



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

Whole School Newsletter

Friday 16th October 2026



Worship

Over the past few weeks, our worships have celebrated the value and uniqueness of every individual. Mrs St John's worship, based on the Parable of the Lost Sheep, featured Year 1 children dressed as sheep and a Year 6 shepherd, reminding us that every person is precious to Jesus and that no one is ever forgotten. Mrs St John also reminded us of the Parable of the Mustard Seed, with children building a den to reflect on belonging. Just as the mustard seed grows into a tree where birds can gather and rest, we were reminded that at school we want to create a place where everyone is welcomed, valued and able to flourish. A group of year 6 children led a thoughtful worship inspired by the words, *"For we are God's masterpiece"* (Ephesians 2:10). Children reflected on what makes us unique and challenged us to show kindness, respect and appreciation for one another, helping everyone feel valued and included. This was followed by child-led worships in every class, with all pupils responding to their peers with thoughtful ideas. We look forward to developing more of these opportunities throughout the year. We were also proud to see Mr Howlett's class, 6JH, brilliantly lead the first full class worship of the year for World Values Day, showcasing our values of grace, integrity and aspiration.

Food Support for Families

Following changes to government funding, supermarket vouchers for school holidays will no longer be issued from October 2026 half term onwards. A copy of a letter from BCP is attached.

Move in 7 ways in 7 days

Get involved in a local challenge from our School Games Organiser in Bournemouth over half term - family members can get involved too! How many different ways can you find to move over the week? You can complete the physical activity log attached to this newsletter and enter a prize draw at the end to have a chance of winning activity vouchers. Enter the draw via this link: <https://forms.gle/WjWkAnuU9FQHlcSLA>



Aloha Disco

We saw some brilliant dance moves and high energy at last night's disco. Massive thanks to FSK for organising such a fantastic evening as always and to all the volunteers who gave up their time to help.



Tom Hayes MP – Christmas Card Competition

Tom Hayes MP is holding a Christmas Card competition where children from BCP can design a Christmas Card which he will use to send to his constituents. Any children who were interested in taking part in this competition should be bringing home a form today to complete their design at home. If your child doesn't bring a form and they would like to take part then please ask their Class Teacher for a form.



A Fantastic Day of Cross Country!

At King's Park Stadium, the facilities were excellent for the excited young runners from Years 4, 5 and 6.

When we arrived for the event, everyone was feeling nervous, especially the Year 4s! However, those nerves soon turned into excitement when one of our teammates from St Katharine's raced to first place in the Year 4 race. What an amazing achievement! Next up were the Year 5s, who also put in some fantastic performances. One of our runners finished in 9th place, which was a brilliant result! Finally, it was time for the Year 6s to take to the track. Our teammates ran brilliantly, achieving an incredible set of results: 2nd, 14th, 16th, 22nd, 27th and 34th place!

Overall, it was a fantastic day of racing, full of determination, teamwork and some outstanding achievements. Well done to everyone who took part and represented St Katharine's so brilliantly!

Written by Mikah and Lucas

A Fantastic Day of Girls' Football!

At 11:45, we set off to compete in an exciting girls' football tournament, with Beau Crump leading the team as captain. We were competing in League Two, where some fantastic football was played! In our first three matches, we had a brilliant 1–0 victory, with Hanalei scoring the winning goal, a narrow 2–1 defeat, with Indigo scoring an incredible goal from before the halfway line, and a goalless 0–0 draw. Everyone showed great determination and teamwork throughout! We then played three more matches and continued to give it our all. Our first game in this league was an outstanding 6–0 victory! Verity scored a hat-trick, Hanalei netted two goals, and Poppy added another to complete a fantastic team performance. We lost our second match 2–0 but we bounced back brilliantly to secure another 1–0 win in our final game. What a way to finish!

Although we didn't win the overall tournament, we gained so much more than results. We built friendships, strengthened our teamwork and made some amazing memories along the way. We're incredibly proud of how we played, and we can't wait to continue our football journey.

Written by Verity and Indigo



Year 6 Football

This weeks, we were invited to the football tournament and were all nervous, hoping to do as well as last year. When we arrived, there were lots of schools there such as St. Peters, Pokesdown and Stoufield. During our first match, we showed that we can all show teamwork by helping each other and knowing where everyone was. Some of the teams we played had really good quality players that played really well. Overall, it was a great tournament and we all had a lot of fun whether we won or lost because we win as a team and lose as a team.

Written by Toby and Henry



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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

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.



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<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
Parents Evenings	Tuesday 20 th October 2026 – 3.30pm to 7.00pm Wednesday 21 st October 2026 – 3.30pm to 6.00pm
Autumn Half Term	Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October 2026
Nativities:	Year 1 & 2 – Tuesday 1 st December 2026 @ 2.15pm
	Year 1 & 2 – Wednesday 2 nd December 2026 @ 2.15pm
	Year 3 & 4 – Tuesday 8 th December 2026 @ 2.05pm
	Year 3 & 4 – Wednesday 9 th December 2026 @ 2.05pm
	Early Years – Tuesday 15 th December 2026 @ 2.30pm
Pantomime & Christmas Lunch	Thursday 10 th December 2026
Year 5 & 6 Musicians	Monday 14 th December 2026
Year 5 & 6 Carol Service	Wednesday 16 th December 2026 @ St. Katharine's Church at 6.00pm
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