



**ST KATHARINE'S
C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*
Friday 12th January 2024
NEWSLETTER No: 8
Our Value This Term Is...

Hope



Dear Parents,

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you were able, despite the relentless rain, to enjoy some restful moments. I came across this quote from Maya Angelou which I thought seemed perfect; *"I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way (s)he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights."* I'm assuming that she is thinking about the ability that we have to be positive and calm, in spite of adversity, wise words for the beginning of January! Personally, I can really enjoy and even appreciate a rainy day but I could definitely do better with my approach to tangled lights!

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school, hear their stories (largely present related) and see them looking more rested than perhaps they were at the end of term two. It was certainly a long one for all of us. This term, in contrast, is going to fly by. Only five short weeks and there is a lot to fit in, as always. It has been a sunny and settled return to school this week. Holidays are wonderful things but sometimes it is also quite lovely to get back to a little routine.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Staffing Update

We said a sad farewell to Louise Mackenzie at the end of Term 2. We are, of course, still in touch with her and I can tell you that she is happily settling into her new home, her children into their new school and she into a new job. I was a big move for Louise but one that will mean she is closer to loved ones and the support that being closer to family can bring.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Tracy Ball to St Katharine's for the remainder of this academic year. Mrs Ball will be teaching music across Sycamore and Oak classes, alongside their PE sessions with In2Sport on a Wednesday afternoon. This releases Mr Sandall and Miss Denton for their designated PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) time, stipulated by government as a teacher requirement. Mrs Ball has taught music in a number of local schools and comes highly recommended! She has a wealth of experience and expertise which we are looking forward to her sharing with us.

Mrs Freeman has extended her contract to 0.8 (4 days) in Hazel Class, Mon – Thursday. She will also be responsible for the planning of the learning for the whole week, in her capacity as EYFS leader. I will be working in Hazel Class, alongside Mrs Groves on Fridays.

Mrs Groves also has a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant qualification (HLTA).

Hot Water Bottles and Blankets

You may have seen in the Gazette and Herald an article about council-run libraries in Wiltshire giving out free thermal clothing and blankets to those in need. The 'warm packs' which are being offered as part of a partnership between Warm and Safe Wiltshire and The Rural Communities Energy Support Network, will be available to collect at all Wiltshire Council libraries from this winter. Each pack will contain a scarf, thermal hat and gloves, fleece blanket and a hot water bottle with cover, and there is no criteria that must be met to be able to collect one. The libraries are also open as official 'warm spaces' for those in need of friendly support or shelter through the cost-of-living crisis. We are forwarding this information in case it is of use to you or anyone you know.

Online Safety Evening

Thank you to those of you that came into school on Tuesday evening to learn a bit more from the team at Wiltshire Policy about supporting children to stay safe online but also how we, as adults, can make changes that will ensure better cyber security for us.

A very impressive number of you turned out on a wintery evening to support this event. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm. We are now waiting for some resources that we can share with all families as a result of engaging with this session. We will share those as soon as we have them. For those of you that did attend, please do send any feedback, via email to admin@. The Wiltshire prevention team welcome any feedback that means they can enhance the content of these sessions and encourage even better uptake by parents across the county. We will gladly pass that on. As a school we would also be keen to know if the session was useful and if you think it is something we should run again in subsequent years.

Celebration Worship Dates - Term 4 and 5

Please see the table below for our Celebration Worship Dates in the lead up to Easter. Please note there are 4 dates in the lead up to Easter where we **will not** be holding a Celebration Worship that parents can attend, those dates are **highlighted in red**.

Friday Date	Class
12 th January	No Celebration
19 th January	Home Learning Achievements
26 th January	Sycamore
2 nd February	Chestnut
9 th February	Hazel Class
23 rd February	Celebration Worship <small>Just Gems and Hearts</small>
1 st March	Oak Class
8 th March	World Book Day No Celebration Worship today
15 th March	No Celebration <small>Cricket tasters</small>
22 nd March	No Celebration <small>Sharing our learning pm instead - parents in school to look at work pre-parent evenings</small>
29 th March	Good Friday School Closed

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January	
Friday 12 th	Tag Rugby Club first session (Sycamore Class – 8 week club)
Monday 15 th	Deadline for primary school applications
Tuesday 23 rd	Year 3/4 Handball Festival (rescheduled from Nov '23) (small team) Burbage School

Wednesday 24 th	Year 6 Lego Robotics Competition (small team)
Friday 26 th	Mobile Library visiting
<i>February</i>	
Tuesday 6 th	Year 6 SATs information session for parents 14:15 – 15:15pm
Friday 9 th	Last Day of Term 3

Please also refer to the **Key Dates Planner V2 that has been sent out along with this Newsletter**, that includes all the dates that we know of for the remainder of the 2023/24 academic year.

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 Planner V3 which is sent at the beginning of Term 5.

Please Note

We will close at 1:15pm on Wednesday 24th July 2024.

Other things you might want to know...



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 13th January

STEM Activity - Make a Bird Feeder

Help feed your garden birds this winter.

Craft Activity - Snowflake

Use different materials to decorate a snowflake.



Upcoming dates:

Saturday 10th February and Saturday 9th March

Free entry to the Beam Engines (donations welcome).

Visit www.croftonbeamengines.org/events for more information.

Swindon / Avebury / Bourton

T: 01793 329898
M: 07737 505243

swim stars

We run classes for all standards of swimmers from 4 to 12 years old at our venues in Swindon, Avebury and Bourton.

We follow the Swim England Learn to Swim and Reward Programme Stages 1-7 including Distance Awards. This progressive, structured approach means that we can build on children's progress to teach strokes and develop their all round water skills and confidence.

We have been successfully teaching 4-12 year olds for over 15 years and have a wealth of experience of supporting children with different needs and swimming backgrounds including learning and physical disabilities.



www.swimstars.org.uk

BAG 2 SCHOOL

FREE FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOLS

In partnership with your school or organisation



St Katharine's CofE Primary School



Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing and we have arranged to make a collection from your school. All the bags will be weighed and you will be paid for the total weight collected. Remember, the more you collect the greater the benefit to your school.



PLEASE USE YOUR OWN BAGS (THERE IS NO LIMIT).

When the clothes have been removed from the bag the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling.

We are collecting good quality items for RE-USE:

Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.

(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)

The more we weigh the more we pay!
Extra bags are welcome - there's no limit

Please return your Bag2School on:

Wednesday 31st January 2024 by 9am



01609 780 222



www.bag2school.com



helpdesk@bag2school.com