



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

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

**Friday 24th May 2024
NEWSLETTER No: 16**

Our Value This Term Is...



Humility

Dear Parents,

We have come to the end of term five. Thinking alliteratively, term five was fast, furious, and went by in a flash! Thinking ahead therefore, we are hoping for a steady, slow and sedate term six... Not likely I know; one glance at the calendar tells that story!

Hazel Class children have recently enjoyed their first big trip when they visited the Harold Hillier Gardens; I was very lucky to be invited along for the day. We had a wonderful time pond dipping, bug hunting, problem solving and exploring. I'm not certain which, out of, finding newts and dragonfly larvae in the pond or bouncing over the wobbly bridge and venturing through the bamboo forest were my favourite parts of the day! Last week was SATs week for our year sixes. They started each day with a hearty breakfast and managed the week with smiles on their faces (at least outwardly), a good sprinkle of grit and a portion of determination. We are extremely proud of each and every one of them. Thank you to the mums who came each morning to cook the bacon. At the weekend, St Katharine's children took part, for the second year running, in the Frank Knight schools' triathlon at Marlborough College. I was unable to attend this year, but Mr Sandall reliably informs me that it was a great day enjoyed by everyone who took part. We are waiting to see how much our young athletes raised in support of the Restless Development charity. Thank you to all of you who supported this event and your children

in the lead up to the day. Thanks also to Mr Sandall who went along to cheer them all on.

This week, our year fours have been at Braeside, enjoying two nights and three days away. They have experienced a whole raft of activities alongside what for some of them is their first experience of staying away from home. I have enjoyed visiting them each evening, quality assuring the food (the dinners are good!) and joining them for their evening activities. They will come home tired, a tiny bit grubby but happy. My thanks as always to Mrs Ellaby and Mrs Crocker who have been with them this week. They too will be pleased to see their own bed tonight! For those of us who work with your children every day in school, it is always a great privilege to see children in a different context. It is wonderful to uncover strengths that we might not have been fully aware of and even lovelier to witness them realising new things about themselves.

Whilst we haven't seen the best of British Summertime yet this term, I am hopeful that term six will be kind to us. The trees are in full leaf and the house martins are back to nest under our eaves for another year. Enjoy the rest and we will see you all back and raring to go on Monday 3rd June.

Niki Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Attendance

There is currently a big push, coming from the DfE and secretary of state for education to improve school attendance nationally, including an overhaul of the current system for monitoring school attendance, from September this year. You will receive more communication about this in due course. There is clear data that children with persistent absence fall behind their peers. Gaps in learning appear, time and resources are lost supporting children to catch up, children become worried about school and things get tricky. Nationally there is a serious picture emerging of a significant and sustained drop in school attendance, at all ages, since the pandemic. Children will of course become ill at times. There are times when we will call you to let you know that your child is unwell and ask you to come and collect them. Unwell children need to stay home, get well and return to school healthy and happy.

The poor attendance that is of greater concern is when there are frequent incidents, spread across multiple weeks with regular, observable patterns such as regular Mondays and Fridays off, or when holidays are booked in term time and whole weeks are lost.

Improving attendance is a headline in our School Improvement Plan this year and will continue to be a priority next year for the school and the Trust (EAT) of which we are a part.

If you have concerns about your child's attendance or if issues are arising at home that have the potential to impact on attendance, please contact the school and ask to talk to someone. We are very happy to support you with strategies and set up home/school systems to get attendance back on track. This, like so many other aspects of children's time at school, is something that we do best if we do it together with you.

Any planned absence requires 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](#).

Please note that **statutory guidance** and legislation, around school attendance, will be changing as of September 2024. This will include rigorous changes to the ways that schools are required to manage and report **unauthorised** absence such as holidays in school time.

Please also 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 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.

Thank you and Goodbye to Mrs Woodhouse

We have been very lucky to have worked alongside Mrs Jo Woodhouse, since September, as one of her placement schools for her PGCE. She has done two placements with us in Oak Class, one in Terms 1 and 2 and again since Easter for this final part of her course. It has been a privilege to be part of her learning journey and to see her grow and flourish. My thanks to Miss Denton who has mentored Jo with kindness, humility and wisdom. Mrs Woodhouse will be with us until her final day, Wednesday 12th June, which is before the next newsletter. Please join me in congratulating her on a brilliant year involving a huge amount of hard work and in welcoming her to our wonderful profession!

Maypole Dancing After School Club

The next and final session of this club is on **Friday 7th June**.

Whole School Photo

Please make a note that we are having the whole school and Year 6 group photos taken on Monday 1st July. Smartest uniform that day please!

New Reception 2024

We are looking forward to meeting our incoming Reception parents on **Tuesday 18th June** (that includes those of you that already know us already). As is usual, we are holding an evening session, on the 18th, to brief parents on everything they need to know about joining the St. Katharine's community. We also look forward to meeting our new Reception children **on Friday 5th July** (Stay and Play transition session) prior to them joining in September. This is also the date that our year sixes have their taster day at St. John's and the date that everyone 'moves up' to their new class.

Redridge Residential

We look forward to waving goodbye to our Year sixes soon after half term, on **Monday 10th June**, as they head off to Redridge, a residential outdoor activity centre in mid-Wales. The Year 6 children will enjoy a whole host of outdoor activities during the 5 days that they are away.

School Support Courses

We have been made aware of school support courses that are fully funded by the ESFA (Education Skills Funding Agency) in levels 1, 2 & 3. The next course starts on 3rd June. These courses are designed to make it easy for parents/carers who are looking to gain the necessary qualifications for a school support role. The classes are run online, within school hours and during term times, allowing parents to fit the classes in with school drop offs and collections. If you would like more information, please see the poster on the noticeboard overleaf or access via [this website](#).

Message From The Eco-Council

The Eco Council are kindly asking for families to donate small square/rectangles of cotton to be used to create beeswax wrappers. This needs to be 100% cotton and large enough to wrap a sandwich. It can be any colour or pattern and sourced from a recycled item e.g. an old shirt, sheet or table cover. The Eco Council will make the

reusable wraps and sell them through donation at the end of a school day in early July.

The donations will be used to support ARK River Kennet Project. Cotton donations need to be handed into school on or before June 15th 2024. Hopefully, everyone will be able to support this project.

Thank you.

Mrs Ellaby and the Eco- Council
(written by Leo Franklin- Year 5)

Message from a group of parents from St. Katharine's

Smartphone Free Childhoods Parent Initiative

I don't know if you have heard about the recent campaign by Clare Fernyhough and Daisy Greenwell "Smartphone Free Childhood". It started as a conversation by two parents. <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/> It raises some very relevant and interesting points - based on research by an expert in child psychology, Jonathan Haidt. His data is readable here <https://www.anxiousgeneration.com/research/the-evidence>

A few of us in the St Katharine's parent community, who are working in education, health and technology, recently contacted a charity with expertise in this field. They are called Papaya. Their website is. <https://www.papayaparents.com/>.

We thought on evening Wednesday 19th June at 7.45pm we'd meet for a drink at the school. Papaya is going to give a live presentation at 8-9.30pm on Wednesday 19th and, as a starting point, we thought that any parents who are interested in finding out more could meet to watch the presentation together and have a brief discussion afterwards. We will be providing drinks and nibbles and hope that this might be an opportunity for parents to gain support from their peers on what is an issue that concerns us all. Alternatively if you just wanted to catch the presentation from home or work you can register here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJModOuhpjooEtZ3GqERtK9JhDfSk5JCKL8u#/registration>

Many thanks Caz, Katharine, Nick and Stephanie.

Message from the PTA

Dear All,

We are really looking forward to the School Fete on Saturday 8th June!! Please do spread the word widely with your families and friends.

There will be a Volunteer List in Reception giving details of all of the areas where volunteers are needed!!! If you can spare anytime to help us we shall be very grateful. The list will also be circulated via WhatsApp groups.

Over the half term please do have a look for items which we can sell on the following stalls - Toys, books, plants and brickabrack. Please can all donations be brought into school on Friday 7th June at pick up or Saturday morning during fete set up.

Lastly don't forget our competitions!!!

Thank you all for your support and have a lovely half term break.

PTA Team

Message from Wiltshire Council

Launch of Family Hubs in Wiltshire

Family Hubs have arrived in Wiltshire! Families, children and young people now have access to support both face to face and online following the launch of Family Hubs this month. Wiltshire Council has awarded the £3m contract to Spurgeons to provide new family hubs in communities throughout the county. With three main hubs operating at County Hall in Trowbridge, Monkton Park in Chippenham and Five Rivers in Salisbury. Alongside this, there will be regular family hub support available at advertised times at "navigator locations" in a host of community venues around the county, including libraries and leisure centres. This service complements the All Together digital platform that can be accessed on phones, tablets or computers, which offers information, support, and courses to give children, young people and families the help and guidance they need to thrive. Each hub will have its own team of navigators. They will have a visible presence in the community to ensure they are on hand to offer help to families that need it, and to signpost and create links to other agencies, such as local schools and early years providers. More information can be accessed by scanning the QR code on the poster on the noticeboard overleaf.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>June</i>	
Monday 3 rd	First day of Term 6 Multiplication Check Year 4 <i>the check will take place during the next fortnight</i>
Tuesday 4th	Year 5/6 Athletics at Marlborough College (small group) CANCELLED
Wednesday 5 th	Sycamore Class at Crofton Beam Engine (all day)
Friday 7 th	Final KS2 Maypole Dancing After School Club session
Saturday 8 th	PTA Summer Fete 12-4pm
Monday 10 th	Year 5 ONLY swimming session
Monday 10 th – 14 th	Year 6 Redridge Residential Trip
Monday 10 th (week commencing)	Phonics screening check week Nursery visits for 2024 intake begin this week
Friday 14 th	Mobile library visiting Fathers' Day PTA shop (details to follow)
Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th	Year 6 Bikeability
Tuesday 18 th	New Reception parent information evening 6-7.30pm
Wednesday 19 th	Parent Forum for smartphone free childhoods from 7.45pm
Thursday 20 th	Year 6 Parents' Info Evening at St. John's 5.15pm-7.30pm Oak Class Trip to Natural History Museum, Oxford Visit from Crofton Beam Engine to Sycamore Class (am) Year 6 Salisbury Cathedral Leavers' Service (details to follow)
Monday 24 th	Year 6 Uniform Fitting Evening at St. John's
Tuesday 25 th	KS2 Multiskills at Marlborough St. Mary's School (small group)
Thursday 27 th	Whole School – Emergency Awareness training, Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Friday 28 th	Year 5/6 Rounders at St. Katharine's (small group)
Saturday 29 th	Crofton Beam Engines Project Reveal and Celebration
<i>July</i>	
Monday 1st	Whole school photo and Year 6 Final Sycamore swimming session
Wednesday 3rd	Year 6 Junior Good Citizen (am) (details to follow) Year 6 Transition Day at Pewsey Vale School
Friday 5th	Reports to parents Provisional move up morning Year 6 Transition Day at St. John's
Saturday 6th	Church Summer Fete
Monday 8th	Sycamore Class trip to Lulworth Cove (details to follow)
Tuesday 9th & Thursday 11th	Optional Parents Evening 3.30pm-5.00pm
Thursday 11th	KS2 Girls Football Festival at St. John's (small group)
Friday 12th	Chestnut ARK visit to River Kennet in Marlborough (details to follow) Mobile library visiting
Tuesday 16th	Summer Performance 1 Sycamore Class 7pm-8.30pm
Wednesday 17th	Summer Performance 2 Sycamore Class 7pm-8.30pm
Friday 19th	Sports Day 9.30am-12.15pm
Monday 22nd	Back up Sports Day 9.30am-12.15pm
Tuesday 23rd	Gem Day NO Sue Brady lunches to be ordered
Wednesday 24th	Leavers' Service in Church 9.30am Followed by refreshments End of Term 6 early close 1.15pm

Please also refer to the **Key Dates Planner V3** that includes all the dates that we know of for the remainder of the academic year 2023/24. 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. This is the final Key Dates Planner for this academic year.

TD Days

There are no remaining TD days this academic year.

Please Note

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

TD Days next academic year

2nd and 3rd September 2024

21st, 22nd, 23rd October 2024

We will close at 1:15pm on Thursday 24th July 2025

Other things you might want to know...



St Katharine's School

FÊTE

Saturday 8th June
12-4pm
Free Entry

Games - Plants - Brickabrack
Toys - Books - Maypole
Cream Teas - BBQ - Bar
Mini Farm & lots more

The poster is decorated with a green ribbon border, colorful bunting, stars, and illustrations of a potted plant, a jar of jam, a duck, and a maypole.



COMPETITIONS

We would like to invite all parents and children to join us in our

FETE COMPETITIONS

Entry is £1 and we have the following categories:

- ★ Flower Arrangements in Jam Jars ★
- ★ 6 Decorated Cupcakes ★
- ★ Garden on a plate ★
- ★ Best Victoria Sponge ★

There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd place rosettes for each category and split between children and adults!

Entries are to be brought in at the beginning of the FETE.

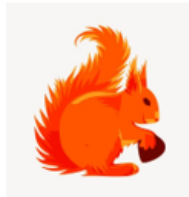
Good luck everyone and we will look forward to seeing your creations!

The poster features a green ribbon border, bunting, and illustrations of a cupcake, a vase of flowers, a garden scene, and a Victoria sponge cake.

Story & Craft Session

Wednesday 29 May
2:30-3:30

Come and enjoy a squirrely story and then have fun making your very own squirrel.



Suitable for ages 4-8, places are limited so please book ahead.

Contact the library to book a space:
01672 512663

Children 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Go Nuts in the Library!

Come and enjoy an interactive story for ages 4-8.



Contact the library to book a space:
01672 512663

Thursday 30 May 10:30-11:30

Children 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult.



Everyone needs help sometimes.

You can find advice, support and opportunities for families, children and young people online at All Together or face to face at one of our Family Hubs.



May Half Term in The TreeHouse

Come and join us for glorious holiday club days. Sometimes we Keep it Local. Other days we venture a little further. Always something to see, always places to play and always lots of fun

Opening times & costs

9am - 4pm core hours cost £38.95 per day + activity and fuel supplements as shown
Early Bird drop off from 7.50am is an additional £5.25 per day
Prices include snacks and lunch

Week commencing 27 May

Monday	Bank Holiday TreeHouse closed	Fingers crossed that the sun shines for everyone today and continues to shine all week for our holiday club days out ...	-
Tuesday	Wilton Windmill Treasure Trail	Get your walking boots on for this super spy mission themed walking Treasure Trail around Wilton. Solving sneaky clues to crack the code and complete the mission just like a true secret agent!	-
Wednesday	Hawk Conservancy Andover www.hawk-conservancy.org	Immersing ourselves in nature for the day. 22 acres of fabulous grounds; over 60 different species - from owls to eagles; plus spectacular flying demonstrations and keeper's talks	£5
Thursday	Wilton House Salisbury www.wiltonhouse.co.uk	One of our very favourite places. Beautiful grounds with acres of space to explore and a wonderful adventure playground. A perfect place to while away the day ...	£3
Friday	Old Wardour Castle Salisbury www.english-heritage.org.uk	Old Wardour Castle is the highlight of the day. There is lots to explore and a 'Keep the Castle' challenge. But the grotto at the castle isn't the only grotto we will be visiting ...	£3

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



STUDY SMART

www.studysmartuk.online

LOOKING FOR A JOB IN A SCHOOL?

Teaching Assistant
Playground | Midday Supervisor
Examinations Invigilator
Cover Support Role
Behaviour Support Role
Youth Worker
Support Work



Fully Funded (FREE) - Qualified in ONLY 6 weeks - No Travel - Online based - Classes in school hours

Visit a farm & discover the world of farming!

9th June 2024

Stowell Farms

Sharcott Pennings Farm SN9 5NL

11am - 3pm

W3W - loops.spirit.absorbing

Come and see our :

- Range of tractors and machinery
- Robotic dairy— cows and calves
- Anaerobic digester (electricity from poo!)
- Sheep and lambs — shearing demonstration
- Children's activities, toy raffle and free samples

Refreshments

www.farmsunday.org

@OpenfarmSunday

LEAFopenfarmSunday

openfarmSunday

AHDB, Arla, ASDA, B-BAPF, B&B, John Deere, M&S, Waitrose, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, NFU, McDonald's

Free Community Event
Sat 1st June 2 - 4pm



Official Opening of the Stonebridge Mural



Stonebridge Wild River Reserve, Marlborough is accessible on foot from either end of Stonebridge Lane - What3Words for the reserve: brimmed.ratty.above

Join us to celebrate the spray paint mural, followed by:

A led wildlife walk with award winning author and naturalist Peter Marren
River School, see what lives in your local chalk stream
*Wear wellies to take part in the above activities

