



ST KATHARINE'S
C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Friday 20th September 2024

NEWSLETTER No: 2

Our Value This Term Is...

Courage



Dear Parents,

I think we could give this week the title of 'business as usual'; school life is back in full swing. The children are settling back into routines and we are already seeing examples of some really excellent work in books. We continue to strive for consistency across the school in our approach, developing our systems and pedagogy to ensure that the transitions between Key Stage phases and classes are as seamless as we can make them. We also do a lot of work behind the scenes in July to share our knowledge of children so that they settle quickly with new teachers, one of the many benefits of small schools is that children are well known by all staff. Walking around school this week there is a definite air of calm and industry! We had our first trip of the year this week as Sycamore Class went to hear from author Jennifer Pearson about the process of writing a children's books and find out a bit more about how authors go about their work. She was talking specifically about her recent novels: *'Shipwrecked'* and *'The Incredible Record Smashers'*. We are grateful to the Marlborough Literature Festival committee who supported the cost of the coach that got us there. As we begin the 3rd full week of term on Monday, we look forward to our new reception children joining us for full school days. A huge welcome to them and their families. Mrs Freeman, Mrs Ellaby and Mrs Groves are full of praise already about how well they have settled and managed what is a huge step for them. We are all enjoying getting to know our new

children and in witnessing the love and care that our older learners are giving at playtimes and around school to help them make that step as happily as possible.

Ms Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Meet the Teacher Sessions – Next Week - Reminder

As you are already aware, 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.

Colin Heber-Percy

You will know that we said a fond farewell to Michael McHugh at the end of the last academic year. There is a process underway to appoint a new team-rector for the Savernake team of churches. My understanding is that this can be a process that takes a little while. Until that time, Colin Heber-Percy, also part of the Savernake team, has stepped in to take Collective Worship at St Katharine's on a Wednesday morning. We are delighted to welcome Colin into our school community and the children are already excited to meet him next week.

Colin has kindly offered to come along to our Harvest Festival on **Wednesday 9th October**. I will look forward to introducing him to our parents then.

After School ‘Stay and Play’

As shared in previous Newsletters, the situation at St Katharine’s, whereby the children stay and play, is unique; the vast majority of school shut the gates as soon as the school day is over. The fact that most of our children and families travel from out of catchment to attend our school and that our school is off the beaten track, means that there is no village playground for you to meet in. The school ‘is’ our village green or community playground. Our sense of community is something that we all treasure. That said, we rely upon our children and families to use it safely and with the respect that we would expect throughout the school day. Staff do not supervise play after 3:15, that becomes the *sole responsibility* of parents. As such we ask that you oversee your children’s play, ensuring that it is safe, appropriate and respectful; respectful of each other, our equipment and our beautiful setting. We also ask that the children **only** play on the bark area and **not** on the field; there have been occasions recently where large groups of children have been playing, on the field, out of sight of any parents. It has always been the rule that afterschool play is limited to the bark area and that school equipment (balls, hoops etc) is not used after hours. The children know these expectations – ask them to tell you what these are and then please help us by ensuring that they remain the same afterschool as they are during school hours. Unless there is a club that continues beyond 4:00pm (we understand that parents will at times like to wait on the premises for this to finish) please can the playground be empty by 4:00pm allowing for staff to leave site should that be necessary. Please help us to make the after school experience a lovely one for all of us – including our staff team who, rightly, have other things to focus on at the end of a busy day in school.

Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 97.5%

As part of our focus on attendance this year, please note that there is a new trust wide policy for attendance that sets out our approach to improving and maintaining our attendance. You can access this via the website [Our School tab](#). Whilst attendance last year was in line with national data, it is worth noting that attendance nationally is below pre-pandemic levels. We have an ambitious aim to raise attendance to 97% (up from 95.2 last academic year) by the end of this school year. Please read [this DFE document](#) if you would like more information about the changes to national attendance practices and that expectations for schools that have come into force as of the beginning of this year. Our analysis shows that term time holidays have an impact

on our attendance data. Both the policy and the DFE document give clear guidance to parents about the rule changes around the issuing of fines for unauthorised absence that it is worth reading.

Children will of course be unwell at times. As has always been the case, children not well enough for school should be kept at home. That includes a period of 48h after sickness and diarrhoea (from the last symptom) and 24h after a temperature. This document [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#) is a useful reference. Thank you for your continued support and partnership to ensure children are in school and on time. We have made a great start to the year. All the documents referenced above can be found on the website.

Celebration Worship Reminder

There has been a slight change to celebration worship class sharing dates. Sycamore Class is now on Friday 22nd November and Chestnut Class is now on Friday 29th. See amended table below.

**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	Sycamore Class Sharing
29 th November	Chestnut Class Sharing
6 th December	Celebration Worship
13 th December	Celebration Worship Home Purple Learning Achievements

Harvest Festival

As mentioned in the previous newsletter 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.*



Open Day

Please see the poster on the notice board below that advertises our Open Morning which we are holding on **Thursday 17th October from 9:30 – 11:30am**. This event is primarily for the parents of those children starting school in September 2025. School is open for the morning and parents are invited to tour classrooms (with one of our expert Upper Key Stage 2 tour guides) and to speak to staff, parents and governors. We will be advertising the event as widely as we can and ask that you spread the word to people that you know with young - soon to be school age – children.

We are never complacent about attracting families to our school. Remaining full enables us to stay well-resourced and to give all our children the very best offer. You and the children are our best advocates. **Please spread the word, widely, loudly and proudly!**

Choir Update

We are working hard to recruit a new teacher to teach the school choir which we hope to be able to offer to years 2-6 in the near future. It has proven a little frustrating having nearly secured someone on a couple of occasions.

We will be writing to parents as soon as we have news to share. Our choir is an important club offer at St Katharine's, we will continue to explore options until we are successful.

Message on behalf of the PTA

The PTA AGM is being held on **Monday 23rd September at 7:00pm** in the **Swan at Wilton**. **That is NEXT WEEK FOLKS!** 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 jacket, 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!

Children in Need – The Heaviest Backpack

This year, Children in Need Day is about exploring the idea that some children live with worries and in situations that can feel like a backpack with heavy weights in it. The idea is to get everyone thinking about how this weight can be alleviated and that ultimately it is not the responsibility of children to be carrying such a load in the first place. We will explore this with the children in assemblies and class discussion times on the day and in the lead up. To mark this, children can decorate their backpacks with anything that brings light and joy or would make another person simply smile when they saw it. This is not compulsory. We will be collecting donations on the gate in the morning by way of our school contribution to this charity. We would suggest a minimum donation of £1.

Christmas Box Appeal

We are looking at the logistics for Christmas Boxes and how we can achieve the filling and packing of these this year. If you would like to be involved and have time to spare to come into school and help with this project, please give your name to Hayley in the school office either in person or via email.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>September</i>	
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	Tag Rugby Festival (small group) Chestnut Class
Tuesday 15 th	Individual photos
Wednesday 16 th	X Tables Rock Stars relaunch! Dress – Up Day

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE	
Thursday 17 th	Open Morning (prospective parents 2025/26) 9.30am-11.30am
Friday 18 th	Last Day of Term 1
	School Council elections
<i>November</i>	
Monday 4 th	First Day of Term 2
Wednesday 6 th	Sycamore Class trip to Imperial War Museum and Churchill War Rooms
Friday 8 th	Bonfire Night PTA – this is yet to be confirmed
Monday 11 th	Remembrance Collective Worship in school – 9.05am – parents welcome
Tuesday 12 th	Odd Socks Day (part of Anti- Bullying Week)
Friday 15 th	Children in Need – The Heaviest Backpack – children decorate their backpacks.
Thursday 21 st	Sharing our Learning afternoon – parents invited from 2.30pm until 3.15pm (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)
Friday 22 nd	Chestnut Class visit to Winchester Science Museum (<i>details to follow</i>)
Monday 25 th	St. Katharine's Day Service in Church 9.30am
	BBC Symphony Orchestra musicians, workshop (Sycamore) and concert (whole school)
Tuesday 26 th	Parents Evening 1 – All Classes (3.30pm-7.00pm)
Thursday 28 th	Parents Evening 1 – All Classes 3.30pm – 5.30pm)
Friday 29 th	Mobile library visiting

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...

STUDY SMART
Free Online Courses

Aspire Education

ncfe. | cache | Education & Skills Funding Agency

Fully Funded School Support Course

www.studysmartuk.online

Next Start date 30th September

CACHE Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent
 CACHE Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
 CACHE Certificate in the Principles of SEN
Levels 1, 2 & 3

Six Week Course
 Mon - Fri
 9:30 - 11:30am
 12:30 - 2:30pm
 4 - 4:30pm
 (last optional session for reflection and support if needed)



Is your child due to start school in September 2025?

St Katharine's Primary School, Savernake are holding an open morning on Thurs 17th October 2024 from 9.30am to 11.30am.

Drop in and see our wonderful learners at work.

St Katharine's Primary School,
 Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3BG

01672 870492

www.stkatharinesprimary.org.uk
admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk

Excalibur Academies Trust

ST. KATHARINE'S SAVERNAKE



Family Hub Wiltshire Council | **All Together**
 Supporting Families in Wiltshire

LET'S TALK

Meet your FAMILY NAVIGATOR

My name is Emma; I am here in your local library every week. Feel free to pop down for a chat.

Marlborough Library
 Thursdays
 10.00 am - 12.00 pm
 &
 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm

Date/time could be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Please check our Facebook page for any updates before travelling



Spurgeons | **Wiltshire Council**

0800 970 4669 | **Scan me**

Family Hub Wiltshire Council | **All Together**
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Meet your FAMILY NAVIGATOR

My name is Emma; I am here in your local library every week. Feel free to pop down for a chat.

Pewsey Library
 Tuesdays
 10.00 am - 12.00 pm
 &
 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm

Date/time could be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Please check our Facebook page for any updates before travelling



Spurgeons | **Wiltshire Council**

0800 970 4669 | **Scan me**

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



Help Ukraine Group Support (HUGS)

in association with

The Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership (SHAP); Dragon Oxford
Aid to Ukraine; Stanislav Induchny



COLLECTION OF AID FOR UKRAINE

Tuesday 1st October 2024 9.00am-2.00pm

Great Bedwyn Village Hall, SN8 3PB

Help us supply these essential items to frontline communities

Medical

- **IN DATE** medications (inc painkillers, cold remedies, multivitamins) **must not expire before Jan 2025**
- medical & surgical supplies inc bandages; chest seals; dressings & first aid kits
- athletes foot sprays & creams
- crutches, wheelchairs & mobility aids
- gym/rehab equipment

Sanitary & Toiletries

- wet wipes & personal hygiene products
- nappies, sanitary & incontinence pads
- lip balm, disposable razors; loo rolls
- water sterilising tablets/equipment
- washing powder, washing-up liquid
- unopened toiletries: soap, shampoo, toothbrushes/paste, unscented talc

Bedding (clean & unstained)

- bedding and towels
- synthetic duvets/pillows
- cellular & fleece blankets

Food

- dry & non-perishable food (no jars) eg pasta, rice, tins, porridge, wrapped sweets

Pets

- dog/cat food, animal meds & products

Tools

- Power tools & Generators
- Car tools
- Mechanics general purpose Gloves (L & XL)
- New tenon hand saws; axes

Electronics (in working order)

- smart phones, tablets, laptops (with chargers)
- LED hand/head torches (battery, solar or rechargeable)
- batteries (AA/AAA)
- power banks; chargers (mains or solar)

Outdoor Living

- strong dark tents (min 4 person), groundsheets, roll mats, sleeping bags, camp beds, camping stoves, folding chairs; matches
- 'Hothands' single use hand & feet warmers (avail online or certain stores)
- Matches & candles (all sizes/shapes, new/used)

Clothes & Footwear

- clean outdoor hiking boots, insoles & socks
- robust clean men's trainers
- dark colour fleeces, plain dark t-shirts
- military grade camo kit (adult sizes)
- new underwear & thermals (men/women)
- dark colour adult waterproofs
- thermal beanies, scarves, gloves, neckwarmers
- premature, baby & children's clothes

All items **CLEAN** and ready to use please and **NO OTHER ADULT CLOTHING** at this time.

Sorry, no donations to the Hall before the day

Please get in touch for more details or to volunteer help on the day.

Enquiries: Tony: 07999 693399 / Mandy: 07762 935804

www.helptoukraine.co.uk

www.facebook.com/helpukrainegroupsupport

