



ST KATHARINE'S

C of E

PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Friday 10th July 2026

NEWSLETTER No: 18

Our Value This Term Is...



Dear Parents,

I think we are officially at the end of term when everything becomes a bit of a blur! Weeks and days are flashing by so quickly it is hard to pin down what happened, when! It has been 3 weeks since the last newsletter and a lot has happened.

Oak Class travelled to Oxford to visit the Natural History Museum, it was at the beginning of the week that saw record breaking temperatures and luckily for them this trip was early enough in the week to be unaffected. Whilst the extraordinary advice to close schools might have meant a bit of paddling pool fun for children, we know that school closure is never easy for adults. Whilst we acted according to advice and risk assessment, we were disappointed to have to close. For Sycamore this meant that we missed an exciting opportunity to bring our Geography learning on Coasts, to life; we were forced to cancel the trip to Lulworth Cove. Sadly, we have not been able to reinstate the trip and learning about the Lulworth Crumple and the formation of Durdle Dor has needed to be classroom based. Our thanks to the children who whilst disappointed have managed this gracefully. Last week we held a rounders tournament for a group of children from years five and six, here at St Katharine's. Sadly, almost all of the local teams pulled out apart from Easton Royal. The fixture went ahead, supported by In2Sport and I can proudly say that St Katharine's were victorious!

This week has been another busy one. Teachers are carefully supporting their classes to navigate the 'things that are not quite the same today'. Timetables are certainly varied!

Our adventure day was a success, with activities planned both on the school field and in the Spinney. There were some tired faces at the end of the day! As this week ends, we are looking forward to watching the summer production of *Pantastic* in the Friday dress rehearsal. Lots of hard work has gone into this production, not least by the children as they have learnt lines, songs and memorised stage directions. As I write I have heard it but not yet seen it; I can't wait. Chestnut visited Stonebridge today in support of their Geography learning about rivers, again planned to bring classroom learning to life. Our thanks to the ARK charitable trust who offer this learning to local children for free. Uniquely this is a visit that we do not need any funding to support. Free and memorable – a perfect combination for all involved!

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 96.4%

Our end of year attendance target is: 97%

Thank you to everyone for your help and support with attendance this year. We are just shy of our target and will aim for 97% again next year. We know that you take attendance seriously and communicate with us using the proper process when you need to take children out of school for any reason. Thank you for your ongoing support to help us ensure that more children are here for more of the time.

A bit of data for you:

- We are ranked 47th out of 201 for overall attendance compared to other Wiltshire schools
- We are ranked in the 2nd decile (top 10-20%) of schools nationally.

If we had hit our target of 97% that would take us comfortably into the top 10% of schools.

We will continue working together to make that happen.

Class structure academic year 2026/27

Our class structure remains unchanged for the 2026/27 academic year.

- **Reception** - Hazel – Class Mrs Freeman (0.8) & Mrs Ellaby (0.2)
- **Y1/2** Oak – Mrs Godlement
- **Y3/4** Chestnut – Mrs Baird (0.4) and Mrs Ellaby (0.6)
- **Y5/6** Sycamore – Mr Sandall

Reporting to Parents

Reports went out on Friday 3rd July with an opportunity this week for anyone to make an appointment to meet with teachers to discuss anything unclear or that needed further explanation. We hope that the parent -teacher cycle, across the academic year that provides opportunities to:

- ✓ see children's work (sharing our learning afternoons)
- ✓ talk to teachers (x 2 online parent meetings + 1 optional)
- ✓ reports

enables you all to feel that you are clear about progress and achievement alongside any areas of concern.

Our decision for parent meetings to be held online has been made to ensure that timings are fair, that appointments don't overrun, for parents to manage meetings for more than one child easily and to support travel and childcare arrangements. Please know that if you are ever at all concerned about progress whether that is academic or of a more pastoral nature, teachers are very happy to find time to meet face to face. Please don't hesitate to talk to us. Equally if teachers have a concern that they feel would benefit from a meeting they will also communicate that with you.

The relationship between school and home is very important and something that we value.

Mrs Katy Munro – Early Retirement

Everyone at St Katharine's Primary School will be sorry to see Mrs Munro leave at the end of this academic year. After 14 years working across two Excalibur primary schools – first at Great Bedwyn and more recently at St Katharine's – Katy has decided to take early retirement. Throughout her time with us, Katy has made a huge contribution in her role as Finance Officer and has been a valued member of the school community. Everyone at St Katharine's would like to say a big thank you for all her hard work, dedication and support over the years. We wish Katy a happy and well-deserved retirement and all the very best for the future.

Gem Day – Tuesday 21st July - Reminder

As part of our end of year celebrations, we always put a Gem Day into the penultimate day of the school calendar. This year we are returning to one of our

favourite ways to spend this day, with a whole school walk in the forest with a picnic at the Column. Children will need to come dressed in comfy, weather appropriate, forest school clothing, bring a packed lunch and water bottle to school with them (*there will be no Sue Brady lunches on this day*). This is the simplest of ways to spend a day and in our busy, stimulation filled lives we feel it is one of the most joyful. To watch the children walking and talking together, mixing age groups, with older children supporting younger is a privilege, one which always reminds me how lucky we are to serve such a special school community. If you would like to join us as a volunteer and know that your own child/ren will manage that happily (no piggy backs of your own children allowed!), then please contact Hayley in the school office to register your interest. We have a few volunteers already – please let us know if you would like to be added to the list. There *might* be a treat in it for our volunteers at the end of the day! Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate younger (pre-school) siblings or dogs on our walk.

Sports Day Practise

We are planning to familiarise the children with some of the events that will feature in our Sports Day early next week. Please can all children come to school in PE kit on Tuesday 14th so that they are ready to take part.

Sports Day and Sports Day Backup

Our planned Sports Day is Friday 17th July, starting at 9:30. Parents are warmly welcome to come and watch. We have a back-up plan of Monday 20th (at the same time of 9:30) should the weather forecast lead us to cancel.

We will aim to email out a decision to cancel the night before or by 8:00am at the very latest on the morning of Sports Day, if there is a change to our plans.

Summer Performance – Pantastic, The Peter Pan Musical

We are very excited about the upcoming performances of Pantastic by Sycamore Class on **Tuesday 14th** and **Wednesday 15th July**.

It has been an absolute pleasure to hear them rehearsing in the hall in recent weeks.

Ticket have sold like 'hot cakes' and both nights are now sold out. *If you are yet to pay for reserved tickets, please remember to call in to Reception with the cash before the performances start on Tuesday.*

Red Nose Day

The children have raised a fantastic **£90** through wearing something red for Comic Relief recently. Thank you for supporting them.

Summer Reading Challenge

In addition to our engagement with the Fonetti 'Read Aloud Challenge'. The Wiltshire library Summer Reading Challenge is called Read to the Beat. This year children aged 4 to 11 can personalise their challenge by selecting up to six reading goals. They'll collect stickers for each goal reached, with a medal and certificate for everyone who ticks off all six goals. Children can sign up for **free** at any Wiltshire library from **Saturday 4th July** to receive a free sticker booklet, helping boost their reading confidence and enjoyment.

Personal Data Check

Please can we ask parents to check that the personal data we currently hold on you, your emergency contact/s and your child/ren on Bromcom (our MIS system) is up to date. If you move house or change your phone number (work, mobile or home) for example, please remember to let us know. You can make amendments to the information yourself by logging into your [MCAS](#) account. Alternatively, feel free to email Hayley on admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk.

Prescription Medications

All school held medicines will be sent home on the final day of term. Please can we ask that any medication handed in at the beginning of next term come in accompanied with a newly completed *Administration of Medicines* form. This form can be found on the final page of the *Managing Medical Needs Policy* ([link provided](#)) or can be provided by Hayley upon request.

Uniform

Before you all purchase new shoes for the new academic year in September please think about items that will enable your child to be as active as possible. Probably the most important item of clothes that we all wear is our shoes. For September, please make sure that your child's shoes enable them to be active during the school day. Whether that is climbing, playing chase, doing the daily mile or wake and shake, shoes need to be comfortable, supportive and essentially to stay on the feet. Girls' shoes particularly don't always seem to have been designed with this in mind. There are shoes on the market that fit the bill but these can take a bit more looking for than boys' shoes, which seem to be designed with activity and action in mind.

Don't forget that we allow children to wear plain black trainers **with NO logos** as a footwear option for their main school footwear, in the hope that this enables children to be active and comfortable all day.

End of Term Readiness

We will be getting trays and lockers tidy at the end of next week in readiness for the end of term. Please ensure that your child has a strong carrier bag in school

by **Friday 17th July** to support with the bringing home of finished projects, completed workbooks etc... no longer needed in school.

ARK Fundraiser

Thank you so much for supporting the School Council's fundraiser on Friday 26th June. So far, we have raised over £100 in 'Gods Eye' weaving workshops with school council members and the sale of the 'acorn worry stones' crafted by Mrs Speed.

Due to the sale falling on the school closure days due to the heatwave, we still have stones for sale. If your child would like a stone please send in £2 and get your child to see Mrs Ellaby in Chestnut class to choose their special acorn stone, or the school council members will visit classrooms.

If your child has not done their workshop yet, this will happen before the end of term.

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Ellaby and School Council

Lost Property

Please remember to keep an eye on the lost property basket to see if anything belongs to you.

On the final few days of term all lost property will be put on a table near the school gate at the end of each day for parents to look through. All remaining lost property at the end of that week will be put into the donation station or given to local charity shops.

Win a Free School Trip!

Please see the flier on the noticeboard giving details about an opportunity to win free coach hire for a school trip, courtesy of Barnes Coaches. It would be fantastic if we could win! For this to happen we need you to nominate us please by emailing: coachhire@barnescoachers.co.uk with the school's name and town and a short reason why St Katharine's deserves to win. **Entries close on 31st July.** Many thanks.

Water Safety Prize Draw

To encourage parents and carers to discuss the safety messages around water this summer with their children, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is offering children the chance to enter Water Safety Prize Draws. There are quizzes that children can enter with parents and carers, for a chance to win:

- A VIP visit to a DWFRS fire station
- A lego or Playmobil emergency services set
- A Blaze Bear teddy

The quizzes are designed to help the parents and carers, and the children think about safe behaviours in and around the water this summer.

Water Safety Quiz for children up to the age of 7 [Water Safety Quiz children up to age 7 – Fill in form](#)

Water Safety Quiz for children aged 8 plus [Think Firefighter Water Safety Training Children aged 8 plus – Fill in form](#)

We are forwarding this information to parents in case it is of interest - it is not arranged by St Katharine's.

Message on behalf of the PTA

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Father's Day Shop. Thanks to your generosity, we raised an amazing £285! Every penny will go towards funding exciting opportunities, activities and resources for the children.

Sports Day is taking place next Friday 17th, and the PTA will be there serving refreshments and delicious bacon rolls to keep everyone fuelled while cheering on the children. We hope to see you there.

Finally, as we look ahead to the new school year, we're always keen to welcome new volunteers. We have lots of exciting ideas and events planned, and we'd love some fresh faces, new ideas and helping hands to make them happen. Whether you can spare a little time or a lot, we'd be delighted to have you on the team.

Thank you for your continued support.

The PTA Team

Message on behalf of the Fun Run Team

On Saturday 27th June we welcomed 500+ runners to our school field for a fun morning of music, food and movement.

We are delighted to have raised over £6,000 for our school!

A huge thanks to our army of volunteers, without whom the event would not have been possible. We are most grateful to Mr Rokos for access to Tottenham House Estate, with support of his staff.

10k times and photos are available on our website:

<https://savernake10k.co.uk/>

We welcome your feedback & input, to aid planning of future events, so please do drop us a line with anything you would like us to know.

run2026@savernake10k.co.uk

Anna, Leah & Tom

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July	
Tuesday 14 th	Summer Performance 1 Sycamore Class 7pm-8.30pm

Wednesday 15 th	Summer Performance 2 Sycamore Class 7pm-8.30pm
Friday 17 th	Sports Day 9:30am – 12:15pm
Saturday 18 th	St. Katharine's Church Fete
Monday 20 th	Back up Sports Day 9:30am – 12:15pm
Tuesday 21 st	Gem Day <i>NO Sue Brady Lunches to be ordered</i>
Wednesday 22 nd	Leaver's Service in Church 9:30am <i>followed by refreshments</i>
	End of Term 6 early close 1.15pm
September	
Monday 1 st and Tuesday 2 nd	TD Days 1 and 2 No children in school
Wednesday 3 rd	First Day of Term 1
Friday 4 th	Mobile Library visiting
Monday 7 th and Tuesday 8 th	<u>All Reception</u> children 8:45am – 12:00am
Wednesday 9 th – Friday 11 th	<u>All Reception</u> children 8:45am – 1:00pm
Monday 14 th	Reception Full Time 8:45am – 3:15pm
Thursday 17 th	Sycamore Class Litfest Talk 1:00pm Pewsey Leisure Centre
Monday 21 st	Chestnut Class Meet the Teacher 3:30 – 4:15 pm
Tuesday 22 nd	Hazel Class Meet the Teacher 2:30 pm – 3:15pm Oak Class Meet the Teacher 3:30pm – 4:15pm
Wednesday 23 rd	Sycamore Class Meet the Teacher 3:30pm – 4:15pm
Tuesday 29 th	Reception and KS1 Reading Meeting for parents 2:30pm – 3:15pm

Key Date Planner 26/27 V1 will be available before the end of the year.

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. Key Dates Planner V1 will be the first version for the academic year 26/27. V2 will be released at the end of Term 2 and V3 at the end of Term 4.

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 this date 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...



Marlborough St. Mary's SEND & Early Help Information Event



Wiltshire Council

Where and when?

Marlborough St. Mary's Primary School,
Marlborough
SN8 4BX

Friday 10th July 2026
9am - 11am

What can you expect?

We are looking forward to hosting a range of services and providers who will promote information about the support they can offer to you and your family. This will be set up as a Market Place in the school hall and you will be able to walk amongst the information stands.

Who can attend?

This event is open to everyone, regardless of whether they are involved with the school or whether they have a child/young person with SEND.

Market Place

We will be hosting the following providers:

- Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPPC)
- Wiltshire SSEN Team
- Wiltshire Dyslexia Association
- Inclusive Wiltshire
- School Nursing Service
- Young Carers
- Wiltshire SEND Team
- Wiltshire Family Hub

and many more...

More information?

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you wish to find out more information:

Phone: 01672 513101
Email: admin@marlboroughstmarys.wilts.sch.uk

Refreshments

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served for the duration of the event

Parking

There will be no parking on school site. Please use the car park nearby in George Lane - SN8 4BY

BARNES

Part of the Coach Travel Group

LOCAL SCHOOL COMPETITION

WIN

YOUR NEXT SCHOOL TRIP!

**COMPETITION
CLOSES:
Fri 31st
July 2026**

Open to local schools
across Wiltshire,
Berkshire, Oxfordshire
& Gloucestershire!

NOMINATE YOUR SCHOOL TODAY!
EMAIL: COACHHIRE@BARNESCOACHES.CO.UK

Competition T&C's apply

Join Wildlife Watch at Bay Meadows



Fun wildlife activities for primary-aged children and accompanying adults

We will be exploring the theme of **birds**. Activities will include bird watching around the reserve and bird-themed games and crafts.

WHEN & WHERE?

Saturday 4th July, 10am - 12noon
Bay Meadows, Marlborough

BOOKING & COST

Booking required
Suggested donation
£2.50 per child, adults free
(cash only)



Email

marlboroughwildlifewatch@wiltshirewildlife.org

to find out more and book.

To ensure you receive our replies, please add us to your contacts/safe senders list.

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

Braeside Education Centre



*£45
per day*

Summer Activity Days!

Adventure - Challenge - Fun

For ages: 8 – 12 years

Drop Off - 8:30am – 9:00am

(Siblings up to 14 years)

Pick Up - 4:30pm – 5:00pm

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
w/b 3rd August 2026	Mixed Archery Lifeline Rocket Launch Body Zorbing	Survival Fire Lighting Shelter Building Survival Craft	Climbing Climbing Wall Zip Wire Abseiling Low Ropes	Watersports Canoeing Kayaking Paddleboarding	
w/b 10th August 2026		Canoeing Problem Solving Orienteering			
w/b 17th August 2026	Watersports Canoeing Kayaking Paddleboarding	Mixed Body Zorbing Fencing Circus Workshop Rocket Launch	Mixed Archery Lifeline Fire lighting Problem Solving	Climbing Climbing Wall Zip Wire Abseiling Low Ropes	High Ropes Leap of Faith Crate Stack High All Aboard Parallel Poles

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

Please book online by visiting

www.braeside-education.co.uk/holiday-club



Contact us for more details;
01380 722637

info@braeside-education.co.uk





NextGen Music Tuition

Guitar Lessons

For more information contact:

nextgenmusic tuition@gmail.com

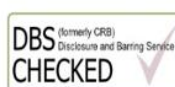
Relaxed and friendly Tutor a registered

Associate with GWS Music Hub

DBS checked with safeguarding

Documentation and Insurance.

Acoustic Guitars can be hired



Is your daughter aged 4 ½ -7 Rainbows Girlguiding is coming to Marlborough!

Every Thursday during term time at 4:15-5:15 from
September 2026

Badges!



Games!



Crafts!



Trips!



Friendship!



And more!



**Sign up now
to be put on our waiting list :**

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

Or email @kingfisher.marl.rainbows@gmail.com with any queries before hand.

Find out more with this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeeC9ibAo5Q>

ARE YOU LOOKING AFTER SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD?

You may be able to get financial help and practical support

What is the Kinship Allowance Pilot?

Wiltshire is one of only seven local authorities trialling a new government-funded scheme offering financial support to people who step in to care for a child who cannot live with their birth parents.

You may be eligible if you are:

- Caring for a relative's child or a child you already know
- Providing a stable and safe home when parents cannot
- Involved with Wiltshire Council's children's services

What support can I receive?

- Regular financial allowance to help with the cost of caring
- Practical support from our Family & Children's Services team
- Advice and guidance tailored to your situation
- Clear information about your rights and options.

(Eligibility is assessed on a case by case basis)



Find out more
01225 716510

Find out more
kinshipduty@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council



KIDS@STMARY'S

SUMMER ENERGIZE



We are delighted to invite you to join us at St Mary's Church over the summer holidays for a morning of music, crafts, games and a Bible story.

Sessions take place in St Mary's Church on
Tues 11th, Weds 12th & Thurs 13th August
From 10am to 12pm
£2 per child, from YR - Y6

Booking essential:
please email penny.families@gmail.com



ST MARY'S, MARLBOROUGH

WITH CHRISTCHURCH METHODIST FELLOWSHIP

