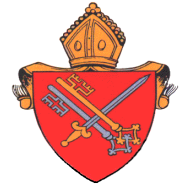




St. Katharine's C.E. (V.A.) Primary School



Whole School Newsletter

Friday 26th June 2026

**Our worship
Theme is:
Bags of Hope**

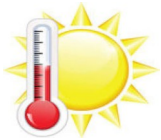
Worship

In worship we have continued to think about teddy bears, refugees and safety. Year 6 are going to Christchurch Priory next week and will be presenting our soft toy Paddington and Backpacks containing prayers and welcome messages; these will be blessed by Bishop Rhiannon and then given to a child refugee charity.

Last week, 2DS led their worship about World Ocean day and what a brilliant worship it was too! Due to the hot weather, only half the school watched 1DL's worship about summertime and light—the rest will watch it next week.

Heatwave

Thank you for all your supportive messages this week. Children and staff have been amazing. Hopefully it will cool down over the weekend, ready for sports day.



Sports Day

Please read the email about sports day sent yesterday.



Great Big Dance Off National Finals

Following their success at the South West heats in Swindon earlier this year, St Katharine's Dance Club proudly represented the school at The Great Big Dance Off National Finals. It was a fantastic day, and the dancers were superb ambassadors for our school, both on and off the stage. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the brilliant travelling supporters who made the journey to Oxford and cheered the group on so enthusiastically—your encouragement made a real difference and was greatly appreciated by the dancers. We are incredibly proud of everything the Dance Club achieved and look forward to seeing what they accomplish next, with excitement already building for next year's Great Big Dance Off!

Mini Olympics

On Tuesday, we had the privilege to visit Talbot Heath girls' private school to take part in a Mini Olympics sporting event. We were able to compete in a series of events like long jump, hurdles, throwing and a fun obstacle course! Although it was hot, we pushed through; in the end, we had a fantastic time, enjoyed every event, and encouraged each other throughout the day. By Siena and Jacob 6JH

Drum Workshop

Last week, on Wednesday, the year 4, 5 and 6 drummers gathered in the music room for an enthralling percussion experience. Graham, a talented percussionist, kindly led us in different beats and rhythms such as the Harry Potter theme tune. We were lucky enough to get to experiment with a range of unique instruments like the glockenspiel and surdos (a type of Brazilian samba drum). We learnt a song called 'oh when the saints come marching in' on the glockenspiels and surdos. It was an amazing experience and we learned so much. I think everyone will happily do it again. Siena and Jacob 6JH

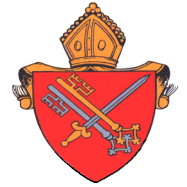
A Visit from Strider

On Monday, we were pleased to welcome Strider, the WOW Walk to School mascot, to St Katharine's. It was lovely to see so many children meet Strider, share their enthusiasm for travelling to school actively, and enjoy a few well-earned high fives and fist bumps! We're especially grateful the visit went ahead during the heatwave — we can only imagine how warm the oversized, fluffy foot costume must have been! Strider reminded the children that they will earn a WOW badge each month by travelling to school actively at least once a week — a great incentive to keep up the brilliant effort. We are also pleased to confirm that this initiative will continue into the new school year. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging active travel to and from school.





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Instrumental Lessons

If your child is currently in Year 3, 4 or 5 and would like to begin learning an instrument in September, please ensure you have filled in the online form: [Instrumental lessons September 2026 - July 2027 – Fill in form](#). Please complete by Monday 29th June 2026.



Meet the New Teacher

Children will be meeting their new teachers next week. Early Years pupils will meet their Year 1 teachers on Wednesday 1st July, and all other year groups will meet their new teachers on Thursday 2nd July. After these sessions, children will bring home a slip of paper confirming their new class and teacher.



Sports Day—Special meal

Please be reminded on Sports day on Monday, we have an exciting hot school meal of 'Hot Dog day' this can be ordered through Arbor by 12pm on Sunday. Hot dogs will be delivered to each classroom (except Early Years.)

Wild and Active Week

In two weeks' time, we will be celebrating Wild and Active Week. This will be a fantastic opportunity for pupils to enjoy a wide range of activities that promote learning, creativity, wellbeing and a love of the outdoors. Throughout the week, children will take part in exciting experiences including orienteering activities around the school grounds, Chance to Shine cricket sessions, art activities with the Russell-Cotes Museum, creative tasks linked to spirituality and philosophy, yoga and mindfulness sessions, and a special Wild and Active worship. Classes will also participate in a BioBlitz to explore local wildlife and habitats, while our Summer Spotlight performances will showcase pupils' talents and achievements. The week will conclude with the colourful and energetic FSK Colour Run. We are looking forward to seeing all of our children embrace new challenges, develop their skills and enjoy an unforgettable week of active learning and adventure.

FSK Colour Run

The FSK are thrilled to announce our very first Colour Run, taking place during the school day on Friday 10th July!

This is an inclusive event, and ALL children will take part in a fun-filled obstacle course. Additionally, children who wish to participate in the "coloured powder" fun, must have a ticket.

You can find full event information online and purchase your ticket here:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/st-katharines/>

We can't wait to see the school field filled with smiles, laughter, and every colour of the rainbow. It's going to be an amazing afternoon!

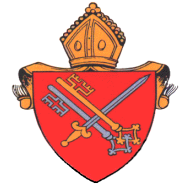
Water Safety this Summer

With the current heatwave and our wonderful location so close to the beach, it's been lovely to see and hear about so many children enjoying time by the water. However, warmer weather can also bring increased risks. This is an important reminder for us all to stay vigilant and continue sharing clear, consistent safety messages at home. Young children should always be closely supervised around water and kept within arm's reach, while older children and teenagers—although more independent—can still underestimate the dangers, particularly in open water. The RNLI encourages some key safety messages: stop and think, stay together, float to live if in difficulty, and call 999 or 112 if someone needs help. Where possible, choosing supervised locations such as lifeguarded beaches or swimming pools can make a big difference. We would also like to gently emphasise the importance of children learning to swim and building confidence in the water, including practising floating skills.





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Raring To Go

Please find the Raring2go! Summer 2026 Magazine below:

[CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#)

Activity Club Price Increase – September 2026

Due to the increasing costs to the school of running our activity clubs we will be increasing the weekly charges, this will take effect from September 2026, ALL school led activity clubs will increase to £3.85. We will maintain the 15% discount to cover for unplanned cancellations. AFCB Football club will increase from £6.00 per session to £6.60 and Avonbourne Gymnastics club will increase from £6.00 per session to £6.50.

Afterschool and Breakfast Club Price Increase – September 2026

Due to the increasing costs of running our afterschool and breakfast clubs we will be increasing charges as follows from September 2026:

Breakfast Club	Long session - from £6.00 per session to £6.60 per session
	Short session - from £4.00 per session to £4.40 per session
Afterschool Club	Full session - from £12.50 per session to £13.00 per session
	Post activity club session – from £9.00 per session to £9.15 per session

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.

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

If you think you may be eligible to apply for free school meals, please use the link below:

<https://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/support-with-education/free-school-meals>





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<u>2025-2026</u>	
Summer Term	Monday 13th April to Wednesday 22nd July 2026
Sports Day	Monday 29th June 2026 - All day event
Southbourne on Sea Parish Summer Fair, St Nicholas Church	Saturday 11th July 2026
Y6 Priory Leavers Service (children & staff only)	Tuesday 30th June 2026
Y6 Bikeability	Weds 1st July 2026, Thursday 2nd July, Friday 3rd July 2026
Y6 Leavers Service all day rehearsal	Tuesday 14th July 2026
FSK Colour Run	Friday 10th July 2026, 1.30pm to 3.15pm
Y6 Leavers Service	Whole School—Wednesday 15th July (am) Y6 Parents/Carers— Wednesday 15th July (2pm)
End of Term	Friday 17th July 2026 at 1.00pm—Inset Days: 20th, 21st and 22nd July 2026
<u>2026-2027</u>	
Autumn Term	Tuesday 1st September to Friday 18th December 2026 at 1.30pm
Inset Day	Tuesday 1st September 2026
Inset Day	Friday 23rd October 2026
Autumn Half Term	Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October 2026
Spring Term	Monday 4th January to Thursday 25th March 2027 at 1.30pm
Spring Half Term	Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February 2027
Summer Term	Monday 12th April to Wednesday 21st 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