



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

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Friday 25th September 2026

NEWSLETTER No: 2

Our Value This Term Is...

Courage



Dear Parents,

School life is certainly gaining pace once again. The post summer holiday feeling is well behind us now I think as we settle into Autumn and normality. Our reception children are now attending full time, finding their way around and gaining their independence. Year 6, at the other end of the school are waiting for their prefect badges to arrive and already feel like the responsible team, at the top of the school, that we like them to be.

This week has been our meet the teacher week. Meetings have been fairly well attended but perhaps not enough to prevent a bit of reflection as to whether this is the best way to communicate start of the year information and routines. Everyone's lives are very busy, perhaps more than ever. We will be sending out a short form in the coming weeks asking for your feedback about whether there are better ways to share information like that shared this week, with you. Would, for example, a recorded PowerPoint be a better vehicle for this? Please look out for the form and respond if you can.

We have lots of exciting things planned into our calendar already. Kicking things off this week is today's Year 3 adventure day at Oxenwood. This whole day visit gives Year 3 a chance to try out adventurous activities such as climbing, archery, shelter building and a late evening walk down Spook

Alley – a legendary right of passage! We look forward to hearing their stories on Monday. My thanks to Mrs Ellaby, Mrs Joddrell and Mrs Godlement who will be accompanying them on their adventures this year.

Mr Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Congratulations...

To Joshua Ling whose writing earned him a first prize in his category at the Marlborough Literature Festival. Josh is invited to the opening party where author Sue Hendra (Supertato author) will present his prize. His winning entry will also be on display in the town hall – if anyone is passing!

Farmer Time

Geoff Homer is kindly going to run Farmer Time in school again this year. The children love his visits. Geoff will make 3 seasonal visits to classes, where he will share what is happening out on the farm at that particular time of year. In addition to this we are all hoping to visit the farm at calving time and classes will take opportunities to visit in support of classroom learning, for example Oak Class will visit when they are thinking about living things and habitats. We are really grateful to Geoff Homer for supporting the school and the children's understanding of their surroundings.

Reception and KS1 Reading Meeting – Tuesday 29th September

We are holding our reading meeting for Hazel and Oak class parents next week on Tuesday 29th September. This is a valuable opportunity for you to find out about the teaching of phonics and reading, how you can support and where to go for advice and information. Please arrive through the main entrance for the meeting to begin at 2:30pm – it will be held in the school hall with Mrs Godlement and Mrs Freeman. We would like to see as many of you as possible – please try to make it.

Parking Safely and Considerately

Please ensure that when parking in the lane you think about the safety of the children and that you are not blocking entry and exit routes to the carpark or turning circle. For the carpark to work properly it is important that no one parks directly opposite the exit. When this happens, it is very hard to exit the carpark smoothly and easily. We will put cones there for the interim so that everyone is clear where exactly we mean.

Please also treat each other kindly and avoid cross exchanges. We are a small community – please model

the behaviour between yourselves that you trust us to expect of your children on the playground. Thank you.

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

Please try to come along to this event, meet other parents, find out a bit more about how school is run, what it means to be part of an Academy Trust and to meet members of our staff team, our governors and members of our PTA.

Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 96.7%

Our end of year attendance target is: 97%

Volunteers

We are still hoping for a few more people to volunteer, especially in support of reading. If you would like to find out more or already know that you'd like to help out please do get in touch via

admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk expressing your interest and ideally the time slot that you have to offer. If you are not sure but would like to talk this through again just email and a member of staff will reach out for an informal chat.

Open Day

Please see the poster on the notice board below advertising our Open Morning which we are holding on **Thursday 15th October from 9:30 – 11:30am**. This event is primarily for the parents of those children starting school in September 2027. School is open for the morning and parents are invited to tour classrooms (with one of our expert Upper Key Stage 2 tour guides) and to speak to staff, parents and governors. We will be advertising the event as widely as we can and ask that you spread the word to people that you know with young - soon to be school age – children. We are never complacent about attracting families to our school. Remaining full enables us to stay well-resourced and to give all our children the very best offer. You and the children are our best advocates. **Please spread the word, widely, loudly and proudly!**

Harvest Festival – Reminder

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

Message on behalf of the PTA

Dear Parents and caregivers,

Hopefully you have all seen the message regarding our new school sports tops, which are now available to purchase [online](#). Please do come and speak to us if you have any questions, or if you would like to try one on before you buy.

Good luck Kate!

Kate is running the Swindon Half Marathon this Sunday! We wish her lots of luck and hope she has a fantastic run. There is still time to sponsor her if you haven't already. 50% of everything raised will go directly to the school, so every donation really does make a difference. Thank you for your support!

First Bake Sale of the Year, Friday 2nd October

Next Friday we will be holding our first after school bake sale of the year. Please bring along a pound or two and treat yourselves to something delicious to start the weekend.

We would kindly ask **Sycamore Class** parents to provide the cakes and treats for this sale. Thank you in advance for all your baking and donations. Homemade or shop-bought are equally welcome!

PTA AGM, Wednesday 7th October

Lastly, our PTA AGM will take place **on Wednesday 7th October at school**. Come to the school hall for a 7:00pm start. This is a great opportunity to find out what we have planned, hear what's happening within the PTA and share any ideas you may have.

We really can't do it without your help and support, and there is absolutely no pressure to take on a big role. The more people involved, the merrier! We would love to see you there.

The PTA Team

Message on behalf of the Fun Run Team

Savernake Fun Run needs YOU!

Our 2026 event raised over £6,000 for our school, with 500+ entries from far & wide.

Tottenham House Estate has kindly agreed to support another event in 2027 and we need your help to make this happen...

- Are you a whizz at websites? Could you update and host our site?
- Do you have lots of local connections to collect raffle prizes?
- Would your employer be interested in sponsorship or match funding?
- Are you creative for graphic design & publicity? Including social media.

Please don't hesitate to offer your support by emailing run2026@savernake10k.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

Anna Speed & Tom Swift

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September	
Friday 25 th	Year 3 Oxenwood Adventure Day
Tuesday 29 th	Reception and KS1 Reading Meeting for parents 2:30pm – 3:15pm
	Farmer Time Assembly
October	
Thursday 1 st	First KAPLA after school session Oak Class

	First Lego after school club session Sycamore (small group)
Friday 2 nd	Mobile Library visiting
	After school bake sale PTA
Sunday 4 th	Church Harvest Festival 6pm
Wednesday 7 th	Harvest Festival 9.30am in church
	PTA AGM – 7pm
Thursday 8 th	Year 2 multiskills sport event
Tuesday 13 th	Music for Miniatures – Bubble Bach
	Year 5/6 Dodgeball Event at St. Katharine's (small group)
Wednesday 14 th	Year 5/6 Football Festival at St John's, Marlborough
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 30 th	Mobile Library visiting
Saturday 31 st	Deadline for secondary school applications
November	
Monday 2 nd	First Day of Term 2
Thursday 5 th	Year 5/6 Netball Festival Marlborough College
Friday 6 th	Chestnut Class visit to Roman Baths
Sunday 8 th	St Katharine's Church Remembrance Service
Tuesday 10 th	Individual Photographs
	Final KAPLA after school session Oak Class
Wednesday 11 th	Remembrance Collective Worship led by KS2 in church – 9.30am - parents welcome

	(only KS2 children attending)
	Happy Confident Me parent workshop 3.30pm – 4.30pm
	Governors Community Evening – 7pm
Friday 13 th	Sycamore Class trip to Imperial War Museum, London
Monday 16 th	Odd Socks Day – as part of Anti-Bullying week
Tuesday 17 th	Flu vaccinations - Reception to Year 6
Thursday 19 th	Swindon Voice Festival – 7.30pm Choir
Friday 20 th	Children in Need
	Sharing our Learning afternoon - parents invited in from 2.30pm until 3.15pm (prior to Parents Evening 1)
	Bonfire Night PTA
Tuesday 24 th	Parents Evening 1 - All classes 3:30–7:00pm
	Year 3/4 Handball Festival (small group)
Wednesday 25 th	St Katharine's Day Service in Church 9:30am
	Sycamore Class Tree planting at Ramsbury Manor
Thursday 26 th	Parents Evening 1 – Oak, Chestnut and Sycamore classes 3:30–5:30pm

- 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

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 resent 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:

Other things you might want to know...

Is your child due to start school in September 2027?

St Katharine's Primary School, Savernake is holding an open morning on Thurs 15th October 2026 from 9.30am to 11.30am.

Drop in and see our wonderful learners at work.

St Katharine's
Primary School,
Marlborough,
Wiltshire, SN8 3BG
01672 870492



www.stkatharinesprimary.org.uk
admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk



For the attention of all parents

Will your child be four years old before September 2027?

You must apply for a primary school place

Apply online at wiltshire.gov.uk or complete an application form, available at all Wiltshire Council offices.

The deadline for applications is
12 midnight, 15 January 2027

All forms must be returned to the school admissions team at County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Contact customer services on **01225 713010** for more information or to request our guide to finding a primary school place in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council

For the attention of all parents

Will your child be transferring to a secondary school in September 2027?

You must apply for a secondary school place

Apply online at wiltshire.gov.uk or complete an application form, available at all Wiltshire Council offices.

The deadline for applications is
12 midnight, 31 October 2026

All forms must be returned to the school admissions team at County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Contact customer services on **01225 713010** for more information or to request our guide to finding a secondary school place in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council



ASTRELLA
ACADEMY OF FOOTBALL
believe | strive | achieve

OUR THIRD ACADEMY VENUE
**LSF AVON VALLEY,
DURRINGTON**

**TRIALS
OPEN NOW**

**TUESDAY
15TH SEPTEMBER**
**TUESDAY
22ND SEPTEMBER**

 **6PM - 7PM
YEAR U7/U8**

 **6PM - 7PM
U9**

 **7PM - 8PM
U10/U11**

Once accepted sessions are every **TUESDAY** at above times.
By invitation only following a successful trial period
Unique, attention to detail coaching that doesn't interfere with your current football commitments

To register your child for a trial TEXT
07714 021366



**SAVERNAKE FOREST
SCOUT GROUP
NEEDS NEW
MEMBERS!**

Games nights
Camping
Hikes
New Skills
New Friends
Campfires
Trips
Nights away



 **MONDAYS**
Ages 6-8, 5:30-6:30pm
followed by
Ages 8-10 ½, 6:30-8pm


FRIDAYS
Ages 10 ½-14, 7-9pm



To find out more and
have a free trial,
contact Zac at
z.house@hotmail.co.uk

Fabulous Fungi

Marlborough Wildlife Watch

**Join us for a morning discovering mushrooms,
brackets, moulds and lichens!**

There'll be a fungi walk, fantastic fungal facts, nature-based
crafts, and lots of fun and exploration!
For primary-aged children and accompanying adults.



LOCATION & TIME
Saturday 3rd October | 10am - 12noon
Bay Meadows, Marlborough

BOOKING & COST
Booking required - suggested £2.50 per child, adults free

To find out more and book, email:
marlboroughwildlifewatch@wiltshirewildlife.org
To ensure you receive our replies, please add us to your contacts/safe senders list.




**wildlife
watch**