



ST KATHARINE'S
C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty
Friday 22nd September 2023
NEWSLETTER No: 2
Our Value This Term Is...
Friendship



Dear Parents,

It is not the first time that I have written about the weather – please excuse me for this – I am still a little bemused by the fact that the last time I wrote in the newsletter we had just survived a week of 30-degree heat yet only 14 days later we've been lashed by winds and torrential rain! I have put in my order for a few crisp, sunny autumn days, we will see if anyone is listening!

Despite the weather, the last fortnight has been spent just getting into the rhythm of the new term. Our reception learners have now done their first full week of school and the rest of us have been settling into our new classes or year groups. By the end of week three we have well and truly forgotten that we had 6 weeks off in the summer – normal service has resumed! Chestnut Class have done brilliantly, occupying the hall as their makeshift classroom. It certainly hasn't been easy for them but they have managed the distractions very well. The building work has gone exceptionally smoothly. Both Wilkins building company and Tuttle Architects (who have been project managing on our behalf) have been a joy to work with. We are really pleased with the finished room which now offers more space and more light and gives us a classroom that is truly fit for purpose. Once we are settled in, we hope to offer the opportunity to parents to come and join us for a bit of a celebration and a nice cup of tea! Our thanks to all of you, as without the support of the PTA funding, which is the result of our parent community supporting all of the fundraising events in

the last few years, we would not have achieved this. We are now busy scratching our heads as to the next project that we can get our teeth into! More on that later.

Please put in your orders for some bright crisp weather, perhaps the power of our collective wishing will do the trick.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

The School Aged Immunisation Team will be visiting school on 6th October to deliver the winter flu vaccination. The programme provides vital protection for children, their families and the communities they live in by preventing them from getting seriously ill from flu and breaking the chain of transmission of the virus to the wider population. More information about the programme is given [here](#).

Photograph of Reception

A photograph of our new Reception group was included in an article on Marlborough News. To see the article please follow [this link](#).

Open Morning

We are holding our Open Morning on **Tuesday 17th October from 9:30 – 11:30am**. This event is primarily for the parents of those children starting school in September 2024. School is open for the morning and parents are invited to tour classrooms (with one of our expert Upper Key Stage 2 tour guides) and to speak to staff, parents and governors. We will be advertising the event as widely as we can and ask that you spread the word to people that you know with young - soon to be school age – children.

We are never complacent about attracting families to our school. Remaining full enables us to stay well-resourced and to give all our children the very best offer. You are our best advocates. Please spread the word, widely, loudly and proudly!

Harvest Festival

We are looking forward to celebrating Harvest Festival with you all on **Friday 6th October at 9:30am. This will take place at St Katharine's Church.**

As we have done in previous years, we will be supporting the Devizes Food Bank. Please follow [this link](#) to see what items the Food Bank are

asking for at this time – please do look as it also lists the things that they have in abundance. It really is a challenging time for so many families. The foodbank offers a vital service that we are very keen to support well. After the service, please join us for refreshments back at school.

Celebration Worship Reminder

Please be reminded of the dates when we will be inviting parents in for Celebration Worship this term.

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

Attendance

You may have read or heard in the news, recent reports about declining levels of school attendance post pandemic. Attendance across the education sector is of real concern; the number of children with attendance at **90%** or below (referred to as persistent absence) is at record levels. Attendance of 90% equates to half a day a week away from school. This is approx. 20 days of missed school a year or 4 weeks. There is clear data that children with persistent absence fall behind their peers. Gaps in learning appear, time and resources are lost supporting children to catch up, children become worried about school and things get tricky.

Children will of course become ill at times. There are times when we will call you to let you know that your child is unwell and ask you to come and collect them. Unwell children need to stay home, get well and return to school healthy and happy. The poor attendance that is of greater concern is when there are frequent incidents, spread across multiple weeks with regular, observable patterns such as regular Mondays and Fridays off, or when holidays are booked in term time and whole weeks are lost.

Improving attendance is a headline in our School Improvement Plan this year and is a focus for our Academy Trust. As such I will be writing to you again to explain how we monitor attendance, what our procedures are when attendance

becomes a concern and how we communicate that concern to parents.

Please have a look at the links below which are a useful source of information and support for parents.

This link to NHS England is useful to refer to if your child is under the weather/has a childhood illness and you are uncertain if they are well enough to go to school [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Please also take a look at this article for clear information and answers to commonly asked questions. [Back to school week – Everything you need to know about school attendance - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk)

If you have concerns about your child's attendance or if issues are arising at home that have the potential to impact on attendance, please contact the school and ask to talk to someone. We are very happy to support you with strategies and set up home/school systems to get attendance back on track. This, like so many other aspects of children's time at school, is something that we do best if we do it together with you.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>September</i>	
Monday 25th	First Lego Club Year 6 (small group)
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
Tuesday 3rd	Year 5/6 Dodgeball tournament at St. Katharine's Primary (small group)

Thursday 5 th	Yr6 Open Evening at St John's (for Yr6 pupils, parents and carers) 4.30pm-7.30pm
Friday 6 th	Harvest Festival 9:30 in Church
	Mobile Library visiting
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
Monday 9 th & Monday 16 th (Weeks beginning)	Reception Transition Surgeries (2 sessions per evening will be available for parents to book)
Thursday 12th	Year 5/6 Football Festival Marlborough College (details to follow)
Friday 13 th	Oxenwood Adventure Day - Year 3 (details to follow)
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
November	
Friday 3 rd	Bonfire Night PTA
	Mobile Library visiting
Wednesday 8 th	Remembrance Service in School Hall
Friday 10 th	TD Day 3 No children in school
Monday 13 th	Odd Socks Day
Tuesday 14 th	Year 3/4 Handball Burbage School (small group)
Friday 17 th	Children in Need Spotty Day
Tuesday 21 st	Year 5/6 Netball Festival Marlborough College

	<i>(details to follow)</i>
Wednesday 22nd	St. Katharine's Day 9.30am in St. Katharine's Church
Tuesday 28th	Parents Evening 1 (of 3) All Classes 3.30pm-7.00pm
Wednesday 29th	Parents Evening 1 (of 3) (Oak Class only) 3.30pm - 5.30pm
Thursday 30th	Parents Evening 1 (of 3) (Hazel, Chestnut and Sycamore only) 3.30pm - 5.30pm

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.

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...

Challenging Poverty

- information, questions and answers -

Friday 6 October 2023

7.30pm

The Bouverie Hall
Goddard Rd
Pewsey SN9 5EQ

Speakers & Panellists :

Hon. Danny Kruger MP

Representative from The Trussell Trust

Wiltshire Councillor for Pewsey

Suzanne Wigmore, CEO – Wiltshire Citizens Advice

A Challenge Poverty Week Event

(Tea and Coffee available from 7.00pm)



Spurgeons
Together with families

For families of children aged 0-5 yrs

Bookstart

Four fun weekly sessions where you and your child can explore stories and rhymes in fun and creative ways

You will also receive a FREE goody bag and story books!

For more information or to book a space contact the children's centre central line on: 0800 970 4669
www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk

Join us at
Pewsey Library
Aston Close
Pewsey
SN9 5EQ
Tuesday 3rd October-17th October
2023
10 am - 11 am



Spurgeons
Together with families

For families of children aged 0-5 yrs

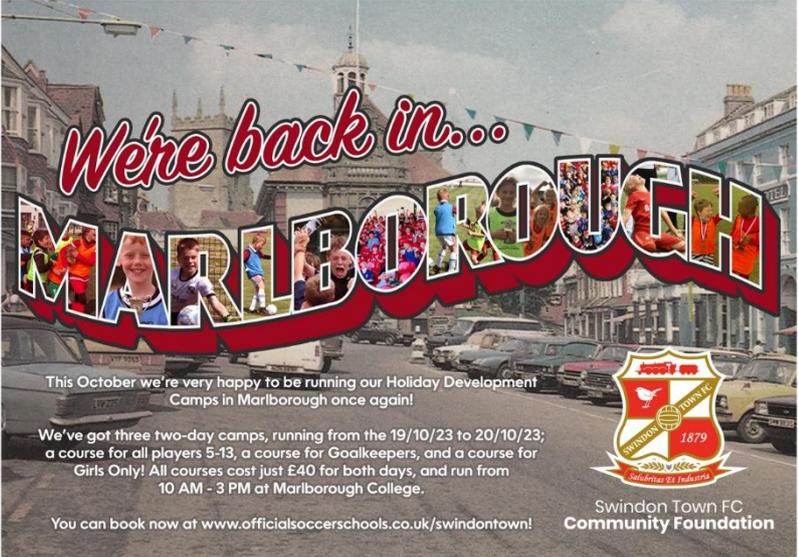
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Join us at
Marlborough Library
91 High Street
Marlborough
SN8 1HD
Wednesday 27th September -
18th October
2023
10 am - 11 am



We're back in... MARLBOROUGH

This October we're very happy to be running our Holiday Development Camps in Marlborough once again!

We've got three two-day camps, running from the 19/10/23 to 20/10/23; a course for all players 5-13, a course for Goalkeepers, and a course for Girls Only! All courses cost just £40 for both days, and run from 10 AM - 3 PM at Marlborough College.

You can book now at www.officialsoccerschools.co.uk/swindontown!



Swindon Town FC
Community Foundation

Braeside's Able, Gifted, Talented and Enrichment course pack for Autumn/Winter 2023-2024 are now available. These courses will run from November 2023 – February 2024

All details of individual courses can be obtained from our website, as well as a full downloadable pdf version of the whole booklet. Please visit [AGT & E Courses – Braeside Education Centre \(braeside-education.co.uk\)](http://AGT & E Courses – Braeside Education Centre (braeside-education.co.uk))

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**

(Website applicants will need to be given a booklet reference code by the school)

- Sending paper application forms to the following address:
AGTE Coordinator
Braeside Education Centre
Bath Road
Devizes
SN10 2AP

OCTOBER @ FACE Sports

Marlborough St.Mary's Primary
Mon 23rd - Thurs 26th October

MONDAY Football - Basketball Hand Tennis - Dodgeball Nerf - Archery	TUESDAY Football Golf - 4 Square Hockey - Capture The Flag Tag Rugby - Dodgeball
WEDNESDAY Football Rounders - Netball Tennis - Wheelie Wednesday Capture The Flag - Laser Tag	THURSDAY Football Curcuit - End ball Cricket - Benchball Football - Dodgeball

For the attention of all parents

Will your child be four years old before September 2024?

You must apply for a primary school place

Apply online at wiltshire.gov.uk or complete an application form, available at all Wiltshire Council offices.

The deadline for applications is

12 midnight, 15 January 2024

All forms must be returned to the school admissions team at County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Contact customer services on **01225 713010**

For more information or to request our guide to finding a primary school place in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council

For the attention of all parents

Will your child be transferring to a secondary school in September 2024?

You must apply for a secondary school place

Apply online at wiltshire.gov.uk or complete an application form, available at all Wiltshire Council offices.

The deadline for applications is

12 midnight, 31 October 2023

All forms must be returned to the school admissions team at County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Contact customer services on **01225 713010**

For more information or to request our guide to finding a secondary school place in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council