



**ST KATHARINE'S**  
**C of E**  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
*Friendship, Effort, Respect,*  
*& Honesty*  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**  
**NEWSLETTER No: 4**  
*Our Value This Term Is...*

*Hope*



*Dear Parents,*

Welcome back after what felt like a much needed half term break. Term 1 is always a busy one. I can't promise you any slowing down as we start Term 2, there are lots of things to look forward to in the diary and of course, the full-stop of Term 2 is Christmas (there, I've said it) and that is far from a quiet time! Sycamore enjoyed a day at Ramsbury Manor this week. The day included a tour of the grounds, taking part in both art and writing workshops and a special look at the flock of flamingos that live there. We were lucky to have been chosen, along with only a small group of schools, to get a look behind the walls of Ramsbury Manor and enjoy this experience. Today was our Eco-Council election. The manifestos have been shared across the week in classrooms. Real thought and care has gone into the creation of these and we are looking forward to the initiatives that our new eco-council will set in motion this year. We welcomed parents back into school for Celebration Worship today. It was so lovely to see all of you that came. I hadn't realised how much that Friday lift was missing from my life! Thank you for your support and smiles from the back of the hall!

*Niki Jones*

Principal

*'From little acorns, great oaks grow'*



### **Measles /MMR Vaccination**

*Please read the text below as part of the NHS drive to ensure that everyone has the correct information in support of the national vaccination programme.*

Over 102,000 children starting primary school in England are at risk of catching measles. With millions of children across the country going back to school this week, NHS England is urging parents to check that their children are up to date with their MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccinations in the wake of measles cases rising across the country. Childhood vaccination rates have fallen over the past ten years and this week statistics show that over 102,000 children aged four and five years old starting in reception are not protected against catching measles, mumps and rubella. Measles is highly infectious and if left unvaccinated nine out of ten children in a classroom can catch the disease if just one child is infectious. If you are unsure if you or your child are up to date, check your child's red book or GP records and make an appointment to catch up any missed doses. For more information on the NHS vaccination schedule, [please visit](#).

### **Foodbank Donations**

We received another fantastic amount of donations from you all for the Devizes Foodbank again this year. Please see the photograph below. We provided 109.7kgs to the charity. The Foodbank Team are grateful for our generosity.



### **Parents Evenings and Sharing our Learning Afternoon**

We will be holding our first (virtual) parents evening meetings on 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> (Oak Class only) and 30<sup>th</sup> November. You will receive details about how to set up a meeting in an email. On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, we are opening our doors for an opportunity for parents to come into school and share books and other learning with their

child/ren, prior to the parents meeting. This begins at 2:30pm. If you have children in multiple classes, we hope this will give you enough time to make more than one classroom visit. We hope that this will provide a bit of insight into your child's work, prior to the meeting with your child's class teacher later that week.

### **St Katharine's Day**

We will be celebrating St Katharine's Day on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November this year. This short service will be in church at 9:30am. The Year 6 children will retell the story of Saint Katharine of Alexandria and we will lay a posy on the brass sculpture panel that commemorates her. As is by now a firm tradition (that pre-dates any of us who work at the school), the children will eat iced buns after the service. In previous years a small group of parents have kindly got together to bake these. If you would like to offer you help on this occasion, please contact Hayley in the school office.

### **PTA AGM – Monday 13<sup>th</sup>**

The PTA AGM will be held on **Monday 13th November** from **7pm** at the **Swan in Wilton**. Please do join us for drinks and nibbles and to find out what we have been doing this past year and to find out the plans for the year ahead! This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and find out how you could get involved. Attendance does **not** mean that you are committing yourself to anything. It is a chance to find out more, meet new people and see if there is anything that you could offer, if you have the capacity. Be curious. Come along!

### **St Katharine's Academy Council**

Have you ever considered becoming a school Governor? St Katharine's Academy Council is a group of parents, community members and church representatives who meet six times a year. We look at the school through the eyes of the pupils. This is done with school visits, joining school activities, reflecting on reports and hearing presentations from school staff. Each year we look at different areas of the school, what works really well and things we could add to make things even better. If you are interested in learning more about the Academy Council please have a chat to one of the parent governors listed below or contact me via email:

[kim.lydonstrutt@gov.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:kim.lydonstrutt@gov.excalibur.org.uk)

### Our Parent Governors are...

Jim Lee  
Will Stevenson  
Caroline James  
Mark Franklin

### **Emergency Closures**

Having driven to work through floods this morning and looking out of the window at the rain today, it seems timely to remind our parent group about the school response in the event of an emergency closure due to adverse weather conditions or other situations resulting in the school being closed at short notice.

The following details are given on the school website, however, in summary, we will send an email to all parents that are set up on the school Bromcom email system. This will be followed up with information posted on our social media channels – The Friends of St Katharine's Facebook Group, our Twitter account @St\_Katharines and messages will be sent through class and whole school What's App groups.

Also, in the event of a snow closure, we will inform our most local radio station – BBC Wiltshire radio (103.6FM and 104.3FM).

### **Children in Need**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November we are taking part in the Children in Need fundraising campaign by asking children to turn **one** item of clothing spotty. They might wear a spotty jumper with the rest of their school uniform, a spotty pair of trousers or skirt or a spotty pair of tights. Use your imagination! We are asking for a donation of £1 to come in spotty attire which will be collected in the morning as the children come into school.

### **Poppy Appeal**

We have poppies for sale and other items such as zip pulls, reflectors, silicon wristbands and snap bands, for which we are suggesting a minimum donation of £1. They will be on sale at play times next week.

### **Thank You**

On occasion we find ourselves reaching out to our parent community for help with various tasks. These tasks usually involve a certain amount of dirty work it feels like! However, irrespective of the task, a team of willing volunteers always step forwards and for this we are truly grateful. It gives a real-life representation of the support that you, as a parent group, give to us here at school.

On this note, thank you to those parents that helped make the Open Morning another successful event. Also, thank you to those parents that helped with the clear out in the Outdoor Play Area on 17<sup>th</sup> October and the recent urgent bark spreading request.

### Churchyard

A representative from the Church has been in touch commenting on how respectful the St. Katharine's school community is toward the churchyard. It is an absolute pleasure to receive such feedback and to be able to write a piece in the newsletter acknowledging positive behaviour. Many thanks to everyone for considering our church neighbour. Keep it up!

### Christmas Boxes

Please be reminded that the date for the collection of our Christmas Boxes (in support of the Foundation for Social Inclusion) will be **Friday 17th November**.

The leaflet, with information on how to pack the box, can be found on the website. Please use this link to get you their quickly:

<https://houseofopportunity.org/what-we-do/christmas-box-appeal/how-to-pack-a-shoebox>

I hope that we can get involved with the same enthusiasm as in previous years.

### Odd Socks Day



To mark the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week we will be taking part in *the nationally celebrated* Odd Socks Day on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November** by asking everyone to wear their odd socks to school on that day. The idea behind this day is to celebrate diversity and talk with children about the importance of inclusion. The brighter the socks the better! We will be talking to children about bullying, how to recognise when another person's behaviour could be called out as bullying, discussing how to stay safe and get help should this ever happen to you.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| November  |  |
|---|--|
| Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>                       | Remembrance Service in School Hall   |
| Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>                         | TD Day 3<br>No children in school  |
| <b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Anti-Bullying Week</b>  |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>                         | Odd Socks Day  |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>                        | Year 3/4 Handball<br>Burbage School<br>(small group)   |
| Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>                         | Children in Need<br>Spotty Day   |
|   | <b>Christmas Boxes collection</b>  |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>                        | Year 5/6 Netball Festival<br>Marlborough College<br><i>(details to follow)</i>                 |
| Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>                      | St. Katharine's Day<br>9.30am in St. Katharine's Church  |
| <b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup></b>                   | <b>Online Safety Session from Police<br/>Early Intervention Team<br/>(Sycamore Class only)</b> |
| <b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup></b>                   | <b>Sharing our Learning Afternoon<br/>(pre parents evening 1)<br/>2.30-3.15pm</b>              |
| Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>                        | Parents Evening 1 (of 3)<br>All Classes<br>3.30pm-7.00pm                                       |
| Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>                      | Parents Evening 1 (of 3)<br>(Oak Class only)<br>3.30pm - 5.30pm                                |
| Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>                       | Parents Evening 1 (of 3)<br>(Hazel, Chestnut and Sycamore<br>only)<br>3.30pm - 5.30pm          |
| December  |  |
| <b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup></b>                    | <b>Mobile Library visiting</b>   |
| Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>                      | Christmas Lunch  |
| <b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup></b>                 | <b>Tall Tales presents...<br/>Christmas Pantomime in school<br/>PTA funded</b>                 |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>                         | Christmas Jumper Day and<br>Christmas parties pm   |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>                         | 9 lesson Carol Service 6pm <i>(details to follow)</i>  |

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>    | Reception and KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal 2pm in church – parents and grandparents welcome |
| Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>   | Reception and KS1 Nativity in church 4:45pm (for a 5:00pm performance)                      |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> | KS2 Carol Service in Church<br>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 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> & Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Please Note**

We will close at 1:15pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024

# Other things you might want to know...



For families of children aged 0-5 yrs

## Five To Thrive

Join us for fun filled practical sessions where we can share ideas to develop the positive connection between you and your child.



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

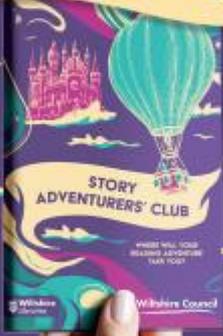
**Marlborough Library**  
91 High Street, Marlborough, SN8 1HD

Thursday 2nd November -  
Thursday 30th November 2023

10am - 11am

ADVENTURE AWAITS!  
ARE YOU UP FOR THE 100 BOOK CHALLENGE?

## JOIN THE STORY ADVENTURERS' CLUB!



STORY ADVENTURERS' CLUB

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

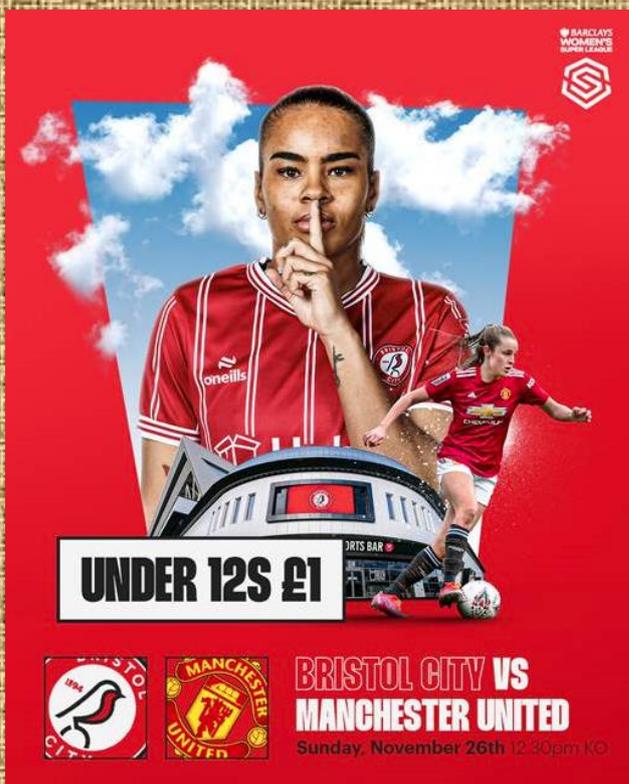
OTHER DESIGNS AVAILABLE

This free challenge to read 100 books is for children aged four to 16 years old. It's not a race and there is no time limit.

Travel to new places, explore new ideas, meet new characters, plus improve your reading skills!

Start the reading adventure at your local Wiltshire library today!

Wiltshire Libraries | Wiltshire Council



BARCLAYS WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**UNDER 12S £1**

**BRISTOL CITY VS MANCHESTER UNITED**  
Sunday, November 26th 12.30pm KO



**SALE SHARKS**

**SAT NOV 18TH 2PM**  
**AT ASHTON GATE**

**50% OFF TICKETS**

USE CODE:  
**BGROUPS50**