more nuanced information against a range of key areas.

The DfE and Ofsted are very clear that comparisons should not be drawn between the two frameworks. Over time I hope that the new Ofsted reports will provide parents with more detail and reflect the hard work of schools more fully. I leave you with this link to a very short video, produced by Ofsted, about the new framework and how the report card outcomes can be used and interpreted.

[New Ofsted report cards and grades: a guide for parents](#)

I hope you find that useful and that it helps to develop your understanding of the framework when the report is published and ready for you to read.

Thank you again for your ongoing support – we are very mindful that we serve a very special community – thank you for the role you all play in making it so.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Time Travellers

Oak Class adventured back in time on Tuesday with a visit to the Sevington School. This special place, preserved to capture a Victorian classroom from 1848, enables our children to be fully immersed in this historical period. They had Victorian lessons, played Victorian games, were called by Victorian names and ate a lunch that Victorian children might have eaten. Thank you to our Oak Class parents who ensured that the children were dressed up and ready to take a full part in the day. Thanks also to the parents that volunteered to join us on the day, your help was invaluable.



Guitar Lessons

There are some spaces for children who might be interested in beginning guitar lessons. Please see the advert for NextGen music tuition on the notice board at the end of this letter.

Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 96.6%

Our end of year attendance target is: 97%

Thank you for your continued focus on attendance. Despite a gradual decline since September, I am happy to report a small increase in this newsletter taking us back to our levels in early December. Let's hope that the seasonal bugs are now out of the way and that we can maintain this upwards momentum. It would be amazing to reach the end of the year having met our 97% target, 0.4% to get there...

World Book Day

We are celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 5th March**.

We encourage the children to come as a character from a book (rather than a film) or if they prefer, they could bring a clue to a book.

We look forward to seeing all of the wonderful costumes when the children arrive at school on 5th March.

Please note that we typically celebrate on the Friday. This year that date is World Day of Prayer that we will celebrate with the St Katharine's congregation in church. We didn't think World Book Day costumes would be quite appropriate on that day, hence the shift to Thursday.

Parking/turning circle

From time to time a few reminders are needed. Please stick to the guidelines below. It helps everyone if we all know what we are doing and why.

- Please do not let children out of the car prior to 8:30 – **when an adult arrives on duty**.
- Please wait until you are **parallel with the school** buildings before letting children out of cars; children are getting out alongside the hedge where visibility is limited, this could be very dangerous.
- Please aim for children to be ready on arrival so that they can get out promptly and ideally without the need for lots of help from an adult. **It is great if you do not need to get out of the car yourselves.**

The turning circle does work, and my hope is that it saves you time. Please try to be patient with each other and follow the simple rules above. It will be like witnessing a well-oiled machine in motion! I end this with a final plea for you all to treat each other and each other's children with the care and respect you demand

for yourself. This is a special community. It takes us all to keep it that way.

Christmas Jumper Day

We are delighted to let you know that on Christmas Jumper Day we raised £52 for Save the Children. Thank you for your support for this worthy cause.

Key Dates Planner

Please find attached Key Dates Planner V2. This reflects all the dates that are currently in the school diary between now and the end of the school year.

Message on behalf of the PTA

We hope everyone had a lovely break and would like to wish all our families a very Happy New Year.

With the start of the new year, we will soon be placing our school hoodie order. Please make sure to submit your orders as soon as possible so we can process them promptly.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us by purchasing raffle tickets before the end of term. We raised a fantastic £770, along with a further £96 from the Christmas cards, an amazing achievement that we truly appreciate.

As always, we are looking for volunteers. If you would like to help out, even by taking on a small job or task, please do get in touch. We will also be sorting the PTA shed this half term, so if you have a few hours to spare, your help would be very much appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support.

St Katharine's Fun Run 2026

Many of you may recall the Savernake 10k and 3k Fun Run which took place last summer. The run was a huge success as not only did we raise much needed funds for the school, but we raised our profile with runners coming from Wiltshire and beyond.

We are therefore excited to confirm the Fun Run will be taking place again this year on Saturday 27th June 2026. Registrations are now open for what is sure to be a fun filled event! Head to <https://savernake10k.co.uk> to sign up and please spread the message far and wide.

If you are not a runner but would like to be involved, there are many volunteer opportunities, without which the event will not be possible. Details and sign up for these roles can be found on the registrations page. To show our appreciation there will be a free hot dog / bacon sandwich or vegetarian alternative for our volunteers.

By way of request, if you have any contacts or connections who may be in a position to offer sponsorship for the event, or alternatively know of

anyone who has catering skills & is available to assist on the day, please do get in touch via run2026@savernake10k.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you on the start line!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>January</i>	
Friday 23 rd	Mobile Library visiting
Tuesday 27 th	Dentist visiting Hazel Class
	Sycamore Class Table Tennis sessions PM NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
<i>February</i>	
Friday 6 th	Chestnut Class visit to Bristol Aquarium
Tuesday 10 th	Year 1/2 multi-skills sport event at Burbage Primary School
	Farmer Time class assemblies NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
Thursday 12th	Final Lego after school Club session
Friday 13 th	Last Day of Term 3
Monday 23 rd	First day of Term 4
	Chestnut Class Table Tennis sessions PM
Thursday 26 th	Lego League Competition Bristol (Lego Club attendees only)
Friday 27 th	Sycamore Class visit to Life Exhibition at St Johns Church, Pewsey AM
	KS2 SATs Information Session for parents at 2.45pm
<i>March</i>	
Monday 2nd	Reception Class - height, weight and vision screening
Thursday 5th	World Book Day
Friday 6th	World Day of Prayer service (details to follow)
Tuesday 10th	Farmer Time class assemblies

Friday 20th	Sharing our learning afternoon – parents invited in from 2.30pm until 3.15pm
	Mobile library visiting
	Red Nose Day
	Final After School TAG Rugby Club Year 5/6
Tuesday 24th	Year 3/4 Cricket Festival event at St. Katharine’s School (small group)
	3.30pm – 5.30pm Parents Evening 2 whole school
Thursday 26th	Year 5/6 TAG Rugby Festival at Marlborough Rugby Club AM
	3.30pm – 7.00pm Parents Evening 2 whole school
Friday 27th	Easter Service St. Katharine’s Church 9.30am Including the Easter Bonnet Parade
	Last Day of Term 4 Finish at 1:15pm

Please also refer to the **Key Dates Planner V2** which has been sent out with this newsletter, 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 V3 which is sent at the beginning of Term 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 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
3k & 10k
FUN RUN**

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE 2026

Arrive: From 8.30am
10k: Starts 9.30am
3k: Starts 11.00am

**ADULTS
&
CHILDREN
WELCOME**

**Medals
FOR ALL
FINISHERS**

**ALL RACES START AND END ON OUR SCHOOL FIELD,
WITH BBQ and FUN FOR ALL!**

Places are LIMITED, PLEASE PRE-REGISTER

🌐 www.savernake10k.co.uk
✉ run@savernake10k.co.uk
📘 Find us on Facebook (Savernake 10k & 3k)

Charity number: 1004082



NextGen Music Tuition

Guitar Lessons available in your school

For more information contact:
nextgenmusic tuition@gmail.com

Relaxed and friendly Tutor
DBS checked with safeguarding
Documentation and Insurance.
Acoustic Guitars can be hired



WPCC FREE SEND InformationEvent

Friday 6th February 2026

Registration from 9:30am, Trowbridge

Mental Health Theme
10am to 2pm
Civic Centre, Trowbridge



BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Free refreshments including cake
Travel and childcare expenses paid



Go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WPCC-Info-Event-Feb2026>



See the Pre-Information Event Pack
for more on what to expect on the day.



Hosted by the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council
Any enquiries, phone: 01225 764647



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MIDDLE EASTERN PILAF



To register

Phone or text/Whatsapp 07463 111 006

or email: Wiltshire@bagssoftaste.org

or you can sign up online: <https://bagssoftaste.org/students>

Wiltshire Council