



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

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

**Friday 1st May 2026
NEWSLETTER No: 14**

Our Value This Term Is...



Dear Parents,

Another busy fortnight that brings us to the end of week three. It is at this time of year that things really begin to pick up pace; one glance at the calendar tells me there are busy times to come. There are planned trips for every class, two residentials and lots of internal activities that will be exciting for the children. Please keep an eye on the dates section of the newsletter, whilst most of what we do is planned well in advance things will crop up.

Last week we had the 3rd of our planned Farmer Time sessions. Geoff came into school this time, shared photographs and updates about what is going on at this time of year on the farm. It is a hugely generous offer of time that Geoff has given to the school this year. The children have loved it and been so interested and engaged each time. It has quickly become a bit of a highlight of the term! Geoff and the team here will be talking about how we might take this forward next year – the key focus being that the children understand a little more about the incredible environment that surrounds them here at St Katharine's and the eco-systems that support that.

On Friday last week our governors were in school spending time in classrooms as part of their remit to understand the school 'through the eyes of the child'. As a group, our governors get a great insight into many aspects of school life. They come to understand the school's priorities and strategic planning alongside information about how lessons are delivered, teaching strategies and curriculum planning. Whenever governors are in school, they can see for themselves how the things we talk about in our meetings are implemented but most importantly they are tasked with seeing how school is experienced by children.

Ultimately, that is the sole reason we are all here! On Tuesday (the coldest and windiest day of the entire week) we hosted the small school athletics festival. As part of our 'small schools' sports partnership, funded by the sports grant we receive from the DFE, we use In2Sport to run a few festivals across the year for the benefit of all year groups. This athletics festival was for 10 children from Chestnut Class. Despite the unseasonal weather they all seemed to enjoy their day. At least that is what they told us through chattering teeth!

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 96.1%

Our end of year attendance target is: 97%

We are happy to be able to report a slight increase in the attendance figure. Let's hope it is the start of an upwards trend as the weather improves, and we head towards the end of the academic year and our 97% target!

Sunny Days

We hope that the sunshine will be with us for much of the summer terms. On days that are predicted to be sunny and warm, please ensure that children have water bottles in school, sun hats to protect faces and backs of necks and that you have applied sunscreen in the morning. There are plenty of 8hour+ products on the market – if you can use one of these, applied before school, there shouldn't be a need for children to bring creams in to school with them. If you can imagine your application of cream process multiplied by 93 you will hopefully understand this request.

School Council News

The job of our school council is to be a voice for all the children. As with all roles of this kind the hard work is not always visible. That cannot be said of our current councillors. Having received a donation from the PTA, to spend in consultation with their peers, a brand-new Teepee Tent has been purchased. We are hoping that the tent will be enjoyed throughout the summer months in all sorts of ways. It will provide a space at lunchtime for a small group to access for quiet activities as well as an additional teaching space as and when relevant. Our councillors are busy creating a Teepee code of conduct to share with everyone next week along with a rota so that everyone has a chance to use it. We have also purchased some picnic blankets for use at lunchtime on the field. These can be used for those children who might want to sit and talk, those who might want to have a lie down and cloud gaze or for those who might want to get up close to the wildflowers and see what bugs can be spotted. We have also purchased some magnifying glasses for this very purpose. As tempting as it is, please do not allow children into the Teepee after school – please also remember that the field is not an unsupervised play space at the end of day either.

Thank you as always for your support and co-operation and your incredible support each year to the PTA that enables us to enhance our school in exactly this way.



All Things London Marathon

For those of you that don't yet know, two of our parent community, Chris Rhodes and Milly Fortune, ran the London Marathon last weekend.

Milly Fortune did this to raise money not only for a charity very close to her heart, Pancreatic Cancer research but also for St Katharine's. At the time of writing I don't quite know what Milly's final amount raised is but I do know that she smashed the target that she set herself at the beginning, which was £5000. Congratulations to them both. They were in good company, as it was in this year's marathon that the sub-2-hour record was beaten! Our huge thanks to Milly for setting out to raise money for the school – we will begin thinking about how best to use that money in support of children's sport in school. A final shout out for Lucy Speed and Fern Betts whose winning designs Milly wore

on her vest and that supported her all the way round the 26.2 miles!

Gem Day Plans – Friday 15th May

Due to events beyond our control in Terms 3 and 4 we are a little behind in our planning for the first Gem Day of the year. School council have canvassed the opinions of their peers and have come to the decision that Gem Day will consist of:

- A whole school non-uniform day
- An afternoon of planned activities that children can opt to take part in. *These will involve board games, sports, art, craft and building/construction etc...*
- *If the weather is lovely and by popular request the children have asked for an extended playtime on the field in the afternoon as part of the afternoon. On a sunny day at St Katharine's there are not many better places to be!*

Other than to come to school in non-school uniform – ideally suitable for active play, there is nothing more to do other than remember the date!

Exciting News!

Toilet Refurbishment, Lockers and funding...

During the summer we are having all school toilets refurbished. Once done this will create a small, quiet learning space adjacent to the library (where the Y3,4 and 5 lockers currently are). We will use this space for small group sessions, music lessons, 1-1 work and anything that requires some additional breakout learning space from the classroom. We are very excited about this project, funded through a successful SCA (schools condition allocation) through the Excalibur central estates team. As a consequence, we are purchasing new outdoor lockers and a protective canopy. These will be funded by our PTA. Originally; we were looking to support the creation of an additional learning space with the use of PTA funds. Because the toilet refurbishment enabled the creation of the additional learning space (a happy, secondary outcome) and because funding for this will fall within the successful SCA bid, the PTA have agreed to fund the new lockers.

We are looking to rehome the 14 individual metal locker units (4 lockers per unit – 56 individual lockers) that the children are currently using to store their belongings (*please see photographs below*).



If you are aware of a local club or society that would be able to put these to good use, or if you are looking for some lockers for an outbuilding or garage perhaps, please let Hayley know in the office. The lockers will be available to take away at the end of term 6; we are inviting donations – every little helps!



BBQ

You might have noticed that we have been having a clear up around site recently and have managed to fill a skip! There is an old BBQ on site which unfortunately will not fit in the skip. If anyone has a vehicle/trailer and is able to take the BBQ to the tip for us we would be very grateful. If you think you can help, please get in touch with Hayley in the office. Many thanks.

Message on behalf of the PTA

Dear parents and carers,

We are delighted to share that we are now part of the Tesco Token Scheme in Marlborough.

Please help spread the word far and wide. Every token collected when shopping can help support our school and bring us closer to securing the full grant. Fingers crossed we can win!

As I'm sure you are all aware, the school fete is fast approaching. We would be very grateful for any donations, which can be given to any PTA member or left by the shed at the end of the day. A huge thank you to everyone who has already contributed so generously. We are also always looking for more volunteers, the more the merrier!

Finally, we would like to say how incredibly proud we are of Milly for completing the marathon and raising an amazing amount of money for both pancreatic cancer research and our school. It is a truly inspiring achievement, and a wonderful example of what determination and community spirit can accomplish.

We hope Milly's efforts encourage other parents to consider taking on their own sponsorship challenges.

Whether big or small, every contribution can make a meaningful difference and help support our school community. If you've ever thought about doing something similar, now might be the perfect time to get involved!

Have a lovely weekend,

The PTA Team

Message on behalf of the Fun Run Team

The Savernake Fun Run is just 8 weeks away! Don't forget to sign up at www.savernake10k.co.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>May</i>	
Monday 4 th	Bank Holiday School Closed
Wednesday 6 th	Year 6 Red Ridge Pre-residential parents meeting 3.15pm
Monday 11 th – 14 th	KS2 SATs week
Tuesday 12th	Hazel Class trip to Bowood
Friday 15 th	Mobile Library visiting
	GEM day
Saturday 16 th	PTA Mayday Fete
Sunday 17 th	Triathlon event at Marlborough College
Wednesday 20 th – Friday 22 nd	Year 4 Braeside Residential
Friday 22 nd	Walk Safe road safety training Years 1,3 and 6
	Last day of Term 5
<i>June</i>	
Monday 1 st	First Day of Term 6
Tuesday 2 nd	Whole school photograph and Year 6
Monday 1 st (fortnight beginning)	Year 4 Multiplication check

Monday 1 st (week beginning)	Nursery visits for 2026 intake begin this week
Friday 5th	Hazel Class Stonebridge, Marlborough visit
Monday 8 th (week beginning)	Year 1 Phonics screening check week
	Red Ridge Residential – Year 6
Tuesday 9 th	Farmer time class assemblies
Friday 12th	Mobile Library visiting
Monday 15 th	Year 6 out of catchment transition visit at St John's
Tuesday 16 th	New Reception parent information evening 6pm - 7.30pm
	Whole school - Emergency Awareness Training, Wiltshire Air Ambulance
Thursday 18 th	Year 6 Parents' Info Evening at St. John's
	Year 5/6 Quad Kids at Marlborough College
	Final Running Club (after school) session (Years 2-6)
Friday 19 th	Chestnut Class – Anglo Saxon Day at school
	PTA Father's Day shop (1:30pm-3:00pm)
Monday 22 nd	Year 6 Uniform Fitting Evening at St. John's
	Bikeability – Year 6 (day 1)
Tuesday 23 rd	Bikeability – Year 6 (day 2)
	Oak Class visit to Natural History Museum, Oxford
Thursday 25 th	Sycamore Class trip to Lulworth Cove
Saturday 27 th	Savernake 3K & 10K Fun Run
Tuesday 30 th	Year 5/6 Rounders at St Katharine's School (small group)

Newsletter. Key Dates Planners V3 is the final version this academic year.

Remaining TD Days 2025/26
20th April 2026

Please Note

We will close at 1:15pm on the following end of term date:

- **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

Please also refer to the **Key Dates Planner V3**, 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

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



St Katharine's School

FÊTE

Saturday 16th May
12-4pm
Free Entry

Inflatable Fun - Tombolas - BBQ - Bar
Ice-cream from The Milk Yard
Face Painting - Glitter Tattoos

Plus Second Hand Toys, Clothes & Books,
Competitions, Activities & Games

Special visits from the Marlborough Town
Crier & Marlborough Police & Fire Services

Join the St Katharine's
Family for Fun for
Everyone!

May Half Term in TreeHouse

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



May Holiday Club

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

TreeHouse is heading **Out & About** this half term - enjoying exciting trips, new experiences, and plenty of fresh air adventures along the way!

MON 25	TUE 26	WED 27	THU 28	FRI 29
Closed Bank Holiday	Avebury Stone Circle & Savernake Forest Exploring and enjoying nature	Milestone Museum Can you solve the mystery? * £5.00	Old Wardour Castle Super English Heritage Castle * £3.00	Closed

Milestone Museum - Sherlock Holmes & the Missing Thornycroft Blueprint

Location: Drop off & Collection

Sunflowers at Grafton - Sunflowers at Grafton, The Green, East Grafton, SN8 3DB

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



Join Wildlife Watch at Bay Meadows



Fun wildlife activities for primary-aged children and accompanying adults

We will be exploring the River Og with river dipping, raft making and wildlife tracking.

WHEN & WHERE?

Saturday 2nd May, 10am - 12noon
Bay Meadows, Marlborough

BOOKING & COST

Booking required
Suggested donation
£2.50 per child, adults free



Email

marlboroughwildlifewatch@wiltshirewildlife.org
to find out more and book.

Registered Charity Number: 266202
Company Registration Number: 730536
Elm Tree Court, Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1NJ

May Half Term 2026

FACE
The Activity Company

Tuesday 26th
Gymnastics Circuit
Tag Rugby
Staff Vs Kids
Dodgeball
Archery
Flag Football

Wednesday 27th
Hockey
Football
Nerf
Handball
Water Fight
Wheelie Wednesday

Thursday 28th
Cricket
Football
Dodgeball
Corner Ball
Hide and Seek
Benchball

8:30am-5:00pm 5-11 year olds £35 a day
10% discount on bookings made before 3rd May



STAGE COACH

MARLBOROUGH



Afternoon Main Stages

Make new friends, learn new skills and build confidence!

Saturdays 2pm-5pm
Pewsey Vale School, Wilcot Road, SN9 5EW
Tuition in drama, dance and singing

Inclusive, welcoming and fun
07703120108
marlborough@stagecoach.co.uk

not just tennis

07917 800 045 (Text message only)
Email: catherine@notjusttennis.co.uk

2026

Tennis & Sporting Activities at
Ramsbury Tennis Club with
Catherine & coaching team

MAIN FOCUS TENNIS
(PLEASE NOTE THE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS)

May Half Term Dates:
26th - 28th May

SUMMER DATES:
28th - 30th July
3rd - 6th August
10th - 13th August

DETAILS:
FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-12 PLUS YOUNG TEENS GROUP 13-15 (ALL ABILITIES)

COST: £35.00 PER CHILD PER DAY FOR RAMSBURY TENNIS CLUB MEMBERS.
AN ADDITIONAL £5.00 PER CAMP FEE FOR NON-MEMBERS.

PLEASE EMAIL US ASAP IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK ON - THESE ARE VERY POPULAR.
CATHERINE@NOTJUSTTENNIS.CO.UK

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!
Ramsbury Tennis Club Ramsbury Recreation Ground, Hilldrop Lane SN8 2RA

