



Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been delightful to have the children back in school this week, looking fresh-faced and raring to start their learning journeys! It was also lovely to see our new Nursery and Reception children settling in well, exploring their learning environments and making new friends. There is certainly a buzz around the school and I have been impressed with the children's engagement and learning behaviour in class, with our new school values on the tip of everyone's tongues.

Thank you to all the parents and carers, who attended the 'Meet the Headteacher' sessions this week – your feedback is most appreciated. A reminder that the final presentation will be held on **Monday from 5.30pm in the Hall**. Please note that the presentation will be uploaded to the school website on Tuesday for anyone that was unable to attend.

Parent Voice

Very informative. I'm excited to see the new changes come in over the next school term. Exciting times ahead.

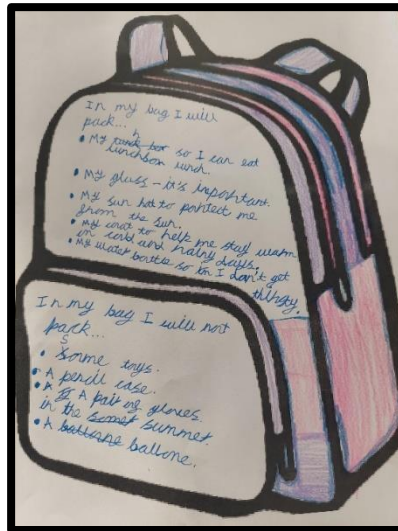
Curriculum Update

This week the children participated in a number of creative and interactive tasks that focused on our new school values: **Respect, Resilience, Responsibility, Compassion, Community & Excellence**. Below are some examples of the activities that took place and comments from the children.

Reception: The children discussed the wonderful talents they have. **"I am excellent because I am good at drawing robots."**



Year 3: The children learnt about Reggie Responsibility and how to be responsible both in school and at home. **"I am responsible at St Katherine's by tidying up the equipment I have used."**



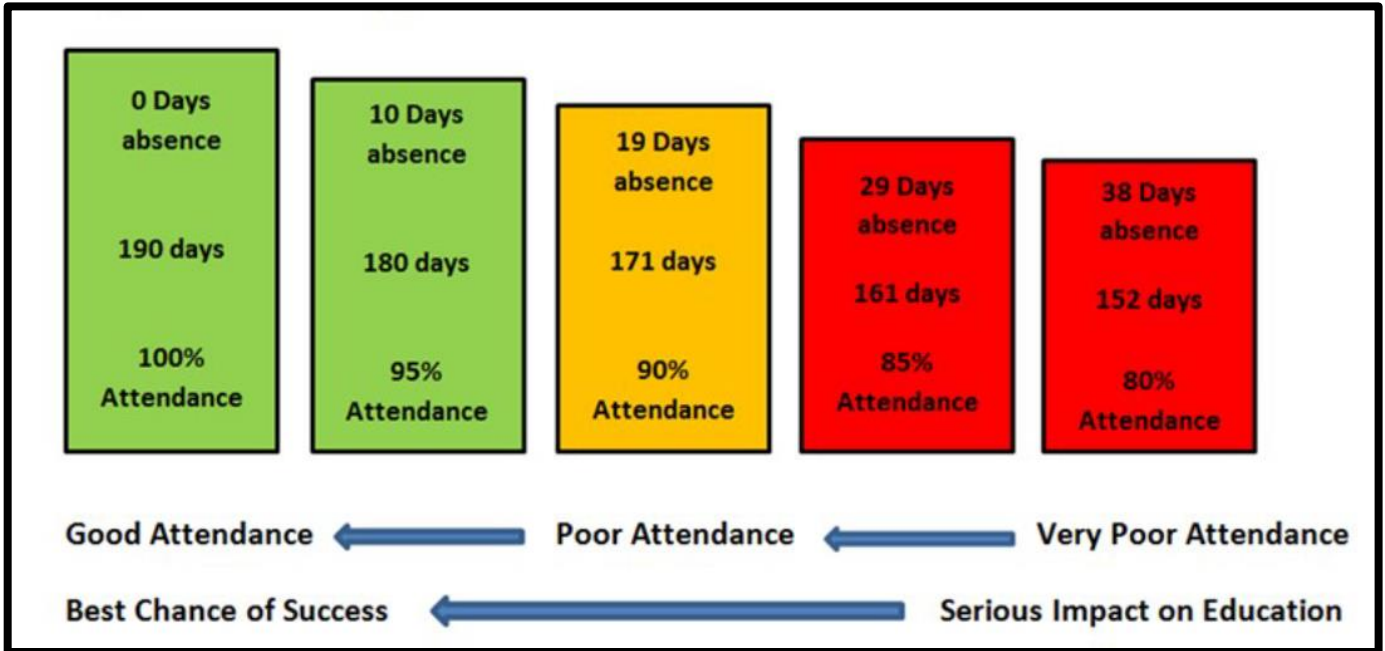
Year 5: **"I enjoyed learning about compassion. We painted kindness rocks with motivational messages for other children."**



Year 6: **"We had to show resilience and community skills in our challenges this week. I enjoyed working as a team and didn't give up! We managed to complete our challenges."**



Attendance Matters!



Year	Classes		
R	Bramley -	Gala -	Pippin -
1	Peach 97%	Pear 95%	
2	Cherry 97%	Quince 91%	
3	Almond 95%	Hazel 98%	Walnut 97%
4	Spruce 98%	Pine 95%	
5	Cedar 93%	Teak 98%	Mahogany 95%
6	Ash 95%	Oak 89%	



School Target: 96%

Whole School Attendance: 95.21%

Ambassador Elections

We were very excited to hold our Year 6 Ambassador elections today, where twelve eager individuals presented speeches during Celebration Assembly. I was extremely impressed with the quality of the speeches; all the children conveyed their love for St Katherine's and their passion to further improve the school. They really did go for it, using humour, personal slogans, rhetorical questions and sheer passion to persuade their audience to vote for them.



Children across the school have now voted for their candidate and the results will be announced early next week. Thank you to all the candidates for the effort that they put into their presentations.



Reading at St Katherine's

At St Katherine's, **reading is at the very heart of the curriculum.** Children learn to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, and apply their reading skills across other subject areas.

We actively encourage 'reading for pleasure' through our classroom reading corners, the school library, Scholastic Book Fairs, our Community Book Nooks (which will open shortly), and our 'Race to Read' competition. I am also delighted to announce that our new reading vending machine will be delivered next week, and we will be visited by the Mayor to officially unveil it on Wednesday 20th September. All of the above strategies have been put in place to help cultivate a community of readers throughout the school.

I kindly ask that parents/ carers support the school's drive to ensure that all children are fluent readers, who read widely and for pleasure. You can do this by **listening to your child read on a daily basis.** Teachers will discuss this in more detail during your 'Meet the Teacher' presentations, which start from next week.



Roald Dahl Day: To celebrate one of our most treasured authors, teachers will be reading extracts from Roald Dahl books throughout the week. I will also be sharing some of my favourite Roald Dahl characters during my assembly.



Home School Partnership

We truly value our relationship with parents and the importance of working professionally together to improve the school. Please note that all correspondence between parents and staff (verbal or emails) should always be polite and respectful. We have a common goal in that we both want the very best for the children and I am looking forward to collaborating closely with parents/ carers to achieve this.

I will shortly be creating a new **Parent Voice Group**, where one parent/ carer will be elected as a class representative and attend termly meetings with myself to discuss how we can move the school forward. I will send a letter out next week to outline next steps and I hope to meet with the Parent Voice group before the half term.



Queries & Concerns: Please note that if you have a query or concern regarding your child the following steps should be followed.

- 1) Arrange a convenient time to talk to **the class teacher.**
- 2) If the concern is not resolved, please arrange a convenient time to talk to the **Leader of Learning** (outlined below):

Year Group	Leader of Learning
Reception	Mrs Brookman
Year 1	Mrs Kenney
Year 2	Mrs Elliott
Year 3	Mrs Wright
Year 4	Mrs Allen
Year 5	Mrs Kane
Year 6	Mrs Holt

- 3) If the concern or query is still not resolved, please arrange a convenient time to talk to a member of Senior Leadership Team (see below).

Query or Concern	Senior Leader
Relating to a child in EYFS & KS1 (Infants)	Miss Aikenhead (Deputy Headteacher)
Relating to a child in KS2 (Juniors)	Mr Tweddle (Assistant Headteacher)
Relating to Special Educational Needs	Mrs Loveland (Inclusion Lead)

- 4) Any concern that still remains unresolved at this point will be referred to myself (Headteacher).

Polite Reminders

Thank you for ensuring that the children returned to St Katherine's in full school uniform this week – everyone looked extremely smart. Please note we will require a note from parents/ carers if children are sent to school without wearing the correct uniform (e.g. shoes) to explain the reason why.



Earrings: I have noticed that children have been wearing a range of different earrings into school this week. Please be aware that **only small, plain stud earrings are permitted to be worn.**

Bracelets and Wrist Bands: Some children have returned from the summer holidays with bracelets or wrist bands. I kindly ask that **these remain at home from Monday.**

Dogs

Please note that dogs belonging to parents/ carers **are not permitted on the school premises at any time**, this includes if they are being carried. We have a number of children that are apprehensive around dogs and therefore I kindly ask that parents refrain from bringing them into school.



Mylo, our dog mentor, is the only animal that is permitted to be on site. He has been trained from a young age to be comfortable and calm in the presence of children, and he is used to being in and around the school environment, where our children continually come into contact with him. Mylo is an integral part of the nurture provision at St Katherine's and many children continue to benefit from his intervention.



Happy Shoes Day

We will be holding 'Happy Shoes Days' every half term to promote the benefits of walking to school, which includes children's participation in exercise and the reduction of air pollution in the local environment.

On these days, parents/ carers are encouraged to either walk to school or park and stride. Additionally, the children should wear footwear that makes them feel happy. This could range from colourful trainers to wellies. For the safety of the children, **we kindly ask that football boots or wheelies are not worn to school on this day.**

The first Happy Shoes Day will take place on **Friday 22nd September.**



Key Dates



DATE	EVENT
Monday 11 th September 2023	Parent 'Meet the Headteacher at 5.30pm - Hall
Thursday 14 th September 2023	Year 5 Meet the Teacher at 2:30pm – Hall
Friday 15 th September 2023	Year 1 Meet the Teacher at 2:30pm – Hall
Monday 18 th September 2023	Year 2 Meet the Teacher at 2:30pm – Hall
Tuesday 19 th September 2023	Year 3 Meet the Teacher at 2:30pm – Hall
Wednesday 20 th September 2023	Year R Meet the Teacher at 2:30pm – Hall
Thursday 21 st September 2023	Year 4 Meet the Teacher at 2:30pm – Hall
Friday 22 nd September 2023	Year 6 Meet the Teacher at 2:30pm – Hall
Friday 22 nd September 2023	Happy Shoes Day

Have a lovely weekend

Mr. Lang
Headteacher