



ST KATHARINE'S
C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Friday 20th December 2024
NEWSLETTER No: 8

Our Value This Term Is...

Peace



Dear Parents,

Getting to the end of term two always feels like quite an achievement. We always pack a lot into every term in schools but the inclusion of Christmas makes that somewhat more of a challenge! Also, the sense of completion always feels slightly strange when Christmas itself has yet to even happen!

Whilst the previous fortnight has had quite a heavy hint of Christmas, we do try to keep things 'business as usual' for as long as we can; you will all know that children and routine are a good pairing.

This week however we have enjoyed a pantomime, brought to us by Lizzie Lewis of Tall Tales. It was a wonderful retelling of The Snow Queen. Small scale theatre such as this, with multiple characters being played by only a handful of actors have a brilliant simplicity about them. In a sophisticated era of CGI and special effects it is refreshing to see the children have to suspend their disbelief and allow themselves to become absorbed, even when costume, scenery and character changes are happening right under their noses.

Thank you for your support at our two Nativity performances and at our key stage two Carol Service. We are very proud of the children. All performances have been a joy to watch and be involved in. Our children really do pull out the stops for an audience. It is always lovely to see you all and the wider family members that you bring along in support of these events.

I hope that you all manage a little peace during the coming fortnight. Our lives are increasingly packed, especially at this time of year, please try to find a few moments that fill the tank. We look forward to seeing you all in January. Until then, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ms Jones

Principal

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 96.1%

Our end of year attendance target is: 97%

We have just completed our second of six planned attendance audits this academic year. Whilst there has been a lot of illness, we are really pleased with our attendance data so far this year. We are not far off our end of year target of 97%. It would be brilliant to achieve this. Thank you for your continued support and for taking on board the new changes to legislation.

Primary School Applications Deadline

If you have a child due to start school in September 2025 remember to get your application into the Council by **15th January 2025**.

Thankyou

Stage

A huge thank you to the group of parents who transported the stage to and from school for the nativity and helped put the stage up and take the stage down on the night.

Christmas

On behalf of all the staff, thank you for the Christmas wishes, cards and gifts that have been given. The staff room has been a very happy place this week with chocolate and biscuits a plenty – a very happy team! Once again thank you, and 'Merry Christmas' to you all.

Message on behalf of Excalibur

Research into Food Allergies in Children

We have been asked to forward a message to help shape research into food allergies in children.

One of the parents in Redland Green School, an Excalibur Academy Trust school, is a GP and researcher at the University of Bristol. He is part of a team conducting research into food allergies in children, looking specifically to hear from those parents/carers who have, or care for children with food allergies, to help set the top 10 research priorities in this area.

This project is funded by the National Institute for Health and care Research (NIHR = research arm of NHS) and beyond parents and carers, wishes to hear from as many different voices as possible, including teachers and children.

The aim being to identify and focus research on what really matters to patients, carers and clinicians.

To take part, please visit https://bit.ly/fa_psp (survey closes 5 January 2025).

Thank you for your support.

Messages on behalf of the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

Stay Safe

We have been asked to forward the following message from the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Dear parents/carers,

We appreciate this time of year is very busy, but we ask for five minutes of your time to ensure you and your children are safe.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service firefighters will be available all the time over the festive period to come and help in an emergency.

Please help your children understand how they can stay safe by reading and filling in one of the prize draw quizzes:

It was the lights before Christmas is designed for Reception and Key Stage 1 children.

Winter Safety Firefighter Quiz is designed for Key Stage 2 children.

However, each child may enter both quizzes if appropriate.

Enter to win a VIP trip to a participating fire station, a Blaze Bear Teddy and a Lego or PlayMobil Emergency Services set.

Electrical safety is of particular concern at this time of year, especially with the increased number of electrical items such as festive lights and new electrical goods.

Please make sure all electrical items are in good condition, the correct charger is always used and you unplug items when not in use #unplughtounwind.

Thank you and we wish you a happy festive period.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

Messages on behalf of the PTA

Thank you all for your support this term. We are delighted to announce that the Christmas Wreath Making raised £342.60 and the Christmas Raffle raised £556.46. We have raised a total of £3568.50 this term which is just amazing!

Your support has helped us to make the planned events be a great success this term and most importantly helped to raise valuable funds for the school. We are in the process of developing a simple tool that enables us to show you what has been raised, spent and what the plans are for spending the money; an 'at-a-glance' document that will make all the above easy to see and transparent to all in our community. Once done we will share electronically and make sure that the most up to date version is displayed on the PTA board in the playground.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas with your families and shall look forward to seeing you all in 2025!!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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
Thursday 30 th	Crofton Beam Engines representative visiting Oak Class at School
February	
Friday 7 th	Movie Night PTA BBC Live lessons – Safer Internet Day
Friday 14 th	Lat day of Term 3
Monday 24 th	First day of Term 4
Wednesday 26 th	Year 5/6 Hockey at Marlborough College (Small group)
Thursday 27 th	Lego League Competition Bristol (Lego Club attendees only) Oak Class Cricket event at Marlborough Leisure Centre (details to follow)
Friday 28 th	KS2 SATs Information Session for parents 1.15pm (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME)

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...



SCHOOL HOLIDAY MULTI SPORT CAMPS

FOR AGES 5 - 12 YEARS

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

Dates: 17th & 18th FEBRUARY 2025

Football - Dodgeball - Basketball - Hockey - Handball - Tag Rugby - Cricket - Tennis
plus many more!

Time: 9am - 3pm (8am - 4pm available) Cost: £25.00 (EARLY BIRD OFFER)

Clothing: Sports clothes & trainers

Items to pack: packed lunch (no nuts), water bottle, hat, sun cream, jacket



@IN_2SPORT in2sportcoaching

07799 268115 (Tash) 07968 778732 (Vicky) info@in2sportcoaching.co.uk

BOOK ONLINE AT www.in2sportcoaching.co.uk



FREE MEALS & GROCERIES



Are you struggling?

Or do you know someone who doesn't know how they will feed their family?

NO FUSS - NO FORMS - NO REFERRALS

We deliver a hot family meal every Friday for three months

And a bag of groceries ... more than enough to make a family meal in the week

Families are given a slow-cooker to help keep their fuel bills lower

We won't ask questions ~ We are just here to help

CONTACT KIDS MEALS

07423 126477

hello@lovemarlboroughkidsmeals.org
www.facebook.com/MarlboroughKidsMeals
www.lovemarlboroughkidsmeals.org

MCC Juniors

seeking new Junior players
Boys and Girl's Teams

MARLBOROUGH CRICKET CLUB

All equipment provided **No experience required**

ECB Qualified Coaches **DBS & First Aid Trained**

JOIN THE CLUB



▶▶▶ marlboroughcc@gmail.com ◀◀◀



Wiltshire Family Hubs
Keeping in Touch
December 2024

Family Hub Wiltshire Council 

Christmas Craft Fun

Saltdough Decorations

250g plain flour
125g table salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
125ml of water

1. Preheat the oven to its lowest setting.
2. Mix the dry ingredients in a large bowl. Add the water and mix together into a ball.
3. Transfer the dough to a floured work surface. Roll out and cut out shapes using cookie cutters.
4. Put your finished items on to a lined baking sheet and bake for 3 hrs or until solid.

Reindeer Food

A lovely activity preparing a treat for the reindeer! You can really go to town on this with your child, using all sorts of things from your store cupboard. Your child can help crush up cereals, use measuring spoons to add ingredients, mix everything together and sprinkle on the lawn. Rudolph and the other reindeer will love their special treat.

Please note: Lots of reindeer food recipes include glitter and we would respectfully ask you not to use this as this is so bad for our wildlife.

Family Hubs will be closed during the Christmas and New Year period from:
24th Dec to 1st Jan 2025

Hubs re-open on 2nd January 2025

Christmas time can bring challenges for us all.
Support is available from many organisations during this time.
Click [HERE](#)

Planning ahead for January
Interested in a parenting course? - click [HERE](#)
Book a sensory space session - give us a ring on our freephone number 0800 970 4669

Visit our website - Wiltshirefamilyhubs.org.uk

Facebook

Our Wiltshire Family Hub Facebook page is another way for families to stay up to date with current services. Make sure you like and follow to stay in touch with us.
Simply click here:



Support We Offer

We are here to help with a whole range of topics including:

- Ideas around implementing routines and setting boundaries.
- Help to understand your child's needs and build your confidence as a parent.
- Help around finances, housing applications, debt support and accessing benefits.
- Supporting you 'back to work'
- Volunteering opportunities

We can help families access:

- Baby Bundles
- Healthy start vitamins
- Advice on local childcare and applying for funding.
- Introductions to other services

Get in touch with us

If you have any questions or would like more information about our services please call us on one of our numbers below or check out our website:

Freephone:
0800 970 4669
wiltshirefamilyhub@spurgeons.org

Other useful numbers:
Health visitor - Single Point of Access
0300 247 0090
National Breastfeeding helpline
0300 100 0212
Fearfree (Domestic Abuse support Service)
01225 775276
National Domestic Abuse Helpline
0808 2000 247

Click here to visit our website
www.wiltshirefamilyhubs.org.uk