



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

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

**Friday 6th December 2024
NEWSLETTER No: 7**

Our Value This Term Is...

Peace



Dear Parents,

December is upon us everyone; you can feel it in the atmosphere! Whilst in order to be prepared for the end of term celebrations there is a certain degree of time spent learning songs, lines and stage directions, we are very keen to keep an air of calm, purpose and 'business as usual' for as long as we possibly can. You will see from the calendar that it is only really the final week of term where things get 'full-on' Christmassy!

In the two weeks since the last newsletter we have again been busy. Starting with St Katharine's Day on 25th November where we retold the story, placed a posy at the feet of St Katharine in church and (most importantly?) enjoyed iced topped cupcakes on the playground at play time. Huge thanks to Laura Broomham, Pippa Blanchard, Leah Joddrell, Leanda Parkinson, Anna Speed and Kim Swift who volunteered to bake for us this year. We are all extremely grateful – I can testify that the cakes were delicious!

On the same day as St Katharine's Day, we were treated to a performance by the BBC symphony orchestra. Two members of their 100+ strong orchestra visited us at school to give a concert on viola and violin. It was such a treat and for some children their first experience of live classical music. Prior to the assembly, Sycamore class enjoyed a workshop with the same two musicians, enjoying not only instruments played up-close but also a chance to sing together and learn about how orchestras

are conducted and the essentials of music that sit behind every piece that we hear. This opportunity was brought to us by our involvement with Wiltshire Music and the cluster of which we are a part.

We know that the coming fortnight is a busy one for parents with additional things to remember and places to be. We have coloured in pink the events that you might wish to attend or that possibly require children to wear something or bring something to school. We work hard to communicate with you at this time so that you are as prepared as you can be. We look forward to seeing you all at either the Nativity, the Carol Service or both! We promise to offer you a little respite amid the list ticking that you will inevitably be doing.

Ms Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Celebration Worship – Dates

Celebration Worship Term 3 & 4

Friday Date	What?
10 th January	Celebration Worship
17 th January	Celebration Worship
24 th January	Celebration Worship
31 st January	Oak Class Sharing
7 th February	No Celebration Worship – PTA movie night
14 th February	Sycamore Class Sharing
28 th February	Celebration Worship
7 th March	No Celebration Worship – World Book Day
14 th March	Chestnut Class
21 st March	Hazel Class Sharing
28 th March	No Celebration Worship – Bunny Bop
4 th April	No Celebration Worship – Easter Service

Early Morning Turning Circle

There are a few of you arriving at school very early and waiting in the turning circle for a member of staff to come on duty at 8:30. I understand the need for a prompt start to your day and the thinking behind an early arrival. The problem that we have had recently is that staff arriving in readiness for an 8:30 start have not been able to park in the staff carpark due to the turning circle traffic blocking entrances. Please be mindful that before 8:30 staff still need access to the carpark.

Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 95.9%

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, 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 are really not well enough to be here.

We are delighted with the response of our parent community to the national changes in the approach to school attendance. There is a real sense that you are taking attendance very seriously and that you understand the clear link between strong attendance and the benefits for children's learning. Thank you for working with us and understanding these changes in the context of a shared desire for all children to thrive while at school.

Meetings at School

Throughout the year we offer several meetings at school to parents of different year groups. These are intended to provide an opportunity for parents to get involved and raise awareness of relevant subjects, such as reading and maths, to assist you in providing support to your child/ren at home. We encourage you to attend these meetings when they are made available. We recently conducted a survey of KS2 parents following a reading meeting which was relatively poorly attended. Thank you to those of you who took the time to respond. We will go through the responses and consider the feedback carefully.

Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all of you who booked and attended a parents' evening last week. We hope that this meeting, combined with the opportunity to come into school and share your child's learning prior to the meeting with your child's teacher, has given you an insight into their progress and areas for development and support. Please know that if you have any concerns, that you feel you would like to discuss in greater depth, our teachers are always happy to arrange a face-to-face meeting with you at a mutually convenient time.

Nine Lesson Service

A group of more than 20 Key Stage 2 children have been rehearsing at school for the Nine Lessons Service at St. Katharine's Church on Sunday 15th December. The children will be singing a hymn at the service. Please do go along and support them. The service starts at 6pm and is always followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Drumming!

A local drumming teacher will be attending an assembly on Friday next week. Following the assembly, further information will be sent out to the relevant year groups introducing drumming to our music tuition offering.

Tall Tales – The Snow Queen

We are looking forward to the performance of The Snow Queen by Tall Tales during the school day on **Monday 16th December**. Our thanks to the PTA for funding this whole school experience, which, based on previous years, we are sure will be a big hit!

Lost Property

Please remember to call in and look through the lost property basket. Anything left in the final week of term (week commencing 16th December) will be put on a table near the school gate at the end of each day for parents to look through. Anything remaining at the end of term will be put into the donation station or given to local charity shops.

Personal Data Check

Please can we ask parents to check that the personal data we currently hold on you, your emergency contact/s and your child/ren on Bromcom (our MIS system) is up to date. If you move house or change your phone number (work, mobile or home) for example, please remember to let us know. You can make amendments to the information yourself by logging into your [MCAS](#) account. Alternatively, feel free to email Hayley on admin@stkatharines.excalibur.org.uk.

Mobile Library Books

The next time the mobile library visits (27th December) the school will be closed for the Christmas holiday period. If you have any books at home that need returning before the next visit (which is on 24th January) you are able to return them to any library in Wiltshire (excluding Swindon).

Christmas Art Works

Carter Jonas are asking for Christmas art works to display in their high street windows in the lead up to Christmas. The winner receives a Christmas themed Play Mobil set and £500 worth of art materials for their school. If anyone is interested in entering – please see the details on the poster on the newsletter noticeboard overleaf.

Good Luck to anyone that enters!

Messages on behalf of the PTA

Christmas Wreath Workshops

Thank you to all of you who came and supported Pip and Tamsyn for the Christmas Wreath Workshops. This was a lovely event to run for our school. What a talented and artistic bunch you all are!! We shall let you know how much was raised soon.

PTA Cake Sale - Friday 13th December

There will be a PTA cake sale on Friday 13th December after school. The class selected to donate cakes is Chestnut Class!!! Please could all cakes be handed to members of the PTA on the morning of the 13th. Could all cakes be individual and nut free. Cakes can be Christmas themed if you wish!!

Thank you for your support.

PTA Christmas Raffle

Tickets for the raffle will be going on sale shortly and children will be coming home with raffle books and instructions. Tickets can also be purchased from members of the PTA or from the school office. We have some amazing prizes to be won, details of which will be posted on the notice board and WhatsApp groups. Good luck everyone and please sell as many as you can to family and friends!

Lastly if anyone would like to be a part of the PTA please do contact us!

The PTA Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December	
Wednesday 11 th	Christmas Lunch
Sunday 15 th	Nine Lesson Service in Church 6.00pm
Monday 16 th	Tall Tales performance of The Snow Queen – whole school
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
January	
Monday 6 th	First day of Term 3
Wednesday 15 th	Deadline for primary school applications
Monday 20 th	Oak Class trip to STEAM Museum, Swindon
Friday 24 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 resent at the beginning of Terms 3 and 5.

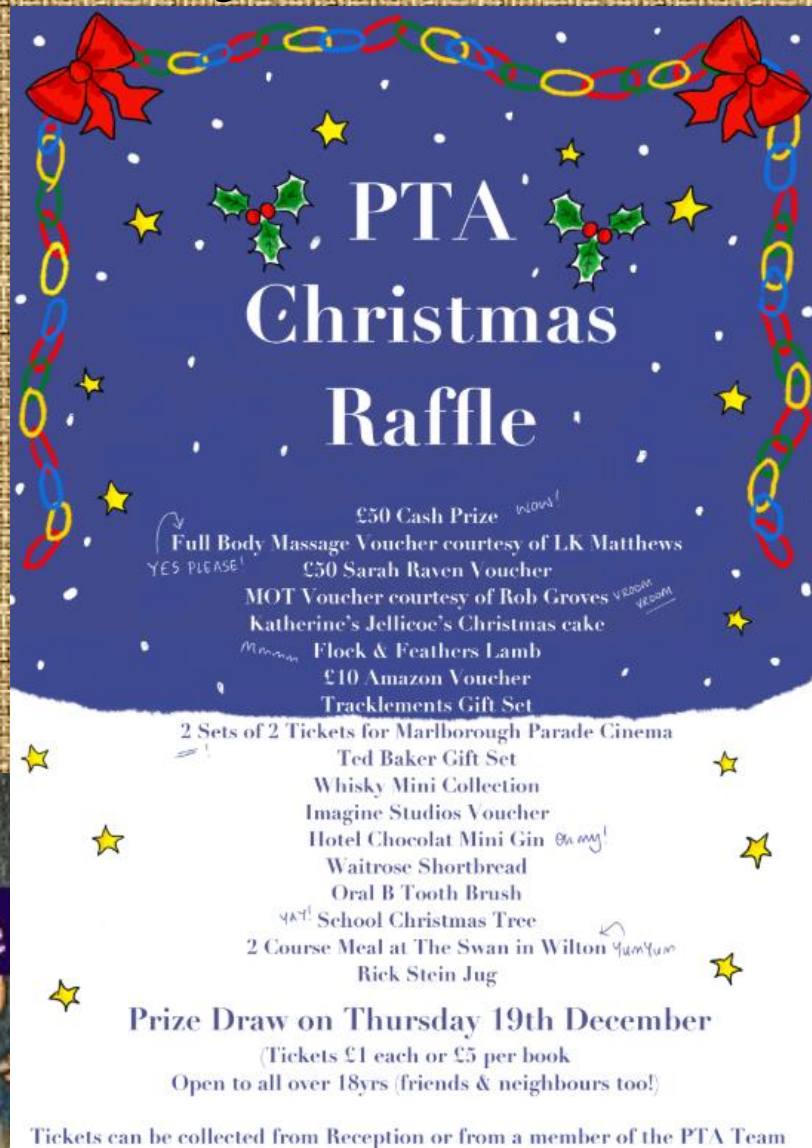
Remaining TD Days 2024/25

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...



PTA Christmas Raffle

£50 Cash Prize *Wow!*
Full Body Massage Voucher courtesy of LK Matthews *YES PLEASE!*
£50 Sarah Raven Voucher
MOT Voucher courtesy of Rob Groves *Voucher please!*
Katherine's Jellicoe's Christmas cake
Flock & Feathers Lamb *Minim!*
£10 Amazon Voucher
Tracklements Gift Set
2 Sets of 2 Tickets for Marlborough Parade Cinema
Ted Baker Gift Set
Whisky Mini Collection
Imagine Studios Voucher
Hotel Chocolat Mini Gin *Oh my!*
Waitrose Shortbread
Oral B Tooth Brush
School Christmas Tree *Yay!*
2 Course Meal at The Swan in Wilton *Yum Yum*
Rick Stein Jug

Prize Draw on Thursday 19th December
(Tickets £1 each or £5 per book)
Open to all over 18yrs (friends & neighbours too!)

Tickets can be collected from Reception or from a member of the PTA Team



Do your little ones love to get creative?

Our festive drawing competition is for them!

WIN A SANTA'S HOME PLAYMOBIL SET & £50 WORTH OF ART SUPPLIES FOR YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

Simply submit a photo of their drawing or painting of a home dressed for the holiday season.

Come and see shortlisted works of art proudly displayed in our window after the competition closes on Sunday 15 December. Winners will be announced on Wednesday 18 December.



Scan the QR code for easy entry and add their picture later

Draws and awards take place in all primary school children in the UK. One submission per child. Prizes will be awarded in two categories.

Carter Jonas

Fully Funded School Support Course



Available in Levels 1, 2 & 3

*Please go to our website for more detailed information.

6 Week Course Mon - Fri

Daily sessions

1st session 9:30 - 11:30am

2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

www.studysmartuk.online

Available in the following levels:

Level 1:	CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools CACHE Level 1 Award in Safeguarding in a Learning Environment CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Wellbeing Level 1 Occupational Studies for the Workplace
Level 2:	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
Level 3:	Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special Educational Needs

Please go to our website address above, for more information.

*Please take note of the online live webinar sessions that **MUST** be attended to complete this full time 6 week course, and the ESFA's (Education Skills Funding Agency) eligibility criteria.



Five reasons to change a child's life through fostering

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- 2 To offer children a positive experience of family life.
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- 4 To receive professional support, 24/7, 365 days a year.
- 5 To access regular training and development opportunities.

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