



ST KATHARINE'S
C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Friday 13th February 2026
NEWSLETTER No: 10

Our Value This Term Is...

Truthfulness



Dear Parents,

I like to think that I am a pretty positive person. I have always loved this quote by Maya Angelou; one of those that I remind myself of to keep me on course:

"I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights".

But... I have found myself moaning a lot about the weather of late. The grey and the wet have been relentless. As I looked at the children's muddy shoes after one play time this week I found myself marvelling at how incredible it is that my inbox isn't filled with emails complaining about the amount of elbow grease you are all having to expend cleaning them!

So, I have gone on the search for a bit of inspiration in preparation for what is currently threatening to be a damp half term.

The pragmatic... *"The best thing one can do when it's raining is to let it rain."* - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
The romantic... *"Life's not about waiting for the storm to pass.... It's about learning to dance in the rain."* - Vivian Greene

And the country and western... *"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."*

- Dolly Parton. I hope one of those might resonate with you!

We have had a truly busy term 3. We certainly came out of the traps at a lick with the arrival of our Ofsted guests on the 6th of January. We are looking forward to the

final report and to sharing that with everyone as soon as we are in possession of it.

Last week, Chestnut Class visited the aquarium in Bristol in support of their recent block of Geography learning on Seas and Oceans. They had a great day finding out more about the Oceans of the world and the many species that call the ocean home. They also enjoyed a taught session while there, finding out about the impact that humans are having on our oceans and the many brilliant ways that experts are working to conserve species and improve this precious part of our planet.

A small group of year two children travelled *all the way* to Burbage this week to take part in a multi-skills festival. They had a wonderful morning competing against five other local schools. Mrs Jowdie, who accompanied the group, was really impressed with their energy and resilience, especially considering that it rained all day. Not only did our children compete with the hard work, energy and exemplary behaviour that we expect from them but they also came back wearing medals, having come first overall! Congratulations to them. We have another trophy to add to our collection. I hope that you are all able to at least slow down a little next week. Perhaps allow the children a few mornings where they can stay in their pyjamas and gather a bit of energy for Term 4. I know that the team here at school having been living on fumes for a while now. Pyjamas are ready for action!

A very happy half term to you all.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 96.5%

Our end of year attendance target is: 97%

Farmer Time

This week we were visited by Mr (Geoff) Homer for the first of our planned 'Farmer Time' sessions. Mr Homer delivered two sessions: the first to children in Key Stage One and reception and the second to Key Stage Two. The children saw lots of recent photographs of things happening at this time of year on the farm and were able to ask lots of questions. We are really grateful to Geoff for this generous offer of his time and knowledge, supporting our children to understand a little more

about the landscape around them and the changes that they see happening throughout the year.

Sports Festivals

We are involved in two different sporting partnerships. The first is the Marlborough area partnership, involving schools (approximately 15) in the St Johns catchment area. The second is a partnership set up by the smaller schools (150 or less pupils), enabling these schools to play sport against each other and compete (sometimes more fairly) against schools with similar numbers. As a school we are committed to ensuring that all children have this opportunity. We prioritise children having access to these experiences and exposure to new sports over winning competitions. Sometimes a whole year group or class will attend a festival; Oak Class cricket festival and the upcoming Sycamore rugby are examples of these. Sometimes festival organisers ask that we only take a small group. We have a range of ways of organising who to take that might be a mixture or entirely from the list below:

- ✓ Asking who, in the first instance, is keen to go
- ✓ Identifying children who have a passion or excel in a sport or who might give time out of school to learn a sport
- ✓ Randomly choosing (lolly sticks) when there are too many volunteers for the number of places
- ✓ Children who have yet to take part in a festival

We have a tracker in place to ensure that we manage this as fairly as possible. No child will go to all festivals on offer when another has yet to go to any. We acknowledge that children might occasionally be upset if they are not able to attend a festival. We hope with a reminder of the processes above that you are able to support children to know that their time will come soon and that lots of effort is made to make selection as fair as it can be. Please be assured that it is managed sensitively and with the same level of careful explanation in school as well.

Football Goals

We have recently taken possession of 2 new outdoor football goals for the field. They have (of course) arrived flat pack. We are looking for a couple of volunteers to assemble the goals for us. If you can spare some time after half term, perhaps while waiting for your child while they are taking part in an after-school club, please can you let Hayley know in the office.

Many thanks.

Book Donation

The school library has recently expanded to include a collection of Roald Dahl books. Thanks go to Mrs Lashford for this kind donation.

Year Six Parents - SATs information Session

If you have a child in Year 6, please join us for an information session about the upcoming SATs at **3:30 – 4:30 on Tuesday 3rd March**. At this session Mr Sandall will talk about the week of SATs itself, what's involved and what you need to be aware of. He will also be sharing some valuable information about the tests themselves and some of the question types that your children will be encountering. A creche will be available for the children and any younger siblings. Please try to come along.

World Book Day (reminder) – it will be here before we know it!

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.*

World Day of Prayer

See Newsletter 9 for details

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.

So far, we have only one parent volunteer for cake making. If you can help - please come forward.

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.

Changes to Celebration Worship

There will be **no Celebration Worship in Term 4**. It is only a 5-week term and there are lots of other events

taking part – including World Day of Prayer and the Easter Service. We look forward to seeing you all on Friday afternoons in Term 5. Below is the schedule for Term 5 and 6. We will update this if any changes occur.

Celebration Worship Term 5 & 6

Friday Date	What?
17 th April	Sycamore Class Sharing
24 th April	Chestnut Class Sharing
1 st May	Oak Class Sharing
8 th May	Hazel Class Sharing
15 th May	No Celebration Worship
22 nd May	No Celebration Worship – Walk safe sessions
5 th June	Celebration Worship
12 th June	No Celebration Worship – Y6 residential
19 th June	Celebration Worship
26 th June	Celebration Worship
3 rd July	No Celebration Worship
10 th July	No Celebration Worship Summer Performance dress rehearsal
17 th July	Final Celebration Worship

Check Your Child's Vaccinations

We have been asked to share the following information by Wiltshire Council.

The World Health Organisation has confirmed that the UK has lost its “measles-free” status following a rise in measles cases from autumn 2023 to summer 2024.

This means the virus is circulating in the UK.

Why this matters?

Measles is highly infectious and spreads easily in nurseries, schools and play settings. While most children recover well, it can cause serious complications.

The MMRV vaccine offers the best protection against measles, mumps, rubella and chickenpox.

What you can do now

1. Check your child's vaccinations: Look in your child's Red Book or contact your GP to confirm they've had both doses.
2. Book any missed doses: Catch-up is available at any age - contact your GP for an appointment.
3. Remember the vaccine is free: All eligible children and adults can get the MMRV vaccine on the NHS at no cost.
4. Two doses = strong protection: Two doses provide 99% protection against measles and helps to prevent outbreaks.

Reliable information - links below

NHS/UKHSA leaflet: MMR for all: [general leaflet - GOV.UK](#)

UKHSA blog: [MMRV vaccination: a guide for parents and carers](#) - GOV.UK

We have updated our [Childhood vaccination postcard](#) to reflect MMRV becoming part of the routine immunisation schedule. This can be downloaded and ordered for free from the 'Find public health resources' website (product code 1265 4691 EN 001). If you are a health professional or work for a local authority, you can

order up to 500 copies as long as you are registered on the website. If you are a member of the public, you will be able to order up to five copies. If you are having any trouble ordering, please

email publichealthresources@ukhsa.gov.uk.

If you have questions about vaccination, your GP or health visitor can help.

Message on behalf of the PTA

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all keeping well and looking forward to a well-earned half term break. We have lots of exciting PTA events coming up and wanted to share a few important dates with you.

Our Mother's Day Shop will be taking place on Friday 13th March. More details will follow after half term. Gifts will be £5 each, with payment accepted on the day, and a pre-pay option also available.

A firm favourite with the children, the Bunny Bop returns on Friday 20th March! Get ready to dance the late afternoon away. Tickets will be available after half term, watch this space.

As previously mentioned, we had to move the cake sale due to the relentless rain. The new date is Friday 27th February, and we hope you can all join us for a Friday treat.

We are also starting to put together plans for our Summer Fete, which will be held on Saturday 16th May. If you have any ideas, or would like to sell or host a stall, please do get in touch. All ideas are very warmly welcomed.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term.

Warm wishes,

The PTA Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February	
Friday 13 th	Last Day of Term 3
	Valentine's Cake Sale after school RESCHEDULED
Tuesday 17 th	PTA Big Shed Tidy (9am – 3pm)

Thursday 19th	Mobile library visiting
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
	Rescheduled Valentine's Cake Sale after school NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
<i>March</i>	
Monday 2 nd	Reception Class - height, weight and vision screening
Tuesday 3rd	SATs information session for Year 6 parents
Thursday 5 th	World Book Day
Friday 6 th	World Day of Prayer service
Tuesday 10 th	Farmer Time class assemblies
Friday 13th	Mothers' Day Shop
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
	Bunny Bop 5:00 – 7:00pm
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
<i>April</i>	
Monday 13 th	First Day of Term 5
	First swimming session Year 3 (block of 10)
Wednesday 15 th	Braeside Year 4 Pre-residential meeting for parents 3.15pm
Friday 17 th	Mobile Library visiting
Monday 20 th	TD Day 6 (children not in school) Excalibur wide
Tuesday 21 st	Farmer Time class assemblies
Tuesday 28 th	Year 3/4 Athletics Festival at Burbage School (small group)

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 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

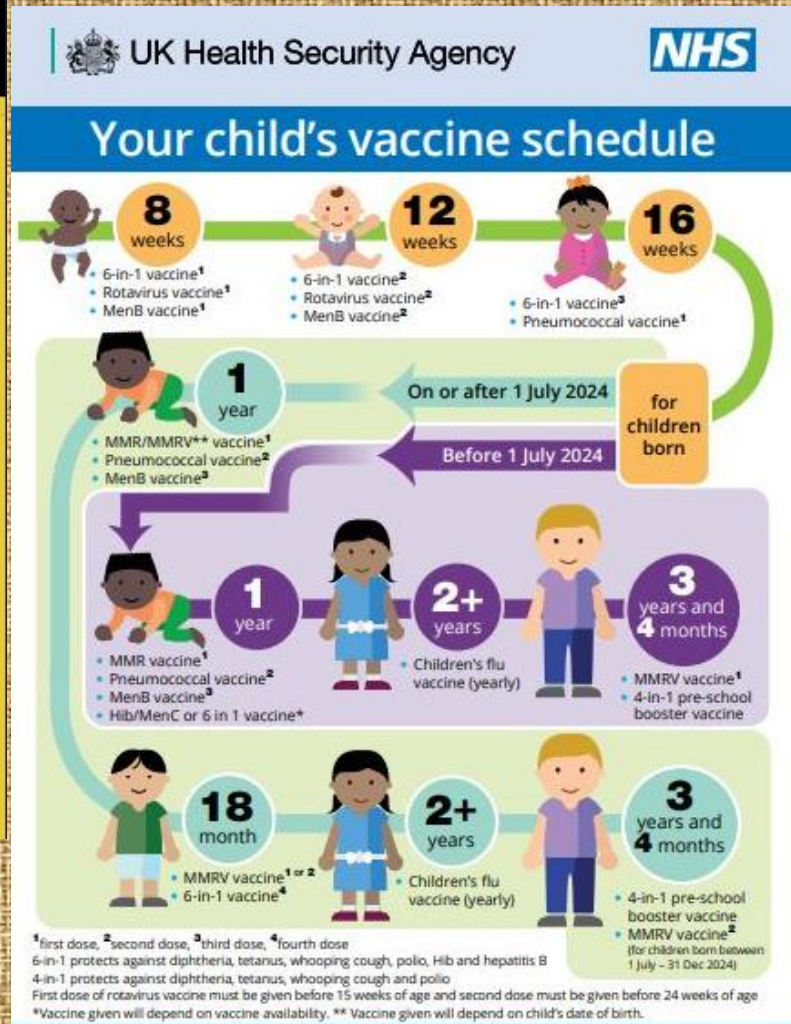
ALL RACES START AND END ON OUR SCHOOL FIELD, WITH BBQ AND FUN FOR ALL!

Places are LIMITED, please PRE-REGISTER

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

ST. KATHARINE'S SAVERNAKE

Charity number: 1004082



UK Health Security Agency NHS

Your child's vaccine schedule

8 weeks

- 6-in-1 vaccine¹
- Rotavirus vaccine¹
- MenB vaccine¹

12 weeks

- 6-in-1 vaccine²
- Rotavirus vaccine²
- MenB vaccine²

16 weeks

- 6-in-1 vaccine³
- Pneumococcal vaccine¹

1 year

- MMR/MMRV⁴ vaccine¹
- Pneumococcal vaccine²
- MenB vaccine³

18 month

- MMRV vaccine^{1 or 2}
- 6-in-1 vaccine⁴

2+ years

- Children's flu vaccine (yearly)

3 years and 4 months

- MMRV vaccine¹
- 4-in-1 pre-school booster vaccine (for children born between 1 July - 31 Dec 2024)

Timeline Notes:

- On or after 1 July 2024 for children born
- Before 1 July 2024

¹First dose, ²second dose, ³third dose, ⁴fourth dose
6-in-1 protects against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, Hib and hepatitis B
4-in-1 protects against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio
First dose of rotavirus vaccine must be given before 15 weeks of age and second dose must be given before 24 weeks of age
*Vaccine given will depend on vaccine availability. ** Vaccine given will depend on child's date of birth.

February Half Term in TreeHouse

Come and join us for glorious days at our Holiday Club, packed with adventures and experiences to remember

February Holiday Club

Opening Times: 8:30am - 5.00pm
£43.75 + activity supplements *

Special Visitors:

Kim Wakeham - Landscape Archaeologist and Young Archaeologist Club member
Natalie Neal Ceramics
Lyla Foy - Music Workshop

MON 16 TreeHouse at Burbage Archaeology with Kim Exploring Burbage and enjoying some fresh air adventure * £3.00	TUE 17 TreeHouse at Burbage Pancake Making Mix, flip, and enjoy making delicious pancakes	WED 18 TreeHouse at Burbage Ceramics with Natalie Creative fun and imagination * £3.00	THU 19 TreeHouse at Burbage Music with Lyla Fun with songs and sounds * £3.00	FRI 20 Closed
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Location:
TreeHouse at Burbage - Burbage Primary School, Blackman's Ln, Burbage SN8 3TP

To book places, or for more information, email treehouse@sunflowers-grafton.co.uk

Sunflowers at Grafton

Follow your child's vaccine schedule to protect them against illnesses

Stick this timeline up as a useful reminder



HUGS - Help Ukraine Group Support

in association with: Dragon Oxford Aid to Ukraine, Stanislav Induchny and The Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership (SHAP)



COLLECTION OF AID FOR UKRAINE

Tuesday 17th February 2026 9.00am-2.00pm

Hungerford Town Football Club

Bulpit Lane, Hungerford, Berks RG17 0AY

Please help supply these essential items to frontline communities

MEDICAL

- IN DATE medications including painkillers
- cold/flu remedies, multivitamins
- haemorrhoid cream/suppositories
- medical & surgical supplies & first aid kits
- dressings & bandages, Sudacrem, Germolene
- burns dressings & trauma bandages
- athletes foot sprays & creams, anti-itch cream
- crutches, wheelchairs & mobility aids
- gym/rehab equipment

SANITARY & TOILETRIES (unopened)

- wet wipes & personal hygiene products
- hard soap, shampoo, toothbrushes/toothpaste
- unscented anti-chafe talc, lip balm
- disposable razors, shaving gel/foam
- hair trimmers (corded or cordless)
- nappies, tampons, sanitary & incontinence pads
- washing powder, washing-up liquid, loo rolls

CLOTHES & FOOTWEAR (only as listed)

- premature, baby & children's clothes
- clean hiking boots, insoles & warm socks
- good condition trainers, light weight socks
- dark colour fleeces, plain dark t-shirts
- military grade camo kit (adult sizes)
- dark colour adult waterproofs
- jogging bottoms, new dark underwear (M/F)
- dark beanie hats & balaclavas, warm gloves

BEDDING (clean & unstained)

- bedding and good condition towels
- blankets: cellular & fleece **only**
- duvets/pillows: synthetic **only**

All items **CLEAN** and ready to use please and **NO OTHER ADULT CLOTHING** at this time.

Sorry, no donations can be accepted before the day.

Please get in touch for more details or to volunteer help

Tony : 07999 693399

Mandy : 07762 935804



www.helpukraine.co.uk

www.facebook.com/helpukrainegroupsupport

ELECTRONICS & OPTICS (in working order)

- unlocked tablets, laptops, smart phones & older working mobiles (all with chargers if possible)
- LED hand/head torches (rechargeable, battery or solar, preferably with red light option)
- batteries (AA/AAA)
- power banks; chargers (mains or solar)
- binoculars/monocular
- laser rangefinders

TOOLS (only as listed)

- working generators & power tools
- new & good used spanner & socket sets
- car accessories: battery chargers, tyre inflators, jump leads, tow ropes, winches
- mechanics' general-purpose gloves (L & XL)
- new tenon hand saws; new hand axes
- duct tape

OUTDOOR LIVING

- tents (min. 2 person)
- groundsheets, roll mats, sleeping bags, camp beds, folding camping chairs, tarpaulins
- 'Hot Hands' chemical hand & foot warmers
- water purification tablets
- Thermos flasks/bottles **metal-lined**
- kitchen paper towels

FOOD (dry & non-perishable; no jars)

- rice, pasta, porridge, tinned meat/fish
- coffee, tea, energy bars, wrapped sweets
- dried mixed fruit, nuts, boxed dates

PET SUPPLIES

- dog/cat food, animal meds, other pet products



Exciting News!

Shoes have arrived at Radish Loves!

For the first time, we are thrilled to introduce a children's shoe collection into our shop!

We warmly invite you to visit us and explore a range that combine comfort, durability and great design.

We pride ourselves on offering:

- Specialist, in-store shoe fitting by trained staff;
- A good range of school shoes in multiple widths;
- Thoughtful advice for parents of early walkers through to secondary-age children;
- A friendly, personal service that larger chains often cannot offer.

Thank you for being part of our community and supporting our growing store. We can't wait to help your little ones step into something new!

Call us: 01672 880127

<https://radishloves.com>

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5 High Street, Marlborough,
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