



ST KATHARINE'S
C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty
Friday 6th October 2023
NEWSLETTER No: 3
Our Value This Term Is...
Friendship



Dear Parents,

I have spoken to so many parents recently about the speed at which this term seems to be going. Hard to fathom that it is the end of week 5 already! After the first few weeks of term, dedicated to establishing routines and supporting children to settle into new classes, it is lovely to see enrichments to the curriculum begin to feature in the calendar. On Friday last week, Chestnut Class experienced a virtual session with the Natural History Museum in support of their block of learning on the Ancient Egyptians.

This from Mrs Ellaby...

'I wanted to share some exciting news regarding Chestnut's recent study on Ancient Egyptians. The children had a fantastic end to this topic with a live online session with the National History Museum in London.

The live session was a great opportunity for our learners to engage with an expert and deepen their understanding of Ancient Egyptian culture. The children were truly impressive, showcasing their knowledge by sharing numerous facts and insights during the session. It was wonderful to see them actively participating and demonstrating their enthusiasm for learning. The children also had the chance to view artefacts from the Ancient Egyptian period as part of the online session.'

We had the first sports tournament of the year on Tuesday this week. The small schools' dodgeball tournament was held here, at St Katharine's. A mixed team of ten, Year 5 and 6, children competed in this tournament against six other local schools. Mrs Crewe has reported that the competition was stiff but after battling through the knockout stages, St Katharine's ended the day with a much-deserved first place! It was lovely to see the smiles on the faces of everyone in school on hearing the news and to see the medals worn proudly by the children that took part. Our thanks to Tash, whose company In2Sport run these small school tournaments throughout the school year, across a range of sports, helping us to compete on a level playing field with schools of a similar size. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Harvest Festival today. It is always lovely to share this event with you, our parent community. Thank you also for your generous harvest donations which I know will be gratefully received by the Devizes Food Bank. At this time of financial hardship, there are more families than ever requiring this level of support. In 2022, from the Devizes Food Bank alone, 2558 people received 3-day emergency food supplies. Of those, 994 were children, ten times the size of our school population. If you haven't yet donated, you have until Monday morning (9th) to do so.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Safeguarding Audit

We had a Safeguarding Audit this week, conducted by the new head of Safeguarding for our multi academy trust. I am really pleased to let you know that this went extremely well. As with all audits there were lots of opportunities to reflect on our systems and practise and take time to think about how we can improve and evolve what we already do.

Safeguarding at St Katharine's was described as *strong* and *effective* and special note was made of the caring ethos that runs as a thread throughout the school.

As a result of our audit, examples of best practice were identified which we have been asked to share with other schools. Thanks, once again, to our staff team for their continuing hard work and

the efficacy and commitment that they bring to our school every day.

Eco Council Elections Years 2 - 6

It is that time of year again when we elect a new Eco-Council to represent the school. If children are interested in becoming an Eco – Councillor we ask that they create a short manifesto to share with the children in their class, prior to election day. Our election this year will be on **Friday 3rd November**.

The children will be introduced to the idea of writing or creating a manifesto in their classrooms before the end of term and be provided with some models of what this could look like. This is something that we are asking children (who are keen to be a counsellor) to do in their own time at home. We are hoping that by having the election after half term children will have some time during the holidays to work on these. They will be shared with their classmates in the first week of Term 2.

This is not a compulsory activity. We would really like children in Years 2 -6, who are motivated and interested, to put themselves forward to be voted for by their class. If you know that your child is keen to take part, please support them to think about how they might present their ideas and why they think they would make a good Eco-Councillor.

Some ideas might be...

- ✓ A short speech
- ✓ Preparing a power point to talk to
- ✓ Making a poster to talk about
- ✓ Writing a letter to their classmates

...or any other way that they would like to put their ideas across.

We are excited to see what they come up with and continuing our work in school to develop children's advocacy and awareness around environmental issues.

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**, our parent group, are our best advocates. Please spread the word, widely, loudly and proudly!

Reception and Key Stage One: Reading Meeting for Parents

We are holding our reading meeting for the parents of Hazel and Oak Class children on **Tuesday 10th October at 2:30pm** in the school hall.

This meeting is intended to give parents an overview of the early teaching of reading, how we organise that learning and how this can be supported at home. We are using a new scheme of work for phonics and early reading (Little Wandle) and as such it would be great to see as many of you as possible – especially if you have a child in Reception or Year 1.

Please do try to come. We look forward to meeting you.

And....

Donation of no longer needed school books

A **big** thank you to Mrs Wilsey who has been organising the donations of our used phonics stock. Mrs Wilsey has organised for many of the books to be donated to Books2Africa which will be reused in schools in Africa. We are also pleased to say a selection of the books were also sent off to WeBuyBooks and Ziffit and the money from these companies will be put into the PTA funding pot.

Connie Denton reading lead

Lost property

The lost property basket is already quite full. When items are named, it is a simple matter of reunited children with their things. When are not named this is a trickier business and a time consuming one. I am certain that you would rather our support staff are spending their time on teaching and learning in the classroom and not delivering lost clothing to its owner. Please help by labelling **all property** so that, when lost, we know who it belongs to.

PTA Messages

Bonfire Night - Friday 3rd November

Tickets for the St. Katharine's Bonfire Night are now live and are available to purchase from the website: www.pta-events.co.uk/stkatharines. Tickets are limited due to parking so be quick to

book your ticket to avoid disappointment.
Tickets are £20 per car.

If anyone is available to help volunteer for this event there is a list of roles on the booking page! Anyone who volunteers to help will receive a free drink, **any** help will be greatly appreciated. Please do get in touch with any of the PTA team if you have any questions.

Kate Betts

Friends of St. Katharine's School - Chair

Back by popular demand - Christmas cards!

This year the PTA will be offering the children a chance to make their own Christmas cards along with other festive products.

These make fab gifts for family members and the cards are a great way to encourage hand writing practice. The school will also receive £1 for every item ordered!

Details and templates will be sent out on the 13th of October. Please complete the designs at home and return to school by the 1st of November. You will then receive an email or text message with a link to your child's order page.

Tip Run

With the start of a new school year, we have had a bit of a clear out. Consequently, we have accrued a pile of small pieces of equipment/small furniture that is no longer needed. If anyone is planning a tip run any time soon and is willing/able to include the pile from school, we would be very grateful. The pile is next to the big red waste bins at the rear of the school building (it includes an old chalk board, outside sand tray and yellow unit). Many thanks in anticipation of your help with this.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>October</i>	
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
Week/s Beg	Reception Transition Surgeries

Monday 9 th & Monday 16 th	Please refer to SeeSaw communication from class teacher
Monday 9th	Devizes Foodbank collecting food donations
Thursday 12th	Year 5/6 Football Festival Marlborough College (details to follow) CANCELLED
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 (note change of date)
Monday 30 th	First Day of Term 2
Tuesday 31 st	Individual photographs
	Deadline for secondary school applications
<i>November</i>	
Wednesday 1st	Sycamore Class Ramsbury Education Day (details to follow)
Friday 3 rd	Bonfire Night PTA
	Mobile Library visiting
	Eco-Council elections (new date)
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 (details to follow)
Wednesday 22 nd	St. Katharine's Day 9.30am in St. Katharine's Church
Tuesday 28 th	Parents Evening 1 (of 3) All Classes 3.30pm-7.00pm
Wednesday 29 th	Parents Evening 1 (of 3) (Oak Class only) 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Thursday 30 th	Parents Evening 1 (of 3) (Hazel, Chestnut and Sycamore only) 3.30pm - 5.30pm
<i>December</i>	
Wednesday 13 th	Christmas Lunch
Friday 15 th	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas parties pm
Sunday 17 th	9 lesson Carol Service 6pm <i>(details to follow)</i>
Monday 18 th	Reception and KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal 2pm in church – parents and grandparents welcome
Tuesday 19 th	Reception and KS1 Nativity in church 4:45pm (for a 5:00pm performance)
Wednesday 20 th	KS2 Carol Service in Church 9.30am
	Last day of Term 2

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...

Braeside Education Centre

October Half Term Activity Days! £36 per day

Adventure - Challenge - Fun

For ages: 8 - 12 years
(Siblings up to 14 years)

Drop Off - 8:30am - 9:00am
Pick Up - 4:30pm - 5:00pm

Thursday 19th - Climbing Day
Climbing Wall, Zip Wire and Abseiling

Friday 20th - Mixed Activity Day
Archery, Life Line, Low Ropes, Bouldering

Monday 23rd - High Ropes Day
Leap of Faith, Crane Stack, High All Aboard, Parallel Poles

Tuesday 24th - Canoeing EPS, Problem Solving Games

Please book online by visiting
www.braeside-education.co.uk/holiday-club

Contact us for more details, 01384 723337
info@braeside-education.co.uk

Braeside Education Centre

Activities will run in groups, in rotation, throughout the day.

Green Open Homes



Wiltshire and West Berkshire Green Open Homes weekend
14th - 15th October

Would you like to save on energy bills and reduce your CO2 emissions?

Visit local green homes to learn about their energy saving technologies including Air Source Heat Pumps, solar panels, insulation and lots more.

Find out more and book at:
www.greenopenhomes.net



  

www.greatgreenbedwyn.org.uk
greatgreenbedwyn@gmail.com

Join Wiltshire Treehouse for A WEEK TO REMEMBER! 16th to 23rd November 2023

In honour of Children's Grief Awareness Week
www.wiltshiretreehouse.org.uk/Wk2R

Help us to reach our mission to ensure that 'every child and young person should have access to support during their grieving process'.

What is Wiltshire Treehouse's A Week to Remember?

A week where charity and community come together to raise funds and awareness about Wiltshire Treehouse and how we support bereaved families.

Every year in the UK alone, a parent of a child dies every 22 minutes. 5% of children will have experienced the death of a parent or sibling before the age of 16 and 92% of children will lose something important to them. We want to get the message out that grieving is normal, that it is okay to feel strong emotions and that there is help available.

How you can help

We need individuals and organisations to fundraise towards the work that Wiltshire Treehouse undertake. Perhaps you would like to hold a sponsored run or host a coffee morning? Your chosen activity can be as traditional or as unique as you like and we have a Wiltshire Treehouse Fundraising Pack containing ideas and printable posters, bunting etc. Just remember to share your fundraiser online using the hashtag #WTHWk2R, we would love to see your photos and the more posts the more exposure the charity receives. We hope to get local social media awash with Wk2R images so that all grieving families know that they are not alone and there is support! All money raised will go directly to helping bereaved children, young people and their families in Swindon and Wiltshire.

Visit www.wiltshiretreehouse.org.uk/Wk2R for further information.

How do I sign up?

Simply email admin@wiltshiretreehouse.org.uk explaining who you are and how you plan to fundraise. We can then help to promote your activity. Or maybe you would be interested in having a visit from one of our Wiltshire Treehouse Ambassador Teddies....

Could you host one of our Teddy Ambassadors during Wk2R?



An important part of Wk2R as well as raising funds for the charity, is raising awareness of our service. Luckily we have a team of teddies (as well as kitties & puppies) briefed and ready to spread the word!

Your teddy will arrive along with some Wiltshire Treehouse branded goodies and will be keen to get stuck in to meeting people and helping with tasks - perhaps they could assist in the post room, with a class or just join in at lunch time? Or they could lend a hand if you are holding a WTH Wk2R fundraiser. Any interesting things they can share about a week in your organisation and the wonderful individuals that are part of it.

Our teddies are very photogenic and would love to have their photos shared across as many online media platforms as possible with the hash tag #WTHWk2R. The plan is for local social media to be awash with Wk2R images so that all grieving families know that they are not alone and there is support!

For further information and to request a teddy please see www.wiltshiretreehouse.org.uk/fundraising/wk2rteddies

We'd also like to remind families that they can claim their free healthy start vitamins from any Spurgeons Wiltshire children's centre. Families can submit an application to the Healthy start scheme for vitamins and food vouchers here if they are pregnant or have a 0-5 year old (eligibility criteria apply): [How to apply – Get help to buy food and milk \(Healthy Start\)](#). Our family support worker team is on hand to support families with the application process if needed, please just give us a call on 0800 970 4669.

As always for more information on any of our services please take a look at our website [Ask for Help - Wiltshire Children's Centres \(wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk\)](#) or give us a call on 0800 970 4669.

W: www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk

A: Devides Children's Centre, The Green, Devides, SN10 5AA



LASSO THE MOON
euphoric, uplifting tunes old & new
happiness happening!

saturday 28 october 20:00-00:00
all welcome
cash bar

tickets £10 eventrite
great bedwyn memorial hall
SN8 3PB

SCAN ME FOR TICKETS

LITTLE RED PONCHO EVENTS

03 £20
NOV ENTRY
@ 6 PM PER CAR

Bonfire Night

ST KATHARINE'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL

FIREWORKS • FOOD • BAR

BOOK TICKETS AT
WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/STKATHARINES

PLEASE LEAVE YOUR DOGS (EXCEPT GUIDE DOGS) AND SPARKLERS AT HOME.

Would you like to find out more about dyslexia and the support available?



Please join us for this **FREE** event during Dyslexia Awareness Month!

Thursday 5th October 2023
11 am - 4 pm
County Hall, Wythesia Road, Trowbridge, SA14 6JH
Refreshments available

Assistive Technology Workshop: 11 am - 1 pm

Please bring a laptop. [Booking essential](#) as spaces are limited.
Please email: caroline.townsend@wiltshire.gov.uk

Free TeachMeet CPD event for school staff: 3 pm - 4 pm

[Booking essential](#) as spaces are limited.
For further details please email: rachel.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk

Find out about Wiltshire's Dyslexia Friendly Schools programme

Seek advice from information helpdesks

Exhibition includes resources and support available from:

Wiltshire
Children's Centres
Keeping in Touch
Autumn 2023



Want To Return To Work?

Whatever your reason to return to work, our team are here to support you. Give us a call on 0800 970 4669.

Volunteering

Volunteering can be an excellent way to build your CV. It can also help you to brush up on some key skills and build your confidence.

CV & Letter Writing

We can offer you one to one support with your CV and help you towards your next steps.

We can introduce you to some of our partners for further support.

Knowledge & Skills

Thinking of a new career? What skills do you need to take you there?



Want to stay up to date with our sessions, services and partner events? Be sure to like and follow our Spurgeons Wiltshire Children's Centre Facebook page



Don't forget that you can collect **FREE** Healthy Start vitamins from any Spurgeons Wiltshire children's centre.

To apply for the Healthy start scheme click here



If you'd like support with the application process please give us a call on 0800 9070 4669.

Click here to access our activity packs full of loads of ideas of things to do with your little one.



Find out more about the services we provide by clicking on the buttons

PROFESSIONALS

FAMILIES
with children 0 - 5

FAMILIES
with children 6 - 11