



ST KATHARINE'S

C of E

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect,

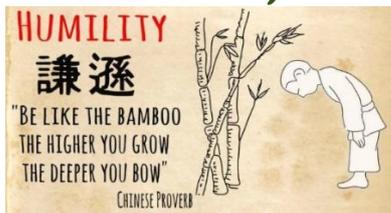
& Honesty

Friday 27th May 2022

NEWSLETTER No: 17

Our Value This Term Is...

Humility



Dear Parents,

I think 'blink and you missed it' would be an apt description of Term 5... it certainly went by in a flash!

A number of parents have commented, happily, on how busy the school calendar seems to be. I know that this adds another layer of complexity to the lives of parents but I hope that you, like us, are enjoying seeing children excited about the many different activities that are now filling their lives. Last Friday we had our first gathering of children and parents in the school hall. It was such a special moment for us – like taking a deep breath of fresh air! Thank you to those of you that came and shared in the work that we have been doing around our vision and values. If you weren't able to come along, please have a look at the 'news' page of the website where we have shared a description of the work that each class did and some of the photographs that Mrs Mackenzie took of the children as they explored our vision and values, through forest school learning.

In the fortnight since the last newsletter, we have continued to enjoy our sport at St Katharine's. We hosted a 'small schools' cricket festival for Year 3 and 4. Other small schools such as Easton Royal, Burbage, Shalbourne and Kennet Valley among others joined us in a tournament organised and managed by Tash from IN2Sport. In spite of the, at times, torrential rain, I think the children had a great day and we enjoyed ending the afternoon in a very respectable 3rd place.

Last Saturday Mr Sandall and Mrs Freeman accompanied a group of children and their parents to Bath to watch the Rugby. The small matter of breaking down on the M4 and requiring rescue from a stand-in coach, did not prevent them all from having a wonderful day. It was lovely for the children, who have had training this term from a Bath Rugby coach, to witness professionals playing the game. I am sure that it was a 'first' for some of the group. Thank you to both members of staff who gave time on a Saturday to support this experience. This week, Sycamore Class visited Durdle Door and Lulworth Cove as part of their block of learning on 'Coasts'. They enjoyed a day of Geography field work and experienced first-hand how our landscape has been transformed by natural forces. I probably repeat this far too often but this is yet another example of our commitment to finding ways of bringing learning to life, both in and out of the classroom.

I hope that you manage a short pause, during this half term break, in what has been a busy few weeks and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for what is our final term of the academic year. Hold on to your hats – there is a lot to come!

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Savernake Fun Run update

As many of you will have noticed, the Savernake Fun Run has been tentatively scheduled in the diary, however we have not been able to secure all necessary permissions to proceed in July. We are in discussions with local landowners to find an alternative route, and we are hopeful that we will be able to hold this event in the autumn. Watch this space!

School Sport - Tournaments

Having not been able to take part in tournaments for such a long time it seems like a good opportunity to explain to parents how our tournaments, out of the classroom, work, what we take part in and how we select children to take part.

We are part of a local sports partnership, along with many local schools. As part of this a range of sporting fixtures are organised for us and we are able to opt in as our capacity and diary

allows. At St Katharines we are keen to take part in as many of these as we can, giving our children the opportunity to play in and experience competitive sport and to meet up with other children of the same age, from other settings. As well as the local sports partnership, involving many of the schools in the Marlborough area, we are also part of a 'small schools' partnership, giving children from schools, such as ours, with numbers around the 100 mark, a chance to compete, slightly more equitably, against teams with a similar make-up. Across the year we probably enter around 10 tournaments, involving children from Y1 – Y6. Our main mission is to encourage participation and enjoyment of sport. We are keen to ensure that, throughout their time at primary school, children will have been exposed to a range of sports with the ultimate aim of children finding a sport that they enjoy and may continue to engage with as they transition to secondary school.

Occasionally tournaments have limited spaces for e.g. Quad Kids (Y5) where only 10 children from each school can attend. In this instance we will ask how many children would like to take part in the tournament and if it is more than the allocated number, we will choose - using a names out of a hat method. This is then managed fairly and a careful record retained so that when the next tournament comes around, those children are given priority. We realise that it has been a while since attendance at tournaments was a regular feature of the diary and felt that a proper explanation of the process would be helpful.

Nuts and Seed Free School

We have several children for whom **nuts** and/or **seeds** pose a very serious threat to health. These children carry epi-pens in the case of an anaphylactic shock and are identified in our risk assessment procedures. Please help us to keep these young people safe by checking the ingredients of any food items that are brought into school. Please note that houmous, if made with tahina, has **sesame** as a key ingredient and is therefore not suitable for lunch boxes. For a severely allergic child the allergen does not have to be ingested to cause a reaction but can be transferred onto hands and skin.

We thank you in anticipation of your support and vigilance around this request.

PE kits on PE days and PE club Days

One of the learnings from the pandemic was that children do not need to change for PE; coming to school dressed for PE lessons has saved time, space and allowed more time for teaching and learning in the PE lesson. In support of this change can you please make sure that children wear **school** PE kit if they have a PE lesson or club. If your child does football club on Monday and Wednesday, they can bring a football top to change into but they should be in St Katharine's PE kit during the school day.

Leave of Absence

If you are requesting that your child be taken out of school during term time, please be reminded that in the first instance you will need to apply for a leave of absence. You can request a form in the school office or download a copy of the form from the website ([parent tab – leave of absence](#)).

Broadly speaking, most requests for absence from school, unless falling into the category of exceptional circumstance, will not be agreed. This is in line with advice and guidance that headteachers are expected, by law, to apply. If you take your child out of school for a holiday during term time, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

If a child has unauthorised absences of more than 9 sessions (4.5 days) in any 6-month period, parents may be eligible for a local authority fine. Again, after a long period of time when we haven't been able to travel, visit friends and family and take holidays abroad, it is worth revisiting what remains very clear guidance around the expectations for parents with school age children around the matter of school attendance.

My Child At School (MCAS)

Excalibur Academies Trust have made the decision to move all of their schools to an online based platform called My Child at School which will be replacing Parentmail. This move will enable us to consolidate our Management Information Systems (MIS) in school. Shortly after half term you will receive further information.

Save the date – PTA Festival

The PTA are organising a Family Festival at St Katharine’s on **Saturday 11th June 3-8pm**. There will be live bands, pony rides, BBQ, bar, traditional fete games and much more...

More information to follow – keep your eyes on ParentMail!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>June</i>	
Monday 6 th	First Day of Term 6
Monday 6 th – 10 th	Phonics screening check week
	Year 4 multiplication check week
Thursday 9 th	Chestnut trip to Mary Rose in Portsmouth
Friday 10 th	Accelerated maths day at St. John’s (small group)
	Celebration Worship – Parents welcome (Chestnut sharing)
Saturday 11 th	PTA Family Festival 3 – 8 pm
Monday 13 th	Year 5 only swimming session
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th	Year 6 Red Ridge Residential Trip
Monday 13 th (week commencing)	Nursery visits for 2022 intake begin this week
Tuesday 14 th	Music Cluster Project – Chestnut Class
	New Reception parent information evening 6-7pm (<i>note date change from previous newsletter</i>)
Thursday 16 th	Y6 Transition Information evening for parents only (St. John’s)
	Y5 Quadkids (<i>details to follow</i>)
Friday 17 th	Y4 Orienteering (<i>details to follow</i>)
	Celebration Worship – parents welcome (Oak sharing)

Monday 20 th (week beginning)	Nursery visits continue
Tuesday 21 st (am), Thursday 23 rd & Friday 24 th	Y6 Bikeability
Tuesday 21 st	Whole School Bath Rugby Workshop (pm)
Friday 24 th	Celebration Worship – parents welcome (Hazel sharing)
Monday 27 th	Uniform fitting evening at St. John’s
	KS 2 after-school Running Club block of 6 sessions final one today
Tuesday 28 th	Whole school photos and Y6 group (pm)
	Y6 trip to Junior Good Citizen Event (am only)
Wednesday 29 th	KS 2 Mini-marathon Event (<i>details to follow</i>)
Thursday 30 th	Summer performance dress rehearsal 1-3pm (children only)

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...

Admin Officer Vacancy - Term time only

Excalibur Academies Trust is looking for an organised, efficient admin assistant with good communication skills who enjoys working as part of a team. Based at St John's Marlborough flexible working is encouraged. Hours are part time between 22 – 30 per week, salary £10.61 – 11.47/hour + pension. Apply [here](#) or contact nicola.hickford@excalibur.org.uk to find out more.

Summer Sundays Open Days 2022 at Sevington Victorian School

2.00 – 5.00pm

Wiltshire's best kept secret

June 12th

July 17th

August 14th

Sevington School is a beautifully preserved Victorian village school set in the heart of the Wiltshire countryside, 4 miles from J17 on the M4, close to Chippenham and Castle Combe.

Experience and tour the authentic Victorian school room, school mistress's house and level access gardens.

Enjoy home made teas

Children's activities available

Admission: adults £2, children £1, families £5



Sevington Victorian School, Sevington, SN14 7LD

sevingtonvictorianschool.co.uk

e-mail: enquiries@sevingtonvictorianschool.co.uk

Registered Charity No: 1178337

Braeside Education Centre offers a hugely successful AGT&E programme that has been running for many years. The overall aim of the courses is to extend the opportunities for individual pupils to explore and develop areas of ability and talent. The courses offer years 2 – 6 pupils to meet others with similar interests, abilities and talent in order to work in a variety of ways to increase understanding, develop skills and explore challenges. Pupils also get to work with adults from various professions such as successful authors, rocket scientists and many more. Places can be booked here www.braeside-education.co.uk/agt-e-courses using the school reference code which will be provided by your child's school.

