St. Katharine's C.E. (V.A.) Primary School

Whole School Newsletter Friday 20th November 2026

Worship

Last week we shared two worships based on the theme of Remembrance; Mrs St John shared the story of her grandad and Mr Jewell encouraged us to think about the important role that animals can play in helping people feel safe, comforted and supported. This week, Miss Spokes led a wonderful worship based on *The Bridge*, reminding us how books can help us understand one another, overcome differences and build bridges of friendship. We also loved 5IS's brilliant class worship, which was filled with dance, song and confidently delivered lines. Their message encouraged us all to show grace and create ripples of kindness that make St Katharine's a happy, caring and welcoming place for everyone.

Remembrance Day



The Year 6 team organised a Remembrance memorial outside school using recycled plastic bottles. Children from across Key Stage 2 carefully transformed the bottles into red poppies, which were draped over the tree at the front of school. The children from Year 6 had reflective worship by the memorial and used the time to think quietly of the sacrifices others have made for us. Throughout the school, classes marked the occasion with their own moments of reflection, demonstrating our values of Grace and Integrity as they remembered those who have served.



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Active Travel to School

Thank you for the continued support in enabling your children to travel actively to school. St Katharine's is currently ranked first in BCP for the number of children who are walking, cycling or scooting to school! As the weather turns more wintry, we would like to encourage you to continue travelling actively, perhaps parking at near Wick and walking trough the park and up the lane to school, or even parking near to the beach so you can enjoy the sea views on the way to school. Remember, children who travel actively at least once a week, every week for a month, earn a special badge which can be pinned onto their school bag.



Coats

Please could we ask that all children have a warm and waterproof coat at school every day to wear for outdoor play times.



Cross Country

This week years 4, 5 and 6 took part in cross country. We left school early to represent St. Katharine's against all the schools across BCP. We ran at the big field at King's Park, right next to the Vitality Stadium. Each year group had to work so hard – the year 4s had to run 1 lap (800m) and years 5 and 6 had to run 2 laps (1600m). Well done to everyone who competed. We achieved some amazing places: Many of the year 4s finished in the top ten, including 1st place by Peter. The year 5s had an amazing race – giving everything they had with Hanalei finishing 4th. The year 6s, who were more experienced, raced well with Harry finishing 2nd and Indigo 15th. It was a challenge for every runner as it was freezing conditions. Great job everyone – putting themselves forward for cross country.

Written by George and Henry V

FSK

We are delighted to share with you ***A Sky Full of Stars*** raised an incredible **£5,051!** This will go towards the exciting funding plans we have to further enhance the outdoor areas.

Our **Christmas raffle** is now live and we have over 100 spectacular prizes to be won!

Tickets are available online here: www.raffall.com/fskfundraising

We have also secured a second and final opportunity for you to order your child's personalised **Christmas cards**. The shop reopens today until midday on 30th November.



An Introduction to Autism and Neurodiversity for Parents

Please find attached a leaflet for a half-day session which provides parents with a basic overview of how Autism and Neurodiversity may present in children and young people.



Staff News

Good luck to Miss Moss, Year 5 teaching assistant, who will be leaving us at Christmas to relocate to Bath. Miss Moss has enjoyed her time at St Katharine's and we hope that we have inspired her to train to be a teacher in the future, having become such a fabulous TA. We are also looking forward to the return of Miss Batchelor soon, following her knee operation.

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Nut Free School

We would like to remind parents and carers that we are a nut free school. Please also check ingredients on packaged food that you send into school with your child. We have a number of children who can have a very serious allergic reaction should they come into contact with nuts.



Hot School Meals

Please remember to order your hot school meal by 12.00pm (midday) the day before the meal

Free School Meals
Are you entitled?

Free School Meals

As you may be aware, there are some important changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility that will come into effect from September 2026 The Government has announced that, from the start of the 2026/27 academic year, all children from households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals. This means that many more families will now be eligible for support.

BCP Council has advised that all families must submit a new Free School Meals application, including those whose children already receive Free School Meals.

If you currently receive Free School Meals, or if your household receives Universal Credit, please complete an application as soon as possible using the link below:
https://www.bcpcouncil.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/support-with-education/free-school-meals

We strongly encourage families to apply before the end of the summer term to ensure applications can be processed ahead of September.

Absence during term time

Please note no holidays are authorised during term time, please remember to use the 'Leave of Absence during term time' form, which can be found on our website using the link: Leave of absence during term time form.



Reporting Absences

If your child is absent due to illness please ring the school office and leave a voicemail on the absence line at 01202 426663 or email office@skps.email before 8.45am. Please remember to call in or email on each day of their absence.

2026-2027	
Autumn Term	Tuesday 1st September to Friday 18th December 2026 at 1.30pm
Nativities:	Year 1 & 2 – Tuesday 1st December 2026 @ 2.15pm
	Year 1 & 2 – Wednesday 2nd December 2026 @ 2.15pm
	Year 3 & 4 – Tuesday 8th December 2026 @ 2.05pm
	Year 3 & 4 – Wednesday 9th December 2026 @ 2.05pm
	Early Years – Tuesday 15th December 2026 @ 2.30pm
Year 2 Lighthouse Trip	Tuesday 8th December 2026
Pantomime & Christmas Lunch	Thursday 10th December 2026
Year 5 & 6 Musicians	Monday 14th December 2026
Year 5 & 6 Carol Service	Wednesday 16th December 2026 @ St. Katharine's Church at 6.00pm
Spring Term	Monday 4th January to Thursday25th March 2027 at 1.30pm
Spring Half Term	Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February 2027
Summer Term	Monday 12th April to Friday 16th July 2027 at 1.00pm
Summer Half Term	Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2027
Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May 2027
Inset Day	19th, 20th and 21st July 2027