



ST KATHARINE'S CE  
SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty*

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September

NEWSLETTER No: 2

*Our Value This Term Is...*

*Friendship*



*Dear Parents,*

I think that we are now officially well into the swing of things. It is hard to believe that September is nearly over already! This week saw our youngest learners in Hazel Class begin full time school and staying in school for a whole day. Perhaps one of the loveliest and most notable change that we have seen this year already is watching our Reception children fully integrate with the rest of the school in a way that has not been possible for so long. The benefits are for the whole school; watching older children once again be able to support and nurture the younger children is truly special to witness. Sycamore Class took their first trip of the year as they went to Pewsey to hear the bestselling author Natasha Farrant talk about her children's novels: *The Children of Castle Rock and The Voyage of the Sparrowhawk*. This trip was part of the Marlborough Literature Festival. I am reliably informed that she spoke 'brilliantly' and I can see copies of her already well-thumbed books in our children's hands; some are already a few chapters in!

Chestnut and Sycamore are also enjoying Paddle Tennis sessions on a Tuesday morning. This block of sessions; delivered by specialist coaches is an example of our use of the PE grant that supports not only the delivery of high-quality PE but that also introduces children to sports they might not otherwise experience. Next week we are welcoming Kelly

Simm into school. Kelli has competed at the highest level of gymnastics for some years and will be working with the children to talk about herself as an athlete, the work that is involved in getting to the very top of a sport and the benefits of exercise as part of a healthy life. You will have already received a letter and sponsorship form that explains this in more detail. We look forward to sharing this experience with you in the next newsletter.

*Niki Jones*

Principal

*'From little acorns, great oaks grow'*



### **Harvest Festival**

Our Harvest Festival service will be in church on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October. It will be the first time (for some time) that we have been able to gather as a full school community. Please do come and join us at 9:30am on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October. We would like to welcome anyone who can make it back to school after the service for coffee and biscuits. If the weather is fine, we will do this outside on the playground, if not we will go inside and use the school hall.

### **Harvest Donations**

Please start to bring in your Harvest donations from next week. There will be a large basket in the entrance for you to leave these in. As you know we are working once again with the Devizes Foodbank in support of families locally that will benefit from this much needed support. There is so much in the news at the moment about rising prices and reduced household budgets, perhaps now more than ever our local foodbanks will provide a lifeline to those who really need it. The following list is one provided by the foodbank and contains the items that they are most in need of:

***please see pg. 2***

| WE NEED THE FOLLOWING:   |
|--|
| LONG LIFE DAIRY MILK (WE HAVE PLENTY OF NON-DAIRY E.G. RICE, ALMOND, ETC.) |
| TINNED VEGETABLES (PEAS, SLICED BEANS, CARROTS ETC)                        |
| TINNED POTATOES  |
| INSTANT MASH POTATO  |
| TINNED MEAT (BOTH HOT AND COLD)  |
| LONG LIFE SPONGE PUDDINGS  |
| TINNED RICE PUDDING  |
| SHOWER GEL   |
| TOOTHPASTE   |
| TOILET ROLLS   |
| TINNED SARDINES, SALMON OR MACKEREL  |
| TINNED CUSTARD   |
| CHOCOLATE BARS   |
| SWEETS   |
| INSTANT COFFEE   |
| BISCUITS   |
| CHOCOLATE BISCUIT BARS E.G. KIT KAT, PENGUIN ETC                           |



### St Katharine’s Church Flower Festival

This year, in celebration of Harvest, St Katharine’s Church are hosting a flower festival. Please see the poster added to the pin board page at the bottom of this letter. There will also be a Harvest Service in church on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**; we are hoping that some of our children in Years 3-6 will come and join the service and sing as part of it. Please look out for the parent mail (early next week) with more details of that event.

### Covid Update

We all know that whilst life is returning to something resembling normal, Covid 19 is far from behind us. We have had a case of confirmed Covid in our upper Key Stage 2 class and another related case in KS1 this week and a further two cases of positive lateral flow tests that have then resulted in negative PCRs.

Our position, adhering to current DfE advice, is that: confirmed cases of Covid 19 are managed by PHE track and trace and will result in a 10-day period of isolation for the infected person. It will no longer result in a bubble closure. We will only take further action as a school if contacted and advised to do so by PHE track and trace. If children are at all unwell, we are asking that you routinely test (using lateral flow) and follow up with a PCR if positive. Please know that we have a robust risk assessment in place along with an ‘Outbreak Management Plan’

which supports our decision making. Both documents can be found on the [school website](#).

### *The following is lifted from our current risk assessment:*

*Pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). They will also need to [get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19](#).*

*Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.*

*If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, **as long as the individual doesn’t have COVID-19 symptoms**.*

*From 16 August, household contacts will not be required to self-isolate if you live in the same household as someone with covid19 if any of the following apply:*

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

*If you have only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, you will still be required to self-isolate.*

*Your isolation period includes the day the first person in your household’s symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, your 10 day isolation period starts on the 15th of the month, your isolation period ends at 23:59 hrs on the 25th and you can return to your normal routine.*

### And so, to home learning...

For those children at home, self-isolating, who are otherwise completely fit for school (some children have very mild symptoms that would not ordinarily result in time off school) we will provide home learning. Contact will be made with parents by the school once we are made aware of a period of self-isolation in the form of a letter that will explain our process thereafter. Please understand that teachers are still planning and delivering learning for the remainder of the class and therefore this will largely be tasks that children can get on with independently as well as selected sessions from BBC bitesize and The Oak Academy, where relevant. We will aim to ensure that any learning set matches the learning in school. This offer is only for those

children who are self-isolating because they have tested positive for Covid 19 and importantly that are well enough to take part. As has always been the case, we are not able to offer home learning for children at home with other bugs and viruses. We will always negotiate home learning on a case-by-case basis; we understand that whilst children may be well, they may be living in households with adults who are also infected and as such have limited capacity to support a full timetable of home learning.

### **The Road!**

We all know that the road has deteriorated badly in the last 12 months and that in addition to this some significant 'dips' have developed in the carpark itself. It is no small challenge to try and work out the best way to solve this problem and to solve it in such a way that it gives us some longevity. We are working to try and create a bit of joined up thinking involving Ramsbury Estates, Wiltshire Council our School Business Manager and members of our own Local Governing Body (LGB). Many of you have approached me with thoughtful suggestions in recent weeks and I am aware that there is much good will amongst our parent community to support any improvements that are possible. Thank you for your patience; there is work going on in the background and I hope that in the not-too-distant future things will begin to get moving in the right direction.

### **Reading Meeting – Hazel and Oak Class Parents**

You will see from the diary dates that we are inviting all parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 to come to a reading meeting where we hope to provide you with some helpful insights into how reading is taught in school and how you can support children, as they learn to read, at home. **The meeting will be held in the school hall at 2:00pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October** and we are looking forward to welcoming as many of you as can make it.

### **St Katharine's Eco Council**

Instead of a School Council, this year, we would like to form an Eco Council, made up of children from across the school. We will be talking to the children about the writing of manifestos and the creation of short presentations for those that would like to be considered for this role. There will be time in class for children to present their ideas to their peers and talk about how they would like to use this role to make a difference to the environment both locally

and more generally. We will tie this in with some teaching around the Cop 26 and the impact that we are hopeful this will have toward a more sustainable planet.

There will be an assembly nearer the time to support the children to know how to go about creating a manifesto. We plan to vote for the various candidates on the final day of Term 1 with a view to having the first Eco Meeting at the very beginning of Term 2. Mr Sandall and Miss Denton will be running the Eco Council this year. I look forward to bringing you news of this initiative in future newsletters.

### **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 as of next week. 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 and continue to thrive.

### **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. **Please remember even if you already have a child in school you must still apply for any siblings who are due to start in September 2022.**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| <i>September</i>   |   |
|--|---|
| Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>                               | Olympian visit to school  |
| <i>October</i>   |   |
| <b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b> | <b>St Katharine's Church Flower Festival &amp; and Harvest Service (Sunday 6pm)<br/>See flyer below</b> |
| Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>                                | Harvest Festival in church – 9.30am   |
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>                                 | Year 6 Open Evening at St. John's (for Yr6 pupils, parents and carers)                                  |
|  | Final Sycamore forest school  |
| Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>                                 | Reception and KS1 reading meeting for parents <b>2pm in the school hall</b>                             |
|  | Christmas box assembly by Trussell Trust  |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>                                  | Yr4 Oxenwood adventure day – details to follow  |
|  | Sycamore trip to Science Museum, London – details to follow   |
| Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>                                 | Open morning prospective parents 2022/2023 – 9.30am until 11.30am                                       |
|  | Eco-Council Elections – pm  |
|  | Last Day of Term 1  |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>                               | TD Day 2 – children not required in school  |
| Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>                                  | Deadline for secondary school applications  |
| <i>November</i>  |   |
| Monday 1st   | First Day of Term 2   |
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>                                   | Bonfire night PTA – details to follow   |
|  | Christmas box collection day – Trussell Trust   |

| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> | Remembrance Collective worship – venue and timings detail to follow     |
|---------------------------|---|
| Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>   | TD Day 3 – children not required in school                              |
| Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>   | St. Katharine's Day service in church – 9.30am                          |
| Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>   | Sharing our Learning afternoon – parents invited in 2.30pm until 3.15pm |
| Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>  | Whole school Parents Evening 1 – 3.30pm until 5.30pm                    |
| <i>December</i>           |   |
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> | Whole school Parents Evening 1 – 3.30pm until 7.00pm                    |
| Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> | Sue Brady Christmas lunch   |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>   | Nativity Dress rehearsal – parents and grandparents welcome – 2pm       |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Nativity in church – 5.00pm until 6.30pm                                |
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> | Christmas parties – pm – bring in party clothes to change into          |
| Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>   | 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 1<sup>st</sup> September
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

### **Please Note**

We will close at 1:15pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

# Other things you might want to know...



### Braeside's Able, Gifted, Talented and Enrichment course pack for Autumn/Winter 2021/22 for Primary School Years 2-6 is now available.

These courses will run from November 2021 – March 2022.

All details of individual courses can be obtained from the Braeside website, as well as a full downloadable pdf version of the whole booklet. Please visit [www.braeside-education.co.uk](http://www.braeside-education.co.uk) (under 'Schools' and 'AGTE courses').

Braeside have launched a new website recently which enables parents/carers/schools to book spaces on our courses by either:

- Completing our online application form on our website [www.braeside-education.co.uk](http://www.braeside-education.co.uk) (contact the office at St. Katharine's for the code), or
- Sending paper application forms to the following address:  
AGTE Coordinator  
Braeside Education Centre  
Bath Road  
Devizes  
SN10 2AP



### Do your children love reading, love books?

This year's Marlborough LitFest, which runs from 30 Sept' to 3 October features some great authors and events [www.marlboroughlitfest.org](http://www.marlboroughlitfest.org).

You can come into Marlborough library and find lots of the authors' books which are free to borrow. If you aren't a library member just bring some I.D that shows your name and address (a driving licence is ideal) and it's easy to join. We have lots of lovely new books too, just waiting to be discovered! If your local library is Pewsey, Ramsbury or Aldbourne, just pop-in when they are open and they will be happy to help you to join and reserve books.

