



ST KATHARINE'S
C of E

PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Friday 8th November 2024
NEWSLETTER No: 5

Our Value This Term Is...

Peace



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 2! I hope that you all managed to enjoy the break which was extended due to the three TD days at the end of Term 1. We are planning to follow that same pattern next year, with TD days at the beginning of the school year and again extending the break at the end of October with 3 back-to-back TD days. Hopefully this might help with any out of season holiday plans. We will be publishing our 25-26 school term and holiday calendar before the end of this term. We have had a super busy week. Sycamore Class are looking a little weary today having visited the Churchill War Rooms and Imperial War Museum on Wednesday, as part of their current block of learning on Britain at War. They followed this up with a whole class netball tournament, held at Marlborough College, on Thursday. Who said that school was easy!

Today we are voting for our school council. Beyonce was not invited to sing at any of the presentations of manifestos, as we have seen in another recent election build up! Instead, children have listened carefully to their classmates share with them why they think they would be a good school councillor and why they would like their vote.

As I write votes are being cast in the school hall – we will have a long night ahead of us while those are counted, in readiness for sharing results on Monday morning!

Ms Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Celebration Worship and Church Services – a polite request...

It was wonderful to see the Church so full for our Harvest Festival and we very much hope to see many of you in attendance at the services yet to come such as St Katharine's Day, our Nativity, the Carol Service, Easter Service... the list continues. We also love to see you on Fridays when we celebrate the children's successes and on those planned class sharing assemblies when we find out more about the learning that has been going on in the classroom. Most of you have been with the community long enough, I hope, to know that we take great pride in being a warm, welcoming and inclusive school. With all of that in mind therefore, I ask that you bear the following in mind when you attend church services and collective worship in school.

- ★ Follow the cues from the children and other adults in the room and sit quietly when coming into worship. Listen to the music and enjoy a moment of stillness and peace.
- ★ Try to avoid laughing at mistakes or unavoidable 'moments' when things don't go to plan – it makes it hard for us to maintain the right atmosphere and tone.
- ★ Please take small children out of the room if they are very noisy or at all upset. We fully recognise that siblings are a vital part of our community, not least because they are the future of our school. However, lots of noise from little children can often overwhelm the children who are presenting or stop us hearing what is being said. Please consider not bringing siblings if you really want to be present and know that your young child will find it hard to manage.
- ★ Remain quiet until the children have left the hall. Our expectation is that children leave silently to the music that is being played.

Please take the above in the spirit that it is intended. We have extremely high expectations of your children for their behaviour and their attitudes to their learning, in all aspects of school life. We need your support to ensure that our Friday celebrations particularly are an uplifting, positive and joy filled end to our week.

Thank You

Remembrance Collective Worship

We are holding a short act of remembrance collective worship at St Katharine's Church on Monday 11th November. This is instead of our usual Monday morning collective worship and is being held in the Church and not at school. This will be led by Sycamore Class and be attended by Sycamore and Chestnut Classes only.

All parents are invited to join us if they would like to. We will begin at 9:30am and will be finished by approximately 10:00am.

Poppy Appeal

We have poppies for sale for which we are suggesting a minimum donation of £1. They will be on sale at play times next week.

Children in Need – The Heaviest Backpack – Friday 15th November

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.

St Katharine's Day – Bun Making

St Katharine's Day is being celebrated on Monday 25th November with a short service in church at 9:30am. Thank you to those parents who have already volunteered to make cakes for the day. We need about 100 small cakes and therefore if there are a couple more parents willing to volunteer you would be most welcome. Please let us know by emailing or calling Hayley in the school office. Many thanks.

Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 96.7%

Our end of year attendance target is: 97%

We are increasing the number of attendance audits that we complete from three to six this year. This enables us to track attendance more closely, spot any trends where they exist and act early to support parents if attendance is becoming a concern. The advantage of being part of an academy trust is that there are people in key roles such as a newly appointed attendance lead, who can support the work of principals, giving advice and guidance where it might be required. Where attendance falls below 90% we will write to you, primarily to flag this to you. Please know that this is done to support parents, keep them informed and to share data transparently with them. We know that children get ill and it is certainly not our intention for parents to feel a pressure to return unwell children to school, too early. That said, knowing that your child's attendance has fallen below

90% (equivalent to 0.5 days a week by the end of the school year) can help you when making decisions about time away from school. **Please note that 90% represents different things proportionally at different times of the school year. A few days off early in Term 1 can affect attendance data quite drastically.** Please know that we take all of this into account when analysing the data in front of us.

Always talk to us if you are at all concerned about attendance or would like some clarity or more information about the changes to attendance policy. Great school attendance is **always** the result of a partnership.

Barry the Bat!

Meet Barry the Bat, as he was affectionately named by one of the children. Barry visited us for the whole day on Tuesday, much to everyone's delight (including the staff)! Barry took up shelter underneath the playtime equipment box and didn't seem at all phased by 100 small faces peering at him (from a safe distance) and much curious chatter. We are pleased to report that *thankfully* Barry moved on overnight and we regained access to the equipment! It was however a pleasure while it lasted.



Parents' Evenings

Parents will receive an email next week giving details about the upcoming Parents' Evenings happening on 26th and 28th November. The sessions are being held via video call. The booking window for making appointments is 18th to 22nd November.

Sharing Our Learning Afternoon

Prior to parents' evenings (on 26th and 28th November) there is an opportunity for you to come into school from **2:30pm on Thursday 21st November** to share books with your child/ren. We hope this will give you a bit of context before meeting with your child's teacher and enable you to share the progress that your child is making and the things that they are proud of. Once you have finished, we are happy for children to go home a little early providing you let the class teacher know. Please use the classroom entrances or come through reception.

Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of benefits (e.g. Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit) you are eligible for [Free School Meals](#) for your child or children. You would also be eligible for the [Holiday Activity and Food Programme](#) run by the Council and the [Household Support Grant](#) school holiday food payments. These entitlements are benefits-related and irrespective of the year group your child is in. The Government also gives money (£1,480 per primary school child) to the school to help support children from lower income families – this funding is used in many different ways from additional reading support, additional hours for support assistants as well as supporting extra-curricular opportunities. This funding is called Pupil Premium. **However, you must qualify and register for free school meals to receive extra funds and for the school to see these in their budgets. If you don't want your child to have the free school meals they can continue as normal, you are not obliged to take the meal. As long as you qualify and are registered the school still receives the extra funding this brings.** You can [apply online](#) or alternatively download the form and either send it directly to the Council or we can send it on your behalf.

There is also access to a small pot of funds (by conversation with the school) in order to ensure children have equal access to extra-curricular activities including trips and clubs. Please get in touch with us if you would like to find out more.

The benefits related funds detailed above is quite apart from *Infant Free School Meals*. All children in Reception, years 1 and 2 are eligible to this. **It is important however that you still apply for any benefits related funding even if your child is in Reception or Years 1 and**

2 so that the school still receives the Pupil Premium funding.

Lost Property

The basket of lost property is currently overflowing! At last count, there were 15 plastic food containers of varying sizes, a pair of school shoes and 12 school jumpers/cardigans, plus other random items. We ask that you please remember to name your items and uniform to enable us to reunite them with their owner and avoid items ending up in lost property. We encourage you to call in to have a look through the lost property basket to see if anything belongs to you. Towards the end of term, all lost property will be put on a table near the school gate at the end of each day for parents to look through. All remaining lost property at the end of term will be put into the donation station or given to local charity shops.

Harvest Festival Donations

We received another fantastic amount of donations from you all for the Devizes Foodbank again this year. Please see the photograph below. We provided 90.3kgs to the charity. The Foodbank Team are grateful for our generosity.



Nativity and Nativity Dress Rehearsal

We have our Reception and KS1 Nativity performance in church on 18th December. It is a lovely event to which everyone is invited, parents and grandparents alike. We also have a dress rehearsal the day before, on 17th December. Parents and grandparents are welcome to attend the dress rehearsal if this is more convenient.

Christmas Lunch

This year our school Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 11th December. SBC will only be providing a hot Christmas lunch on that day. There will be no sandwich/cold options available. Please order option 1 for that date. Any meals ordered for Wednesday 11th December will automatically receive a Christmas lunch.

The cut off to order is Friday 15th November. Sue Brady are unable to accept any orders after this date.

Message on behalf of the PTA

Bonfire Night Information - Friday 8th November

Thank you to all of you who have purchased tickets for our Bonfire Night event - this event has now sold out!!!

The gates will open from 6pm. Primary parking will be at the church and school. The Avenue and milk yard car parks will be used as an overflow. Please note that families who are parked at the Avenue or milk yard will need to walk up the lane to the school field.

The lane up to the school and beyond to the church must be kept clear from all vehicles to allow for emergency access, not just for us but for the residents of St Katharine's.

Parking Marshalls will be on hand to park everyone efficiently. (Please could Marshalls meet Tamsyn at school for 5.15pm for a briefing.)

We shall have a list of booking names on the gate for entrance so please do not worry if you forget to bring your tickets!

There will be card machines and cash can be accepted on the night.

Remember to wrap up warm, bring a torch and please no sparklers or dogs!

A big big 'Thank you' goes to all of you who have volunteered to help us run this event - please remember to get your free drink from the bar as a token of our appreciation.

Please can all volunteers (other than parking marshalls) arrive by 5.45pm at the latest for a briefing and to be set up on a stall.

We really hope you enjoy this wonderful event!

If you have any queries please get in touch.

Thank you again for your support.

PTA Team

Message from Sue Brady Catering

Our apprentice cook Rhea, who is turning 21 on March 15th is taking part in a charity Skydive next year (2025) for Mental Health UK, which is a charity that is very close to her heart. Here at SBC, we like supporting our team on worthy causes like these. Rhea and all of us here at SBC would be very grateful if you could share the below details with your staff and parents to get support and donations for this charity which effects so many of us directly or indirectly and we want to support Rhea's efforts for this increasingly important charity.

<<https://www.gofundme.com/ctpj48-skydiving-for-mental-health-uk>>

Donate to Skydiving for mental health UK, organised by Rhea Timberlake <<https://www.gofundme.com/ctpj48-skydiving-for-mental-health-uk>>

gofundme.com <<https://www.gofundme.com/ctpj48-skydiving-for-mental-health-uk>>

We thank you for your understand and your support in advance.

Sue Brady Catering

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November	
Sunday 10 th	Remembrance Service at St. Katharine's Church
Monday 11 th	Remembrance Collective Worship in CHURCH school – 9.30am – parents welcome Note change of venue and time
Tuesday 12 th	Odd Socks Day (part of Anti-Bullying Week)
	Year 3/4 Handball Festival at Burbage School (small group)
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
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	KS 2 Reading Meeting 2.30pm – 3.15pm
	Parents Evening 1 – All Classes (3.30pm-7.00pm)
Thursday 28 th	Parents Evening 1 – Oak, Chestnut and Sycamore Classes (3.30pm – 5.30pm)
Friday 29 th	Mobile library visiting

<i>December</i>	
Thursday 5 th	Flu Nasal Spray Vaccinations R-Year 6
Wednesday 11th	Christmas Lunch
Sunday 15 th	Nine Lesson Service in Church 6.00pm – still TBC
Monday 16 th	Tall Tales performance of The Snow Queen
Tuesday 17 th	Reception and KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal 2pm – parents and grandparents welcome
Wednesday 18 th	Reception and KS1 Nativity in Church (4.45pm drop) 5.00pm-6.30pm
Thursday 19 th	Christmas Party afternoon and Christmas Jumper Day <i>Children will be in Christmas jumpers, no party clothes or food needed</i>
Friday 20 th	KS2 Carol Service in Church 9.30am
	Last day of Term 2

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 resent 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...

Hosted by Jamsyn Kerr and Pip Blanchard

at
New Barn Farm
Savernake
SN8 3UY

Join us for festive wreath making

on
Thursday 28th November

7:30pm - 9:30pm

&
Friday 29th November

10am - 12am

Equipment and light refreshments provided. If you have a pair of secateurs, please bring these along and an apron!

All proceeds going to Friends of St Katharine's School

£35/ticket available to purchase from
www.pta-events.co.uk/stkatharines



Time Out For Parents - Children with Additional Needs

Are you a parent/carer for a child (or children) with additional needs? This course was written for you!

Come and meet other parents/carers to support, help and encourage each other to share feelings and experiences about your child with additional needs.

Discuss and share ideas that support you to come up with solutions to problems and behaviours that challenge on the basis of what works - not what's meant to work!

(No formal diagnosis required)

Westbury Community Project
Eden Vale Road
Westbury
Wiltshire
BA13 3NY

Monday's 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th November, 2nd,
9th & 16th December 2024.
10am-12pm



Spurgeons

Family Hub
Wiltshire Council

All Together
Supporting families in Wiltshire



MARLBOROUGH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

**2024-25 TERM DATES
WEDNESDAYS 5-6pm**

- TERM 1: 4th SEPT – 23rd OCT 2024 (17 WEEKS) = £56
- TERM 2: 6th NOV – 18th DEC 2024 (17 WEEKS) = £49
- TERM 3: 8th JAN – 12th FEB 2025 (16 WEEKS) = £42
- TERM 4: 26th FEB – 2nd APR 2025 (16 WEEKS) = £42
- TERM 5: 23rd APR – 21st MAY 2025 (16 WEEKS) = £35
- TERM 6: 4th JUNE – 23rd JULY 2025 (18 WEEKS) = £56

BOOK NOW!

- MAXIMUM OF 25 SPACES AVAILABLE
- BOYS & GIRLS AGED 4 - 12
- INDOOR SPORTS HALL
- PLEASE BRING SHIN PADS
- TRAINERS & DRINKS BOTTLE



MARLBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE,
BARTON DENE
SN8 1PB



**CONTACT US TO
BOOK YOUR
SPACE**

Please contact:
Matt Coanett
07864 304326
matt@seacademy.co.uk
www.seacademy.co.uk



MARLBOROUGH MINI STARS

**2024-25 TERM DATES
FRIDAYS 10.30-11am**

- TERM 1: 6th SEPT – 18th OCT 2024 (17 WEEKS) = £28
- TERM 2: 8th NOV – 20th DEC 2024 (17 WEEKS) = £28
- TERM 3: 10th JAN – 14th FEB 2025 (16 WEEKS) = £24
- TERM 4: 28th FEB – 4th APR 2025 (16 WEEKS) = £24
- TERM 5: 25th APR – 23rd MAY 2025 (16 WEEKS) = £20
- TERM 6: 6th JUNE – 18th JULY 2025 (17 WEEKS) = £28

BOOK NOW!

- MAXIMUM OF 15 SPACES AVAILABLE
FOR BOYS & GIRLS
- AGES 2 - 5 (PARENT & TODDLER SESSIONS)
- INDOOR SPORTS HALL
- PLEASE BRING TRAINERS &
DRINKS BOTTLE



MARLBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE,
BARTON DENE
SN8 1PB



**CONTACT US TO
BOOK YOUR
SPACE**

Please contact:
Matt Coanett
07864 304326
matt@seacademy.co.uk
www.seacademy.co.uk



WPCC's Preparing For Adulthood Information Event

For parent carers of children
with SEND, and those who
work with them.

Are you looking for information to support you to help your child with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)?

This free to attend event, aimed at parent carers of young people moving into adult life, could be just what you are looking for to help you find out more about some of the services and support in Wiltshire.

Please join us and visit over 30 information stands from various services in Wiltshire, attend an information workshop facilitated by Wiltshire College, and enjoy free tea, coffee, cakes and lunch, while having the chance to meet other parent carers.

See our virtual Pre-Event Pack for lots more information



You can book using this QR code



Thursday 28th
November

Corn Exchange
Devizes
SN10 1HS

Registration from
9.30am

Event Runs from 10am
to 2pm

Free Tea, Coffee, Cake and
Lunch!

Parent carers will be able to claim
travel & childcare expenses from the
WPCC

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

You can book online
www.wiltshirerouting.com/PA/281124

Alternatively

Phone: 01225 794547 (extn 11)

Email: reception@wiltspcc.co.uk

Booking closes 5pm on

Newsletter



Brand Refresh

You may have noticed that this newsletter looks a bit different. Or even noticed that Deviizes and District Foodbank and Trussell both look a bit different, however our shared vision remains the same: a UK without the need for food banks.

We need urgent action to end hunger in our community. Local people are turning to us for emergency food and practical support because they don't have enough money to live on. This isn't right.

As you know, Deviizes and District Foodbank is part of the Trussell community of food banks across the UK. Trussell recently conducted research with a wide range of audiences, and found our shared identity, which was first developed over 20 years ago, was creating some significant barriers:

- People who need support couldn't easily access it.
- Food banks like ours were facing challenges locally, particularly with people not understanding our relationship with Trussell.
- Wider audiences didn't think Trussell were clear about what we're trying to achieve together, and didn't feel confident that we could end hunger for good.

Together with food banks and people with lived experience of hardship, Trussell have worked to remove these barriers, and done all they can to minimise costs and reduce waste. You can find out more in this blog post:

<https://www.trussell.org.uk/news-and-research/why-we-re-refreshed-brand>

We're really pleased to be refreshing how we look and speak alongside Trussell.

As we make these changes there are opportunities for local people and organisations to show how we're all playing our part to end hunger together. If you want to support with this, please do just let us know and we'll share ways you can do this.



"Ending hunger together"

Volunteering for Deviizes and District Foodbank

We currently have over 40 active volunteers who collect, weigh and pack food donations, deliver emergency food boxes and provide a safe, welcoming and friendly place where people can come to talk, be listened to and supported.

We are still recruiting drivers (either our van or own vehicle if large enough) to deliver emergency boxes especially in the Marlborough and Pewsey areas. We are also looking for a volunteer to provide holiday cover coordinating the Marlborough and Pewsey deliveries. This role would be ideal for someone who would love to help but isn't available on a regular basis.

If you can help with any of these volunteer roles, please email the Project Manager for more details: fo@deviizedistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Contact us

Please phone us on 07807 973605 and leave a message if we are not available to answer. Alternatively drop us an email: info@deviizedistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Community Organiser update - August to October

The last three months have been focussed on the campaign around ensuring social housing comes with essential, fit-for-purpose flooring and window coverings – An Empty House Isn't A Home. This campaign states that social landlords, whether housing association or local authority, should be responsible for these items. Many tenants cannot afford the hundreds to thousands of pounds needed to provide flooring in a property, on top of already having to buy all white goods, furniture and electrical goods if they don't already have these.

The cost of these items, or the impact of going without, is one of the drivers pushing local people towards needing to use a food bank, especially vulnerable households or households with children.

So far, we have gathered extensive data, written to all major social housing providers, chaired two forums, gained the support of an MP, and launched a regional petition. We are looking into media coverage, particularly focusing on Stoneham and Guinevere Partnership as key stakeholders. You can follow our Facebook page, An Empty House Isn't A Home, to find out more or get involved. You can find the petition here:

<https://www.change.org/p/empty-house-isnt-a-home>

Additionally, September saw the launch of the second round of Wiltshire Council's Affordable Schools Strategy, with the Community Organiser attending to speak about affordable school uniforms. October saw the Local Government Association cover the successful fund for Boaters, as an example of best practice for other local authorities and community-led campaigns. Read the article here: <https://www.lga.gov.uk/press-releases>

Christmas appeal

Help support your food bank this Christmas

In the three weeks leading up to Christmas, the food banks will provide over 100 food parcels for local individuals and families living hardship.

Donate food

Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people living hardship in your community.

Donate money

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food as well as developing sustainable projects.

Shopping list

Tinned meal/fish
Coffee
Milk (UHT or powdered)
Fruit juice (long-life)
Long life spread
padding (minimum of 4 months to the best before date)
Deodorant
Shower gel



We want to see a future where food banks aren't needed and we know that together, we can make that happen

Deviizes and District Foodbank
Unit A, Deviizes Business Centre
Water Road
Deviizes SN12 3DQ

07807 973605

info@www.deviizedistrict.foodbank.org.uk

www.deviizedistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Registered in charity No. 1172886
Registered in England No. 10802026

Deviizes and District Foodbank is a registered charity in England and Wales. We are a member of Trussell Trust, a registered charity in England and Wales. We are also a member of the National Food Bank Network.

