



ST KATHARINE'S  
C of E  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,  
& Honesty*

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024  
NEWSLETTER No: 6

*Our Value This Term Is...*

*Peace*



*Dear Parents,*

It has been a very busy couple of weeks. When I sat down to collate the events that had happened over the course of the last fortnight, I needed at least two post-it notes for my list!

Last week began with our school remembrance service in church. The children in Sycamore Class led the service beautifully, providing some context for why we mark this very special day and sharing some poignant readings to help us understand the impact that war has on ordinary lives. Thank you to them and Mr Sandall for putting this service together.

Oak Class have been looking at food in their design and technology block. This block has been brought to life by our very own Dr Parkinson (Lilla and Freddie) who came in to school to lead a session on 'eating the rainbow' and the importance of good food to our health and wellbeing. The children tasted a wide range of delicious fruit and vegetables, some for the very first time. Huge thanks to him for taking the time out of his busy life to support this learning in the classroom.

With anti-bullying week and Children in Need coinciding in the same week last week, we had two opportunities to place ourselves in the shoes of others. Thank you to our parent community in supporting Odd Socks Day and The Heaviest Backpack campaign. The back packs were truly uplifting!

The charity Restless Development have been in again to deliver an assembly to Key Stage 2, promoting the triathlon that will be held this year on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May** at Marlborough College. Children need to form teams of four, give themselves a silly name, and ideally do a bit of training before the big day. There is an entry

requirement that children raise £50 for the charity to take part. Any money raised over and above that will go to the PTA. It is a great event to be a part of. Attached to this newsletter are two documents giving information about how to get involved and a flyer for those of you who might be interested in helping on the day. My only reservation about this event is the occasional trickiness about making a team and ensuring that everyone who wants to take part, can. Children can make teams of 5 if needed (children will not do all 3 events) or teams of 3 (children will need to do an additional event). This is very much 'over to you', a parent organised and supported event. I hope everyone who is keen to get involved is included in a team.

Our handball team travelled *all the way* to Burbage last week to take part in a local handball tournament. We were triumphant, narrowly beating Easton Royal in the very last game. Mrs Crocker, who accompanied the team, reports that they were a pleasure to take. Lovely also to see some of our children really grow in confidence as the tournament progressed which is exactly the point of taking part in them.

Today Chestnut Class had a workshop and scientific discovery day at Winchester Science Museum. I am reliably told that they were exceptionally well behaved and enjoyed all the activities on offer; perhaps especially the slime making element of the day! This trip supports the block of learning that they have recently been emersed in called 'changing states of matter', an early delve into the wonders of chemistry!

We certainly do pack it in... I can't promise any let up as we approach December. You all know what's coming round the corner! Hang on to your (Santa) hats!

*Ms Jones*

Principal

*'From little acorns, great oaks grow'*



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

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> we saw many beautiful backpacks at school. It was a delight to see all the work and thought that had clearly gone into the creations. As was the intention, much joy was spread around the school and our thoughts turned to children living with worries and how we can alleviate these. A total of £93.45 was raised for Children in Need that day.

## St Katharine's Day – Bun Making

Don't forget that we are celebrating St Katharine's Day on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November** with a short service in church at 9:30am.

## Attendance Update

**Current whole school attendance data: 96%**

**Our end of year attendance target is: 97%**

There have been a lot of children off with bugs during the previous 2-week period. This obviously affects our attendance figures. However, as always we are grateful to parents for taking a considered approach to whether to send in children who may be under the weather.

Please know that we will always monitor children who seem unwell and if necessary give you a call to collect if we feel they would benefit from being at home.

## What to do when your child is unwell - a refresh

We believe that good attendance and punctuality give our children the best opportunity for success both academically and personally thus helping towards developing their skills for life. All children deserve to be able to make the most of the opportunities available to them at St Katharine's.

If your child is unwell, we ask that you call the school office on the first day of the illness to explain your child's absence. If you know that the absence is likely to be for a couple of days (48 hours for a sickness/diarrhoea bug, 24hours after a temperature spike) please let us know during the course of this telephone call /message.

If you are not certain when your child is returning to school, we would expect you to keep us updated on a daily basis, before the beginning of each school day. This can be done by leaving an answerphone message or by sending an email. When leaving a message on the school answerphone or sending an email, detailing an absence, please give a brief description of the illness. If we do not receive notification about your child's absence, we will call you to enquire as to why your child is not in school. This is in line with recommended safeguarding procedures.

If you are requesting that your child have time away from school for reasons not related to illness, please request a form from the school office.

Medical or other appointments in school time should be avoided if at all possible but if not a leave of absence form must be obtained from the school office. A half day is considered sufficient for most appointments.

Thank you for your help with this.

This resource from the NHS is helpful when trying to decide if your child should or shouldn't come to school:

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

## Thank You

We would like to say thank you to Georgie Franklin who has recently stepped back from being the liaison with our uniform provider; having done this behind the scenes for many years. Hayley in the school office, is now your go-to person for all questions uniform related. There are several roles like this where members of our parent community work tirelessly in the background to support us all. Without naming everyone, thank you all for your ongoing efforts and contributions.

## Parents' Evenings

Parents will have received an email giving details about the upcoming Parents' Evenings happening on **26<sup>th</sup>** and **28<sup>th</sup> November**. The sessions are being held via video call. The booking window for making appointments closed at 3.30pm today (22<sup>nd</sup> November). Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the school office.

## Term Dates 2025/26

Please find attached, along with this newsletter, the term dates for the academic year 25-26, recently approved by the board of directors of our academy trust. You will note that we have added 3 whole TD days to the half term break in October in addition to the 2 TD days as the very start of the school year. We hope that by having these dates well in advance you are able to plan ahead for your own holidays from work.

## Wiltshire Council Consultation

Wiltshire Council is consulting on the proposed admissions criteria and admission arrangements for its Community & Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2026/27 academic year. It is also consulting on the proposed schemes for co-ordination of admissions to all maintained schools and academies for the 2026/27 academic year. The consultation began on Friday 15 November 2024 and it ends on Friday 10 January 2025. The consultation documents can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-admissions-consultation](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-admissions-consultation)

*We have* been asked to share these proposals with parents and encourage them to email any comments to the Local Authority so that any returns give an accurate reflection of the views of all school communities.

To respond to this consultation please send your comments by email to [admissions@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@wiltshire.gov.uk) or you can write to:

*School Admissions Team*

*Wiltshire Council*

*Bythesea Road*

*Trowbridge*

*Wiltshire*

*BA14 8JN*

## Message on behalf of the PTA

### Bonfire Night

Thank you to everyone who came and supported us at Bonfire Night on Friday 8th November! It was a fantastic display of fireworks organised by Distant Thunder of Devizes. The PTA and volunteers did a wonderful job providing us all with food, drinks, glow sticks, and sweets to enjoy. A big thank you must go to all of the volunteers and to the PTA for creating a wonderful event for our school.

### Fundraising Totals

It's been a busy time for PTA fundraising since the start of September and we are delighted to share with you what has been raised.

- ★ Bonfire Night raised **£1,908.58**
- ★ Pumpkin Picking raised **£293.54**
- ★ Christmas Cards raised **£103**

**TOTAL Raised £2,305.12**

We are delighted with the amount raised and can confirm that this money will be used to help fund school trips for the entire school helping to keep the costs down for parents and to enrich the children's learning. We hope you all enjoyed these events and a big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped us to make this fundraising possible.

### Christmas Wreath Workshop

There are still some tickets left for Pip and Tamsyn's Christmas Wreath making workshop on Friday 29th November from 10am if anyone would like to join us please head to [www.pta-events.co.uk/stkatharines](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/stkatharines) to get tickets!!

### Christmas Raffle

The PTA Christmas Raffle will be the next big fundraiser for us. If anyone or any businesses have any raffle prizes that they could donate we will be very grateful. Tickets will be going on sale soon and the raffle is due to be drawn on Friday 20th December.

### EasyFundraising

A note about Easyfundraising. We have raised the staggering amount of £374.88 through easy fundraising since September which is the highest amount we have ever raised in a short space of time! Well done to everyone who has signed up. If you haven't and you would like to sign up it's an easy and effortless way to raise money for our school.

As some parents will already know, Friends of St Katharine's School are registered with an affiliate shopping scheme called Easyfundraising. Since joining the scheme we have received over £3400 towards PTA

funds and is an easy way to raise donations for free, simply by shopping online. There are over 7000 brands participating including most supermarkets (Tesco, Sainsburys, Asda, Morrisons, Waitrose), retail stores (eBay, Amazon, M&S), holiday companies and many more.

These donations really mount up and make a big difference. We would really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It is completely free and only takes a moment.

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=123431&invite=g0tjgz&referral-campaign=c2s&utm\\_campaign=refCROtest](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=123431&invite=g0tjgz&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=refCROtest)

If you are already signed-up to easyfundraising, make sure you have got the 'Donation Reminder' setup so a message will pop up when a donation is available, maximising fundraising for free!!

Thank you everyone for your continued support.

*PTA Team*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Chestnut Class visit to Winchester Science Museum
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	St. Katharine's Day Service in Church 9.30am
	BBC Symphony Orchestra musicians, workshop (Sycamore) and concert (whole school)
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	KS 2 Reading Meeting 2.30pm – 3.15pm
	Parents Evening 1 – All Classes (3.30pm-7.00pm)
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Height and weight checks for children in Reception and Year 6</b>
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening 1 – <b>Oak, Chestnut and Sycamore</b> Classes (3.30pm – 5.30pm)
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Mobile library visiting
December	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Flu Nasal Spray Vaccinations R-Year 6
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Nine Lesson Service in Church 6.00pm
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Tall Tales performance of The Snow Queen

Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Reception and KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal 2pm – parents and grandparents welcome
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Reception and KS1 Nativity in Church (4.45pm drop) 5.00pm-6.30pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party afternoon and Christmas Jumper Day <i>Children will be in Christmas jumpers, no party clothes or food needed</i>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	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**

21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

**Please Note**

We will close at 1:15pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

# Other things you might want to know...

Hosted by *Jamsyn Kerr and Pip Blanchard*  
at  
*New Barn Farm*  
*Savernake*  
*SN8 2NY*

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](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/stkatharines)*



**Care for the Family**

**Time Out For Parents - The Primary Years**

**To parents and carers of children aged 5-11 years. Come and join us!**

Meet other parents/carers and share ideas and strategies that will support your children as they progress through their time at primary school.

Learn alongside other parents/carers to understand how your child is exploring their own world, learning boundaries and consequences and managing their own feelings and emotions.

The Beeches  
Owl House, 203 The Pennings  
Bulford Camp  
Wiltshire  
SP4 9BT

Wednesday's 22nd, 29th January, 5th, 12th, 26th February, 5th, 12th & 19th March 2025.  
10am-12pm



**Spurgeons** **Family Hub** **All Together**  
Wiltshire Council | Supporting families in Wiltshire

## Braeside Education Centre



### October Half Term Activity Days!

**£40 per day**

Adventure - Challenge - Fun  
For ages: 8 - 12 years  
(Siblings up to 14 years)

Drop Off - 8:30am - 9:00am  
Pick Up - 4:30pm - 5:00pm

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> -**  
Canoeing  
High Ropes Activities

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> -**  
Mixed Activity Day  
Archery, Life Line,  
Low Ropes,  
Autumnal Keyring Craft

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> -**  
Halloween  
Pumpkin Carving  
Biscuit Decorating  
Rock Painting  
Themed Orienteering

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November -**  
Climbing Wall  
Zip - Wire  
Abseiling

Please book online by visiting:  
[www.braeside-education.co.uk/holiday-club](http://www.braeside-education.co.uk/holiday-club)

Contact us for more details:  
01380 722437  
[info@braeside-education.co.uk](mailto:info@braeside-education.co.uk)

Braeside Education Centre

Activities will run in groups, in rotation, throughout the day.

# BOOK A FREE CLASS

**WE HAVE CLASSES FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES**

**MINI STREETZ**  
**3 TO 6 YEARS**

**JUNIOR STREETZ**  
**7 TO 11 YEARS**

**TEEN STREETZ**  
**12 YEARS +**

"My daughter has been attending MF Dance for three years, her confidence has grown and she has loved every minute of every class! I cannot recommend MF Dance enough!"  
*Lottie's mum*

"Harry loves coming to his classes, he has really found his confidence and his behaviour has noticeably improved since finding an outlet for all his energy!"  
*Harry's mum*

**ALL OF OUR INSTRUCTORS ARE DBS CHECKED**

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK IN**

Or visit [www.mfdance.co.uk](http://www.mfdance.co.uk)

SCAN ME

@MattFiddesUK OfficialMattFiddes mattfiddesofficial

**WPCCC'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 WPCCC.

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**

You can book online:  
[www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk](http://www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk)

Alternatively  
 Phone: 01225 764547 (action 1)  
 Email: [teach@wiltspcc.co.uk](mailto:teach@wiltspcc.co.uk)  
 Booking closes 5pm on

## Be a Star and donate a gift

**Be a Star!**

**Could you help us make Christmas special for those who may have little or nothing under the tree on Christmas morning?**

Gifts for children and adults.  
 Must be brand new and unwrapped.

Collection points:  
 Ducklings Toy Shop, Marlborough  
 or  
 Claire Presley, 49 Bourne Way, Burbage, SN8 3FS  
 - 07787 533677

**Before 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

or visit our website  
[www.salvationarmy.org.uk/swindon-gorse-hill](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/swindon-gorse-hill)

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 The Salvation Army National Headquarters, 1 Chichester Park, London SE1 8PJ.