



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

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

**Friday 30th January 2026
NEWSLETTER No: 9**

Our Value This Term Is...

Truthfulness



Dear Parents,

Having started Term 3 with such a bang, after receiving the Ofsted call on the very first day of term, we have all been a little wearier than perhaps we might ordinarily be. I am not speaking solely about the grown ups either! We are eagerly awaiting the Ofsted 'draft' report which will be with us next week. This draft report will be shared with our immediate team and key members of the central team at Excalibur. After having had the opportunity to read and reflect on its contents and return any comments, the final report should be with us just before we break up, allowing us time to share it with you prior to half term.

Rugby club for Sycamore children has started again this term in readiness for the tournament that we enter each year to compete against other local schools. It is lovely to hear the shouts and laughter of the children on Fridays after school. Despite the cold and wet muddiness of winter the children appear happily oblivious. My thanks to Tom Swift, Lucy Close and Tom Fortune who have volunteered to run this club in their own time. We are hugely grateful to them.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



World Day of Prayer

This year we have been asked to take part in World Day of Prayer. This service takes place in a different church within the St Katharine's group of churches each year. This year is our turn to be invited to take part. World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement by Christian women, calling for prayer and action for peace and justice, with a different country preparing the service materials each year. This year the service is prepared by women in Nigeria. This service is predominantly led by the parishioners of St Katharine's Church. Our Key Stage 2 children (Chestnut and Sycamore) have been invited to take part along with all of our parent community. The service will take place on Friday 6th March at 2:00pm. It will be followed by refreshments in the church. Please do come along. It would be lovely for the church to be full on that afternoon.

We are hoping that some parents will offer to make a cake or a tray bake for this event. Please let us know if you are able to make something by speaking to/or emailing Hayley in the school office. Cakes will be collected in the morning on the day of the service. We would like all children to be in smart school uniform with a green sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece – the colours of the Nigerian flag are green and white which is perfect for us!

We look forward to seeing lots of you in church on that afternoon.

Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 96.5%

Our end of year attendance target is: 97%

Please remember that the school day begins at 8:45am. Arrival before this time enables children to have a settled start to the day and to engage in the early morning activities that are set up in the classroom. Being in school on time helps children to start the day in a calm and purposeful way. Please help to ensure that all children are in school and ready for a settled start to the day by 8:45am.

Wiltshire Parenting Support

There are a wide range of courses, delivered both face to face and online, available through the Wiltshire Family Hub. Please explore the types of courses that they run by clicking on this link: [Parenting Group Programmes - Wiltshire Family Hubs](#). We have also advertised a couple of courses, on the notice board section of this letter (below), that might be of interest to some of you.

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.*

Choir Performance for Parents – 19th March

Mrs Carla Holley, who runs our school choir, would very much like parents to have an opportunity to see what they have been working on. Parents are invited to join us for a short performance at 8:45am on Thursday 19th March.

Please drop the children at 8:30am as normal so that they can get warmed up and ready and we will bring you into the hall at 8:45am. We expect to be finished by 9:05am and no later.

Thursday Morning Drop Off

On Thursday mornings we are very lucky to have Choir available for the children who wish to take part. This starts at 8.30am. Please can we remind parents of non-choir children to not leave any children unsupervised at the school gate. If your child **does not do choir**, please wait for a staff member in a high-viz jacket on the turning circle before leaving your child. Many thanks.

Parking Reminders

Please avoid using the staff carpark at any point in the school day. We have had a couple of occasions recently where staff have been unable to park due to parents' cars being in this carpark. Please also be mindful of parking so that both the exit of the turning circle and the exit of the carpark are not blocked. There is always plenty of space in the church carpark and they are very happy for us to use it. The church carpark is not always a tempting proposition on a wintery day but squeezing your car into a space that then creates difficulties for many others isn't the solution.

Message on behalf of the PTA

We're delighted to share some exciting news from the School Council! After voting with the students, they've come up with the wonderful idea of a tipi for the school grounds. This will be used as a space for children to learn and play in throughout the day. We're really looking forward to this lovely new addition to our outdoor space during the summer months.

We will be holding a Valentine's cake sale on Friday 13th February. We would kindly like to ask Chestnut Class to help with the baking. Please bring your bakes in on the Friday morning, and we will be there to receive them. Thank you so much in advance for your support.

The Big Shed Tidy will be taking place during half term on Tuesday 17th February. If you can spare even an hour, we would love for you to come along and lend a hand anytime between 9am and 3pm.

Although it's only the end of January, we're already thinking ahead to the Summer Fete. If you have any ideas for stalls or activities, please do get in touch, all ideas are very welcome!

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Warm wishes,

The PTA Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February	
Friday 6 th	Chestnut Class visit to Bristol Aquarium
Tuesday 10 th	Year 1/2 multi-skills sport event at Burbage Primary School (small group)
	Farmer Time class assemblies NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
Thursday 12 th	Final Lego after school Club session
Friday 13 th	Last Day of Term 3
	Valentine's Cake Sale after school
Tuesday 17th	PTA Big Shed Tidy (9am – 3pm)
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
March	
Monday 2 nd	Reception Class - height, weight and vision screening
Thursday 5 th	World Book Day
Friday 6 th	World Day of Prayer service
Tuesday 10 th	Farmer Time class assemblies

Thursday 19 th	Choir Perform for parents 8:45am (children to arrive at 8:30am as normal)
Friday 20 th	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 24 th	Year 3/4 Cricket Festival event at St. Katharine’s School (small group)
	3.30pm – 5.30pm Parents Evening 2 (Oak, Chestnut and Sycamore Classes)
Thursday 26 th	Year 5/6 TAG Rugby Festival at Marlborough Rugby Club AM
	3.30pm – 7.00pm Parents Evening 2 whole school
Friday 27 th	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**, 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 resnt 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



Braeside Education Centre

February Half Term Activity Days! £45 per day

Adventure - Challenge - Fun

For ages: 8 – 12 years
(Siblings up to 14 years)

Drop Off - 8:30am – 9:00am
Pick Up - 4:30pm – 5:00pm

Monday 16th – Mixed Activity Day
Archery,
Life Line,
Low Ropes,
Orienteering



Tuesday 17th – Climbing Day
Climbing Wall,
Zip-Wire,
Abseiling,
High Ropes



Wednesday 18th – Survival Day
Fire Lighting,
Shelter Building,
Survival Craft



Please book online by visiting
www.braeside-education.co.uk/holiday-club

Contact us for more details;
01380 722637
info@braeside-education.co.uk



Braeside Education Centre

Activities will run in groups, in rotation, throughout the day.



Within My Reach

Time for Us

Would you like some support communicating as a couple?

Do you need help to understand each other and be better listeners to make positive changes in your relationship?

If so, then come along and join our group of like minded couples.



Triple P Family Transitions

Struggling With Co-Parenting? You're Not Alone.

Are you finding co-parenting challenging? Can't agree on the decisions being made for your child?

Parenting after separation isn't easy — but you don't have to go through it alone.

Join our co-parenting programme and connect with other separated parents/carers on a similar journey.

This supportive programme is designed to help you navigate the challenges of shared parenting and will empower you to put your child's wellbeing first.

Call us for more information or to ask for a space on: 0800 970 4669 or use the code opposite to sign up directly.

<https://wiltshiretogether.org.uk/alltogether>



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Family Hub
Wiltshire Council




Supporting Families in Wiltshire




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Aspire Education



STUDY SMART

Fully Funded Adult Education 19+ Education Support Course

6 Week Course Starting Monday 2nd March

Online LIVE Webinars
Monday - Friday
9.30 - 11.30 & 12.30 - 2.00
Support Session 4.00 - 4.30

Levels 1, 2 & 3 Available
Accredited Awards & Certificates in:

- *Prepare to Work in Schools
- *Wellbeing
- *Safeguarding & Prevent
- *Occupational Studies
- *Understanding Challenging Behaviours
- *Principles of SEN

www.studysmartuk.online