



ST KATHARINE'S
C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Friday 14th February 2025
NEWSLETTER No: 11

Our Value This Term Is...

Thankfulness



Dear Parents,

Here we are then – the end of another term. It seems moments ago that we were welcoming the children back to school after Christmas. Whilst we certainly haven't seen enough of the sun in recent weeks, there is a mild scent of spring in the air when the sun shines. I recently learnt a new word:

- **Apricity**
- **Definition:** *the warmth of the sun in winter*

I hope we can all feel a little *apricity* over the half term break!

There isn't a great deal to report from the preceding fortnight outside of the hard work that continues in all our classrooms. Our recent work to support high quality writing across the curriculum is showing some strong green shoots. You will have a chance to look at the writing that children are doing in Science, History and Geography and how this is supporting them to know and remember more of this learning when you visit classrooms on **Monday 24th March**, ahead of our 2nd of 3 parent consultations this academic year. Make sure that you have that date in your diaries – we will open our doors at **2:30pm** on that day, providing time for you to sit with your child, share their books with them and talk to them about what they have been up to.

It has been without doubt one of the most challenging terms in my headship and in the lives of the St Katharine's team. Life in school goes at a lick, as you are all aware. There is always a lot to do and, of course, our

priority is always to the children and their continuing progress and learning. The very '*business as usual*' nature of life at school has, in itself, been hard to navigate. I am extremely grateful to my brilliant colleagues and to you, our wonderful community for supporting us as we come to terms with the loss of Mrs Crewe and the big space that she leaves behind her. I wish you all a very happy half term. We will see you all in Term 4 ready to do it all again!

Ms Jones

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



Thank You

A huge thank you to Mrs Jellicoe who organised a very special visitor to Sycamore Class last Friday. Rebecca Stephens, the first British woman to climb Everest, delivered a talk to the children of Sycamore sharing her knowledge of the mountain environment and her experience of being part of an expedition. It was a brilliant morning, one that I hope our children will hold in their memories for years to come. This visit was a timely and exciting end to the block of geography learning on Mountains.

Medical Appointments

In line with our Excalibur – wide attendance policy, please ensure that you give us advance warning of any non-urgent medical appointments by completing a leave of absence form, supported by proof of that appointment (appointment card, letter, email). You can attach a photograph of proof along with your email and completed form. If you are bringing a written form into the school office you can show proof of appointment at that point. If your child has a GP appointment, please give details of the GP practice in your email requesting leave of absence.

A Memorial Service for Mrs Crewe

Please remember that we are planning for a memorial service in honour of Mrs Crewe on the evening of **Thursday 3rd April at 5:00pm**. We are looking forward to coming together to celebrate Terri, her hard work and commitment to the school and its community and to share our fond memories of her.

Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 96.1%

Our end of year attendance target is: 97%

We have just completed the third of six planned attendance audits this academic year. Whilst we are still experiencing the usual winter illnesses along with a recent bout of chickenpox, we are really pleased with

our attendance data so far this year. We are not far off our end of year target of 97% and our attendance compares favourably to both national and Wiltshire attendance data. It would be brilliant to achieve our end of year target of 97%. I hope the onset of Spring might help us achieve this. Thank you for your continued support and for taking on board the new changes to legislation.

Attendance Reminder

If you are looking to request a leave of absence, please note the following from the school's attendance policy that can also be found, in full on our website:
Parents/carers should complete a Leave of Absence Request form which is available from the school here. The request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated; and wherever possible, at least four weeks before the absence. Although such absence may be unauthorised, it is better that we know your child is safe, rather than missing.

World Book Day

We are celebrating World Book Day on **Friday 7th March**. We encourage the children to come as a character from a book (rather than a film) or if they prefer, they could bring a clue to a book.
 We look forward to seeing all of the wonderful costumes when the children arrive at school on 7th March.

Glasses Found

A pair of glasses have been found at the church after the Carol Service. If you suspect the glasses might belong to you, please get in touch with Hayley in the office.

In2Sport Holiday Camp

In2Sport is running a Multi Sports Holiday Camp at St Katharine's on 17th and 18th April. Please see the poster on the noticeboard for more information.

Messages on behalf of the PTA

Thank you for your continued support with PTA events. We have lots of events still to look forward to in the remainder of this academic year. We are always looking for support and help with our events. As we begin to turn our attention to the summer fete and fun run, please put those dates in your diary (see your Key Dates Planner 2) and be prepared to give a little of your time if you can, to ensure both events are a huge success. Many hands really *do* make light work! Now more than ever before, the school is in need of our financial support to maintain the many brilliant and exciting opportunities on offer for all of our children.

PTA team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February	
Friday 14 th	Last day of Term 3 PTA Valentine's Event Cake and Card Competition Cake Sale after school
Friday 21 st	Mobile Library visiting
Monday 24 th	First day of Term 4
Thursday 27 th	Lego League Competition Bristol (Lego Club attendees) Oak Class Cricket event at Marlborough Leisure Centre (AM) CANCELLED
Friday 28 th	KS2 SATs Information Session for parents 2.45pm (This will take place during Celebration Worship)
March	
Tuesday 4 th	Dentist visit Hazel Class
Friday 7 th	World Book Day Dress Up Final TAG Rugby after school club session Sycamore Class
Thursday 13 th	TAG Rugby Tournament Y5/6 At Marlborough College (AM) (details to follow)
Wednesday 19 th	Chestnut Class trip to Cheddar Gorge
Friday 21 st	Mobile Library visiting
Monday 24 th	Sharing our Learning afternoon - parents invited in from 2.30pm until 3.15pm
Tuesday 25 th	3.30pm–5:30pm Parents Evening 2 (Oak, Chestnut and Sycamore classes)
Thursday 27 th	3.30pm–7.00pm Parents Evening 2 whole school
Friday 28 th	PTA Mother's Day Shop PTA Bunny Bop
April	
Tuesday 1 st	Y3/4 Cricket Festival at St. Katharine's (small group)

Wednesday 2nd	Trees Project Chestnut Class
April 3 rd	Mrs Crewe's Memorial Service St Katharine's Church @ 5:00pm All Welcome
April 4 th	Easter Service St Katharine's Church 9:30 am Including the Easter Bonnet Parade
	Last Day of Term 4
Tuesday 22 nd	First Day of Term 5
Wednesday 23 rd	Accelerated Maths Day St Johns (small group)
Tuesday 29 th	Scootability Years 1-6 (details to follow) NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Please also refer to the **Key Dates Planner V2**, that includes all the dates that we know of for the remainder of the 2024/25 academic year (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 Planner V3 which is resent at the beginning of Term 5.

Please Note

We will close at 1:15pm on Thursday 24th July 2025.

Other things you might want to know...

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

SCAN ME

@MattFiddesUK OfficialMattFiddes mattfiddesofficial

in2sport coaching

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 **Cost: £28.00** **Clothing: Sports clothes & trainers**

Additional hours available from 8am - 4pm @ £5.50 per hr

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

February half term in The TreeHouse ...
Come and join us for glorious half term days packed with adventures and experiences

TreeHouse at Grafton
Breakfast, After School & Holiday Club

February weather is fairly unpredictable so please note that plans may vary if the weather isn't kind. If we need to stay cosy at home in East Grafton we'll be enjoying board games, arts & crafts and maybe a film

Monday 17 February Crofton Beam Engines	Tuesday 18 February Wonderful Winchester	Weds 19 February Delightful Devizes	Thursday 20 February Super Swindon	Friday 21 February Dough to Delicious!
History on our doorstep! Brilliant morning with our friends and neighbours at the world famous beam engines - returning to East Grafton after lunch for an afternoon of engineering challenges.	Park & Ride City Tripper day taking in an amazing Whales art installation and Ocean Commotion trail at the cathedral and fabulous historic Winchester activities	More canal based adventures at Devizes Wharf and the amazing Caen Hill Locks. Maybe climbing Roundway Down to get up close to Devizes White Horse? Or maybe communing with the stones at Avebury	Catching a morning film at the cinema then off to the wonderful Butterfly World and Farm Park at Studley Grange for an afternoon of animals and play	Handmade pizza masterpieces coming home for tea! Mixing and kneading dough - planning and popping out for topping shopping (and maybe a wild play in the forest along the way) - back for final assembly and baking
	Supplement E5		Supplement E5	

We provide super adventures and team. You bring wonderful children and a packed lunch. PERFECT!

Cancellations & absence
If you cancel at short notice (less than 1 week) we will try to fill the place. If we can fill the space you will not be charged but if not, payment in full is required. In the event of missed days due to sickness we are not able to offer a refund.

A healthy place to be
We depend on each other to keep Sunflowers and TreeHouse a healthy place to be. Avoiding the spread of any sort of unwell'ness is always a priority. Children (and our team) need to be tip-top to cope with an active and busy day so please don't bring children in if they are unwell.

Additional support
We welcome children of all abilities and needs and ask that you contact us directly to discuss individual needs as we may require enhanced ratios to support your child. Please contact us to start a conversation.

Not just childcare ... great days in The TreeHouse. For information or to reserve spots call 01672 810478 or email treehouse@sunflowers-grafton.co.uk

Sunflowers at Grafton

The Community of Hungerford Theatre Company *noda*
Be inspired by amateur theatre

TOWN SHOW 2025

Wed. 19 Feb to Sat. 22 Feb
Evening performances 7.15pm
Saturday Matinee 2.15pm

TICKETS:
ADULT £14.00
CHILD £10.00



Shrek The Musical
Based on the Dreamworks Animation Motion Picture and book by William Steig

Book and Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire
Music by Jeanine Tesori

Originally produced on Broadway by Dreamworks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions

JOHN O'GAUNT SCHOOL HALL
Priory Road, Hungerford, Berkshire, RG17 0AL



Tickets available from hungerfordtheatre.com and **Crown Needlework** 115 High Street, Hungerford, RG17 0LU Tel: 01488 684011

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MIT www.mitshows.co.uk



Job Vacancy – Part-time Foodbank Warehouse Manager (£13 an hour)

Dezives and District Foodbank is dedicated to helping people in crisis by providing them with emergency food and working with the local community to address their needs. We are looking for a part-time warehouse manager to provide support to the Project Manager in all aspects of the operation of Dezives and District Foodbank warehouse. The role is for 10 hours a week, ideally over 5 days, Monday to Friday.

You will be committed to the work of the Foodbank, being able to lead and work collaboratively as part of a team of staff and volunteers. You will have experience of planning and organising the day to day running of a warehouse, observing relevant regulations, including manual handling and health and safety. You will be willing to deputise for the Project Manager in their absence.

For more information and for details of how to apply, please contact the project manager: info@dezivesdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Closing date: Friday 28 February 2025

Interviews will be held week commencing 3 March 2025 (We reserve the right to close early or extend this date depending on the number of applicants.)

Dezives and District Foodbank is committed to achieve greater diversity and welcomes applications regardless of sex, gender, race, age, sexuality, belief or disability