



ST KATHARINE'S C of E
SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect, & Honesty

Friday 8th April

NEWSLETTER No: 14

Our Value This Term Is...

Compassion



Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to say how lovely it was to see so many of you in church this morning to celebrate Easter with us. It was a bit touch and go getting an Easter Service ready for an audience; being in bubbles is not conducive to a full rehearsal programme but I hope that you all join me in celebrating the efforts of both the children and staff to put this together.

It seems astonishing that the final 'Summer' Term will be upon us when we return from the Easter Break. There are some exciting things to look forward to for everyone, alongside the dates at the end of this newsletter we will be sending out the final Key Dates Planner at the beginning of Term 5 that will include all the dates that we know of between now and the end of the year. We are dusting off our logistics management skills as we re-adjust to the booking of coaches and the arrangement of other details all necessary for learning beyond the classroom. We hope that what this signals is a return to more of the rich, out of classroom activity that we believe is intrinsic to a full and well designed curriculum. Our thanks again to all of you that

support the fundraising efforts of our PTA. These funds help us to offer more opportunities in the way of trips and visits as we are able to manage the costs for the whole community.

This week we hosted a Key Stage 1 multi-skills festival at St Katharine's. This is part of the small schools' sporting calendar that we have established alongside other small schools and with the help of Tash at In2Sport. Whilst we still compete in the larger tournaments it is great to compete with schools of similar sizes on a slightly more level playing field. I am delighted to share the fact that not only were our children singled out for brilliant behaviour but also that they won the tournament. They were so pleased to bring back their individual medals and the trophy, now sitting proudly in the library!

That only leaves me to wish you all a very Happy Easter. I hope that the sun gets warmer and that you all find some time to enjoy a bit of rest and relaxation.

We will of course look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 25th of April for the beginning of Term 5!

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Walk to School and Scootability

In addition to our usual Bikeability sessions for Year 6, this year we are looking forward to taking part in sessions being run by Wiltshire Council on Road Safety and Scootability.

All year groups will take part in Walk Safe on Tuesday 3rd May. It covers a combination of classroom and practical activities aimed at encouraging children and families to walk more often and more safely. The Year 6 sessions focus on transition to secondary schools, including route planning.

Scootability is scheduled for 19th July. It is a 1-hour practical session focusing on balance and control skills and responsible scooter use. There are limited places available and there is a fee of approximately £6 per child. Details will be provided closer to the time inviting

parents to indicate whether they would like their child/ren to take part, starting with KS2.

Internet Safety Newsletter (see attachment)

Please find attached to this newsletter an internet safety letter from Mr Sandall (computing lead) with some information and suggestions about keeping children safe online. Please do feedback if this is useful as we are looking into a letter like this becoming a feature at key points in the year, to support parents and to keep you updated and informed.

Cake Sale for the Jubilee Canopy

We have recently planted trees for the Queen's Green Canopy initiative to mark her Platinum Jubilee. There will be a cake sale on Friday 29th April after school to raise money for a plaque to sit with these trees. The cakes will be provided by Oak Class on this occasion. Cakes will be on sale for £1 each.

Parents Evenings

We hope that most of you were able to attend a parents' evening this week. If you were not able to attend a meeting for any reason, please do get in touch and we will try to accommodate a catch up with your child's class teacher. This was the second of our virtual meetings and we are pleased with how smoothly things have gone. Please remember, should you need more time to discuss a concern, our teachers are happy to arrange a meeting, face to face, at a mutually convenient time.

We know from our experience of the last two virtual meetings that these can work well if:

- ★ a quiet space it set aside for the meeting to happen in and...
- ★ if everyone is ready for the meeting to start promptly.

A great deal can be covered in the 8-minute slot if both of the above are in place.

Our next parents evening will be on **12th and 14th July**, after the end of year reports come home on **1st July**.

Home Learning and new Covid procedures

You will all have received the recent information about how we are now managing Covid in the education sector.

Key points are:

- ✓ No asymptomatic testing
- ✓ Children who are unwell to stay at home
- ✓ Children who have tested positive to isolate for 3 days
- ✓ Children with a temperature not to attend school
- ✓ Schools will continue to support measures such as increased hygiene and ventilation

As such, there will no longer be the need for us to offer a package of home learning. We are assuming that the only children not in school are those who are not well enough to be here.

Updated School calendar

Please find attached to this Newsletter an updated school calendar 2022-23 with the final TD Day included. We will be issuing a Key Dates Planner (V3) at the very beginning of Term 5, including all the dates until the end of this academic year, that we are aware of at the point of writing.

PTA Fundraising

Thank you to everyone that brought in their old clothes for the Bags to School fundraiser this week. This initiative raised **£63.60** which will go into the PTA funds in support of equipment and resources for school. Thank you also (in advance) for your support of the Easter Egg Hunt being held today. More on the funds raised by that event in future newsletters.

Sue Brady Update and Pizza Day

The website went live with the summer seasonal orders last Friday. Please remember that the cut off for ordering the summer seasonal orders is 9am on Thursday 21st April. Due to circumstances out of their control, the cut off for week commencing 25th April will also be 9am Thursday 21st April and not the Friday as it usually is.

To promote Sue Brady and encourage children to try a Sue Brady lunch, homemade pizza will be on the menu on 19th May. Orders can be placed via the Sue Brady website. Please select 'option 1' for pizza. Please note that on the website it will be listed as ham, herby potatoes and beans that day for 'option 1', however it will in fact be pizza provided that

day. Order before Friday 13th May. If you don't usually order, please log on to the Sue Brady website and give it a try.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>April</i>	
Monday 25 th	First Day of Term 5
	Sycamore first swimming session
Tuesday 26 th	Sir Harold Hillier Gardens trip for Hazel and Oak class
	Chestnut Class First Forest School
Thursday 28 th	First Bath Rugby lesson, lunchtime and afterschool clubs block of 5 sessions for KS2
Friday 29 th	Cake Sale for green canopy
<i>May</i>	
Monday 2 nd	May Day Holiday School closed
Tuesday 3 rd	Walk to School Sessions
Wednesday 4th	ARK River visit – KS2
Monday 9 th – 13 th	KS 2 SATs Week
Friday 13 th	Whole School Vision and Values Day
	Sycamore Class girls' cricket experience (small group)
Monday 16 th – 20 th	KS 1 SATs Week
Thursday 19 th	Sue Brady Pizza Day
Friday 20 th	Vision and Values Day parent sharing afternoon. Parents invited from 2:00pm (timing TBC) <i>This represents a change from previous newsletter.</i>
Saturday 21st	Trip to Bath Rugby
Monday 23rd	Year 6 pre-residential parents meeting 2.30pm
Tuesday 24 th	Final Chestnut Forest School

	Sycamore trip to Lulworth Cove <i>(details to follow)</i>
Thursday 26 th	Final Bath Rugby lessons, lunchtime and afterschool clubs block of sessions for KS2
Friday 27 th	Last Day of Term 5
	Celebration Worship – Parents welcome (Sycamore sharing)

Items in bold have been added since the previous Newsletter.

Please also refer to your **Key Dates Planner Version 2**, for all known dates so far, this academic year.

Remaining TD Days 2021/22

- Friday 22nd July

Please Note

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

Other things you might want to know...

5th April 2022

Bidding for accessibility improvements for Pewsey Station



Accessibility for single parents with young children and buggies or disabled people in wheelchairs at Pewsey Station is extremely poor and borders on being prohibitive. Disabled parking is limited to two slots on the westbound entrance to the station. The parking on the eastbound platform external entrance is all for permit holders only with no disabled parking. The ticket office and the ticket machine are both sited on the westbound platform. The ticket office is not continuously manned



and when the ticket office is not manned the ticket office is locked with access to the westbound platform being via a side gate. The ticket machine itself is undercover as show in the adjacent picture.

Having got a ticket the traveller, if travelling east must then decide how they are going to get to the eastbound platform. The relatively new footbridge has steps up to the crossover point from each platform. The bridge does have the design provision to support a lift on each platform but these were not installed at the time of the new bridge installation.

For a determined single parent with a child in a buggy it is possible to haul the buggy up the bridge steps backwards and then slowly bump the buggy down the steps coming back down. Clearly not a manoeuvre for the faint hearted.

For a disabled wheelchair user the steps are a non-starter which leaves the only option of going back out of the station and propelling down to the main road down quite a steep station road entrance and taking their life into their own hands and go down the main 'A' road under the railway bridge and back up the hill the other side to the eastbound carpark and platform entrance, see picture below.



It should be noted that there is no footpath on either side of the road. The road is narrow under the bridge and only just about allows for two way car traffic. The road slope down and back up the other side of the bridge is quite steep and would require a proficient wheelchair user to negotiate the route. For the return passenger who initially travelled eastbound their arrival back would be on the westbound side and back at their car. For passengers who were travelling west initially they would need to negotiate getting back to the westbound side.

Pewsey Station provides travel support for a very wide area stretching to Marlborough and Devizes. The overall footfall for Pewsey Station is high with commuters travelling eastbound to Newbury, Reading and London and with commuters and students travelling westbound to Bath and Bristol. There is also a growing demand for more leisure travel westbound although post pandemic the growth is difficult to measure at this stage. The level of passengers currently requiring assistance at Pewsey might be quite low but that is not a fair measure of the overall potential passenger requirement because the numbers may be low because potential passengers know the station access is very poor. The nearest alternative station with disabled access would be Westbury or Newbury which are both about 20 miles away.

This year BBC Radio Wiltshire wants to celebrate and say thank you to people living in our villages, towns and cities who make where we live a better place.

Every we hear stories of people doing incredible things for each other and their communities. Now it's time to recognise them for all their hard work.

Whether it's caring for someone in need, being a brilliant neighbour, or inspiring children in the classroom, if you know someone who is really making a difference to our lives then you can nominate them for an Award

There are 8 categories:

- Volunteer
- Community Group
- Fundraiser
- Carer
- Great Neighbour
- Key Worker
- Environment
- Together award

You can nominate someone you know at bbc.co.uk/makeadifference where you can also see full Terms and our Privacy Notice. Nominations are now open and will close on the 29th of April 2022 at 11:00pm. The winners will be announced at our Make a Difference awards ceremony in September.

And follow #BBCMakeADifference on Twitter and Facebook for more details.

Many Thanks

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Paid Teaching Internships Summer 2022

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Easter Holidays Family Fun...

60 min Padel session

AND

9 or 18 holes of Footgolf

Family of 4 price: 9 holes £40 or 18 holes £55

To purchase your Family Ticket

Call: 01793 251130 or Email: bassetdown@padel4all.com

- Tickets valid for single use of each activity anytime between 4th - 24th April
- Padel court & Footgolf tee-time must be booked in advance. Tee-times only available from 10am - 4pm
- A participating family should consist of 1 adult & 3 children or 2 adults and 2 children
- Racket hire and balls included for both activities; Padel session includes a Coach Intro

