



ST KATHARINE'S
C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Friendship, Effort, Respect,
& Honesty*

Friday 2nd May 2025
NEWSLETTER No: 15

Our Value This Term Is...

Creativity



Dear Parents,

What a difference a few short weeks make. As I typically write this letter from my office, it is amazing to look out today and see nothing but a blanket of green and blossom. I always think that the summer terms pay us back tenfold for the winter months when being a rural school in the middle of nowhere can feel a bit relentlessly muddy!

The children were delighted to be let out onto the field at lunch time this week, I know I have written about it before, but it is truly joyful to see how happy they are to have so much space to play in. I liken it to watching lambs let loose!

There are lots of exciting things to look forward to, in all parts of the school, between now and the end of July. Kicking off the fun of the summer term were Hazel Class who ventured to the Harold Hillier Gardens for a day of bug-hunting and pond dipping to name just a couple of the activities that they were involved in, not to mention the excitement of getting there on a bus! They were impeccably well behaved and both Mrs Freeman, Mrs Groves and (I hope) Mrs Lashford had a lovely time as well.

We have enjoyed a cricket taster day today courtesy of Wiltshire Cricket. Whilst we are not able to offer a cricket club at this time, please know that children are taught striking and fielding games in their PE lessons. Please follow up with this link: [Junior Cricket | Wiltshire Cricket](#) if you would like to find out more about how your child might get involved with cricket out of school. There are many local clubs that offer

cricket to younger children that I am sure would be delighted to receive enquiries off the back of promotion of the sport by the Wiltshire Cricket taster day.

As the term steams ahead (note that there are only 3 weeks left of this one already), please use the **Key Dates Planner** attached to support you. We recognise that it is a busy term with lots going on. As always, we appreciate your support in making sure that everyone is in the right place, at the right time, with the right things to hand, even if it is occasionally by the skin of your teeth! I promise that we do understand.

Ms Jones

'From little acorns, great oaks grow'



VE Day – Thursday 8th May

We are a little behind the curve with our communications around VE day, last term it was difficult to think too far beyond Easter in terms of school events.

As you will all be aware, it is 80 years since the end of WWII. A huge amount of time has passed, especially when considering what this means for our youngest children. It is firmly in the past for them. Our oldest learners study Britain at War as part of our history curriculum and learn about the significance of VE day as part of that learning. As such we are delighted that our Year 6 children have been invited to a picnic on Ramsbury Airfield on Friday 16th May, along with a few other local schools in celebration of this 80th anniversary. We will be teaching the significance of this event to all classes throughout next week in age-appropriate class-based sessions and thought it would be good to mark the day itself by asking the children to come to school wearing red, white and blue; all three colours together or individually. Have fun with that!

Gem Day Plans – Friday 23rd May

Again, due to events beyond our control in Terms 3 and 4 we are a little behind in our planning for the first Gem Day of the year. School council have canvassed the opinions of their peers and have come to the decision that Gem Day will consist of:

- A whole school non-uniform day
- An afternoon of planned activities that children can opt to take part in. *These will involve board games, sports, art, craft and building/construction etc...*

From your Governors...

Governors' visit 25th April 2025

Last Friday the teachers kindly opened their classroom doors for the governors to spend a morning sitting in lessons. It was a very interesting morning rotating between each class, observing and participating in the lessons. There was a focus on maths which helped us to see the continuity of teaching and progression between the year groups. The children were enthusiastic about their maths learning, asking questions and working well with their talk partners. They seemed confident to answer questions without minding if the answer was incorrect.

The governors particularly noted the continuity of teaching techniques between the year groups, examples include: using named lollipop sticks for asking questions, counting backwards to quieten the class and using talk partners to help each other learn. It was lovely to see Chestnut classroom in full use since the upgrade last year. The PTA would also be pleased to know that the new visualiser that they have recently funded was a hit in Mr Sandall's classroom!

Overall, the governors were all hugely impressed by the behaviour and politeness of the children, their eagerness to learn and participate and the general happy atmosphere in the classrooms and playground.

Caroline James

St Katharine's Academy Council

Attendance Update

Current whole school attendance data: 96.2%

Our end of year attendance target is: 97%

Thank you for your continued support with attendance; our data remains both above national and regional figures. We hope that as we move into the summer months absence due to illness will decrease, we will continue to maintain our attendance percentages and hit our end of year target.

Please be reminded that **any** request for an absence from school, *that is not related to illness on the day*, must be requested in writing. Local authorities will issue a penalty notice if your child has 10 unauthorised absences (5 school days) within any 10 weeks period. Please note that this does not re-set at the beginning of the academic year. In September, the previous 10-weeks are considered, which would include the end of the summer term. Current attendance legislation requires schools to give all holidays a specific attendance code (*G: holiday not granted by the school*) and as such holidays are not considered a legitimate reason for a child to be absent from school and are therefore categorised as unauthorised absence.

Bookmarks and Healthy Cakes Sale

Thank you to everyone who donated beads, thread and cakes, plus those who attended the sale on Friday 25th April organised by the School Council. It was well attended and raised an amazing £190, which will go towards equipment for forest school. Thank you again for your support.

Sporting Opportunities

Several regular sporting sessions have started up since the last newsletter: running after school club, maypole dancing after school club, In2Sport dance after school club, plus swimming (year 3). One off scootability sessions have also been provided.

Thank you for supporting us by signing your children up to take part in extracurricular activities when they are available. We try to offer a rich and diverse range of opportunities for the children. If there is anything you feel able to offer to the children in the way of a club/one off session, please do get in touch.

Sex and Relationships Information Meeting for Parents - Wednesday 21st May @ 2:30pm

We are running our usual parent information session (see above date). This short meeting will enable parents to gain an understanding of our SRE curriculum and the subject matter covered in our upcoming PSHE unit entitled *Changing Me* (Term 6). Whilst the content changes according to the age of the children, the unit title is the same for all year groups.

This is the **same** session that we ran last year. Please feel free to come along again or attend for the first time if you are new to school or didn't make it last year. The meeting will take place in Chestnut Class. Please come to the side door to be let in. We will be sending out materials after the session if you are unable to make it.

Key Dates Planner

Please find attached Key Dates Planner V3. This reflects all the dates that are currently in the school diary between now and the end of the school year. We will begin working on next years' calendar ready to send out at the end of Term 6 in readiness for the next academic year.

Bark Spreading

Ten bags of bark have been delivered and are currently sitting on the playground waiting to be spread on the play area. Consequently, we are on the hunt for a group of willing volunteers to visit school, shovel and rake in hand, to spend some time distributing bark! If you are happy to spare some time out in the sun surrounded by squirrels and small children, please get in touch with Hayley in the office. Tea and coffee will be provided! Many thanks for your support as always.

Lost property

The basket of lost property is currently overflowing! At last count, there were 27 school jumpers/cardigans/PE hoodies, 2 hats, 1 pair of trousers, 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. At the end of next week, all lost property will be donated to the second-hand uniform shop arranged by the PTA.

From the PTA...

Summer fete

The PTA Summer Fete will be held on **Saturday 7th June between 12 - 4pm** on the School Field.

We do hope to see lots of you there and please do spread the word to your family and friends to come and join us for a lovely afternoon.

There will be a teddy tombola, bottle tombola, bric-a-brac and toy stall this year so please start putting things aside to donate! We shall write again nearer the time with instructions of where to drop off any donations.

We are also looking for donations of plants for the plant stall if anyone has anything to donate.

As always, these events require volunteers to help us run the day, please speak to a member of the PTA team if you are able to help at all.

Bags2School

Thank you for those of you who donated items for Bags2schools - all bags donated raised £33.

Thank you for your support!

Savernake Fun Run

Registrations are flowing in for the Savernake Fun Run on Saturday 28th June! Hopefully those of you wishing to take part are now registered to do so, if not please head to the registration page to secure your place: www.savernake10k.co.uk/registration/

Registration is now open to all, so please help us to spread the word. The attached poster has all the details, please share with friends, family, WhatsApp groups, Facebook etc. The event is open to everyone, let's make it the best one yet!

And if running isn't your thing, you can still experience the endorphin rush by helping. We are looking for route marshals, parking marshals, timekeepers, check-in/finish desk attendants to name a few. Even if you plan to race either the 3K or 10K, there is still a role you can play. Please don't stand back and wait for

others to come forward, this event cannot happen without your support! If you feel you can contribute in any way, please drop an email to run@savernake10k.co.uk

Thank you for your support!

Georgie

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May	
Friday 2 nd	Whole School Cricket Taster Day
Monday 5 th	May Day Holiday School Closed
Tuesday 6 th	Yrs 3/4 Athletics Festival Burbage Primary School (small group) CANCELLED
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th	Key Stage 2 SATs week
Friday 16 th	Chestnut Class Stone Age morning Oxenwood visiting school
	Mobile Library visiting
	Year 6 visit to RAF Ramsbury Airfield
Sunday 18 th	Restless Development Triathlon Event
Tuesday 20 th	Year 6 pre-residential parents meeting 3.30pm (NOTE SLIGHT CHANGE OF TIME)
Wednesday 21 st	Sex and Relationships Information Evening for parents 2.30pm
	KS2 Music performance and workshops by Annabel Elkington
Friday 23 rd	Walk Safe Sessions Years 1,3 and 6
	Gem afternoon
	Last Day of Term 5
June	
Monday 2 nd	First Day of Term 6
	Whole School Photo and Year 6
Monday 2 nd (fortnight beginning)	Year 4 Multiplication check
Tuesday 3 rd	Sycamore visit to Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey

Friday 6 th	Accelerated Maths Day St Johns (small group)
	Maypole Dancing Afterschool Club final session Years 3-6
Saturday 7 th	PTA Summer Fete
Monday 9 th (week beginning)	Phonics screening check week
	Nursery visits for 2025 intake begin this week
	Red Ridge Residential – Year 6
Thursday 12 th	Braeside Year 4 Pre-residential meeting for parents 3.15pm
Friday 13 th	Yrs 5/6 Athletics at Marlborough College (small group)
	Mobile library visiting
	PTA Fathers' Day Shop
Monday 16 th (week beginning)	Nursery visits continue
Tuesday 17 th	New Reception parent information evening 6-7.30pm
	Whole school – Emergency Awareness Training, Wiltshire Air Ambulance
Thursday 19 th	Year 6 Parents' Info Evening at St. John's
Monday 23 rd	Year 6 Bikeability (day 1)
	Year 6 Uniform Fitting Evening at St. John's
Tuesday 24 th	Yrs 5/6 Rounders at St. Katharine's Primary School (small group)
Wednesday 25 th	Year 6 Bikeability (day 2)
Thursday 26 th	Final After School Running Club
Saturday 28 th	Savernake Fun Run

Please Note

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

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 sent at the beginning of Term 5.

Other things you might want to know...



**SAVERNAKE
3k & 10k
FUN RUN**

SATURDAY 28TH JUNE 2025

Arrive: From 8.30am
10k: Starts 9.30am
3k: Starts 11.00am

ADULTS & CHILDREN Welcome

Medals FOR ALL FINISHERS

ALL RACES START AND END ON OUR SCHOOL FIELD, WITH BBQ AND FUN FOR ALL!

PLACES ARE LIMITED, PLEASE PRE-REGISTER

www.savernake10k.co.uk
run@savernake10k.co.uk
 Find us on Facebook (Savernake 10k & 3k)

Charity number: 1004082




in2sport coaching

SCHOOL HOLIDAY MULTI SPORT CAMPS

FOR AGES 5 - 12 YEARS

MARLBOROUGH

- @ St Katharine's Primary School, SN8 3BG Dates: 27th May 2025
- @ Burbage Primary School, SN8 3TP Dates: 28th & 29th May 2025
- @ Burbage Primary School, SN8 3TP, Street Dance Camp Date: 30th May 2025

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

Time: 9am - 3pm Cost: £28.00 (£26.00 Early Bird Offer) Clothing: Sports clothes & trainers

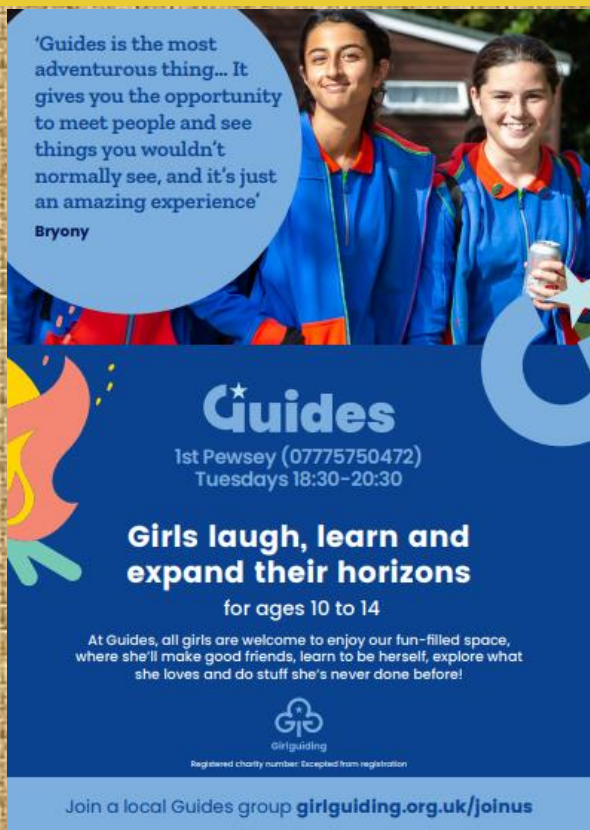
Additional hours are available from 8am - 4pm @ £5.50 per hour

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



'Guides is the most adventurous thing... It gives you the opportunity to meet people and see things you wouldn't normally see, and it's just an amazing experience'

Bryony


Guides

1st Pewsey (07775750472)
Tuesdays 18:30-20:30

Girls laugh, learn and expand their horizons

for ages 10 to 14

At Guides, all girls are welcome to enjoy our fun-filled space, where she'll make good friends, learn to be herself, explore what she loves and do stuff she's never done before!


girlguiding

Registered charity number: Exempted from registration

Join a local Guides group girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

St Katharine's School

FÊTE

Saturday 7th June
12-4pm
Free Entry

Games - Plants - Brickabrack
Toys - Books - Maypole
Cakes - BBQ - Bar
Mini Farm & lots more

Marlborough

TUESDAY 27th
Football / Basketball / Dodgeball
Athletics / Boccia & Curling / Badminton

WEDNESDAY 28th
Wet & Wheelie Wednesday** / Corner ball
Cricket / Flag Football / Goalball

THURSDAY 29th
Gladiators / Archery / Netball
Kick Rounders / Nerf / Hide & Seek

PLUS daily free play!

** Wet & Wheelie Wednesday **
To take part in these sessions, your child will need a scooter or bike PLUS a compulsory helmet. Bring a water gun, FULL change of clothes, and a towel.




Fun Creative Active Events SPORTS CAMPS

MARLBOROUGH ST.MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

£34 A DAY 8.30AM-5PM 5-11 YEAR OLDS

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FACE Sports Club | facesportsclub

