



**ST KATHARINE'S**  
**C of E**  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
*Friendship, Effort, Respect,*  
*& Honesty*  
**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
**NEWSLETTER No: 5**  
*Our Value This Term Is...*

*Hope*



*Dear Parents,*

It's been a busy 3 weeks as always. In the lead up to January we always have a very busy time showing around prospective parents. It is always lovely to hear that people have come on a recommendation from a parent in our school community, both past and present. Whilst we have consistently filled our 15 places in recent years and often been oversubscribed, I am never complacent. When our school is running at capacity or near to capacity, we are in a strong position to ensure that we continue to offer the very best to all our children. Thank you for your advocacy and please keep it up!

Last week Michael McHugh led our remembrance collective worship. Children wore poppies throughout the week and took part in age-appropriate sessions in their classrooms to support their understanding. On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November a small group of children from Sycamore Class attended the service at St Katharine's Church, where they laid a wreath that had been made in school. Thank you to Kitty, Jessica, Julianna and Sydney (and of course their families) for giving up their Sunday morning to come along to represent the school.

Last week was anti-bullying week which we launched with the wearing of odd socks. Key messages around sharing your worries and talking to a trusted adult, when things are worrying you, were a focus of our talk with the children along with revisiting our school definition of what bullying is and what it isn't. Please do look at our [bullying prevention policy](#) on the

website if you would like a better understanding of this yourself.

Sadly, the year 3/4 handball tournament was postponed due to poor weather on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November. We hope this will be rebooked for later in the year. Luckily for Sycamore Class the netball tournament went ahead this week. Mr Sandall was really pleased with the children's approach in all matches played, significantly with the awarding of the 'spirit of games' to two of our teams. Competing with grit and determination is important, winning is nice but competing with the right spirit, playing fairly and kindly is (I would say), vital.

On Wednesday we celebrated St Katharine's Day. It was lovely to see so many parents in church. The service is cemented into the school calendar and laced with lovely traditions, all handed down throughout the years that the school has been in existence. I have been here quite some time and haven't invented any of them! For those of you that have never been;

- ★ *we tell the story of St Catharine, her courage, determination and integrity*
- ★ *we lay a small posy on her statue (this is done by the youngest and the oldest child in the school)*
- ★ *we eat iced topped buns at playtime!*

That's 7 iced buns across a child's life at St Katharine's. I won't say that it's the buns that stick in the mind about this celebration, but then...!

There are just two more newsletters between now and the end of Term 2. Not sure how we are here already, so... dust off the tinsel and polish the baubles, in Newsletter 6 we can officially mention Christmas!

★ *Niki Jones*

★ Principal

*'From little acorns, great oaks grow'*



**We have a New Eco Council**

After presenting their manifestos and campaigning hard for the votes of their classmates we are thrilled to announce that the newly elected Eco-Council are:

- ★ Isla Hines- Year 6
- ★ Jessica Spencer - Year 6
- ★ Clemmie Gooch - Year 6
- ★ Leo Franklin - Year 5
- ★ Esme Lacey - Year 4

- ★ Freddie Parkinson - Year 3
- ★ Elise Walker - Year 2

### **When There are Worries...**

Across a child's time at school there will be moments when either you, they, or more likely both of you, are worried about something. This might be something relatively small with a quick and simple solution or, at times, something a bit meatier that takes a bit of time and collaboration to sort out.

If we are not aware of a problem, we cannot of course help to solve it. Equally, if problems are left for a while, they can get bigger and trickier to sort out.

We have been running some circle times with the children to re-iterate the message that is it important to talk. Also, to know who the best people are to talk to. As parents, you are often (and rightly) the first person that a child will seek out if they are worried. Sometimes, you will decide that this is something for you to deal with at home with your child and provide them with the skills to navigate the problem; especially if this is within a friendship. However, there are problems that are difficult for you as parents to sort out and as such we urge you to encourage children to talk to school adults and failing that, that you make us aware when problems or worries occur. We would far rather know early on about something small than try to unpick a problem when things have become more complex.

Schools talk about having an open-door policy. Whilst we know that you are not actually inside the building very often that does not mean that our doors are shut to you. If you have a concern linked to your child in the classroom or playtime, in the first instance make your child's class teacher aware. We pride ourselves on responding very quickly to emails and all staff will happily set up a call or meeting to talk things through if needed. If things do not resolve easily or concerns continue to grow, I will always work alongside class teachers in support of a solution or, when necessary, meet with parents myself to move things forward.

Problems often grow in the vacuum caused by a lack of communication. Please talk to us if you have a worry. Knowing about it, is our only way to put the correct help and support in place.

### **Parents Evening**

Parents will have received an email giving details about the Parents' Evenings happening next week

– 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November. The sessions are being held via video call. The booking window for making appointments was 3.30pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> until 3.30pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Hopefully everyone has made an appointment. If you have forgotten to make an appointment or have any issues, please do contact Hayley in the office on the admin@ email address.

### **Sharing Our Learning Afternoon**

Prior to parents' evenings next week, there is an opportunity for you to come into school from **2:30pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November** to share books with your child/ren. We hope this will give you a bit of context before meeting with your child's teacher and enable you to share the progress that your child is making and the things that they are proud of. Once you have finished, we are happy for children to go home a little early providing you let the class teacher know. Please use the classroom entrances or come through reception.

### **Lost property**

There is a small collection of potentially treasured items in the office that have been found on school premises. There is a silver heart pendant, a blue lego man and a poppy pin with what looks like a rugby ball attached. If you think that any of these items belong to you, please pop into the office.

### **Christmas Boxes**

Thank you for your generosity and kindness in the making of Christmas Boxes again this year. We had an amazing number (72 boxes) to be loaded onto the van when it arrived to collect them. We know that the gifts enclosed will make a big difference to the lives of those that receive them and that the making of the boxes gives our children a chance to reflect on how fortunate they are and understand a little more about the importance of aspiring to a more equal world. 72 boxes is an astounding total for a small school and beats our highest amount quite considerably. Thank you!

### **Poppy Appeal**

We are delighted to report that we raised £127 toward the poppy appeal this year. Many thanks everyone for your support.

### **Bonfire Night**

We are looking forward to the rearranged bonfire night tomorrow night. It is always a great event,

enjoyed by everyone. We would like to thank the PTA and all the volunteers that make it possible – not a small task!

### Thankyou

We would like to say thank you to parents for helping with making over 100 cakes between them for St. Katharine’s day! A huge thank you to Mrs Joddrell, Mrs Kerr and Mrs Blanchard.

Also, we would like to express our thanks to the many ‘bark spreaders’ that have come out of the woodwork to help resurface the play area. You know who you are!

### Community Christmas Cards!

This year we are hoping to spread Christmas cheer to some of the residents at Brendon Care, Froxfield.

We are inviting pupils to bring in (ideally) a handmade Christmas card and a short letter which will be delivered before Christmas.

The letter could include a few lines on what they are looking forward to most about Christmas, their favourite family tradition or simply what they've enjoyed learning about this term.

A list of the residents' names and a little bit about them will be in the library corner. To avoid any duplication, simply pop a tick next to the name of the person you are going to address the card to. Cards can be left at the school and will be collected on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December for delivery in time for the residents Christmas party on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Any questions please contact either Kim Lydon-Strutt or Caroline Cunningham

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

[caroline.cunningham@gov.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:caroline.cunningham@gov.excalibur.org.uk)

### Wiltshire Council Consultation

Wiltshire Council is consulting on the proposed admissions criteria and admission arrangements for its Community & Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2025/26 academic year. It is also consulting on the proposed schemes for co-ordination of admissions to all maintained schools and academies for the 2025/26 academic year. The consultation starts on Friday 17 November 2023 and it ends on Friday 12 January 2024.

The consultation documents can be accessed by clicking on the link below.

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-admissions-consultation](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-admissions-consultation)

We have been asked to share these proposals with parents and encourage them to email any comments to the Local Authority so that any returns, give an accurate reflection of the views of all school communities.

To respond to this consultation please send your comments by email

to [admissions@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@wiltshire.gov.uk) or you can write to:

*School Admissions Team*

*Wiltshire Council*

*Bythesea Road*

*Trowbridge*

*Wiltshire*

*BA14 8JN*

### Christmas Lunch – Message From Sue Brady

Sue Brady has been in touch to remind us all about the process followed this year regarding the school Christmas lunch on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

You can place your order in the window from 24<sup>th</sup> November (pm) until 8<sup>th</sup> December (before 9am). Please note that the website will not state Christmas meal on that day on the ordering page, it will be listed as roast chicken. However, all meals ordered will automatically be changed to a Christmas meal. If parents do not want a Christmas meal for their child, they must email [schools@suebradycatering.com](mailto:schools@suebradycatering.com) to change to the Sausage Roll / Vegetarian Roll with rainbow salad. Please note, there will be no sandwiches provided by Sue Brady on Christmas Lunch day (13<sup>th</sup> December).

The Christmas meal will consist of the following:

1 slice of Turkey

2 Potatoes

Peas

Carrots

1 Cocktail Sausage

Stuffing

Gravy

pudding will be a Festive Ice-cream

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Online Safety Session from Police Early Intervention Team (Sycamore Class only)
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Sharing our Learning Afternoon (pre parents evening 1) 2.30-3.15pm

Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening 1 (of 3) All Classes 3.30pm-7.00pm
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening 1 (of 3) (Oak Class only) 3.30pm - 5.30pm
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening 1 (of 3) (Chestnut and Sycamore only) 3.30pm - 5.30pm <b>(Hazel only)</b> <b>3.30pm-5.00pm</b>
<i>December</i>	
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mobile Library visiting
	<b>Restless Development Triathlon Assembly (children only)</b>
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Tall Tales presents... Christmas Pantomime in school PTA funded
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Jumper Day and 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 9.30am
	Last day of Term 2

**Please Note**

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

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

# Other things you might want to know...



the national sleep helpline

## Want to know more about sleep?

ASK US THE QUESTIONS YOU WANT ANSWERS TO

**03303 530 541**  
 Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm  
 Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am



the national sleep helpline

**50%** Around 50% of children will have a sleep issue at some point

**WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE?**  
 In partnership with Furniture Village, The Sleep Charity has launched a brand new National Sleep Helpline to ensure that everyone has access to high quality, evidence-based advice.

**HOW CAN THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE HELP ME?**

- Run by a team of specialist trained sleep advisors.
- Offer you some practical strategies and recommend services that could help.
- Ensuring you understand how sleep plays an important part in mental health wellbeing.
- Listen without judgement and help you decide what next steps are right for you.
- Empower you with sleep knowledge so you can understand why you might not be sleeping well and how that can change.

**03303 530 541**  
 Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm  
 Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am

the national sleep helpline | Furniture Village

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**Be a Star and donate a gift** **Be a Star!**

Could you help us make Christmas special for those who may have little or nothing under the tree on Christmas morning?

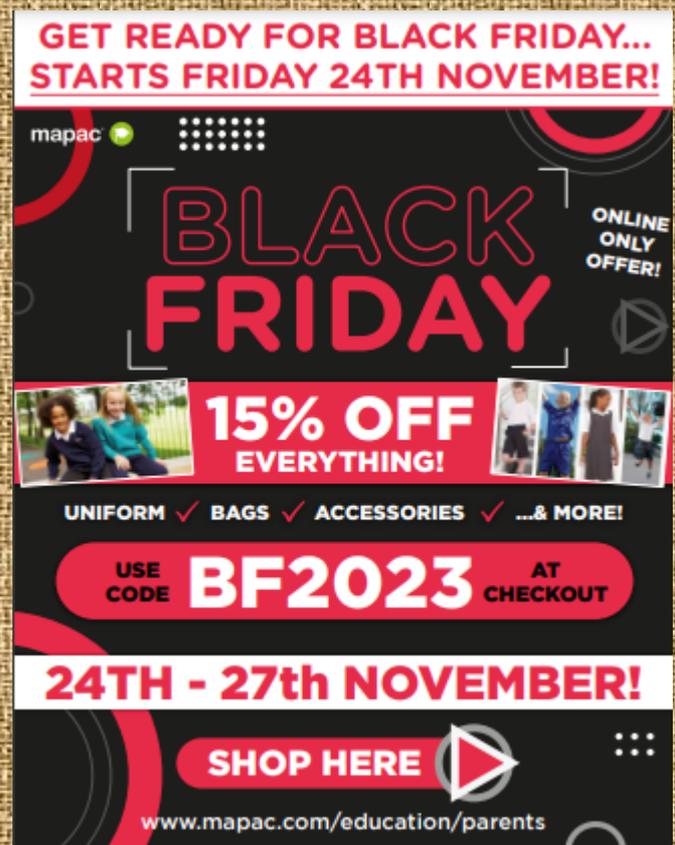
Gifts for children and adults (must be brand new and unwrapped)

Donations via:  
 Claire Friday, 49 Bourne Way, Saraburg - 07787 533677  
 Duckings Toy Shop, Marlborough  
 Marlborough St Mary's School Christmas Fair  
 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December - 4.30-7.30pm  
**\*\*Deadline for donations 13<sup>th</sup> December\*\***

or visit our website  
[www.salvationarmy.org.uk/swindon-gorse-hill](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/swindon-gorse-hill)

THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army (United Kingdom) is a registered charity in England and Wales. The Salvation Army (United Kingdom) is a registered charity in England and Wales. The Salvation Army (United Kingdom) is a registered charity in England and Wales.



**GET READY FOR BLACK FRIDAY... STARTS FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER!**

mapac

**BLACK FRIDAY** **ONLINE ONLY OFFER!**

**15% OFF EVERYTHING!**

UNIFORM ✓ BAGS ✓ ACCESSORIES ✓ ...& MORE!

USE CODE **BF2023** AT CHECKOUT

**24TH - 27th NOVEMBER!**

**SHOP HERE**

[www.mapac.com/education/parents](http://www.mapac.com/education/parents)



# Winter Works Open Days

10:30 to 14:30

Families are invited for a behind the scenes look at our winter maintenance and to take part in our FREE craft and STEM activities.

## Saturday 18th November



### STEM Activity - Marshmallow Toothpick Tower Challenge

See if you can build the tallest structure.

### Craft Activity - Candle Holder

Get ready for those longer winter evenings.

## Saturday 2nd December



### STEM Activity - Catapult Challenge

Build a catapult and see if you can hit the targets.

### Craft Activity - Christmas Card

Create your own Christmas card.

More dates to come in 2024

Free entry to the Beam Engines (donations welcome) and Pop-Up refreshments available.

Visit [www.croftonbeamengines.org/events](http://www.croftonbeamengines.org/events) for more information.

# Baby and Us

For parents of babies under 9 months



EMPOWERING PARENTS  
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



A 9-week course run by trained parent facilitators

- Understand your baby's cues.
- Cope with challenges around feeding, sleep and crying.
- Interact positively with your baby.
- Manage parental stress.

Call us on: 0800 970 4669

Join us at:  
**Devizes Bowling Club**  
 Long Street, SN10 1NW  
 Wednesdays  
 17th January - 20th  
 March 2024  
 (Not half term 14th Feb)  
 10:00am - 12:00  
 Midday



Working in partnership with

Wiltshire Council



# PARENT'S SPREADSHEET / EXCEL SKILLS



Are you a parent at a Wiltshire school? Then you can learn about Spreadsheets / Excel for free.

Fully Funded :  
Cost : £0

### You will Learn :

- Creating a Budget
- Calculations and Formulas
- Charts and Graphs
- Understand your Bills
- Design and Printing
- Ask the Trainer for Help

### TRAINING WILL BE:

3 x 2 Hour Sessions

Runs Every Month

Online Zoom with a live tutor

01684 298932

[ask@skillsladder.co.uk](mailto:ask@skillsladder.co.uk)

SKILLS LADDER



Scan QR for WhatsApp

For more information call, email or WhatsApp



[www.skillsladder.co.uk](http://www.skillsladder.co.uk)

Wiltshire Council

**OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER IS ON 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

**DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOURS 😊**

