



**ST KATHARINE'S  
C of E  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,  
& Honesty*

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
NEWSLETTER No: 7**

*Our Value This Term Is...*

*Hope*



*Dear Parents,*

It has been quite a long term. The tired (and slightly pail) faces of the children are certainly telling that story! It is a very late break up from school this year. My feeling is that it is probably better for it to be very nearly Christmas by the time we break up rather than having to wait for ages until the big day with over excitement to contend with! I hope that, whilst there are not many days left until we all try to fit the turkey in the oven and make sure the potatoes are perfectly crispy, you will all benefit from a slightly more leisurely return to routine in the New Year. Please remember that the children do not return to school until the 8<sup>th</sup> of January.

It has of course been a busy week *and a bit* since the publication of Newsletter 6. We try hard to keep normality in the children's lives until the very latest moment so that whilst last week saw us enjoying the Pantomime, Christmas lunch and Christmas parties we also managed to fit in our English, Maths and curriculum learning alongside that. This week has probably been more 'Operation Christmas' with our two Nativity performances and the Carol Service this morning. It has been lovely to welcome so many of you to school (or more accurately Church) to share these special events. If nothing else, I hope that we have offered you a moment or two of peace amid the queueing, list making and the multi-tasking! Thank you as always for your continued support; we very much appreciate all that you do in partnership

with us. Whether that is regular reading at home, practising times tables, making a costume or just remembering that it's PE or Forest School today! Without these things and your support with them our jobs become very much harder.

For adults, Christmas is a very busy time with our attention needed in multiple directions. I hope that you manage to find some calm and dare I say 'rest' in amongst the glitter, the excitement and the sellotape! We look forward to welcoming you all back safely at the beginning of the New Year.

*Merry Christmas to you all!*

*Niki Jones*

Principal

*'From little acorns, great oaks grow'*



### **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.**

### **Lost Property**

Please be reminded that unnamed and unclaimed lost property will be given to the donation station at the end of term. Named items will of course be delivered back to children.

### **Vacancies**

If you are considering a new job in a school, please do take a look at the Excalibur vacancies page [HERE](#).

### **Choir**

We have space for more children in Years 2 to 6 to join our choir on a Friday morning. If your child is keen to join, please email Mrs Popperwell: [jopopperwell@gmail.com](mailto:jopopperwell@gmail.com) to request a place. These will be offered on a first come, first served basis. We are moving the start time to 8:30am (from 8:15am) in the hope that more children will be able to join.

Choir will begin on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January** when we return to school after the Christmas break.

**Respond to [This Survey...](#)**

*...to share your valuable opinions about the future of children's services in our country. It won't take very long.*

The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country. Use the QR code or website link on the flyer that you can access via the link above.

**Term Dates 2024/25**

Please find attached, along with this newsletter, the term dates for the academic year 24-25, recently approved by the board of directors of our academy trust. You will note that we have added 3 whole TD days to the half term break in October in addition to the 2 TD days as the very start of the school year. We hope that by having these dates well in advance you are able to plan ahead for your own holidays from work.

Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs information session for parents 14:15 – 15:15pm
Friday 9th	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.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<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
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Online Safety Session for parents</b> <b>7:00pm</b> <b>Delivered by Wiltshire Police Service</b> <b>We would love to see as many of our parents as possible.</b> <b>Please Come Along</b>
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tag Rugby Club first session (Sycamore Class – 8 week club)</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)
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mobile Library visiting</b>
<i>February</i>	

# Other things you might want to know...



Marlborough Academy of Dance and Drama

**BOOKING NOW  
FREE TRIAL WEEK**

**8th - 13th January 2024**

Classes in Marlborough and Ramsbury



- Ballet
- Modern
- Pre-School Ballet
- Jazz Funk
- Tap
- Contemporary
- Acrobatics
- Street Dance
- Musical Theatre

**Limited places available BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

**madmarlborough@gmail.com / 07962 004 048**

**www.mad-online.co.uk**

Wiltshire Children's Centres Keeping in Touch Winter 2023

**Spurgeons** Together with families

### Parenting Tips for the Holidays

Being a parent can be the most rewarding and challenging thing we can ever do - all at the same time! At Christmas it can become even more stressful and we can all require some additional support.

**Make sure you are looking after your own well being to ensure that you have the capacity to enjoy the challenges ahead.**

Things you can do for yourself

- Have an uninterrupted bath
- Have a cup of tea or coffee with a friend
- Go for a walk

**Things you can do to maintain a positive atmosphere at home.**

- Play and have fun with your child
- Praise the behaviour you want to see more of and where possible ignore low level irritating behaviour
- Give your child time to calm down before dealing with an unwanted behaviour

**Support Available from the Children's Centre**

At the Children's Centre's we run many courses to support parents and carers. Including Being a Parent for parents of 2-11 year olds, developed by EPEC (Empowering People Empowering Communities). To find out more contact Wiltshire Children Centres on 0800 870 4669 or go to [www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk)

**Where else can I look for parenting support?**

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parenting-support/parenting-courses](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parenting-support/parenting-courses)

[www.cccs.org.uk/the-parenting-space/](http://www.cccs.org.uk/the-parenting-space/)

For 1-1 support contact the children's centre

**Course Dates for 2024 can be found here:**

**2024**

Including details about Baby and Us. A supportive course designed for parents with babies up to 9 months.

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

**PROFESSIONALS**      **FAMILIES with children 0 - 5**      **FAMILIES with children 6 - 11**

**Spurgeons** Together with families

**Support we offer**

We are here to help with a whole range of topics including:

- Ideas around implementing routines and setting boundaries.
- Help to understand your child's needs and build your confidence as a parent.
- Help around finances, housing applications, debt support and accessing benefits.
- Advice on local childcare and applying for funding.
- Supporting you 'back to work'.
- Introductions to other services.

**Facebook**

Our Spurgeons Wiltshire children's centres Facebook page is the best way for families to stay up to date with current services. Make sure you like and follow to stay in touch with us. Simply click here:

**Get in touch with us**

If you have any questions or would like more information about our services please call us on one of our numbers below or check out our website:

**Freephone: 0800 970 4669**

email: [wiltshirecc@spurgeons.org](mailto:wiltshirecc@spurgeons.org)

Other useful numbers:

Health visitor - single point of access **0300 247 0090**

National Breastfeeding helpline **0300 100 0212**

Fearfree (domestic abuse support service) **01225 775276**

Wiltshire out of hours domestic abuse helpline **01225 712880**

**We can help families access:**

- Breast pump loan
- Baby Bundles
- Food boxes
- New Parent, New Baby programme
- Healthy Start vitamins

Click here to visit our website

<https://www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org>



Spurgeons Wiltshire Children's Centres will be closed over the holiday period from 4pm  
**Friday 22nd December 2023**

We look forward to welcoming you back on  
**Tuesday 2nd January 2024**

If you have any immediate concerns for the safety and wellbeing of a child, please call:

Within Wiltshire - MASH 0300 4560108 or call 999 for police assistance

Outside Wiltshire - NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or call 999 for police assistance

For support around domestic abuse please contact FearFree 01225775276 (weekdays) or the out of hours helpline 01225 712880.

