



ST KATHARINE'S CE  
SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty*

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

NEWSLETTER No. 1

*Our Value This Term Is...*



*Dear Parents,*

Welcome back everyone! I always think the first week back somehow plays with the laws of physics. On day one you feel like you've been away for ages and by the end of the week you can't remember ever having been away. I hope that you all enjoyed a good summer break and that you managed a bit of rest and recuperation before the routine of everyday life returns.

I would like to extend a special welcome to our 15 new children and their families. It is always an exciting time of year when we welcome new members of our community and welcome some 4 year olds that we have known since they were babies!

Welcome back also to Mrs Pattenden who worked with us last year while Mr Sandall took time out of class to lead the school. She has re-joined us, in Chestnut Class, and will be working on Mondays and Tuesdays along with Mrs Arnold who works the latter part of the week.

I will continue to write a newsletter fortnightly, the aim of which is to keep you in the loop with all the events that are coming up and share with you some of the events that we have taken part in. The newsletter is also a key vehicle for information about your child's learning and the work we are doing to ensure that your child's experience at school is the best it can be. Please help us by reading your newsletters and use the date section at the back to note any new events that have arisen since the publication of the key date planner at the beginning of term.

We work hard to keep you informed but we rely on you to do the reading...

This is a rather long first letter – they won't all be this lengthy – I apologise in advance but there is a lot to tell you.

Enjoy your first weekend – the children will be tired – a great excuse for not doing very much if you're able!

*Niki Jones*

Principal

*'From little acorns, great oaks grow'*



### **New Website**

As you know we have been building a new website in recent months. As I am sure you understand it is a big undertaking and as a small school we do not have the luxury of a designated person responsible for this job. I am really pleased to tell you that we are going to be launching the new website next week when the final last touches have been made. The domain name remains the same <https://stkatharinesprimary.org.uk>. We will email you as soon as it is 'live'.

It is not a finished product and we are looking to add content in the months to come. Once you have familiarised yourself with the layout and content we would really value your feedback about how easy you find it to navigate and the things that might be currently missing that you would value. We probably won't be able to accommodate every request but we will certainly endeavour to make it as user friendly and useful to our main users; the parent community. Special thanks to Leeann Stevenson for all her work on this and the team at Calliaweb and thank **you** for your patience while the website has been dormant!

### **Parent Topic Webs**

These came home as paper copies with your child today. You will also find the topic web for your child's class, for this term, on the school web site next week once we have launched. Our domain name remains the same <https://stkatharinesprimary.org.uk>. *This topic web gives you lots of detail about the learning your child will be doing in school this term and therefore by being informed of this it will help you to support them with their learning at home.*

### **Reading**

Information about some changes to how we are organising home/school reading across the school

will be coming home with your child **today**. Please take the time to read the letter and get to grips with the changes we are proposing. The letters are different for KS1 and 2 – two letters to read if you have a child in each! We are also hosting a reading meeting for parents of younger children (YR – Y2) to explain some of the changes to the reading books we are using for home school reading. **Please join us at 2:30pm on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October if you have a child in Hazel or Oak class.**

We have been working with the Ramsbury English Hub to develop our approach to reading, ensuring that the work we do is in line with current research and have in turn been able to access matched funding for ‘decodable’ early reading books. Thanks to the amazing support of our parents through their donations to the PTA and of course to our PTA for the incredible work they do to run events, we were able to spend £2,800 on new books of which we received over £1000 in match funding from the DfE through the English Hub. We hope you enjoy the new books that the children in Ys R- 2 will be bringing home. There is still more funding accessible to us and we hope to bring your news of more investment in our reading stock later in the year.

### **Equipment in School**

As you know space at St Katharine’s is a premium product! Please only send your child to school with the things they will need – in Hazel and Oak classes we would prefer that this was in a book bag rather than a large rucksack. Children in YR – 4 need a water bottle, reading book and other school work such as spelling and homework books. We ask that children in these year groups do not bring pencil cases to school; the children will be provided with everything they need in school. Children in Sycamore class can bring a small pencil case with essentials in it (this doesn’t include multiple novelty rubbers etc...). Class teachers will be reiterating this message over the coming weeks.

### **PE Kits Reminder**

Children need a full PE kit in school **every day**. At St. Katharine’s we are passionate about the importance of PE and the benefits for learning. You can expect your child to take part in some form of physical activity at least twice a week. You will know when your child’s regular PE slots are but with the weather about to become more Autumnal teachers will sometimes move the timing of PE to make use of dry weather and the ability to get outside with the

children. PE kit is then taken home on **Friday** to be washed and returned. Children cannot self - certificate absence from a PE lesson. It is part of the curriculum and as such it is important that the children take part. If your child is **unable** to take part in a PE lesson for medical reasons please send them to school with a note explaining this. We keep a log of all children who regularly miss PE and will talk with parents if we feel that this is becoming a concern. We are delighted to be continuing the ‘Daily Mile’ for all our KS2 children this year, as such it is essential that children have the equipment required to enable them to take part every day.

### **Independent Learners**

You know your children and are of course best placed to make the judgement as to whether you should bring your child in to school or use the turning circle to drop and go. If you find that your child is overly dependent on you to organise them in the morning, especially once they reach Y2, please consider supporting their independence by stepping back a little. As you will all be aware, parking is limited and by using the turning circle you are also helping to keep the traffic moving.

### **‘Meet the Teacher’**

Please be aware on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September** we are holding our ‘Meet the Teacher’ sessions. Please save the date and the following times:

<b>Hazel:</b>	<b>2.30 p.m.</b>
<b>Oak:</b>	<b>3.15 p.m.</b>
<b>Chestnut:</b>	<b>3.45 p.m.</b>
<b>Sycamore:</b>	<b>4.15 p.m.</b>

This short meeting with your child’s teacher is a chance for you to get a feeling for the year ahead, approaches to learning and some of the routines that will be in place during the year. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. If however you are unable to make the meeting copies of any slides used will be put on the website under the parent tab.

We have arranged a crèche for **children of school age only** in the school hall. If you are bringing a younger sibling please take them into the meeting with you.

**Save the Date: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October @7:00pm**

We are in the process of planning a meeting on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** (7:00pm) here at school with

the working title '**This is Your School**'. We hope to offer you refreshments, give you the opportunity to meet other parents and find out from me, the governing body and the PTA a bit more about how the school in run and how you as parents make a vital contribution to our success as an organisation. We all fundamentally have the same aim; for St Katharines to be the very best school it can be. Please save the date and join us for the evening – it would be really good to see as many of you here as possible. Please note that this is a date change, this meeting was previously scheduled for **17<sup>th</sup> September**.

### **St Katharine's Open Day**

We are holding our Open Morning on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October** from 9.30am – 11.30am for any prospective parents to come and see the school at work. There will be a banner on the A4 in the coming weeks and an advert in the Gazette and Herald. In the meantime please spread the word to anyone you might know with children starting school next year. A flyer is attached along with this newsletter if you can think of someone who might wish to come along. I have heard occasionally that people outside of school have the perception that it is difficult to gain a school place at St Katharine's. Whilst we are full in nearly all our year groups we have not as yet had to turn many families away. We are always keen to secure an intake of 15 each year as this ensures that the school maintains essential funding and in turn the resources with which we can develop what we offer. Our existing parents are our best advocates – please spread the word!

### **Primary & Secondary School Admissions 2019 - 20**

The deadline date for admission applications for a **Primary school place 2019/29** is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2020** and for **Secondary School place** admission 2019/29 is **31<sup>st</sup> October 2019**. You can submit your application on line using the Wiltshire Council website. We have 15 reception places at St Katharine's for September 2020, in line with our PAN (pupil allocated number). We are keen to have a full cohort again in 2020.

***Please see attached flyer for secondary school applications***

### **Accidents and Head Injuries at school**

As many of you will already be aware all accidents at St Katharine's that result in injury are recorded in the accident book. Where a child has required attention

for a cut, graze or bruise to the body we will give children a yellow wrist band that alerts parents to the fact that they have had a minor injury. The bracelet comes complete with the printed statement '*I have had a bump at school today, please ask me to tell you about it.*'

In the event of any significant injury we will always call you to let you know what has happened and give you the option to come in to school and see your child for yourself.

**In the event of an injury to the head** our procedure is to complete a head injury form, put a head injury letter into the school book bag and call you to inform you of this. This ensures that any injury to the head is fully communicated and as such can be monitored carefully. Please do not be alarmed if you get a call from the school in this regard it will not always indicate a significant injury but is an important safeguarding procedure that we have in place.

### **Medical Appointments**

Where possible we would strongly encourage you to book **non-urgent** medical appointments outside of the school day. In the event that your child has an appointment please contact the school office with this information on the day of the appointment; it is useful if in the case of hospital appointments that you bring in your appointment letter. When arriving to collect your child please sign your child out in the turquoise signing in/out book in the entrance foyer and sign them back in on return to school. In the event of a fire drill / evacuation these books are taken onto the playground when the registers are being checked.

### **Absence from school**

If your child is going to be absent from school please ring the school office before **9:00am** on the first day of absence. If we do not hear from you then you can expect a call from the school office at around **9:15am** asking why your child is not in school. On return to school please send your child in with a note explaining the absence or email the school office [admin@st-katharines-savernake.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-katharines-savernake.wilts.sch.uk) . If your child is going to be off school for a longer period of time you do not need to phone in everyday but please keep us informed as to when you expect your child to be back in school.

We are working hard to raise our attendance to above the national average (96%). Please support us

with this by only keeping your child away from school when necessary.

### Extended Learning Courses

As some of you with children in Y2 – 6 already know, courses run at Braeside throughout the year to deepen and broaden learning in specific subjects. These courses are for children who are really working at Greater Depth in a specific area, as they are designed to stretch learning and thinking. We have a catalogue in the school office of all the courses on offer this seasonal term and ask that if you would like to know what is available you pop in and take a look. A member of staff will need to confirm that the course is suitable for your child and that they would be able to participate happily with the content. Please ask Mrs Stagg for more information if you are new to this process.

### Nut & Sesame Free School

**We are a Nut and Sesame Free School.**

**Please note the addition of sesame in this paragraph.** We have children in school with severe nut and sesame allergies. We are a 'nut/sesame free' school. This includes packed lunches, mid-morning snacks, birthday treats etc. **Please be vigilant** when packing food for your children to bring to school.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>September</i>	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS children in until 1 p.m.
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No celebration worship today</b>
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS children start full time
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the teacher evening: Hazel: 2.30 p.m. Oak: 3.15 p.m. Chestnut: 3.45 p.m. Sycamore: 4.15 p.m.
	Perform Theatre: Reception – Yr3 a.m.
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Chestnut class trip to Hampton Court – details to follow</b>

Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>T D Day 2</b> – children not required in school
<i>October</i>	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Sycamore Class trip to Science Museum London – details to follow</b>
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>DATE CHANGE</b> <b>School, Governor, PTA meeting:</b> <b>'This is Your School'</b> <b>7:00pm</b> <b>Please join us for wine, cheese &amp; biscuits all parents welcome.</b>
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Reading meeting for parents of children in YR, Y1 and Y2</b> <b>2:30pm in Oak Class</b> <i>Children can be collected at the normal time of 3:15pm</i>  Yr6 Open Evening at St Johns (For Yr6 pupils, parents and carers)
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Life Education Van visiting – whole school
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Flu Nasal Spray Vaccination YrR-Yr6 <b>details to follow</b>
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival (provisional) 9.30 am. In church
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning for September 2020 Intake: prospective parents
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	3.30 – 7.00 p.m. Parents Evening whole school
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	3.30 – 5.30 p.m. Parents Evening whole school
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Last Day of Term 1
<i>November</i>	
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	First day of term 2

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	School Photographer 1.30 p.m. (portraits and siblings)
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>T D Day 3</b> – children not required in school
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Collective Worship in school (led by Michael McHugh and Sycamore Class )9.10 – 9.40 a.m.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Bonfire Night
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	St Kathrine’s Day Service in Church 9.30 a.m. – Parents are invited to attend
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>T D Day 4</b> children not required in school
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Excalibur Festival of Learning – details to follow

**T D Days 2019/20**

**Please take note (underlined dates have changed from original TD days)**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020**

