



ST KATHARINE'S

C of E

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friendship, Effort, Respect,

& Honesty

Friday 22nd March 2024

NEWSLETTER No: 13

Our Value This Term Is...

Compassion



Dear Parents,

It's been super busy for the last couple of weeks. I do wonder sometimes how we manage to fit everything in; schools are busy places and the last fortnight has been no exception.

Sycamore Class took part in the local school Tag Rugby tournament on Marlborough Common last week. They did exceptionally well and as always played with great sports-person-ship. We are extremely grateful to Tom Swift, Chris Coates and Will Howell who gave up their Friday evenings to run a rugby club after school, to support the preparation for this event. We have a PE document that outlines what we aim for PE to be like at St Katharines. It begins with this quote by Jeremy Frisch:

'Do not be alarmed, you may hear loud noises, shrieks, shouts and squeals. You may see big smiles, sweaty hair and red faces. Side effects include: good mood, strong heart and muscles, better grades and quality sleep...'

If you had watched the children as they took part in this club the above quote would have summed it up perfectly!

The arts have had centre stage this week. On Wednesday we had a whole school assembly led by the group 'Ultimate Tuition'. This music roadshow has a focus on introducing children to the instruments that feature in most modern music: the drum kit, bass, electric and acoustic guitar. The group introduced us to the idea of body percussion and how simple clapping rhythms, set to music can

have incredible musical effects. Chestnut class then had an hour-long workshop, exploring the instruments and musical ideas in greater depth. It was great to have live music in school.

Last night our drama club performed their slightly spooky murder mystery play to a small audience of parents. They have been working on this over a period of weeks with Lizzie (*Tall Tales*) who runs the club. They developed the play themselves using improvisation techniques. The performance was immersive; with cast involving the audience at points in the performance. It was lovely to see the children have such ownership of their work and to see them having so much fun at the same time.

Our busy week ended with another performance, this time by the choir. Again, they have been building towards this over a period of weeks and today parents were invited in to share their work. I can confirm it was a real treat and a wonderful way to start the day. Thank you to all parents who have taken the time out of their busy days to pop in and share those performances with their children. They love having you there!

I can't quite believe that we have only four days of term left. We are looking forward to seeing you all at 9:30am on Thursday morning to share our Easter Service with you. The PTA would like to invite parents back to school after the event for tea, coffee and hot cross buns and for you to enjoy the Easter Bonnet Parade. Keep those fingers crossed for some fine weather!

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Earth Hour - Saturday 23rd March, 8:30-9:30pm

During our Eco Council meeting and as part of our ongoing commitment to environmental awareness we would like to inform you about an exciting event called Earth Hour which will be taking place on **Saturday 23rd March, from 8:30pm to 9:30pm**. If this is too late, please do it earlier in the evening. Eco Council members have also presented this information to each class.

Earth Hour is a global movement where individuals, communities, and organisations switch off their non-essential lights for one hour to show our support for the planet and our desire to protect our environment.

We would like to encourage all families to participate in Earth Hour this year. By turning off

your lights for just one hour, you can make a significant impact on energy conservation and reduce carbon emissions.

During Earth Hour, we suggest creating a cosy atmosphere by lighting candles. This is a fantastic opportunity for families to spend quality time together. You can engage in activities such as reading a book, telling stories, or even singing songs. This uninterrupted hour can be used for talking, reflecting, and appreciating the world around us. Furthermore, we would like to encourage you to take advantage of the starry night sky. Spend some time outside, weather permitting, and look at the stars.

To capture this special moment, we would like to invite you to take photos and email them to the school, *for the attention of Mrs. Ellaby*. We would love to compile a collection of the experiences shared by our school community during Earth Hour.

Thank you for your support and the Eco Council look forward to displaying the photos in school.

Parent Evenings

We have had quite a few requests for parents' evening appointments outside of the times we have planned for. Please understand that the calendar gets extremely busy. Teaching staff have a wide range of commitments outside of their designated teaching time involving meetings and training alongside their everyday planning, preparation and assessment. It can be very difficult to accommodate individual requests for face-to-face meetings and if we are not careful the parent evening window can stretch on for weeks. We work extremely hard to ensure that important dates such as this, where parents need as much advance warning as possible, are in your diary at the beginning of the school year. All of the parents evening dates for 23-24 were sent out in the Key Dates Planner in July last year.

We strive to be a school that listens and responds. If you have concerns, please know that we will always arrange meetings with you to address them. Parents' evenings are a chance to update you on progress, share successes and keep you informed; please do your best to book appointments in the time we have allowed for that. Thank you for your help with this.

The final parents' evenings of the school year (after those taking place next week) will be on **9th and 11th July from 3:30 – 5:00**. This parents' evening will come after end of year reports have been sent out. We run this evening as an optional parents evening with the primary aim of parents having the

opportunity to talk through any issues having received that report.

Scoutability

Unfortunately, the Scoutability sessions that were scheduled to take place on **12th March** had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

We are happy to report that we have rescheduled this event and it is now in the diary on **Wednesday 1st May**. If you had signed your child up to take part, we will be in touch.

Lego Exhibition and Fundraiser

We enter a year 6 team in a Lego Robotics competition each year and would very much like them to go to the competition next year with the latest Lego Robot. In support of next year's team, we are hoping to raise a bit of money towards buying the robot. We are holding a Lego Exhibition in the school hall on **Friday 26th April**. There will be a prize for each class. So as not to limit creativity, we are asking children to create 'something' out of Lego that can be displayed within the space of an A4 piece of paper. We are asking that each exhibit has a title or short description to go with it and that these are Lego creations built **from scratch** and **not** something made from a Lego Kit. We are also asking for a whole school bake so that those that attend the exhibition can also enjoy a cake! All baked items will be warmly welcome. If people would like to follow the Lego theme into their cooking, please feel free! The Exhibition and cake sale will be in the school hall all afternoon, from 2:00pm onwards. Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles can come at any time from 2:00pm to enjoy the Children's creations. There will be a voluntary donation on the door in support of our goal to buy the newest Lego Robot. We have a target to reach of £500 that the children, with the support of the PTA, are working towards.

Road Update

We had what we hope will turn out to be a significant meeting at school this week involving, myself, our governors, our school business manager, Excalibur head of estates, the council and Ramsbury Estates. I share your frustration with the lack of progress towards resolving the issues with potholes and road drainage. It has been a laborious 18 months – 2 years, involving many emails, phone calls and conversations and meetings and not a few broken promises. We are hopeful that we have reached a solution that involves a proper sustainable patching of the worst section of road (near the carpark) and a drainage solution that will ensure that the newer road surface will remain

intact irrespective of the weather. I do not have a date for you yet, but we hope to see that achieved in the next couple of months.

When I have more news, I will share it with you.

Slight Change to Head Injury Reporting

We have made a slight change to our processes for reporting head injuries. We will send home a letter explaining what to look out for in terms of concussion, a red wrist band and we will follow up with a phone call. We will no longer provide a copy of the accident report. If you wish to see that brief report, please request a copy.

Celebration Worship Dates – Term 5

There will be no class assemblies in Term 5. It is a busy term for supporting our children’s readiness for some milestone assessments. As such our Celebration Worship on a Friday will be focussed solely on celebrating Purple Learners and our school Values – gems and hearts, in other words!

Please see the dates below so that you can join us if you are able:

- Friday 19th April – **no Celebration Worship**
- Friday 26th April – **no Celebration Worship**
- Friday 3rd May – sharing our achievements *from out of school*
- Friday 10th May – gems and hearts
- Friday 17th May – gems and hearts
- Friday 24th May – gems and hearts

Red Nose Day – March 15th

We are happy to report that as a school we raised an amazing £97 for Comic Relief on 15th March. It was a delight to see so much red around the school! As always, thank you for your generosity.

Message from the Church

LENT Services at St Katharine’s are as follows:

- Palm Sunday: 24 March - 11 am, Lay-led Morning Prayer
- Maundy Thursday: 28 March – 7.30pm, Holy Communion
- Good Friday: 29 March – 2pm, An Hour At The Cross
- Easter Sunday: 30 March – 11am, service with Holy Communion

Collection Arrangements

There are obviously occasions when parents arrange for a different person to collect their child/ren from school. It is fine to send in an email to notify the school if it is before the actual day or

during the morning of the day. However, if you are letting us know in the afternoon of the day it is occurring, please can we ask that you call and notify us by phone or leave an answerphone message rather than an email. You will be aware that there is not always someone working in the office in the afternoons, but answerphone messages are always listened to. Many thanks.

Messages from the PTA

Easter Celebrations Reminder

Easter will be celebrated at St Katharine’s on the last day of term 28th March.

After the Easter Service in Church we would like to invite all Children to participate (if they wish) in an Easter Bonnet Parade!! There will be an Easter Egg as a prize for the most creative bonnets!! There will be one prize for Hazel and Oak (KS1) and another for Chestnut and Sycamore (KS2) Hopefully we have given everyone enough time to create a beautiful Easter Bonnet!!!

Entry will be £1 and proceeds will go to “Friends of St Katharines School”

After the service and parade we would like to invite all grown-ups back to school for a hot drink and a hot cross bun!!

During the afternoon the PTA will be putting on an Easter Trail event for all of the children to participate in and on completion your child/children will receive an Easter gift from the PTA to go home with and to say Happy Easter!

We really hope the children enjoy these plans and we are very much looking forward to the Easter Bonnet creations!

Please let us know if you have any questions!
Thank you for your support!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March	
Friday 22 nd	<p>Oak, Chestnut and Sycamore Classes - Sharing our learning afternoon – parents invited in from 2.30pm until 3.15pm</p> <p>No celebration worship this week</p> <p>Mobile Library visiting</p> <p>Choir Performance – 8:45am For the parents of choir children</p>
Monday 25 th	<p>Parents Evening 2 (Oak, Chestnut and Sycamore) 3.40pm-5.30pm</p>

Tuesday 26 th	Year 3/4 Cricket at St. Katharine's School (small group)
Wednesday 27 th	Parents Evening 2 whole school 3.40pm-7pm
	Hazel Class forest school pm Extra Session with Mrs Arnold
Thursday 28 th	Easter Service in Church 9.30am
	Easter trail, Bonnet Competition and Cake Sale 2pm-3.30pm
	Last Day of Term 4

April

Monday 15 th	First day of Term 5
	Sycamore Class First Swimming Session at Marlborough Leisure Centre
Wednesday 17 th	Year 4 Braeside Parent Meeting 2.30pm – 3.15pm
Friday 19 th	Oxenwood visiting Chestnut Class at St. Katharine's (AM) Anglo-Saxon Day
	Mobile Library visiting
	KS2 Maypole After School Club starts today (6 weeks)
Wednesday 24 th	Hazel Class ONLY Sharing our learning afternoon – parents invited in from 2.30pm until 3.15pm
Friday 26 th	Lego Exhibition School Hall from 2:00pm

May

Wednesday 1 st	Rescheduled date for Scootability Years 1-6 (if your child is booked on) <i>(details to follow)</i>
Friday 3 rd	KS1 Quad Kids at Marlborough College <i>(details to follow)</i>
Monday 6 th	May Day Holiday School Closed
Wednesday 8 th	Hazel Class trip to Sir Harold Hillier Gardens in Romsey
Monday 13 th – Thurs 16 th	Key Stage 2 SATs week
Monday 13 th – 17 th	KS2 SATS Week

Friday 17 th	Mobile Library visiting
Monday 20 th	Year 6 pre-residential parents meeting 2.30pm
Thursday 23 rd	Year 3/4 Athletics at Burbage School <i>(details to follow)</i>
Wednesday 22 nd – Friday 24 th	Year 4 Residential at Braeside
Friday 24 th	Walk Safe Sessions Years 1,3 and 6
	Last Day of Term 5

Please also refer to the **Key Dates Planner V2** that includes all the dates that we know of for the remainder of 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 Planner V3 which are resent at the beginning of 5.

Key Dates Planner V3 will be with you at the beginning of Term 5.

TD Days

There are no remaining TD days this academic year.

Please Note

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

Other things you might want to know...

THAT'S MY DONKEY!

Puppet Show
to celebrate Palm Sunday for all
the family to enjoy

Saturday 23rd March
3.00pm
at St Katharine's Church
SN8 3BG

Free entry for all
Donations to
St Katharine's
church welcome!





SCHOOL HOLIDAY MULTI SPORT CAMPS

FOR AGES 5 - 12 YEARS

**@ St Katharines Primary School
Marlborough, SN8 3BG**

Date: Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th April 2024

**Football - Dodgeball - Basketball - Hockey - Handball - Tag Rugby - Cricket - Tennis
plus many more!**

Time: 9am - 3pm Cost: £25.00 Clothing: Sports clothes & trainers

Items to pack: packed lunch (no nuts), water bottle, hat, sun cream, jacket

 @IN_2SPORT
  in2sportcoaching



 07799 265115 (Tara)
  07968 778732 (Vicky)
  info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk

BOOK ONLINE AT  www.in2sportcoaching.co.uk

Easter Holidays in The TreeHouse

Come and join us for glorious holiday club days - always something to see, always places to play and always lots of fun



Opening times & costs

9am - 4pm core hours cost £37.25 per day + activity and fuel supplements as shown
Early Bird drop off from 7.50am is £5.00 per day
Prices include snacks and lunch

Week commencing 1 April

Monday 1 April is Easter Monday Bank Holiday

Day	Activity	Description	Cost
Tuesday	Easter Egg Hunt	Imagination's hub not as we design, make and run an Easter Egg Hunt for our older nursery children	E-
Wednesday	The Living Rainforest	Amazing indoor greenhouse tropical rainforest with over 800 species of tropical rainforest plants and animals, including free-ranging birds, small reptiles and two-toed sloth. Plus a great pond!	£5
Thursday	Kung Fu Panda 4	Super animations with Po at a career crossroads and Tai's services. Rated PG with the inevitable martial arts action, images that might be a bit scary and a little bit of (cuddly) panda humor.	£3
Friday	Great Bedwyn Treasure Trail	Red nose at the Battle of the Bells! Get your walking boots on for this super detective mystery-themed walking Treasure Trail around Great Bedwyn.	-

Easter is early this year which means that the weather is likely to be a bit uncertain. On the dates we are Out & About all day we've chosen locations with indoor and outdoor options. On other days we'll be out for the morning and then back home to Sunflowers for the afternoon - or on a few days we'll be at home all day.

Week commencing 8 April

Day	Activity	Description	Cost
Monday	It's TIME!	Challenges and experiments all about time and some serious clockmaking using all sorts of surprising resources!	E-
Tuesday	Around the Roundway White Horse	A lovely day out on the bus calling at Lacock Garden Centre for some bird box painting, Caen Hill to marvel at the locks and Malpas Park for some serious playing in the fabulous park!	£3
Wednesday	REME	Out & About - Linton! www.rememuseum.org.uk	£5
Thursday	Crocodiles of the World	Out & About - Newbury www.crocodilesoftheworld.co.uk	£5
Friday	Savernake Forest	Clanking crabs, making dens and playing games. It's the last day of hot day club and this is one of our fave! (to please!)	-

Cancellations & absence

If you cancel at short notice (less than 1 week) we will try to fill the place. If we can fill the space you will not be charged but if not, payment in full is required. In the event of missed days due to sickness we are not able to offer a refund.

A healthy place to be

We depend on each other to keep Sunflowers and TreeHouse a healthy place to be. Avoiding the spread of any sort of unwell'ness is always a priority. Children (and our team) need to be tip-top to cope with an active and busy day so please don't bring children in if they are unwell.

Additional support

We welcome children of all abilities and needs and ask that you contact us directly to discuss individual needs as we may require enhanced ratios to support your child. Please contact us to start a conversation.

Not just childcare ... great days in The TreeHouse. For information or to reserve places call 01672 810478 or email admin@sunflowers-grafton.co.uk



A Parent's Guide to Cyberbullying



Many young people who are victims of cyberbullying suffer in silence.

They feel they can't turn to parents or a trusted adult for support as they fear they may get in trouble or have their devices taken away from them. It can carry on all day, all evening and all weekend for the world to see, causing a lot of emotional stress to the victim and their family.



It can very quickly lead to the victim feeling trapped, scared and vulnerable to grooming and blackmail.



Online safety is when young people know who they can talk to if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Education Email: info@skipssafetynet.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941



School Support Careers

FULLY FUNDED Online Course



Available in **Levels 1, 2 & 3**



Are you looking for a job that fits in around your family? Gain the necessary qualifications to support you, fully funded by the ESFA (Education Skills Funding Agency).

Levels 1, 2 & 3 for School Support Course with a Guaranteed Job Interview.

Our classes are based online - Run only in term time - During school hours to fit in with the school run -

Course Times

- Total of 5 days per week (Mon-Fri) for 6 weeks
- There are 2 lessons per day (9.30am – 11am) & (1pm – 2pm)
- Must have internet access and a laptop or tablet.

No prior experience necessary -

Eligibility Criteria

- Must Be Aged 19+
- Must Claim Benefits (Universal Credit, JSA, ESA, PIP, Income Support, Housing Benefits or any type of Tax Credit including Child Tax Credit). If you live in Merseyside, you do not need to claim any benefits.
- You Can't be a student or an International Student
- You Must have lived in the UK for a Minimum of 3 Years (Except if you are from the Ukraine).

www.studysmartuk.online

Easter Egg Trail 2024

Free Easter Egg for every child

Saturday 30th March 10am-2pm

Choc alternative prizes available also

Online tickets: £3.50

Tickets purchased on the day: £4.00

Town Gardens, Swindon

<https://witheastertrail2024.eventbrite.co.uk>

ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH

Churchyard Tidy Up Morning

Can you spare some time?

Saturday 6th April

Please come along to help us tidy up the churchyard. Join us any time from **10am** and stay as long as you can. Plenty of jobs for all ages and abilities. Please bring your own tools.

Refreshments provided in Thanks!

