



**ST KATHARINE'S  
C of E  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
*Friendship, Effort, Respect,  
& Honesty*  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
**NEWSLETTER No: 6**  
*Our Value This Term Is...*

*Hope*



*Dear Parents,*

Time is now officially racing away with us. If, like me, you are a bit last minute with your Christmas preparations you will be beginning the 'how am I going to get everything done in time?' panic that is typical as December sets in. If you are however well-organised and on top of everything I can only admire and congratulate you on your brilliance!

Looking back through the diary there has been lots going on but perhaps none of it particularly visible to our families or children. We have been delighted to show lots of prospective parents around our school. I am always proud of the calm and purposeful atmosphere that is our classrooms and our school in general. It is very often the thing that stands out to people viewing the school for the first time.

Charlotte from the Restless Development team visited this week to deliver an assembly to our Key Stage 2 children about the triathlon event taking place on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Parents of KS2 children will have received an email earlier this week with all the details of how children can make a team and sign up to this event. Last year was the first year that St Katharine's took part. It was an incredible day for all those that took part. I am already looking forward to it again this year. If you need more information or have mis-laid the email, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The sound of Christmas songs is swiftly becoming a daily occurrence as we prepare for the Key Stage 1 Nativity and the Key Stage 2 Carol Service. With both

events happening in the last few days of this term, we are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible and sharing with you some a little bit of Christmas sparkle.

*Niki Jones*

Principal

*'From little acorns, great oaks grow'*



**Thank You Cards for an Eco-Friendly Christmas**

We thought we would share this initiative from 'thank a teacher.co.uk', supported by the DfE. If you, your child or your family would like to send some thanks to a member of staff (or multiple members) at the end of this first seasonal term, please explore the free link below. All your messages of thanks are always very much appreciated by everyone in the team here at St Katharine's. I thought this was a great way to brighten up a tired teacher inbox!

[https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

**Parents Evenings**

Thank you to all of you for booking and attending the first of our three opportunities for you to meet with class teachers to discuss your child's progress. The next opportunity will be at the end of Terms 4 and again in Term 6, if you would like to discuss the contents of your child's end of year report.

Whilst these are 3 diarised opportunities to meet with your child's teacher, please know that our open-door policy means just that. We are happy to discuss any question or concern that you may have, however small you perceive it to be.

Tackling problems, queries or concerns early saves time and potential heart ache. You can request a telephone call, an email or a face-to-face meeting at any time if there is something you would like to discuss.

**Online Safety Session for parents - Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January.**

This session, delivered by the team at Wiltshire Police, responsible for community engagement and outreach, will be a great opportunity for any parent feeling at times overwhelmed by the task of navigating the online world for their child. I hope that all those that attend will find this a

useful, informative and proactive session that will leave you feeling a little more confident and knowledgeable about the online world that our children will, at some time, inevitably encounter and engage with. We will provide refreshments.

**Please save the date and come along.**

### **Support for Parents**

Following attendance at a recent webinar, the following webinar/information session was flagged as something useful to pass on to parents. It is free and operates on a first come, first served basis. Follow the link below if you think strategies around managing anxiety in children would be helpful for you and your family or is something that you are just interested in finding out more about.

<https://www.myfamilycoach.com/supporting-my-anxious-child-free-class/>

### **Bonfire Night**

We are delighted to report that the PTA bonfire night raised £1895. It was a very enjoyable evening for everyone involved and the fireworks were amazing. Another testament to the commitment and effort shown by our amazing PTA. Thank you all so much.

We are looking forward to investing this money in a new sound system and improving the equipment and environment in the EYFS early years classroom and outdoor area.

### **Lost Property**

Please call in to have a look through the lost property basket to see if anything belongs to you. All named items are immediately returned, however, we have accrued quite a pile of unnamed items. At current count we have 16 sweatshirts/cardigans, a coat, various bottles, plus lunchboxes and gloves (including a single black leather ladies' glove).

On the final few days of the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> December, all lost property will be put on a table near the school gate at the end of each day for parents to look through. All remaining lost property at the end of that week will be put into the donation station or given to local charity shops.

### **Absences**

As we would expect, some of our students attend extra-curricular activities outside of school time, such as ballet and music lessons. Whilst we support our parent group in offering this to the children, we are mindful of any impact caused by

time taken out of school hours. Please can we request that every effort is made to avoid missing time at school. If absence is necessary for an exam for example, please can we ask that this period of absence is kept to a minimum and that we are given sufficient notice in advance in the form of a Leave of Absence form. A link to our Leave of Absence process, together with the Leave of Absence form can be found [here](#).

On the same theme, please can you ensure that if your child is unwell, you call the school office as soon as possible in the morning to explain your child's absence. There is now a dedicated answerphone for this specific purpose. Please update school before the beginning of each school day (8.45am).

Thank you for your support with this.

### **What to do if you have symptoms of COVID-19**

There have been a few reported cases of Covid recently. We thought a reminder of what to do and how to manage this would be useful. Please note that a good rule of thumb is:

- a) if your child is well enough for school then send them to school
- b) high temperatures should be managed at home
- c) there is no need to test unless you are protecting vulnerable people in your own families.

Please see this information from NHS England. You may be able to [look after yourself at home if you have COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19](#).

Try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you or your child have symptoms and either:

- have a high temperature
- do not feel well enough to go to work, school, childcare, or do your normal activities

You can go back to your normal activities when you feel better or do not have a high temperature.

If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or mild cough, and they feel well enough, they can go to school or childcare. Information:

If you are eligible for treatments for COVID-19, you should take a rapid lateral flow test as soon as you get symptoms.

[Find out more about treatments for COVID-19 and who can have them](#)

### **What to do if you have tested positive**

You are no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if you have symptoms.

But if you or your child have tested positive for COVID-19:

- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day the test was taken if you or your child are under 18 years old – children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults
- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days after the day you took your test if you are 18 years old or over
- avoid meeting people who are more likely to get seriously ill from viruses, such as people with a weakened immune system, for 10 days after the day you took your test

Follow [this link](#) to the NHS website to find out more.

### Pantomime – Tall Tales Presents

Funded by our PTA, the children will enjoy this year's Tall Tales production of Rumpelstiltskin on 14<sup>th</sup> December. This will take place in school during the morning. We loved the Tall Tales production last year and are looking forward to finding out what this small team of actors have in stall for us next week...! This production will be watched by all the children from Reception to Year 6 and is a lovely opportunity for us all to come together as a whole school.



### Christmas Count Down



Whilst we work hard to keep learning and routines in place up to the very end of term, we are also looking forward to the Christmas events that make this a special time of year in school. Please note the events in the calendar section of this newsletter that will help you to keep track of what is happening each day in these last weeks of Term 2. We have highlighted them with a Christmassy theme to help you!

### Christmas Jumper Day – 15<sup>th</sup> December

This fundraiser, in support of Save the Children, is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the very different experiences and needs of children across the globe. Please do not go out and buy a Christmas jumper for this occasion. Recycle, upcycle and wear borrowed or handed down garments. I personally love the everyday jumpers that children have adapted to make Christmassy. From a tight family budget and environmental

perspective we would hate to have put any of you in a situation where you feel forced to spend or add to future landfill. We will make sure that the children receive the same message, loud and clear.

We will be collecting donations on the day, our suggested donation is £1, but please give whatever you are comfortable with.

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> - final day of Term 2

Please only send your child to school with the things they will need for that day. We will be tidying lockers and clearing pegs ready for the new year so please only send your child to school with essential items.

### Message from Sue Brady - Exciting Update: Switch to New School Meals Ordering App!

Sue Brady has asked us to announce that it is transitioning from the old meal-ordering system to a new website including a mobile-friendly app: Scopay.

It will be significantly easier to use and you will be able to order meals a whole term in advance, as well as make your own amendments to your current orders.

Please note, the old webpage will soon be retired. So keep an eye on your email for further details, including your login profile for the new system. If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to contact Sue Brady at [schools@suebradycatering.com](mailto:schools@suebradycatering.com).

Sue Brady would like to thank you for being a valued part of the school community!

### Mobile Library

The mobile library is next due to visit during the Christmas holiday period. To help avoid overdue charges for late returns, a representative from the mobile library will call in to the school office on 15<sup>th</sup> December to collect any books that need to be returned. So, if you have any books that you need to return before the new year, please hand them into the office before 15<sup>th</sup> December.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December	
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	🎄 Christmas Lunch
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	🎄 Tall Tales presents... Rumpelstiltskin Pantomime in school am

	(PTA funded)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	 <b>Christmas Jumper Day</b> and Christmas Parties <i>children do not need to bring party clothes (£1 donation welcomed)</i>
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	 9 lessons 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 (essential items only)
<i>January</i>	
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	TD days 4 and 5 No children in school these days
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	First day of Term 3
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Online Safety Session <u>for parents</u></b> 7:00pm Delivered by Wiltshire Police Service <b>We would love to see as many of our parents as possible.</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for primary school applications
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 3/4 Handball Festival (rescheduled from Nov '23) (small team) Burbage School
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Lego Robotics Competition (small team)
<i>February</i>	
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs information session for parents 14:15 – 15:15pm
	Last Day of Term 3

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**

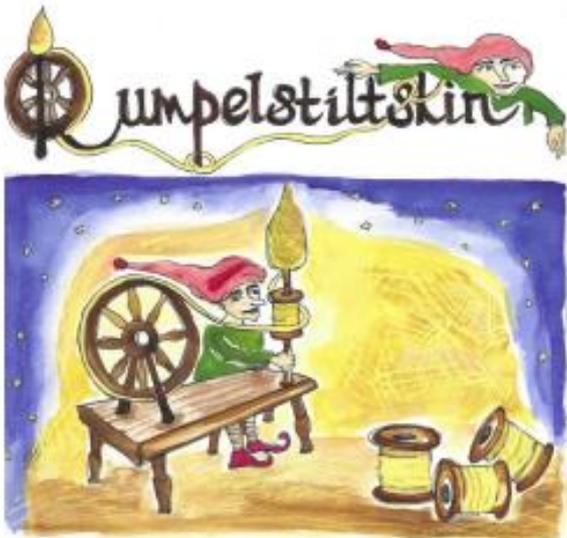
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> & Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

#### **Please Note**

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

# Other things you might want to know...

TALL TALES  
charismatic, infectious, creativity



**Rumpelstiltskin**

**A magical, mystical, musical tale**

Written and adapted by Lizzie Lewis  
Original music by Dave Stephens

**MY SCIENCE FAIR**  
SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024

**CALLING ALL YOUNG SCIENTISTS!**

Join us for a free, fun-packed day of creative workshops and activities exploring the world of science at Wiltshire Music Centre!



**TAKE PART IN THE MSF24 PROJECT COMPETITION!**

- DESIGN** your very own science project exploring Stars, Light, or Ocean Sounds
- GET INSPIRED** by real scientists from the University of Bath at one of our drop in sessions:
  - 10 FEBRUARY** - Meet our science team who can help you with your ideas and plan your project at WMC
  - 24 FEBRUARY** - Chat through any challenges or new ideas you have at this online session
- PRESENT** your findings at MY SCIENCE FAIR 2024
- WIN** exciting prizes

**REGISTRATION OPENS ON 5TH DECEMBER 2023 — PLACES ARE LIMITED**  
Sign up: [www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/project/msf](http://www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/project/msf)

**FREE!**  
Children from 5 to 11 years can enter

UNIVERSITY OF BATH | AB DYNAMICS™ | BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK | WILTSHIRE MUSIC CENTRE

**Christ Church Cathedral School**  
Boys' Prep School with co-ed Nursery



Register for our 'Be a Chorister for an Afternoon' for boys in current Years 2, 3, 4 & 5. All Cathedral Choristers receive generous bursaries.

**Christ Church Cathedral School**

**Would your son like to join our world-famous choir?**



**Saturday 13th January 2024, 2.30 - 7.00 pm**

Boys, currently aged between 7 to 10, are invited to come and see what it's like to sing with our current Cathedral Choristers for an afternoon. No prior choral experience is needed.

Potential choristers can join a choir rehearsal led by COCS' Director of Music, followed by refreshments, and then sing with our internationally acclaimed choristers at Evensong. The afternoon provides a great opportunity for boys to have first-hand experience of what it's like to be a chorister at Christ Church Cathedral School.

Being a Cathedral Chorister is a life-changing opportunity. Boys learn: self-discipline, social skills, a sense of responsibility and teamwork, as well as outstanding musical and vocal skills.

All Cathedral Choristers receive a bursary equivalent to two-thirds of fees to support their education at COCS and means-tested fee remission may be available up to 100%. In the last 5 years, all of our Cathedral Choristers have won music awards to leading senior schools.

To participate, please complete our online registration form: [www.cocs.org.uk/visitus](http://www.cocs.org.uk/visitus) or for more information, please contact our Registrar, Laura Kemp, email: [registrar@cocs.org.uk](mailto:registrar@cocs.org.uk)

01865 242561 | [www.cocs.org.uk](http://www.cocs.org.uk) | 3 Brewer Street, Oxford OX1 1QW