



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

Whole School Newsletter

13th March 2026



## Worship

We have continued with our Bags of Hope worship theme and have been thinking about spaces where we feel safe and where we belong. The children learned that in the Old Testament, Moses led the Israelites out of danger in Egypt until they reached the promised land of a new, safe home - a sanctuary.

"And let them make me a sanctuary; that they may dwell among them." Exodus 25:8

We talked about how we want to make our school feel like a sanctuary for everyone and discussed why sanctuaries are so important. Keith Jewell also led a worship on the power of offering hope through kind and encouraging words. He shared the story of Barnabas, the "Son of Encouragement," from the Book of Acts and the children reflected on how they too can use their words to support and uplift others.

## Great Big Dance Off—Success on Stage

Last week, the St Katharine's Dance Club travelled to Swindon's Wyvern Theatre to compete in the 'Great Big Dance Off' against over twenty schools from the South West region. The dancers performed superbly and impressed the full auditorium with their energetic and colourful dance based on the story of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The judges were as impressed as the audience as the St Katharine's Dance Club were awarded second place and will now progress on to the National Finals which take place at The New Theatre, in Oxford, in June. Congratulations to the dancers and thank you to the many parents who were able to travel up to Swindon to cheer them on!





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## STEM Week

Next week we are excited to be hosting STEM Week in school. We will begin on Monday with our STEM Fair, where children will have the opportunity to explore a range of careers within the STEM industries. Throughout the week, we will also be welcoming visitors from St Peter's Secondary School and Bournemouth School, who will be working with our pupils on a variety of activities.

In addition, children will take part in engaging and hands-on STEM challenges within their classrooms. We hope they return home full of enthusiasm, ready to share what they've learned, and perhaps even feel inspired to pursue future STEM pathways.

The STEM Team (Mrs Gadd, Miss Scarratt, Miss Mucha and Mr Pepper)

## Open for Lunch

On Monday 9th March, we went to St Katharine's Church to support with their 'Open for Lunch' session. We first welcomed the guests and poured them each a glass of water. We served soups, which were either vegetable, leak & potato or carrot & coriander with a bread roll. There were also homemade puddings - either apple & blackcurrant crumble or pineapple upside down cake served with cream or custard (or both!). We even got to try some - which we loved! We felt like we were real waiters in a posh restaurant and we loved talking to the guests.

By Nancy, Nyah and Lucy (year 5)

## Young Voices

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 33 members of Y5&6 set off to take part in a Young Voices performance at the O2 arena in London as part of an 8000 strong choir of primary pupils. They had been rehearsing since September to learn the repertoire.

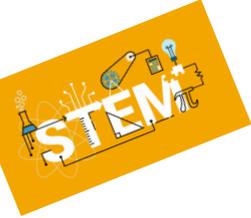
James and Arlo 6TW have written about the day.

*Young Voices was an amazing experience due to all the fun singing, live performances and wild dances. We arrived at school in the morning to prepare for our long trip to the O2. Our journey started well but when we got to Fleet Services our coach wouldn't start; luckily a new coach came just in time. When we arrived, we got escorted from the coach to the O2 performance centre where we ate our lunch. Then the performance started and we watched loads of cool dances and live professional singers and we sung loads too. We had an amazing time. At the end of the performance we made our way through the dark back to the coach to begin our long journey back.*

*It was certainly a day to remember.*

## Performing Arts

This week, the children in years 1, 2 and 3 were treated to a brilliant performance from the St Peter's Year 12 BTEC Performing Arts students. The students had visited the children in year 2 previously to gather their ideas for devising the show including the types of characters, music and even storyline. The children loved the fact that they had helped to inspire the piece. It shared the message of the importance of kindness and was filled with lots of laughter and dancing - the children (and staff!) were captivated!





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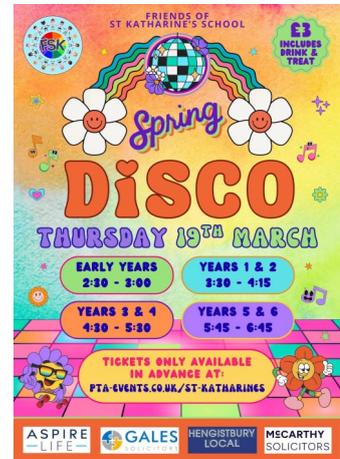
13th March 2026



## FSK - Spring Disco

Our Spring Disco is NEXT WEEK on Thursday 19th March. Full information and ticket's are available here:

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



## After School Pottery Club

Mrs Massie who runs the after school pottery club has kindly shared some photographs of the art project the children are currently working on. The children have worked hard, embracing all the pottery skills they have been taught and have created some wonderful Woodland Fairy Doors.



## 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.



## 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>	
<u>Spring Term</u>	Monday 5th January to Friday 27th March 2026
<u>STEM Fair</u>	Monday 16th March 2026
<u>Year 1 Moors Valley Trip</u>	Wednesday 18th March 2026
<u>FSK School Disco</u>	Thursday 19th March 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>Year 3 Swimming</u>	Starts Tuesday 14th April until Tuesday 23rd June
<u>Year 6 Residential</u>	Wednesday 20th May—Friday 22nd June 2026
<u>Summer Half Term</u>	Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026
<u>Sports Day</u>	Monday 29th June 2026 - All day event
<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

