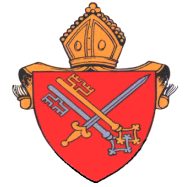




St. Katharine's C.E. (V.A.) Primary School

Whole School Newsletter

24th April 2026



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

Worship

Since the start of the summer term, our whole-school worship has continued to focused on the Diocese of Winchester theme Bags of Hope, encouraging children to think about how we can offer kindness, welcome and hope to displaced people and refugees. Guided by Jesus' words, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35), Mrs St John shared the story The Suitcase, helping children reflect on understanding others' experiences and the importance of a compassionate welcome. Reverend Powis led a thoughtful worship on the road to Emmaus, encouraging the children to recognise Jesus in unexpected places and to show kindness to everyone they meet. Miss Spokes introduced the story Wisp, which supported the children in thinking about how they can spread hope through their words and actions.

Our New Parish—Southbourne-on-Sea—Message from our Vicar

Since the 1st of April the school is now in a different Parish. It hasn't moved anywhere but the Parish has, the old parishes of All Saints and St. Katharine's & St. Nicholas are now unified into the parish of Southbourne-on-Sea.

Rev. Mike Powis is now officially vicar of the school so his role has become more official.

Regular worship will continue in all 3 churches at the moment, with a more contemporary service at 9.00 every Sunday at St. Nicholas and a more traditional offering at 10.30.

We in the churches so hope to continue our great relationship with the school and visaversa.

Wildlife sanctuary

We are excited to be planning a small wildlife area within the school grounds. Our Year 2 children have produced some wonderful designs and are very keen to see their ideas become a reality. We would like to create spaces where wildlife can flourish, so if you have any rockery type stones at home that you would be willing to donate, please contact the school. We would also welcome any advice or support about what this space could look like; if you are able to help, please contact the school office to speak with Mrs Gadd or Miss Scarratt.

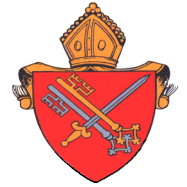
Supporting Young Carers – MyTime

For several years, we have been proud to work alongside MyTime Young Carers, a charity supporting young carers. MyTime defines a young carer as a child or young person under 18 who helps to look after someone in their family home who is ill, disabled, living with a mental health condition or affected by substance misuse. Nationally, 1 in 10 children are considered young carers, and many families may not realise that their child takes on (or intends to take on) a caring role at home. Through this partnership, we are pleased to be able to offer or signpost young carers to support in and out of school, including activities that allow them time to relax, have fun and simply be children, without the worry of their





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caring responsibilities. If you feel your child may be a young carer, please contact Mrs Burton via the school office. <https://www.mytimeyoungcarers.org/>

School Travel Plan

As part of our *Walk to School* initiative, we are developing a School Travel Plan to help make journeys to and from school safer, healthier and more sustainable. If you haven't yet had an opportunity to respond, BCP Council has provided a short parent survey which we would be grateful if you could complete by Friday 1st May using the link below:

[Parent Survey](#)

Your feedback will help shape future improvements for our whole school community. Thank you for your continued support.

Playtime and Lunchtime Provision

Following the collection of whole school pupil voice, our playtime and lunchtime provision has been revised to ensure all children have spaces where they feel safe, included and that they belong. In addition to the extensive activities available across our front and back playgrounds and wooded areas, there are now calm spaces, indoor and outdoor sanctuaries and a wide range of sports and activity clubs. These are led by Mr Burke, Mr Jones and our Year 5 and 6 Sports Ambassadors, whose leadership has been an important part of this work. These adjustments have been introduced directly in response to children's feedback and have already proved to be a great success!

Bournemouth Performing Arts Competition

This morning 50 member of the combined Y2/3 and Y4,5/6 Choirs took part in the Bournemouth Performing Arts Competition. We were one of 8 primary school choirs. The adjudicator was very impressed with all the performances, and we were delighted to be awarded 2nd place.

The adjudicator comments on our performance included "you really got involved in this piece and showed skills to entertain us. Everyone was working hard together which was excellent". Commenting on our second performance they said "There was lots to enjoy here, almost everything was together and accurate".

We were so proud of the choir's performance and their attitude during this morning's event.

FSK Update:

Please find attached our **Round-Up** with latest news and upcoming events!

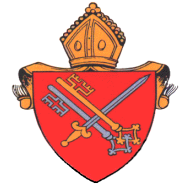
Don't forget we have our **Bag2School** collection on Monday 27th April, please do have a good clear out over the weekend!

This is also the last weekend for children to complete their **Challenge 26**, with money raised due on Monday 27th April, thank you!





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Smartphone Parent Workshop - Wednesday 29th April 2026



Staff from St Peter's School will give a presentation regarding smartphone use. They will share practical strategies and insights to help families support children in developing safe and healthy habits when using smartphones. We hope these sessions will provide valuable guidance and an opportunity to ask questions and discuss common concerns around smartphone use.

Session will take place on Wednesday 29th April in the school hall, with two opportunities to attend at 9:00am or at 2:45pm. There is no need to book a space, please feel free to just turn up.



School Nurse Drop in Session

The next school nurse drop in session will be on Tuesday 19th May from 8:45—10:00am. If you would like an appointment with the school nurse, please contact the school office.



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

2025-2026	
<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>Indoor Athletics County Final</u>	Friday 1st May 2026
<u>Year 3 & Year 5 BSO Poole Lighthouse Trip</u>	Wednesday 20th May 2026—Return to school by lunchtime
<u>Year 6 Residential</u>	Wednesday 20th May—Friday 22nd May 2026
<u>Summer Half Term</u>	Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026
<u>Great Big Dance Off Final</u>	Monday 15th June 2026
<u>Sports Day</u>	Monday 29th June 2026 - All day event
<u>End of Term</u>	Friday 17th July 2026 at 1.00pm—Inset Days: 20th, 21st and 22nd July 2026

