



ST KATHARINE'S

C of E

PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

NEWSLETTER No: 19

Our Value This Term Is...



Dear Parents,

From the many parents I have spoken with this week, there is a resounding feeling that the end of term can't come soon enough. The end of Term 6 is always the same. We pack it in. I'm not sure that it would feel quite as special if we were to do it any other way. Last week was a BIG one. Two performances of the Sycamore production 'Pantastic' left us all on a high. For those of you who had tickets to see it, you will agree that it was truly excellent. The children gave it their very best effort and I couldn't have been prouder to sit in the audience and be lucky enough to enjoy it - stage front. My thanks to everyone who made the performance happen from Mrs Jodrell's magic with the scenery, to the parents who created costumes, the staff who helped on the night and to Mr Sandall who yet again directed and coached the children into having the confidence to give such amazing performances. Well done to all.

As if two performances weren't enough to squeeze into a week at school, we held our annual Sport's Day on Friday. The sun shone to create the perfect conditions for the morning. It was a lovely day. The children were a credit to the school and their colour teams. They competed bravely, with grit and determination – sometimes etched in faces as the crossed the finish line. They also cheered and celebrated each other. Another special day in our summer calendar.

Our final big event in this final week and a half was our Gem Day walk. We kept it simple this year; a whole school walk and a picnic. It was a lovely day. Our thanks to the parents who joined us and to our wonderful PTA who funded the much-needed ice creams at the end of the day.

Please enjoy the summer break. I hope that the sun continues to shine for much of it and that you all manage to find some rest and a slightly slower pace to your lives – at least for some of the time. We look forward to welcoming Years 1-6 back to school on Thursday 3rd September and our new Reception children on Monday 7th September, when we begin a shiny new academic year and do it all again!

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%

Rest and recharge – next year let's get St Katharine's in the top 5% of schools nationally and locally. 97% + will do it!

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.

New Front Gates and Security Fencing

Following a review of site security, we have accessed funding to improve our front entrance gate and fencing around the playground closest to the school. During the summer holiday period a new pedestrian access gate plus larger vehicle access gate are being installed. There will also be some new fencing around the playground and separating the field from the bark area. The fence line will be on the other side of the willow domes. Initially access to the building for parents will not change, but longer term the intention is to install an electronic remote access system – in line with many other schools with slightly more conventional school

grounds. More details on this will follow in the new academic year.

New School Toilets

In addition to the above school improvements, we have accessed a pot of money (school condition allocation grant) via a successful bid to the Excalibur team with responsibility for estates, to refurbish all the toilets in school. This project has also enabled us to create a small additional teaching space where the interior lockers are currently housed. With the help and support of the PTA, we are able to furnish this area and install outdoor lockers for Year 3-5. This refurbishment was much needed and the by-product of another space for small group teaching is exciting. Pop in and take a look when it is all finished!

Free School Meals

From September 2026, the criteria used to determine pupil eligibility for free school meals (FSM) will change. From the start of the 2026/27 academic year, new national eligibility criteria will be introduced by the Department for Education (DfE).

Children can get free school meals in two ways:

1. Universal free school meals (Reception to Year 2)

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can get free school meals automatically.

Just tell your school if you would like your child to receive them.

If you receive certain benefits, school can also get extra funding called Pupil Premium (£1,550 for primary pupils in 2026-27). To make sure the school receives this money, you must complete a free school meal claim form (available via the link provided below), even if your child already gets universal meals.

2. Free school meals based on benefits (Year 3 and above)

Children in Year 3 or above can get free school meals if you receive one of the following:

- Universal Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Your household has no recourse to public funds (NRPF), and meets the government income thresholds

To check eligibility and find out more please click on this [LINK](#)

Volunteers

I am never complacent about the strength of community feeling and good will here at St Katharine's. It is very special to be a part of. To all of you that have volunteered your time this year whether that is in support of fundraising, reading, sports, additional adults on trips, classroom support for projects and all of the other things that you do to help our school, thank you. It never goes unnoticed and it is always hugely appreciated.

Key Dates Planner

Each September we produce the Key Dates Planner which lists all the dates and events that we already know about at the start of the year, for the entire academic year. Parent feedback has been that this document is useful, especially when planning for time off work for certain events such as parents' evenings, sports days and performances etc. We have decided to get ahead and send out the first version for 2026/27 academic year alongside the final newsletter of the previous year. This is obviously not of interest to our outgoing Year 6 parents but having this in advance might prove useful to others returning in September.

Please note that we produce an updated version in January and again after the Easter Holiday in April. Alongside the Key Dates Planner, we also include dates in every Newsletter. Some of these will be those same Key Dates but will also include any new dates that have come into the diary since the Planner was published. These are highlighted in bold in the dates section at the end of the Newsletter when they are first added. We hope the combination of the two sources of dates helps to keep you informed about what is happening and what is coming up.

Music and sports Clubs

With the end of the year approaching and the Year 6s moving onto pastures new, we find that spaces come available in our music and sport clubs. If your child is interested in taking up singing, drumming, guitar, piano or one of the other sporting activities or drawing club please get in touch with the relevant provider (details provided below).

Music:

Drumming: Matt Clements
mattcdrumtuition@gmail.com
Year groups 3-6

Guitar: Joseph Whiting
nextgenmusic tuition@gmail.com
Year groups 1-6

Piano: Karen Higson
admin@karenhigson.co.uk
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 2-6

Multi-sport

info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk
After school – Mon: Year groups Reception-6

Dodgeball

info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk
Lunch time - Wed: Year groups Reception-4

Football

info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk
After school – Wed: Year groups 3-6

Edward's Summer of Sport

You will recall from Newsletter 16 that Edward in Year 5 has decided to dedicate time to staying active this summer to raise funds for Cancer Research UK. By the time we reach the end of term he will be all set to completely smash his target and will have run over 100km, swam over 15km and completed over 130 hours of other sports! If you would like to support Edward through a donation, [here is a link](#) to his JustGiving page.

Message on behalf of the PTA

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to Sports Day and treated themselves to a bacon roll or a drink. Thanks to your support, we raised just over £200, which will go towards even more fantastic opportunities and resources for the children. We also raised a fantastic £250 at the Bedwyn fun day for Brighter Futures and the school.

As we come to the end of another school year, we'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported the PTA. Whether you've volunteered your time, attended an event, donated, or simply bought a cake, raffle ticket or hotdog! We genuinely couldn't do it without you.

We're already looking forward to the new school year,

with plenty more exciting fundraising events and ideas planned. We hope you'll join us along the way!

Until then, have a wonderful, relaxing summer break. We look forward to seeing you all in September!

Have a fantastic summer, the PTA team

The PTA Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>September</i>	
Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd	TD Days 1 and 2 No children in school
Thursday 3rd	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
<i>October</i>	
Sunday 4th	Church Harvest Festival 6pm
Wednesday 7th	Harvest Festival 9.30am in church
	PTA AGM
Tuesday 13th	Music for Miniatures – Bubble Bach

Thursday 15th	Open morning prospective parents 2027/28 (9.30am-11.30am)
Friday 16th	Last day of Term 1 for children
	School Council elections
	PTA Pumpkinfest event
Monday 19th – Wednesday 21st	TD Days 3,4 and 5 (children not in school)
Friday 31st	Deadline for secondary school applications

Key Date Planner 26/27 V1 is attached along with this newsletter.

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.

TD Days next academic year

1st and 2nd September 2026

19th, 20th, 21st October 2026

4th January 2027 (this is an additional Excalibur TD day for all EAT schools)

We will close at 1:15pm on

- Friday 18th December 2026,
- Thursday 25th March 2027
- Friday 23rd July 2027.

Other things you might want to know...

Stonebridge
Wild River Reserve
Marlborough

Sat 29th August
10am - 1pm


The Rivers Trust for the Kennet and Pang catchments

 **Eel Fest**
A Free Community Event

- River School - adults and children welcome. Put on your wellies for an eel themed River School
- Guided Wildlife Walks
- 10.30am - 11.30am Dogs on Leads
- 12 noon - 1pm No Dogs
- Eely Fun Activities - Eel Wanging Competition, Pin the Eel on the Sargasso Sea, Eel Life Cycle Learning and more!!!
- Bring a picnic to enjoy in the water meadow

Discover your local river, how amazing and important eels are and what we are doing to improve their future.


Thames Catchment community eels project


Made possible with Heritage Fund

 Eel Fest is part of the Thames Catchment Community Eels Project - Development Phase, ARK is a partner in this multi-partner project led by Thames Rivers Trust and is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund.
For more details email anna@kennetandpang.org or visit our website www.kennetandpang.org

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



NextGen Music Tuition

Guitar Lessons

For more information contact:
nextgenmusictuition@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



READ to the BEAT

Summer Reading Challenge 2026



Help your child discover the joy of reading this summer!

Sign your child up for the FREE Reading Challenge in Wiltshire Libraries this summer. Read to the Beat challenges children aged 4 to 11 to read 6 books over the summer (4 July to 5 September).

Why join?



- It's FREE!
- Children choose their own books and collect rewards as they read
- Finishers earn a certificate and medal
- It builds confidence, creativity and imagination
- It reduces stress, boosts focus and helps children to feel more connected
- It's FUN!



Find out more by visiting <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries-childrens-area-summer-reading-challenge> or by scanning the QR code

Sources: The Queen's Reading Room wellbeing study thequeensreadingroom.co.uk/the-queens-reading-room-study
Illustrations © Harry Woodgate 2026. Read to the Beat © The Reading Agency 2026, registered charity number 1085463 England and Wales
The Summer Reading Challenge - created by the Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries.



Wiltshire Council



Free Summer reading fun for children aged 4 to 11 years old.
Running in Wiltshire libraries Sat 4 July to Sat 5 September.



National
Year of
Reading
2026



Supported by the
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Delivered in partnership with libraries
summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Illustrations © Harry Woodgate 2026. Read to the Beat © The Reading Agency 2026, registered charity number 1085463 England and Wales.



Wiltshire Cricket

Summer Holiday Cricket Camps

DYNAMOS CRICKET HOLIDAY CAMP

ALL STARS CRICKET Holiday Camp

All Stars (5-8) | Dynamos (8-11)

Winterbourne CC 30th & 31st July
Calne CC 11th & 12th August

Links in the description or contact
aled.evans@wiltshirecricket.co.uk



ACTIVE SCHOOL SUMMER GYM CAMPS 2026

FUN • ACTIVE • CONFIDENT

SAVE £7.50 WHEN YOU BOOK BEFORE 21 JUNE!

RECEPTION TO YEAR 6 • ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ✓ GYMNASTICS ACTIVITIES
- ✓ TEAM GAMES
- ✓ CHALLENGES & COMPETITIONS
- ✓ CONFIDENCE BUILDING
- ✓ QUALIFIED & DBS CHECKED COACHES
- ✓ SAFE & INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

CAMP DATES

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3
28 - 30 JULY	4 - 6 AUGUST	18 - 20 AUGUST

PRICING

EARLY BIRD PRICE £67.50
 PER 3-DAY CAMP

STANDARD PRICE £75

SAVE £7.50 BEFORE 21 JUNE!

BOOK NOW! → **BOOK ONLINE**
<https://www.activeschool.org.uk/portal/summer-camps>

DBS CHECKED COACHES **★ QUALIFIED STAFF** **♥ SAFE & INCLUSIVE** **😊 FUN & ACTIVE**

WWW.ACTIVESCHOOL.ORG.UK
@ACTIVESCHOOLUK

Holiday Club Summer Activity Days

August 2026

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

Open to ages 8 - 12, with siblings welcome up to the age of 14.
 If you have any questions please do contact our admin team
 who will be more than happy to assist you.



Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting railsafefriendly.com

THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over **3 million young people** on the dangers of the railways.



SCAN ME

DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC



"I implore you to listen to Harrison's story"

Simon Frazer, Principal,
Guilsborough Academy

According to the **ORR Report**, April 23 - March 24 on UK railways:

12

people died in accidents while trespassing

58%

were struck by a train or tram

42%

were electrocuted

According to **Rail Safe Friendly**, July 25:

120+

companies support the programme

11,000+

schools in the UK have engaged

20,000+

UK schools still need to be reached



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

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

Brick Creators' Club at Marlborough Library

Every Saturday 10 – 11am



Suitable for 6 to 12 year olds

Free, drop in and no need to book

Parent and child led session

For more information call Marlborough Library 01672 512663 or email libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk

Dear parents and carers – you are responsible for your children's welfare at all times whilst in the library and children aged 8 and under in particular must never be left unsupervised. Thank you for your understanding



Wiltshire Council



Creative writing session with Rowan Foxwood

Thursday 6 August 2.30pm
Marlborough Library



Join children's book writer Rowan for a crash-course in creativity, with a hints and tips designed to help you set-up everything you need to begin your very own story! Her books, *Heatseer* and *Magpie Girl* are perfect reads for lovers of magic, myths and monsters.



Book your **free** place at Marlborough Library 01672 512663 or use the QR code. Event suitable for 9-12 year olds



"Utterly enchanting."
"A breathtaking read."

"A spellbinding story with whimsy and wisdom at its heart."



Wiltshire Council