



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

Whole School Newsletter

23rd January 2026



Our worship
Theme is:
Being included

Worship

Mrs St John's worship focused on the theme of *being included*. She used the song "**Consider Yourself One of Us**" to show everyone the importance of having a school where people with different talents come together, and how—although we are all different—everyone is equally important. The children also thought about the Bible quote, "**You are God's masterpiece,**" which reminded us of the important role each one of us plays in this world. Last week, Mr Jewell led a thoughtful worship based on the **Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14–30)**. In the parable, a master gives three servants different amounts of money—called *talents*—and asks them to look after it while he is away. Two of the servants use what they have been given and make more, but one hides his talent in the ground and does nothing with it. Although the story is about money, Mr Jewell used its message to explore something even more personal for the children: the gifts each of us has been given. The children were encouraged not to waste their own 'talents' - their skills, interests and unique strengths - but instead to use them confidently. The House and Vice Captains of Bear Grylls House led a fantastic, action-filled worship which focused on the importance of being a guiding light to others by being resilient and using set backs to inspire you.

Children's Prayer

Following Mrs St John's worship about belonging and us all being God's masterpiece, Indigo, Beau and Lorelei wrote a prayer each. Here is the collective version of all of their prayers:

Dear God

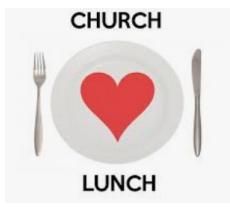
Thank you for giving us the luck to join in with all our clubs and for all the opportunities we have at school. Thank you for helping us understand that we are all God's masterpiece. We are grateful for the many friends we make at and for the chance to belong, thrive and flourish in life.

Sorry that we are sometimes greedy, ungrateful, or take things for granted. Sorry if sometimes we judge people, or forget to show our values – grace, integrity and aspiration. Please teach us to respect others as we would like to be respected and to show grace in everything we do and say.

Help us to live our school values so we can support others and be optimistic, included, and hopeful in all that we do.

Amen.

Open For Lunch



On Monday 19th January, two more year six children - Frankie and Lorenzo - attended the Open for Lunch session at the St Katharine's Church Parish Centre. As in previous months, the children served a selection homemade soups and offered some delicious puddings to some very grateful diners. Once again, the children really enjoyed meeting members of the church community but they especially enjoyed having the opportunity to sample some of the food being served! They represented the school brilliantly and definitely brightened up a lot of people's 'blue Monday'.



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The Great Big Birdwatch 2026

The Great Big Birdwatch 2026 took place at St Katharine's Primary School last week. During the week, each class took part in an outdoor Birdwatch session. Children approached the task with real focus and were pleased to identify a range of species often seen around the Hengistbury Head area. Among the most noted were robins, blackbirds, blue tits, great tits and magpies—along with a few exciting sightings of bullfinches. Although, the most unique sighting, perched on the school roof, was Mr Vallins, the site manager! The week gave pupils a meaningful chance to observe local wildlife more closely, and their careful recording contributed to a successful Birdwatch across the school.

As the children found the birdwatching very interesting, we thought we would share a free app with you. It listens to the birds around you and shows real-time suggestions for who's singing which we thought you might want to use when you are out on walks in the local area. <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download/> Happy listening!

Big Schools' Birdwatch



Sporting News—Indoor Athletics Competition

On Wednesday, some of St Katharine's children in year 5 and 6 represented the school in an indoor athletics competition at Avonbourne Academy.

The results are as follows: the girls team won with 104 points, and the boys won with 96 points. St Katharine's were the overall winners with an impressive 200 points! It was not so easy though; we had to use resilience and collaboration to win. So now we are going to the Bournemouth Finals in February to try our best once again.

By Ed and Marnie, Y6



FSK Quiz Night!

Our adults Quiz Night is next **Thursday 29th January**. Guaranteed to be an evening full of FUN with lots of prizes to be won! We will also be playing some games including BINGO at just £1 per game, so please do bring along some loose change.

We are introducing Bring Your Own Booze and snacks (no nuts), as well as offering soft drinks and hot drinks for sale.

Further info and tickets are available here: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/st-katharines>



Parents Evening—Spring Term 2026

Our in-person Parents and Carers Evening takes place on Tuesday 24th February and Thursday 26th February. Appointments will be open in Arbor to book on Monday 2nd February at 7.00pm. Please only book one appointment per child.

School Nursing—Drop in Sessions

NHS School Nursing Parent will be in school on Wednesday 11th February from 8:45am at school for their drop-in sessions.

Sessions are designed to support parents with common childhood concerns such as toileting, night time wetting, sleep, nutrition, growth concerns, and they can also signpost parents to other services. If you would like to see the School Nurse, please contact the school office to book an appointment.





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Nut Free School

We would like to remind parents and carers that we are a nut free school. We have a number of children who can have a very serious allergic reaction should they come into contact with nuts.



Are you entitled?

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.bcp council.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/support-with-education/free-school-meals>



Wraparound Childcare—Breakfast and After School Club

Breakfast and afterschool clubs are available book in Arbor until the end of term. Please remember to book your child into the session that you wish them to attend. Places cannot be guaranteed if you have not booked in advance.

Breakfast Club Early 7:45- 8:45am £6:00

Breakfast Club Later 8:15- 8:45am £4:00

Afterschool Club 3:15- 6:00pm (Mon-Thurs), 3:15-5:45pm (Fri) £12:50

Post Activity Afterschool Club 3:15-6:00pm (Mon-Thurs), 3:15-5:45pm (Fri) £9:00

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We still have spaces in many of our extra curricular clubs. If you wish to book your child into a club, they are available in Arbor until the end of January.

2025-2026	
<u>Spring Term</u>	Monday 5th January to Friday 27th March 2026
<u>Life Education Van</u>	Monday 26th January - Thursday 29th January 2026
<u>Spring Half Term</u>	Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February 2026
<u>Parents Evening</u>	Tuesday 24th February and Thursday 26th February 2026
<u>End of Term</u>	Friday 27th March 2026 at 1.30pm
<u>Summer Term</u>	Monday 13th April to Wednesday 22nd July 2026
<u>Summer Half Term</u>	Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026
<u>End of Term</u>	Friday 17th July 2026 at 1.00pm
<u>Inset Days</u>	Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd July 2026