



ST KATHARINE'S
C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Friday 8th September 2023

NEWSLETTER No: 1

Our Value This Term Is...

Friendship



Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone! I hope this finds you all managing the back-to-school transition smoothly. It seems a little bizarre (albeit entirely predictable) that we have been navigating a heat wave in the first week back. A weekend in the paddling pool is in order!

The children have made a great start back to the beginning of the school year and managed the challenge of hot classrooms heroically. I would like to welcome Georgia, Alex, Willow, Feargus, Henry, Teddy, Jesse, Sophie, Oliver, Jack, Evie, Lilla, Peter, Sidney and Nellie; our new reception learners this year. They have already made a cracking start and we are looking forward to watching them grow and develop as the year progresses. Welcome also to Roy and Olivia, who have joined Chestnut Class this September and to Holly, Juli and Kaiden who join Sycamore Class. It is lovely to watch them settle in and be taken care of by the children in those classes. Welcome also (of course) to their families.

My apologies if you feel a little bombarded by the length of this Newsletter – as always there are quite a few reminders as we get back into the swing of the new school year. It can take a few weeks before all routines are fully re-established and all plates are spinning – be patient with us as we manage the flow of various bits of information out to you. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime please email the school office

admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk including who

the email is for the attention of; the right person will aim to get back to you as soon as we are able.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Meet the Teacher Sessions

We are holding our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions in the week beginning Monday 25th September. They are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday 26th September:

2:30 – Hazel Parents

3:15 – Oak Parents

Thursday 28th September:

2:30 – Sycamore Parents

3:15 – Chestnut Parents

Teachers will spend time sharing routines, timetables, planned learning and their expectations. They will be able to answer questions relating to those things. If you have a specific concern or one that is unique to your child, please email via admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk and this can be addressed at an alternative, arranged time, in a 1-1 meeting.

Please note that we will put on a film, in the hall, for Oak and Hazel children and in Oak Class for Sycamore and Chestnut children so that parents can attend the meeting uninterrupted. We aren't however able to take care of younger (pre-school) siblings.

New school day timings reminders

It seems that we have settled quickly into the timings of the new school day. Please remember that registration is at 8:45. If your child comes into school after that time, they will need to be brought to the school office and signed in with Mrs Thomas. Please don't allow your child to come to the front of the building unsupervised. If there is no one in the office, they may stand there for a little while and children can get upset if unaccompanied. The 15 minutes that we have gained is being used for the kind of learning that needs regular practice and overlearning i.e. handwriting, spelling and x tables. Please aim to get your child/ren here on time so that they have access to this valuable slot in the school day.

Uniform reminders

Everyone is looking smart and the new school shoes are shiny! Please take note of these reminders:

★ Jewellery

Children can wear a watch but no other jewellery other than a small pair of earrings. If ears are pierced, children can wear a small pair of studs and they should be able to independently manage them if needed

★ Hair

Long hair should be tied up to support with limiting the spread of headlice and to ensure that children can take part in all activities without hair getting in the way.

Avoid excessively large hair accessories – please keep them for the weekend.

For all uniform suggestions [please see our website](#) for details.

Traffic / turning circle reminders

We are lucky to have a school in such a unique location. As you may or may not be aware, our numbers have more than doubled in less than 20 years and as such the lane and subsequent parking areas are at their maximum capacity. Please look after each other on the approach to school, being mindful of allowing people up the lane as they arrive for school in the morning and down the lane as people are leaving in the afternoons. There are a few spots where it makes sense to take turns, ensuring that we don't end up with grid lock.

Please also observe the turning circle in the morning, ensure that you pull in safely and that your children get out of the car quickly. Ideally children are ready to go when you pull up. There isn't time for long farewells and getting things out of the boot space for example. If your child is not quite ready to be independent, please park up and bring them to the gate – there are no restrictions on cuddles at the gate!

If an adult is not on duty on the turning circle – please do not drop your child and leave.

Finally, when allowing traffic to pass please avoid driving onto the verges. Once we have some wet, cold weather they are quickly destroyed and our beautiful setting isn't quite so beautiful any more. When parking after school, please keep tight to the edges if you are parking in the lane (please avoid the top section opposite the carpark) and remember that we are able to use the church carpark – the walk across the field is quite a nice thing to do.

Classroom Extension

Wilkins building company have had a very busy summer in the extending and refurbishing of Chestnut classroom. Despite the unfriendly summer weather, they have made excellent progressive and might even be a tiny bit ahead of schedule. We are hoping to move into the space in the week beginning 9th October. We will ensure that you all have an opportunity to view the new classroom at the earliest opportunity.

We are really delighted with how it is looking and the improvement that this represents to what was a small and slightly cramped room. The children have seen a few photos and are very eager to get settled in!

Clubs Update

We have clubs running for the following activities:

- ★ Lunch time dodgeball – Mon KS1 Wed KS2
info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk
- ★ After school football – Mon KS1 Wed KS2
info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk
- ★ Drawing Club – Tues after school - KS2
tillyandwilson@hotmail.com
- Drama Club – Thurs after school – KS2
info.talltales@gmail.com
- Choir – Friday before school – Y2 and above
Mrsppoppsmusic@gmail.com

If you would like your child to take part in an afterschool club, please contact the provider of that club to enquire about spaces and waiting lists.

Music Lessons

We have music lessons running throughout the week for the following:

- ★ Guitar
- ★ Piano
- ★ Singing

If you would like your child to learn an instrument, please contact the school office and we can put you in touch with the relevant music provider.

Celebration Worship

With Chestnut Class using the hall as a temporary classroom we are unable to invite parents in for celebration worship at the moment. We have planned to resume Celebration Worship in **Term 2**. Please put the following dates in your diary if you would like to join us.

Please note that a sharing assembly is when the class use a short 10-minute slot within the celebration worship to share something that they have been working on recently.

Friday Date	Class
No Celebration Worship until Term 2	
3 rd November	Celebration 1 general
10 th November	No celebration TD day
17 th November	Sycamore sharing
24 th November	Chestnut sharing
1 st December	Oak sharing
8 th December	Hazel Sharing

Nut & Sesame Free School

We are a Nut and Sesame Free School. We have children in school with severe nut and sesame allergies. This includes packed lunches, mid-morning snacks, birthday treats etc. **Please be vigilant** when packing food for your children to bring to school. Our staff do monitor this. Please don't be offended if a food item comes home untouched if it has one of these ingredients in it.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>September</i>	
Monday 11 th (Week Beginning)	All Reception children in until 1pm (stay for lunch)
Monday 18 th (Week Beginning)	Reception children begin full time (8.45am – 3.15pm)
Friday 22 nd	Sycamore Marlborough Litfest Author Visit (details to follow)
Tuesday 26 th	Meet the teacher sessions: in classrooms Hazel: 2:30pm Oak: 3:15pm
Thursday 28 th	Meet the teacher sessions: in classrooms Sycamore: 2:30pm Chestnut: 3:15pm
<i>October</i>	
Sunday 1 st	Harvest Festival Service in St. Katharine's Church – choir to attend TBC
Thursday 5 th	Sycamore visit to Science Museum, London (details to follow) moved to 10th Yr6 Open Evening at St John's (for Yr6 pupils, parents and carers) 5.00pm-7.30pm

Friday 6 th	Harvest Festival 9:30 in Church
Monday 9 th	Flu Nasal Spray Vaccinations R-Year 6
Tuesday 10 th	Reception and KS1 Reading Meeting for parents 2.30pm – 3.15pm (details to follow) Sycamore visit to Science Museum, London – new date
Monday 9 th & Monday 16 th (Weeks beginning)	Reception Transition Surgeries (2 sessions per evening will be available for parents to book)
Friday 13 th	Oxenwood Adventure Day - Year 3
Tuesday 17 th	Open Morning Prospective Parents 2024/25 (9.30am until 11.30am)
Wednesday 18 th	Last school day of Term 1 Eco-Council elections
Monday 30 th	First Day of Term 2
Tuesday 31 st	Individual photographs Deadline for secondary school applications

Please also refer to the **Key Dates Planner V1**, that includes all the dates that we know of for the academic year 2023/24 (at this point).

Our aim is that we give you advance warning and enable you to plan well ahead for some of the main events in the year. As events come into the school diary they will be added to the dates sections of the Newsletter and to Key Dates Planners V2 and V3 which are resent at the beginning of Terms 3 and 5.

Remaining TD Days 2023/24

- Friday 10th November 2023
- Thursday 4th & Friday 5th January 2024

Please Note

We will close at 1:15pm on Wednesday 24th July 2024

Other things you might want to know...

2023 AUTUMN/WINTER
*Don't just watch the Rugby World Cup.
 Get involved!*
**AFTER SCHOOL
 RUGBY SPORTS CLUB**
 RUN BY MUNIPOLA COACHING
 AT MARLBOROUGH RUGBY CLUB, THE COMMON, FREE WYNNIE, SW17 0JL
 MUNIPOLA COACHING also runs PE sessions for secondary and college schools, with an emphasis on
 SAFE and FUN learning, including basic rugby skills, boxing and safe tackling skills for all ages, boys and girls.
ALL COACHES ARE QUALIFIED SPORTS COACHES *Book Now!*
 £6pp/hr. Contact: bosco2278@yahoo.co.uk Mobile: 07719 479289

Wiltshire Children's Centres
 Keeping in Touch
 Summer 2023
 Issue 2

Spurgeons
 Together with families


 CLICK HERE

Help shape your services!

If you have a child aged 0-11 years old, would you have five minutes to help us plan for future services by completing our questionnaire? This could be as simple as suggesting types of support that you feel are missing in your community, or highlighting a really great community building where we might be able to deliver an event or course. If you have more time and would be interested in being part of a group of families who work alongside us on a more regular basis, then there is an opportunity to let us know by clicking the image and completing our online form. Thank you so much.

Child First aid awareness with Wiltshire FIRST AID TRAINING

We have child first aid awareness sessions coming up in Devizes (19th Sept), Tidworth (25th Sept) and Salisbury (15th Sept).

If you'd like to know more about how to help your child in an emergency situation then give us a call on 08009704669 book your FREE space or request a call back [here](#).


 CLICK HERE

Our September-December course dates have launched! Check out the full range on our website or facebook page!

Call us on 0800 970 4669 to find out more about the courses we offer and to book your place.

Spurgeons
 Together with families

Support we offer
 We are here to help with a whole range of topics including:

- Ideas around implementing routines and setting boundaries.
- Help to understand your child's needs and build your confidence as a parent.
- Help around finances, housing applications, debt support and accessing benefits.
- Advice on local childcare and applying for funding.
- Supporting you 'back to work'.
- Introductions to other services.

Facebook
 Our Spurgeons Wiltshire children's centres Facebook page is another way for families to stay up to date with current services. Make sure you like and follow to stay in touch with us. Simply click here:

Get in touch with us
 If you have any questions or would like more information about our services please call us on one of our numbers below or check out our website:

Freephone: 0800 970 4669
 email: wiltshirecc@spurgeons.org

Other useful numbers:
 Health visitor - single point of access
0300 247 0090
 National Breastfeeding helpline
0300 100 0212
 Splitz (domestic abuse support service)
01225 775276
 Wiltshire out of hours domestic abuse helpline
01225 712880

We can help families access:

- Breast pump loan
- Baby Bundles
- Food boxes
- New Parent, New Baby programme
- Healthy Start vitamins

Click here to visit our website

<https://www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org>



YOGA CLASSES

Every Tuesday 7pm
Wednesday 9.30am
Thursday 8pm

Coronation Hall
East Grafton
Easy Parking

Timmy B Yoga



info@timmybyoga.co.uk
07747780898

Booking at [timmybyoga.co.uk](https://www.timmybyoga.co.uk)



Calling all parents... NEW class with a later start time (perfect for when little people are in bed)

Thursdays: Forrest Yoga - 8pm - 9.00pm - East Grafton Coronation Hall

A much needed antidote for parental life, can't recommend it highly enough.

If tempted, give it a go by booking online...

<https://www.timmybyoga.co.uk/>