



ST KATHARINE'S CE
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 10th September
NEWSLETTER No: 1

Our Value This Term Is...

Friendship



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the school year! One of my jobs this week has been to put the dates for when newsletters will be sent out into the school diary. There will be 21 of them across the year; I hope that this September, with the end of staggered starts and finishes, separate playtimes and the loss of a whole host of school events, heralds the return to something that we all remember as normal and that those letters will bring you news of all the exciting things that we have been up to. Those of you that have been with us for a few years now will remember how filled the calendar can become and how we work hard to ensure that the children's learning is supported and enhanced by trips and new experiences both in and out of school.

As evidence that things have been more normal than they have been for a while, this week we have: enjoyed whole school playtimes, eaten lunch together in the school hall (some of them hot), enjoyed gathering for assembly and sung together. In singing assembly today the sense of joy was palpable – there were smiles on faces and it was lovely to have Mrs Pattenden sat back at the piano teaching us a new song!

It has also been lovely to meet our new reception class. Next week they will stay for lunch and begin to meet some of the other children. They have settled extremely well; any time that I have popped into the classroom they have been fully engaged in what they are doing and seem very happy to be in school.

One thing that many of you have missed out on is getting to know others in our parent community - some of you have never been beyond the school gate until this week. I hope that we can begin to

repair some of that loss by meeting others on the playground and offering a warm welcome to parents that are new to the school.

As well as a vehicle for sharing the many things that happen in school, this letter is a means of keeping you informed of upcoming events. Please do take time to read it – I promise that they won't always be as long as this one!

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Key Dates Planner (attached)

It is a real pleasure to attach our first version of the Key Dates Planner for 2021/2022. There will be some amongst you that have not seen this before because we have not been able to hold our usual events or indeed any new activities given the situation with COVID. We are excited to be able to schedule things in for the year ahead and hope that we can proceed as planned. The attached Planner will be updated and reissued at the start of Terms 3 and 5. A copy can also be found on the school website under the parent tab. These dates are those that are known about at the time of publishing. We use the dates section of the fortnightly newsletter to inform you of other events and 'need to knows' that crop up mid-term. New dates are always typed in **bold** to draw them to your attention. We hope that both calendars will help you juggle your busy lives.

Amended Calendar – mistake highlighted

The School Calendar is also attached. There are no significant changes. A minor amendment has been made to the previous version to correct the dates listed in the Key Term Dates box at the bottom of the sheet. The final date of Term 6 has been amended to read **22/07/2022** instead of **25/07/2022**.

Lego Club – Help Needed

This year the First Lego League competition is going ahead and we are once again entering a team of children from Sycamore (Years 5&6). We have had a number of successes in the past – you may have noticed some of the Lego trophies in the library area. We would love a parent (or two) to help us coach the children. The challenge involves the children designing and programming a robot to

complete a range of challenges – they then have to complete as many of these as they can, against the clock on the competition day in January. The club will take place from 3:15 – 4:30 after school on Fridays. If you think you could help then please do let us know. No knowledge of robots or programming is required, just enthusiasm and willingness to help the children think their way around a range of problems and challenges.

Website

We are in the process of ensuring that our website is up to date and current. Please note that each newsletter is put on the website soon after it is sent out via parent mail. You can always find it there and download a copy or find back copies should you need them.

Meet the Teacher sessions

On Wednesday 22nd September and Tuesday 23rd September, you will see from the dates section of this newsletter that we have our *Meet the Teacher* sessions planned. Please come into school at the designated time and head to your child's classroom. This short meeting is an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher and learn about the routines and expectations that they will put in place across the year. There will of course be an opportunity for you to ask questions and see inside your child's classroom. If your session is at 3:15 we will hold the children in the school hall, until you are finished, so that you are able to concentrate on what is being said. We won't unfortunately be able to care for younger siblings.

Documents coming out via SeeSaw

You should all be fully fluent with access to SeeSaw and know that we use this platform as a means to share your child's learning with you. At times teachers will post pictures or short videos of things that are going on in school and use this as a mean to communicate something important that is pertinent to classroom learning. This week you will find a few key documents coming out via See Saw: knowledge organisers (Oak, Chestnut and Sycamore), curriculum overviews and a document that we call 'something for the fridge door'. Teachers will be referring to these briefly at the Meet the Teacher Session. We are aware that there is a lot of information coming at you in these first weeks and so would like to maintain SeeSaw as a place to send you all things learning related. Please keep an eye on your account and do get in touch if you have any difficulties accessing it.

Celebration worship

Many of you have been asking about when parents might begin attending celebration worship again. This collective worship is held at 2:45 on Friday afternoons and is a time for us to celebrate our fantastic learners and share the work that has been going on. Gathering as a whole school hasn't happened for nearly 20 months and whilst the children are already remembering the routines around this, we would like to take a few weeks to re-adjust and get really settled before we begin this practice. We have a Harvest Festival in the very near future when we would love to invite you to join us in church and would thereafter like our first 'parents welcome' celebration worship to be Friday 5th November, after the half term break. More information nearer the time.

Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of any government benefits and think that you might be entitled to a free school lunch for your child, please do get in touch. We can support you to complete the relevant paperwork and ensure that you have access to this valuable support. Numbers of children on free school meals provide schools with an important pocket of funding that can be used in a range of ways to support children and their learning. Please note that this is not the same as the universal free school lunch that all children in Key Stage One are entitled to, however parents of children in Key Stage One who are eligible for the free school meal funding (benefit related) should still make an application. Please do ask if you have any questions in relation to this.

St. Katharine's Open Day

We are holding our Open Morning on Tuesday 19th October from 9.30am until 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. In the meantime, please spread the word to anyone you might know with children starting school next year. Our existing parents are our best advocates! Whilst we are currently near to capacity, we are never complacent. Being full in every year group ensures that our small school can provide its best offer to all pupils.

Primary and Secondary School Admissions 22/23

The deadline date for 2022/23 admission applications for a **Primary** school place is **15th January 2022** and for a **Secondary** school place is **31st October 2021**. You can submit your application online via the [Wiltshire Council website](#). We have 15 places in our Reception class here at St.

Katharine's for September 2022, in line with our PAN (pupil allocated number). We are keen to have another full cohort in 2022.

Fund Raising Champion

In the summer holidays Max Thatcher (year 2) did some amazing fundraising for the Hawk Conservancy Trust in Andover. Max loves nothing more than birds of prey, and his favourite place to visit is the Hawk Conservancy Trust. In the summer holidays, Max decided that he would like to raise money for the Hawk Conservancy and came up with a challenge for himself for people to sponsor him. Max decided that he was going to cycle at least 2k a day for a week and swim everyday for a week. He started on Monday 23rd August and managed to cycle every day - exceeding his target of 2k and he managed to cycle nearly 20 miles in the week. He also swam 10 lengths a day in his grandparents' pool.

Max raised an astounding £800! As a school we are very proud of Max; not only his belief that he could make something positive happen for a cause that he is passionate about but also his determination in achieving what he set out to do. We will be putting a few photos on the New section of the website to share Max's achievement.

Pizza Day – 7th October

To promote Sue Brady and encourage children to try a Sue Brady lunch, homemade pizza will be on the menu on 7th October. If you don't usually order, please log on to the Sue Brady website and give it a try!

Savernake Estate (dog walking)

We would like to remind parents that the fields around the school are a working agricultural environment and are privately owned. Please can you keep to marked footpaths if you are walking and keep any dogs under close control.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>September</i>	
Tuesday 7 th	6 weeks of paddle tennis starts for Chestnut and Sycamore class

Thursday 9 th	Sycamore start forest school
Monday 13 th	Whole Reception class in school for morning and lunch – 8.45am until 12.55pm
Monday 20 th	Whole Reception class in school all day – 8.45am until 3pm
Wednesday 15 th	Sports for Schools whole school assembly
Monday 20 th	Whole Reception class in school all day – 8.45am until 3pm
Tuesday 21 st	Sycamore visit to Bouverie Hall to see author - Literature Festival
Wednesday 22 nd	Meet the teacher evening: Hazel: 2.30pm Oak: 3.15pm
Thursday 23 rd	Meet the teacher evening: Chestnut: 2.30pm Sycamore: 3.15pm
Wednesday 29 th	Olympian visit to school
<i>October</i>	
Wednesday 6 th	Harvest Festival in church – 9.30am
Thursday 7 th	Year 6 Open Evening at St. John's (for Yr6 pupils, parents and carers) Final Sycamore forest school
Tuesday 12 th	Reception and KS1 reading meeting for parents Christmas box assembly by Trussell Trust
Friday 15 th	Yr4 Oxenwood adventure day – details to follow Sycamore trip to Science Museum, London – details to follow
Tuesday 19 th	Eco-Council elections – details to follow Open morning prospective parents 2022/2023 – 9.30am until 11.30am Last Day of Term 1
Wednesday 20 th	TD Day 2 – children not required in school

Sunday 31 st	Deadline for secondary school applications
<i>November</i>	
Monday 1 st	First Day of Term 2
Friday 5 th	Bonfire night PTA – details to follow
	Christmas box collection day – Trussell Trust
Thursday 11 th	Remembrance Collective worship – venue and timings detail to follow
Friday 12 th	TD Day 3 – children not required in school
Friday 26 th	St. Katharine’s Day service in church – 9.30am
Monday 29 th	Sharing our Learning afternoon – parents invited in 2.30pm until 3.15pm
Tuesday 30 th	Whole school Parents Evening 1 – 3.30pm until 5.30pm
<i>December</i>	
Wednesday 1 st	Whole school Parents Evening 1 – 3.30pm until 7.00pm
Wednesday 8 th	Sue Brady Christmas lunch
Monday 13 th	Nativity Dress rehearsal – parents and grandparents welcome – 2pm
Tuesday 14 th	Nativity in church – 5.00pm until 6.30pm
Thursday 16 th	Christmas parties – pm – bring in party clothes to change into
Friday 17 th	Carol Service in school – 2.15pm
	Last day of Term 2

Items in bold have been added since the previous Newsletter.

Please also refer to your Key Dates Planner for all known date so far this academic year.

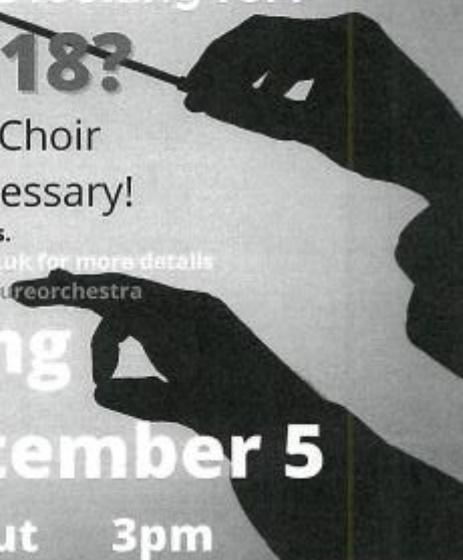
TD Days 2021/22

- Wednesday 1st September
- Wednesday 20th October
- Friday 12th November
- Tuesday 4th January
- Friday 22nd July

Please Note

We will close at 1:15pm on Thursday 21st July 2022

Other things you might want to know...



DO YOU LIKE TO SING?
Stand Sure Orchestra & Choirs
could be what you're looking for!

Aged 8-18?
Join the Youth Choir
No audition necessary!
Termly fee applies.
Email - info@standsureorchestra.co.uk for more details
Find us on Facebook @standsureorchestra

Starting
Sunday, September 5
Pewsey Scout Hut 3pm



Dear All,

I am contacting you because Savernake Beaver Scouts need a new adult helper. Please spread the word! No scouting experience necessary whatsoever! Just a willingness to get stuck in, meet new people and gain new experiences in your local community working with our young people to get them involved in the great outdoors, crafting, working as a team and making new friends! (DBS checks will need to be undertaken).

We've managed to keep Beavers going during lockdown with Zoom meetings and then back to Face-to-Face for the second half of the summer term. All of my previous Beavers are old enough now to move up to Cub Scouts and so I'm excited to start afresh with a new intake of Beavers. It should be a really nice sized group - I have 6 Beavers starting at the moment, but I expect that to rise to around 10. I have a range of activities already organised, starting with pond dipping on Monday 6th September with Action River Kennet in Marlborough. Plus after a 2 year COVID pause we are already planning our summer activity camp at Pewsey School in June 2022 - the famous 'Beaver Babble'.

All I need now is your help! I need adults to help run the sessions so that they are fun and safe. In the past I've allocated each child's family slots in a parent rota, and whilst the parents do a brilliant job at individual evenings, it's become clear to me that what we need alongside the parent rota is help on a regular basis (it doesn't need to be every week, it could be every fortnight). With a permanent role, the young people will get more out of the relationship with their helpers, but also as a helper you'll get to know the young people better and can input more to the planning, or bring in your own interests and skills more too as you wish. I also have young leaders (aged 14-16) who are on hand to help out and do a great job, but at least one other permanent adult helper is needed to support the Beaver Colony.

Please could I ask you to consider stepping up to volunteer; without volunteers we will do our best to run the Beaver Colony until October half-term but if I have not bolstered my helper team by then I will need to close down the Colony until I can find more support. So please reply to this email if you would like to get involved in our amazing scouting community! Or pass this message on to someone who you think would be an amazing helper or future leader!

We meet on Mondays at 18:15 to 19:30 at the Burbage Scout Hut in East Sands, next to Mundays and the cricket pitch. Currently, we have a mix of boys and girls starting, the majority of whom live in Burbage.

Can't wait to hear from you!

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MARLBOROUGH YOUTH RUGBY IS BACK



- Rugby is back on The Common!
- Marlborough Rugby is recruiting new players. Age groups from U6 to U18, girls and boys of all standards and experience welcome. Learn new skills from qualified coaches.
- Come and have fun and join **THE** team game in the heart of Marlborough.
- Free shirt for all new members.
- Please contact youth@mrfc.co.uk for full details.