



ST KATHARINE'S

C of E

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect,

& Honesty

Friday 11th September 2026

NEWSLETTER No: 1

Our Value This Term Is...

Courage



Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone and what a beautiful summer we had. We can't always say that, often we enjoy a heat wave throughout July and at the first sign of the summer holidays the heavens open! This year it is impossible to tell who travelled to hot places; everyone is as brown as a berry!

A particularly warm welcome to our new families joining us as their children begin reception. There are many siblings in our Hazel class mix and we are delighted that after years of watching their older brothers and sisters walk through the gates, that it is now their turn to do so. Welcome to St Katharines: Bodhi, Robin, Felix, Tom, Zara, Nico, Lorenzo, Tobias, Iris, Lucie, Rodney, and Sylvie. Welcome also to Benji in Year 6 who we are delighted is joining Sycamore class this year.

We have had a settled start to term with change of various proportions for all of us. We are looking forward to the year ahead with plenty of exciting learning opportunities for the children, planned both in and out of school.

For those of you who have already experienced it you know how quickly a school year passes – buckle up and enjoy the ride. We are delighted to have you on board!

Ms Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



All Things New

You will all have seen our new security gate and fencing on arrival to school on the very first day of term. On the whole it has been a positive response. The project will be completed by additional fencing around the perimeter of the playground (not the field) and encompassing the willow domes. This section will be at approximately 5ft in height and as such a bit less imposing. It will include a double gate so that the field continues to be accessible when we need it to be. Hopefully you will all get to come in and see our refurbished toilets at some point in the coming weeks. We are really pleased with the outcome – they are very smart! By creating a bank of totally private unisex toilets in Key Stage 2 it has created a small, additional teaching space where the internal lockers and sinks were housed. No longer a walk-through, this space can now be used for small group teaching and music lessons. We have been talking to the PTA about the funding of an additional teaching space for some time and thought long and hard about what kind of external building might do the job. Challenges such as safeguarding, electricity and heating have always made this a difficult decision. The funding given to the school by our PTA for the lockers and the canopy enabled this space to be created. We are extremely grateful to all those who, over time, have stepped into this role and to everyone who supports essential fundraising for projects such as this. We are looking at purchasing furniture to give this space a special feel. Please do pop in and take a look.

PTA AGM - Wednesday 7th October @ 7pm

Save the Date

Our PTA is thriving. To continue to do so those on the committee need as many of our parent community to engage with them as possible. Being involved can take many guises. What is most needed is your enthusiasm and a willingness to help out when you can. You might help park cars, make tea, clear up a little, man the bottle stall, marshal at the fun run, make cakes or sell raffle tickets. The PTA AGM is a chance for you to meet others, share thoughts or just do a bit of fact finding.

Please, Please, Please come along and support our hardworking committee.

Governors Community Evening – Wednesday 11th November @ 7pm - Save the Date

Last year our governors held a community evening for all members of the school community to come along to. We had some great feedback about the session which aimed to provide: information about how school is run, the importance of its stakeholders and how we can all work together to ensure St Katharine's continued success. It was another opportunity to meet other parents, talk to governors, members of the PTA and staff team to share thoughts, ideas and to collaborate. One of the very

special things about our school community is that everyone has made a very deliberate choice to be a part of it. I believe that is our superpower and one that we should harness.

We are holding this Community Evening again this Autumn and hope that lots of you will come along and join us. Whilst some of the themes will be similar to those covered last year, we are busy planning how to shape the evening to make it interesting for all who attend and become an important fixture in our calendar moving forwards. Essentially still come if you came before and definitely come along if you missed it last year!

There is also the promise of some excellent snacks!

Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 98%

Our end of year attendance target is: 97%

Last year our attendance at the end of the school year was 96.4%, just shy of our target of 97%. So we go again! Thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

Meet the Teacher Sessions

We are holding our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions in the week beginning Monday 22nd September. They are scheduled as follows:

Monday 21st September

3:30pm – Chestnut Parents

Tuesday 22nd September

2:30pm – Hazel Parents

3:30 pm – Oak Parents

Wednesday 23rd September

3:30 pm – Sycamore Parents

Teachers will spend time sharing routines, timetables, planned learning and their expectations. They will be able to answer questions relating to those things. If you have a specific concern or one that is unique to your child, please email via admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk and this can be addressed at an alternative, arranged time, in a 1-1 meeting.

Please note that we will put on a film, **in the hall**, for the children and their siblings so that parents can attend the meeting uninterrupted. **Please note** that we can't take care of younger (pre-school) siblings.

Volunteers

Last academic year we had a rethink about how we use our volunteers in school. Some of you came in to help with specific things such as forest school or sports and others had a regular slot in the diary to hear readers or support with other essential practise.

Volunteering doesn't have to be a huge commitment every week; it can be as simple as 30 minutes at the beginning or end of a school day (to coincide with times when you are already here). Hearing just a few children read each week is a real gift.

We have been in touch with all our volunteers last year to see if they would like to continue. Inevitably we have lost a few people as their children move on to secondary school.

If you would like to find out more or already know that you'd like to help out please do get in touch in the first instance via admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk expressing your interest and ideally the time slot that you have to offer.

Pickup Arrangements

If someone other than a parent is collecting your child from school, please remember to let us know in advance. You can do this by either sending an email to the admin@ address or by calling the office.

Uniform reminders

Everyone is looking smart and the new school shoes are shiny! Please take note of these reminders:

★ Jewellery

Children can wear a watch (please no smart watches in line with our acceptable use policy) but no other jewellery other than a small pair of earrings.

If ears are pierced, children can wear a small pair of studs and they should be able to independently manage them if needed

★ Hair

Long hair should be tied up to support with limiting the spread of headlice and to ensure that children can take part in all activities without hair getting in the way. Avoid excessively large or colourful hair accessories – please keep them for the weekend.

For all uniform suggestions [please see our website](#) for details.

Please make sure that all clothing is labelled. We have a lost property basket which often contains a lot of personal belongings the vast majority because they are unnamed. Reuniting the unlabelled items with their correct owner creates a lot of extra work. This process is simple when items are clearly labelled.

Celebration Worship

Celebration Worship is on a Friday at 2:45pm. Typically this worship is about sharing our learning from the week, celebrating children who have demonstrated our '[Purple Learning](#)' attributes and have lived out our school values and behaviour expectations. Each class will also specifically share the learning they have been

doing in Celebration Worship from time to time. This does take quite a bit of work to put together and as such we have decided that each class will do this **twice** across the year. Each seasonal term we will remind you of the Fridays when we would love to invite you in to share our Celebration Worship with us via the timetable in the Newsletter. **Please see below for the Term 1 and 2 dates that you can put into your diary should you wish to join us.** We ask that you support the high expectations that we have of the children and come into worship quietly, if you bring younger siblings who become upset, please consider taking them out for a walk around until they are settled.

Celebration Worship Term 1 & 2

Friday Date	What?
11 th September	No Celebration Worship
18 th September	Celebration Worship
25 th September	Celebration Worship
2 nd October	Celebration Worship
9 th October	Celebration Worship
16 th October	No Celebration Worship PTA Pumpkin Fest
6 th November	Celebration Worship
13 th November	No Celebration Worship
20 th November	No Celebration Worship Sharing our Learning Afternoon
27 th November	Celebration Worship Oak Class Sharing
4 th December	Celebration Worship Chestnut Class Sharing
11 th December	Celebration Worship Sycamore Class Sharing
18 th December	No Celebration Worship Early Close @ 1:15

Harvest Festival

Harvest festival comes around surprisingly quickly once we are all back at school. As in previous years we will be supporting the Devizes Food Bank with our donations. **Please see below the list of items that they most need at the moment.** We will start collecting in the lobby area, outside of the school office, from **Monday 5th October**. We will aim for donations to be collected at the end of the same week. Please note that our Harvest Festival service is in church at **9:30am** on **Wednesday 7th October**. You are all welcome to join us. We invite all parents to return to school to join us for tea and coffee after the service.

We need the following:

Tinned tomatoes
UHT dairy milk (we don't need oat milk etc)
Long life fruit juice
Tinned peas / carrots / sweetcorn
Tinned tuna
Long life sponge puddings (minimum of 4 months until the best before date)
Tinned custard
Chocolate bars
Instant mashed potato
Tinned ham
Tinned hot meat (stewing steak, chicken in sauce etc)
Tinned potatoes
Shower gel
Shampoo
Conditioner
Jam / honey / peanut butter
Dried rice 500gm
Mugshots/Instant pasta
Toilet rolls
Deodorant (ladies' and men's)
Adult toothbrushes

Traffic / Turning Circle Reminders

We are lucky to have a school in such a unique location. As you may or may not be aware that our numbers have more than doubled in less than 20 years and as such the lane and subsequent parking areas are at their maximum capacity. Please look after each other on the approach to school, being mindful of allowing people up the lane as they arrive for school in the morning and down the lane as people leave in the afternoons. There are a few spots where it makes sense to take turns, ensuring that we don't end up with grid lock.

Please also observe the turning circle in the morning, ensure that you pull in safely and that your children get out of the car **quickly**. Ideally children are ready to go when you pull up. There isn't time for long farewells and getting things out of the boot space for example. If your child is not quite ready to be independent, please park up and bring them to the gate – there are no restrictions on cuddles at the gate!

If an adult is not on duty, in high viz, on the turning circle – please do not drop your child and leave.

Finally, when allowing traffic to pass please avoid driving onto the verges. Once we have some wet, cold weather they are quickly destroyed and our beautiful setting isn't quite so beautiful anymore.

When parking after school, please keep tight to the edges if you are parking in the lane (please avoid the top section opposite the carpark) and remember that we

are able to use the church carpark – the walk across the field is quite a nice thing to do.

Edward's Summer of Sport

You might remember from Newsletter 16 last year that Edward (now Year 6) dedicated the summer to raising funds for Cancer Research UK by staying active. We are delighted to let you know that Edward smashed all his targets, totalling 275 hours of summer sport! If you intended to sponsor Edward and have not yet done so, [HERE](#) is the link.

We are really proud of Edward and his determination to make a difference in the world and to support a charity that is very important to him and his family.

Message on behalf of the PTA

A very warm welcome back to all our parents, and a special hello to all our new Reception parents and families. We hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and is settling happily into the new school year!

School Hoodies

We know a few of you have been asking about the school hoodies.

We're pleased to say that these will soon be available to purchase directly through our new sports kit provider's website. This means hoodies can be ordered individually, whenever suits you, which we hope will make the whole process much simpler and easier. The website link and full details will follow within the next week or so, so watch this space!



Tesco Blue Tokens, We Came Second!

The Tesco Blue Token scheme has now finished, and we're delighted to announce that we came second! This means a fantastic £1,000 will be making its way to us over the coming weeks. The money will be put towards new equipment and tables for our newly enlarged playground, following the installation of the lovely new gates over the summer.

A huge thank you to everyone who popped their blue tokens in for us, every single one helped!

Firework Night

Please note that we have changed the date for the firework night – it will now be held on **20th November 2026**.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September	
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
Friday 25 th	Year 3 Oxenwood Adventure Day
Tuesday 29 th	Reception and KS1 Reading Meeting for parents 2:30pm – 3:15pm
October	
Thursday 1 st	First KAPLA after school session Oak Class
Friday 2 nd	Mobile Library visiting
Sunday 4 th	Church Harvest Festival 6pm
Wednesday 7 th	Harvest Festival 9.30am in church
	PTA AGM
Thursday 8 th	Year 2 multiskills sport event
Tuesday 13 th	Music for Miniatures – Bubble Bach
Thursday 15 th	Open morning prospective parents 2027/28 (9.30am-11.30am)
Friday 16 th	Last day of Term 1 for children
	School Council elections

	PTA Pumpkinfest event
Monday 19 th – Wednesday 21 st	TD Days 3,4 and 5 (children not in school)
Friday 30th	Mobile Library visiting
Saturday 31 st	Deadline for secondary school applications

Please also refer to the **Key Dates Planner V1**, that includes all the dates that we know of for the academic year 2026/27 (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 V2 and V3 which are resnt at the beginning of Terms 3 and 5.

Remaining TD Days 2026/27

19th, 20th and 21st October

4th January

Please Note

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

- **Friday 18th December**
- **Thursday 25th March**
- **Friday 23rd 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...



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07747423648
marlborough@stagecoach.co.uk

CLASS TIMES:
EARLY STAGES (4 TO 6 YEAR OLDS 90 MINS)
SATURDAY 9:15 TO 10:45
SATURDAY 10:45 TO 12:15

MAIN STAGES (6 TO 15 YEAR OLDS 180 MINS)
SATURDAY 9:30 TO 12:30
SATURDAY 14:00 TO 17:00

FURTHER STAGES (YEAR 8 AND ABOVE 180 MINS)
SATURDAY 09:45 TO 12:45



GIRLS FOOTBALL

A NEW JOURNEY BEGINS!

GIRLS IN
YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2
FROM SEPTEMBER

-  **BRAND NEW TEAM**
A fresh start and an exciting opportunity!
-  **TRAINING TUESDAYS 5-6PM**
at Pewsey Vale Youth pitches
-  **BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL**
Build friendships, confidence and memories that last a lifetime.
-  **GROW AND LEARN TOGETHER**
Develop skills, have fun and be the best you can be.



 MESSAGE COACH BILL ON **07738256820** OR  MESSAGE US TO FIND OUT MORE!

BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL. TOGETHER WE GROW. 

Learn to Swim with Aqualetes and save £25 this September!

Swimming lessons at your local Wiltshire Council leisure centre is a great way to start your child's swimming journey. Our teachers are fully qualified and follow the Swim England Learn to Swim pathway – supporting your child to get the best experience in the water. We offer a free hat and bag when you sign up, and every stage certificate is free as well plus they'll get free swimming in all public swim sessions to help encourage their progress. You can also save £25 when you sign up your child or children this month! Simply use the code **AQUASEP26** at checkout when you sign up online to redeem the offer or visit your local centre to enquire about spaces. Find out more and see what lesson availability is at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure-swim-school



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 29th September 2026 9.00am-2.00pm

Burbage Village Hall

Eastcourt Road, Burbage, Wiltshire SN8 3AJ

Please help supply these essential items to frontline communities

MEDICAL

- **IN DATE** medications including painkillers; all vitamins; haemorrhoid cream/suppositories
- medical & surgical supplies & first aid kits
- dressings & bandages
- burns dressings & trauma bandages
- athletes foot sprays & creams
- insect repellent; anti-itch cream
- sunscreen; hay-fever remedies
- gym/rehab equipment

SANITARY & TOILETRIES (unopened)

- hard soap, shampoo, toothbrushes/toothpaste
- unscented anti-chafe talc, deodorant
- disposable razors, shaving gel/foam
- disposable nappies, tampons, sanitary products
- washing powder, washing-up liquid, loo rolls
- baby wipes, facial wipes

CLOTHES & FOOTWEAR (only as listed)

- clean hiking boots, insoles & new warm socks
- good condition trainers, new light-weight socks
- dark colour fleeces, plain t-shirts
- military grade camo kit (adult sizes)
- dark colour adult waterproofs
- jogging bottoms, new dark underwear (M/F)
- thermal wear

TOWELS & BEDDING (clean & unstained)

- blankets : cellular & fleece only
- good condition towels
- bedding : NOT duvets or pillows

OUTDOOR LIVING

- tents (min. 4 person)
- groundsheets, roll mats, sleeping bags, camp beds, folding camping chairs, tarpaulins
- Thermos flasks (metal-lined); camping food
- hand/foot warmers; foil blankets

FOOD (dry & non-perishable; no jars)

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

ELECTRONICS & OPTICS (in working order)

- unlocked tablets, laptops, smart phones (all with chargers if possible)
- LED hand/head torches (rechargeable, battery or solar, preferably with red light option)
- batteries (AAA, coin-cell, button batteries)
- power banks, chargers (mains or solar)
- binoculars/monoculars

TOOLS (only as listed)

- generators & power tools
- new & good used spanner & socket sets
- car accessories: battery chargers, tyre inflators, jump leads, tow ropes, winches
- mechanics' gloves (L & XL); heavy-duty wipes
- new hand axes; sets of screwdrivers, sets of drill bits; wire cutters, pliers
- duct tape; WD40 & lubricating oil

PET ITEMS

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

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.helptoukraine.co.uk

www.facebook.com/helpukrainegroupsupport

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or email: Wiltshire@bagssoftaste.org

or you can sign up online: <https://bagssoftaste.org/students>

Wiltshire Council

Are you worried about the rising cost of food and how to eat healthily on a tight budget?

Then join one of our free, fun cooking courses. Learn how to make delicious, healthy meals from all over the world whilst saving money.

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How does it work?

- We deliver three step-by-step recipes and all the ingredients you need, straight to your door
- Your personal mentor will support you by phone or WhatsApp with lots of tips and advice along the way
- At the end you'll get a free gift of wallet-friendly recipes

What do I need to do?

- All we ask is that you cook the three recipes and send us photos of your lovely food!

How long does it take?

- About two weeks but you can work at your own pace

How do I join?

- Register online: <https://bagssoftaste.org/students>
- Call/WhatsApp 07463 111 006
- Email Wiltshire@bagssoftaste.org

Once we've confirmed your registration we'll contact you to arrange your delivery



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SAVE MONEY



IMPROVE HEALTH



HAVE FUN

*For qualifying participants only