



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

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Friday 6th September 2024

NEWSLETTER No: 1

Our Value This Term Is...

Courage



Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone! Travelling into work this morning I had to turn the radio up to overcome the noise of the rain on the roof of my car. No Indian Summer for us it would appear! This time last year we were experiencing a return to school heat wave; September, it seems likes to play a few tricks on us! The children, despite not being able to get out into the fresh air as much as we would like, have had a great start back with everyone settling into their new classes and year groups smoothly. Our new reception cohort have also settled beautifully it has been a joy getting to know them and welcoming our new families to St Katharine's.

As I have visited classes this week I have loved to see the enthusiasm for learning already on display. Yesterday children in Chestnut class were informing me of all the reasons that fuelled the Roman invasion of Britain while Sycamore were grappling with the scientific reasoning that supports and explanation of why a feather and a ball would fall at equal speeds in a vacuum! Please maintain your scepticism when you ask your child the question 'what did you do at school today?' and you get 'nothing' as the response!

Ms Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Thank You

You may have noticed that the troughs and pots at the front of the school are no longer looking quite so forlorn and unloved. Huge thanks to Steph Coates who volunteered to give them an overhaul during the summer holidays and continue to water them while we were all away. I think Feargus and Fianna should also be mentioned for their kind and helping hands. Belated thanks also to Tom Fortune who periodically keeps the nettles at bay on the entrance to the spinney. These thanks are belated as Tom just gets the job done with no fuss or mention and sometimes it has passed me by! Anyone, who avoids the sting on their way to forest school, is very grateful!

Meet the Teacher Sessions

We are holding our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions in the week beginning Monday 23rd September. They are scheduled as follows:

Monday 23rd September

3:15 – Chestnut Parents

Tuesday 24th September

3:15 – Hazel Parents

Wednesday 25th September

3:15 – Sycamore Parents

Thursday 26th September

3:15 – Oak Parents

Teachers will spend time sharing routines, timetables, planned learning and their expectations. They will be able to answer questions relating to those things. If you have a specific concern or one that is unique to your child, please email via admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk and this can be addressed at an alternative, arranged time, in a 1-1 meeting.

Please note that we will put on a film, in the hall, for the children and their siblings so that parents can attend the meeting uninterrupted. Please note that we aren't however able to take care of younger (pre-school) siblings.

Attendance Update

As you are all aware from communication at the end of the 23-24 academic year, there is a renewed, government level focus on children's attendance at school. Post -pandemic, attendance levels have fallen significantly across all age groups. We will continue to communicate with you about the new rules and regulations regarding term time absence. Our aim is for attendance to at least return to pre-pandemic levels (97%). As of today, school attendance has been excellent at 98.7%. Please support us to keep this up.

Celebration Worship

Celebration Worship is on a Friday at 2:45pm. Typically this worship is about sharing our learning from the week, celebrating children who have demonstrated our ['Purple Learning'](#) attributes and have lived out our school values and behaviour expectations. Each class will also specifically share the learning they have been doing in Celebration Worship from time to time. This does take quite a bit of work to put together and as such we have decided that each class will do this **twice** across the year. Each seasonal term we will remind you of the Fridays when we would love to invite you into share our Celebration Worship with us via the timetable in the Newsletter. **Please see below for the following dates that you can put into your diary should you wish to join us.** We ask that you support the high expectations that we have of the children and come into worship quietly, if you bring younger siblings who become upset, please consider taking them out for a walk around until they are settled.

Celebration Worship Term 1 & 2

Friday Date	What?
6 th September	No Celebration Worship
13 th September	Celebration Worship
20 th September	Celebration Worship
27 th September	No Celebration Worship
4 th October	Celebration Worship
11 th October	Celebration Worship
18 th October	Oak Class Sharing
8 th November	Celebration Worship
15 th November	Celebration Worship
22 nd November	Chestnut Class Sharing
29 th November	Sycamore Class Sharing
6 th December	Celebration Worship
13 th December	Celebration Worship Home Purple Learning Achievements

Traffic / Turning Circle Reminders

We are lucky to have a school in such a unique location. As you may or may not be aware, our numbers have more than doubled in less than 20 years and as such the lane and subsequent parking areas are at their maximum capacity. Please look after each other on the approach to school, being mindful of allowing people up the lane as they arrive for school in the morning and down the lane as people are leaving in the afternoons. There are a few spots where it makes sense to take turns, ensuring that we don't end up with grid lock. Please also observe the turning circle in the morning, ensure that you pull in safely and that your children get out of the car quickly. Ideally children are ready to go when you pull up. There isn't time for long farewells and getting things out of the boot space for example. If your child is not quite ready to be independent, please park

up and bring them to the gate – there are no restrictions on cuddles at the gate!

If an adult is not on duty, in high viz, on the turning circle – please do not drop your child and leave.

Finally, when allowing traffic to pass please avoid driving onto the verges. Once we have some wet, cold weather they are quickly destroyed and our beautiful setting isn't quite so beautiful any more.

When parking after school, please keep tight to the edges if you are parking in the lane (please avoid the top section opposite the carpark) and remember that we are able to use the church carpark – the walk across the field is quite a nice thing to do.

Uniform reminders

Everyone is looking smart and the new school shoes are shiny! Please take note of these reminders:

★ Jewellery

Children can wear a watch but no other jewellery other than a small pair of earrings. If ears are pierced, children can wear a small pair of studs and they should be able to independently manage them if needed

★ Hair

Long hair should be tied up to support with limiting the spread of headlice and to ensure that children can take part in all activities without hair getting in the way.

Avoid excessively large or colourful hair accessories – please keep them for the weekend.

For all uniform suggestions [please see our website](#) for details.

Clubs and Music Providers – contact details

We are fortunate to have a range of different clubs to offer our children (please also see parent section of the website for information). If you are interested in signing your child up for clubs or additional music lessons please use the contact details below to make an enquiry about spaces.

Music:

Guitar: Chris Hunt

Chrisguitarinfo@gmail.com

Year groups 1-6

Piano: Michael Lucas

MichaelLucaspiano@icloud.com

Year groups 1-6

1-1 singing: Laura Barker

Laura.barker@movingmusic.co

Year group 1-6

We also have the following clubs:

Drawing Club: Hannah Phillips

tillyandwilson@hotmail.com

Tues after school – Year groups 3-6

Dodgeball

info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk

Lunch time – Mon: Year groups 3-6

Wed: Years 1 & 2

Football

info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk

After school – Mon: Year 1 & 2

Wed: Year groups 3-6

Drama: Lizzie Lewis

This club is currently paused while Lizzie finalises her work schedule and availability.

There are other clubs (i.e running club/ rugby) that crop up throughout the year. Information about these will be emailed to the relevant Year group/s as and when available.

Message on behalf of the PTA

The PTA AGM is being held on **Monday 23rd September at 7:00pm** in the **Swan at Wilton**. This get together is **not** just for existing members of the PTA but for **everyone** who would like to find out about what events are planned, what the money raised is being spent on and how PTA involvement works. Every year we try hard to spread the message that attending the AGM does not automatically oblige you to become a committee member. Any involvement helps; whether you can volunteer to clear up after an event, make a cake, marshal traffic in a high vis jack, supervise a welly-wang or take on a more organisational role – **every** small act of volunteering really does help. Also, you don't have to commit to every event. Having an active PTA is increasingly vital to our small school. Government funding does not provide everything that we need. It would also appear that the government purse strings are not going to be loosened any time soon. **Our PTA raised approximately £10,000 last year.** That is a phenomenal achievement and one that will enable us to enhance and enrich school life for all children. Please don't be scared – come along, enjoy a glass of something, put names to faces and if you have the time, think about how you might lend a hand. We are all lucky to be part of a very special school community. Everyone who comes to St Katharine's has made a very deliberate choice to do so. I think that is our superpower. This year let's see if we can fill the pub!

Harvest Festival

It seems a bit early to be talking Harvest but it does come around surprisingly quickly once we are all back at school. As in previous years we will be supporting the Devizes Food Bank with our donations. Please see below the list of items that they most need. We will start collecting in the lobby area, outside of the school

office, from **Monday 7th October**. We will aim for donations to be collected at the end of the same week. Please note that our Harvest Festival service is in church at **9:30am on Wednesday 9th October**. You are all welcome to join us. We invite all parents to return to school to join us for tea and coffee after the service.



Help by donating an item or two from our shopping list to support people facing hardship.

- ★ Long life fruit juice
- ★ T-bags 80s /160s
- ★ Tinned soup
- ★ Tinned tomatoes
- ★ Tinned ham
- ★ Chocolate
- ★ Dried rice 500g
- ★ Jar of pasta sauce
- ★ Instant mash potato
- ★ UHT dairy milk

*Don't forget...
You can help transform more lives
with a financial donation too.*



Christmas Box Appeal

I know, I know, too early by far! As many of you will already know we traditionally support the Trussell Trust with their Christmas Box appeal. This year we are going to try a slightly different approach. Instead of families making boxes at home and bringing them in, we are going to explore asking for items to come into school for us to make up and send. More of a community effort. There are many reasons to give this a try, not least that making up boxes has become increasingly expensive to the point that for some families this is prohibitive. By building the boxes in school, together, every child can take part and we can really support the children to understand why we are doing it. Hopefully it will be lots of fun to do it together. More on this later but for now **could you help us with donations of empty shoe boxes**. These can be brought into school from Monday ready for assembling later this term.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>September</i>	
Monday 9 th	Reception hours this week 8:45 – 12:00
Monday 16 th	Reception hours this week 8:45 – 1:00
Wednesday 18 th	Year 5 and 6 Lit Fest event in Pewsey
Monday 23 rd	Reception Full Time 8:30/45 – 3:15
	Chestnut Class Meet The Teacher 3:15 – 4:00
	PTA AGM at the Swan in Wilton All Welcome 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Tuesday 24 th	Hazel Class Meet the Teacher 3:15 – 4:00
Wednesday 25 th	Sycamore Class Meet the Teacher 3:15 – 4:00
Thursday 26 th	Oak Class Meet the Teacher 3:15 – 4:00
Friday 27 th	Year 3 Adventure Day Oxenwood
<i>October</i>	
Tuesday 1 st	Reception and Key Stage 1 (Y1 and 2) Reading Meeting 2:30 – 3:15
Thursday 3 rd	Key Stage 2 times table meeting 2:30 - 3:15
	Y6 Open Evening at St Johns – parents and children
Friday 4 th	Chestnut Tag Rugby After-School Club final session
	Mobile Library Visiting
Wednesday 9 th	Harvest Festival 9:30 in Church
Thursday 10 th	KS 2 Reading Meeting 2:30 – 3:15
Friday 11 th	X Tables Rock Stars relaunch! Dress – Up Day
	Tag Rugby Festival (small group) Chestnut Class

Tuesday 15 th	Individual photos
Thursday 17 th	Open Morning (prospective parents 2025/26)
Friday 18 th	Last Day of Term 1
	School Council elections

Please also refer to the **Key Dates Planner V1**, that includes all the dates that we know of for the academic year 2024/25 (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 resnt at the beginning of Terms 3 and 5.

Remaining TD Days 2024/25

21st, 22nd, 23rd October 2024

Please Note

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

Other things you might want to know...



A hand-drawn poster for a creative drawing class. At the top, there is a yellow sun with a smiling face, flanked by two pink clouds with rain falling from them. Below the illustration, the text is written in a simple, hand-drawn font. The title is 'CREATIVE DRAWING WITH HANNAH'. The start date is 'STARTING TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER' and the time is '3.15PM - 4.15PM'. It states that all children will be provided with their own creative kit, including watercolour paints and brushes, sketch book, artists pen and pencil. The class intake is 12 pupils from years 4-6. To book a space, it asks to email TillyandWilson@hotmail.com. It notes that it will be a first come first served basis. The total cost per child for each 6 week block is £52.

♥ CREATIVE DRAWING WITH HANNAH ♥

STARTING TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
3.15PM - 4.15PM

ALL CHILDREN WILL BE PROVIDED WITH THEIR OWN CREATIVE KIT, TO INCLUDE WATERCOLOUR PAINTS AND BRUSHES, SKETCH BOOK, ARTISTS PEN AND PENCIL.

CLASS INTAKE - 12 PUPILS
FROM YEARS 4-6

TO BOOK A SPACE, EMAIL ME DIRECTLY AT
TILLYANDWILSON@HOTMAIL.COM

IT WILL BE A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS.

TOTAL COST PER CHILD FOR EACH 6 WEEK BLOCK IS £52.



An advertisement for 'one plus one' online relationship support for parents. The header features the 'one plus one' logo. Below the header, it states that parents in the area can now access three online courses from relationship experts. The three courses are: 'Arguing better' (for all parents), 'Me, You and Baby Too' (for new parents), and 'Getting it right for children' (for separating parents). Each course has a brief description and a list of topics covered. At the bottom, there is a QR code and a URL to access the courses.

Online relationship support for parents

Parents in this area can now access THREE ONLINE COURSES from the relationship experts at OnePlusOne. Learn to cope with stress and communicate better, wherever you are in your parenting journey.



FOR ALL PARENTS

Arguing better

Disagreements are a normal part of life. How you approach them can make all the difference to you, your partner, and your children. You will learn:

- How to recognise stress and how it can affect you.
- How to support each other through difficult times.
- What causes arguments and how to stop them.



FOR NEW PARENTS

Me, You and Baby Too

Learn how to navigate the changes that happen in a relationship when a baby arrives, including:

- How you and your partner can support each other.
- How to talk to bring up difficult topics.
- How arguments start, and how to stop them.



FOR SEPARATING PARENTS

Getting it right for children

When parents are separating or separated, children can often get caught in the middle. Learn how to manage conflict to minimise the impact it has on your children, as well as:

- How to stop a discussion from turning into an argument.
- How to stay calm and listen as well as talk.
- Skills for finding solutions and making compromises.

To access the courses, you will need a smartphone, tablet, or computer and a good internet connection. They are all FREE to use, so you'll just need to select your local authority area and create an account with a username and password. You can get started by scanning the QR code or visiting www.onepluse.org.uk/parents





Do you run?

Do you jump?

Do you throw?

Would you like to?

Train to get better. Train to compete.

Andover Athletic Club caters for juniors, seniors and veterans, competing in track and field, cross country and road races. We provide coaching, training and competition with membership from 8 to 80 years old. Come and join us.



Andover Athletic Club
Charlton Track, West Portway,
Andover SP10 5LJ
01753 711111 / andoverathleticsclub.com/contact-us