



ST KATHARINE'S

C of E

PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Friday 6th March 2026

NEWSLETTER No: 11

Our Value This Term Is...

Compassion



Dear Parents,

A five week term is quite a thing... no sooner has it started than you are almost half way through! It has been such a joy to see the sunshine this week and with that the drying out of the mud and the puddles. We are not quite out of the rainy woods yet but I hope that the worst of it is behind us and we can look ahead to the summer term and all the lovely things that come with it. Please check the Key Dates Planner for all Term 5 and 6 dates. A final version will be with you after Easter to ensure you are as up to date with events as we are, at the time of publishing.

Last week it was Sycamore who were busy. A group of 10 Year 6 pupils travelled to Bristol with Mrs Sandall to take part in the First Lego League Challenge. The children built and programmed a Lego robot to tackle a range of challenges, had to complete a research project, choosing to focus on ground penetrating radar and were also judged on their team work and problem solving. On the day, our brilliant team were consistently in first place in the robot performance rounds, hitting the highest score of the day by any team of 240 points. As a result, they won the robot performance category. This is a great opportunity for our oldest learners, exposing them to a wealth of skills, not just in technology but in presenting, public speaking and team work. We are very proud of all of them.



On Friday, Sycamore visited St John's church in Pewsey who were hosting the Life of Jesus exhibition. This funded opportunity gave the children more insight into the stories surrounding Jesus' life, supporting them to understand more about Christianity as a world faith. As staff, we have been involved in the first of two pieces of training for the development of spelling teaching in Key Stage 2. The programme is called '[Sounds and Syllables](#)'. English is a complex language with 26 individual letters making 44 (sounds) phonemes. Just the 'ai' sound alone can be represented in multiple ways: ai (rain), ay (play), a-e(make), a(apron), ea (steak), ey(survey), ei (vein), et(ballet) and eigh (sleigh) It is no surprise that it takes a while to master spelling! We have our second training session next week and are looking forward to developing further this aspect of our teaching. Once we have put our plans into action, we will be sharing our learning with you... watch this space!

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%

Parents' Evenings

Parents will have received an email today giving details about the upcoming Parents' Evenings happening on **Tuesday 24th** and **Thursday 26th March**. The sessions are being held via video call. The booking window for making appointments is **9th to 19th March**.

Sharing Our Learning Afternoon

Prior to parents' evenings (on 24th and 26th March) there is an opportunity for you to come into school on Friday 20th March 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.

Sharing our learning is available from 2.30 – 3.15pm for all parents. However, to facilitate both rugby after school club and the Bunny Bop on the same day, **Sycamore Class parents** (with children in rugby club) are invited to share learning with their child from 8.30 – 9.00/9.15am that day. If your Sycamore Class child is playing rugby and you opt for the afternoon session, please understand that your child's books will be available for you to look at but your child will not be able to do this with you.

For parents attending the 2.30 – 3.15pm slot, 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.

After School – Staying and Playing

We love the fact that the children at St Katharine's can stay and play at the end of the day. I have come to see it as offering a space for our children and families that is a bit like the village green. Without this offer I don't think that our community would be quite the warm and welcoming place that it is. Please know that this is not without its challenges for us. From a health and safety perspective we are relying on you as parents and carers to be vigilant and **insist** that children play according to the rules that they play by in school. Our recent Ofsted praised behaviour. I also use the word 'exemplary' to describe what we see in school, day in and day out. That said, children are children and they are still learning; they will at times need our support.

Our 3 school rules are very simple. We are: **Respectful, Considerate and Safe**. Please ensure that after school play is safe and respectful and if you are at all uncertain about a playground rule please check with a member of staff.

A few key things to bear in mind:

- ✓ Only come **down** the slide
- ✓ 5 children maximum at the top of the tower
- ✓ Benches are for sitting on, not for climbing
- ✓ The field is out of bounds for after school stay and play (*sorry but it is too hard to supervise properly*)
- ✓ Play fighting/rough play is not allowed in school (it almost always leads to someone getting hurt). We talk to our children about 'kind hands' – if you see that is not happening, please step in.

If you know your child is likely to want to stay and play, please encourage them to use the toilet at 3:15pm. We almost always have meetings or are involved in other tasks at the end of the day and as such staff cannot be letting children in to use the loo. With the evenings stretching out, we ask that everyone has left by 4:00pm or by the end of clubs if you are waiting for one to finish. We cannot leave until the site is empty.

Finally, we ask that children are not using adult phones or ipads on school premises. You will all have your own agreed household rules for the use of devices. If these are given to children on the playground there is an assumption that everyone is happy with that for their child. We cannot guarantee children's safety if they have access to a device without the filtering technology that we have in place to keep them safe in school. We understand that you might have your phones to hand and occasionally need to check a message or take a call. If at all possible, please keep devices in bags and pockets; think of it as a welcome break for you in our busy device filled lives.

Music for Miniatures

On **Wednesday 11th March** we are excited to be hosting Music for Miniatures. All classes will experience a traditional concert transformed into an interactive and immersive experience tailored for children. Please do ask your child to tell you about it afterwards. We will put a item on the News page on the website too.

Red Nose Day – March 20th

We are asking that children come to school wearing something red or, if children have a red-nose day T-shirt or other item of clothing related to this annual fundraiser, they can wear that. This is not a non-school uniform day so these items are in place of an item of uniform. Class teachers will give clear instructions to the children about this. Please send your child to school with a donation for this worthy cause. We are suggesting £1 - £2.

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

Gymnastics

info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk

After school – Wed: Year groups 2-6

Football

info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk

After school – Wed: Year groups 4-6

Lost Property

Please call in and look through the lost property basket. Anything left in the final week of term (week commencing 23rd March) will be put on a table near the school gate at the end of the day for parents to look through. Any property remaining at the end of term will be put into the donation station or given to local charity shops. Please make sure that everything is named. We can then easily return items to their rightful owner.

Message on behalf of the PTA

Dear Parents and Carers,

A big thank you to everyone who baked and bought the delicious cakes on Friday. We raised an amazing £200!

We will be running our Mother’s Day Shop on Friday 13th March (next Friday). Please send your child to school with £5, and they will be able to choose a lovely surprise to bring home. Alternatively, there will be a pre-payment option available, details for this will be sent out on Monday. Any items not sold will be available to purchase in the playground after school.

As you are probably aware, tickets are now on sale for the Bunny Bop! Please visit the link below to purchase your tickets:

<https://www.pta-events.com/stkatharines/index.cfm?event=shop>

As always, any help during the event or afterwards with tidying up is greatly appreciated.

Finally, preparations are well underway for this year’s School Fete on 16th May. If you would like to host a stall or help in any way, please do get in touch. These events can only run with the support of volunteers, so any help is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend,

The PTA Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>March</i>	
Friday 6 th	World Day of Prayer service
Tuesday 10 th	Farmer Time class assemblies
Wednesday 11th	Music for Miniatures
Friday 13 th	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 Sycamore Class parents of rugby club children – 8.30 – 9.00/9.15am
	Mobile library visiting
	Red Nose Day
	Final After School TAG Rugby Club Year 5/6 PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME FOR THIS FINAL SESSION - 2.30- 3.30pm
Tuesday 24 th	Bunny Bop 5:00 – 7:00pm
	Year 3/4 Cricket Festival event at St. Katharine’s School (small group) 3.30 – 5.30pm Parents Evening 2 (Oak, Chestnut and Sycamore Classes)
Thursday 26 th	Year 5/6 TAG Rugby Festival at Marlborough Rugby Club AM
	3.30 – 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 resent 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

Medals
FOR ALL
FINISHERS

ADULTS
&
CHILDREN
Welcome

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



BUNNY BOY FRIDAY 20th MARCH!



5pm - 7pm at
School

ENTRIES

Ticket includes:
DJ Lee Matthews
Snacks & Squash
Face paint & Temporary
Tattoo Station
Colouring & Crafts

KS1 children to be
accompanied by an
adult

Tickets available at

<https://www.pta-events.com/stkatharines>

Due to safety reasons we can't allow younger siblings. The event will be for St Katharines pupils only.



Is your child a member of the library?

it's FREE and can make a real difference!

Struggling to read doesn't just hold a child back in school – it holds them back in life.

- Longer Life Expectancy
- Improved Mental Health
- Career Prospects
- Better Qualifications
- Higher Confidence

CLOSE THE LITERACY GAP

MIND THE GAP
PART OF THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026



Join by scanning the QR code or visit <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries-join-the-library>.



YOUNG PERFORMERS

AGES 4-7 (KS1)

FREE

TASTER SESSION

SATURDAY 28TH FEB 2026

10-11.15AM

URC CHURCH HALL,
HUNGERFORD HIGH ST.

To find out more and register please email:

thtc.membership@wccouncil.com



Braeside Education Centre

Braeside's Able, Gifted, Talented and Enrichment course pack for Spring/Summer 2026 is now available.

These courses will run from April 2026 – July 2026.

All details of individual courses can be obtained from our website, as well as a full downloadable pdf version of the whole booklet. www.braeside-education.co.uk

Within the booklet, for the first time we are offering the opportunity for year ones to attend a course at Braeside. We are currently running a Numeracy course for students. Depending on the uptake we are planning to include a literacy course for year one's in 2027.

Braeside have a website which enables parents/carers/schools to book spaces on our courses by either:

- **Completing our online application form on our website www.braeside-education.co.uk**
Website applicants will need to be given a reference code by their school.
Course places cannot be booked without this code.
- Sending paper application forms to the following address:

AGTE Coordinator
Braeside Education Centre
Bath Road
Devizes
SN10 2AP