



# St Katherine's School & Nursery



## Parent / Carer Welcome Booklet



**Creating our future by learning together.**

Mr Lang – Headteacher



## Contents

WELCOME TO ST KATHERINE’S SCHOOL & NURSERY.....	4
HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT.....	5
NURSERY - FREE EARLY YEARS EDUCATION.....	6
PAID EARLY EDUCATION.....	7
STARTING AT ST KATHERINE’S SCHOOL & NURSERY.....	8
SCHOOL LIFE.....	9
BEGINNING OF SCHOOL DAY.....	9
END OF SCHOOL DAY.....	9
ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE.....	9
WHY DOES ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY MATTER?.....	9
HOME LEARNING.....	10
OUTDOOR LEARNING.....	10
OUTDOOR LEARNING FOR NURSERY & RECEPTION.....	10
SWIMMING.....	10
SCHOOL FACILITIES.....	10
PUPIL VOICE.....	10
SCHOOL CLUBS.....	11
COMMUNICATION.....	11
PAYMENTS.....	11
WEBSITE AND TWITTER.....	11
PARENT NEWSLETTER.....	11
PARENT VOICE GROUP.....	11
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION.....	11
PROFESSIONS.....	11
EDUCATIONAL VISITS.....	12
SPECIALIST SUPPORT.....	12
WRAP AROUND CARE.....	13
FIRST AID.....	13
MEDICINES IN SCHOOL.....	13
EPI-PENS/ PRESCRIBED CREAMS.....	14
ASTHMA.....	14
FREE SCHOOL MEALS & FAMILY SUPPORT.....	14
FREE SCHOOL MEALS.....	14
WATER BOTTLES & SNACKS.....	14
HEALTHY LUNCHBOX & SINGLE USE PLASTICS.....	15
SCHOOL UNIFORM.....	15



WINTER UNIFORM: .....	16
SUMMER UNIFORM: .....	16
PE & SPORT .....	16
GENERAL .....	16
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION .....	16
FOOTWARE .....	16
HAIRSTYLES .....	16
HAIR ACCESSORIES.....	17
JEWELLERY INCLUDING WATCHES.....	17
HATS, HEADSCARVES or HEADWARE.....	17
NAIL POLISH & MAKE-UP .....	17
PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING .....	17
FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY.....	18
VISION AND VALUES .....	18
SCHOOL CONTACTS .....	19
SCHOOL TERM DATES .....	20



## WELCOME TO ST KATHERINE'S SCHOOL & NURSERY

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions a parent can make. Therefore, I am delighted that you have chosen St Katherine's School and Nursery for your child's education and I am sure that they will enjoy their time here, make many friends and have plenty of happy memories to look back on.

At St Katherine's, we are passionate about creating a place of learning. Our curriculum is broad, balanced and full of exciting learning opportunities. We believe that when learners are curious, they ask questions about the world around them and learning becomes part of their whole life; beyond the walls of the classroom and the school gate. Curiosity builds a love of learning and a drive to discover answers for themselves. To achieve this, our dedicated staff will set the highest of standards, whilst at the same time providing a nurturing and encouraging climate for all children, regardless of their background or circumstance.

Whether your child is starting in Early Years, KS1 or KS2, we recognise that they are unique and we aim to focus on their individual needs in a vibrant, happy and safe environment. This helps all of our children thrive academically and personally; enabling them to develop the skills and understanding that they will need to be successful in the future. We aim for our children to leave St Katherine's and make the world a better place!

At St Katherine's, we are lucky to have exceptional facilities, which enable us to offer children a range of enriching experiences through sport, computing, art, music and outdoor learning. We have large playing fields, sensory, nurture and wildlife gardens, a netball court, football pitches, sensory rooms, a large library and our own swimming pool on site – all of which offer children diverse and engaging learning opportunities.

Children at St Katherine's are encouraged and supported to be aspirational and achieve their very best. We maintain an environment where high standards go hand in hand with excellent behaviour. We believe that children learn best when they feel safe and we work hard to create a learning environment where everyone is happy, well-motivated and healthy.

I look forward to welcoming you and your child into the St Katherine's community and working with you as they start their exciting learning journey.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Lang'.

Mr Lang  
Headteacher





## HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT

St Katherine's School & Nursery is committed to working in partnership with all families in order to provide the highest quality of education and pastoral care.

### AS THE PARENT/ CARER I WILL...

- Make sure my child arrives at school on time.
- Provide my child with the appropriate uniform and PE/swimming kit.
- Model school values on the school site at all times.
- Attend Parent Evenings to discuss the child's progress.
- Make sure my child attends school regularly and inform the office of absences.
- Support my child with home learning.
- Let the school know about any problems/concerns that may affect my child.
- Report concerns/complaints following school procedures and not through social media discussions.
- Support school policies and guidelines.

### THE SCHOOL WILL...

- Provide a high standard of education and carefully monitor progress.
- Have high expectations of your child.
- Inform you about the teaching and learning that will take place.
- Inform you of your child's progress.
- Provide a fun and safe environment in which children can learn.
- Let you know about any concerns that may affect your child's work or behaviour.
- Keep you informed about school activities through the school website, regular emails, texts, Twitter, Facebook and newsletters.
- Follow school policies and guidelines.

### TOGETHER WE WILL...

- Help children to achieve their best, treating them fairly, valuing them both as learners and as people.
- Teach children to develop a positive attitude to one another, regardless of any differences.
- Celebrate the academic and personal achievements of our children.
- Encourage children to become active members within our community and empower them to see that they can have an impact on the world around them.
- Promote responsibility and good citizenship within the school and wider community.

### CHILDREN WILL...

- Follow and demonstrate the School Values.
- Try my best to complete home learning.
- Take good care of my equipment, uniform and PE kit.
- Be well behaved and respectful in school.
- Aim high in all I do.



## **NURSERY - FREE EARLY YEARS EDUCATION**

At St Katherine's School and Nursery, we are very fortunate to be able to offer our families full access to the 30 hours free childcare. We want to continue to be in the position to offer this entitlement, to support our children and working families. However, due to an increased demand for childcare we have reviewed our session structures and fees to ensure we are meeting statutory and compliance requirements. Regrettably, we are unable to offer extended day services as part of the 30 hours free childcare offer from September 2023. Our hourly rate of £6 per hour will remain the same, though we are no longer offering lunch sessions for an additional fee, only full or half day sessions will be available. Please see the session structures and fees, listed below.

### **Sessions offered**

Full day 8.45am – 3.30pm (6.75hrs) or £40.50

Am session 8.45am – 11.45am (3hrs) or £18

Pm sessions 12.30pm – 3.30pm (3hrs) or £18

To increase any am or pm session to a full day would be an extra 3.75hrs at a charge of £22.50

(0.75hrs is equivalent to 45 minutes)

### **30 hours free childcare**

4 x full days (8.45-3.30 = 6.75 x 4 = 27hrs) plus 1 x half day session am or pm (3hrs) **Total 30hrs**

5 x full days would include a top up fee of £22.50 (11.45am – 3.30pm = 3.75hrs)

### **15 hours free childcare**

5 x am or pm sessions **Total 15hrs**

2 x full days **Total 13.5hrs**

2 x full days plus 1 x am or pm. Full breakdown 2 x full days (13.5hrs) plus the remaining 1.5hrs until 10.15am would include a top fee of £9 (1.5hrs) until 11.45am. **Total 16.5hrs**

3 x full days would include a top up fee of £31.50 (10.15am – 3.30pm = 5.25hrs) **Total 20.25hrs**

### **Extended day services**

Breakfast club 7.30am – 8.45 (Mon-Fri) is £4.50

After school club 3.30pm – 6pm (Mon-Thurs) is £12.50



At St Katherine's, we have the capacity for **52 places per session and 40 places for the lunch session**. Places are allocated based on availability, at the time of application. If more parents apply for a place at the Nursery class than there are places available (which is known as "over-subscription"), decisions are made using clear established criteria:

- The sessions available at the time of application, based on a first come, first served basis.
- A small number of places will be offered to children with special educational, social, emotional or medical needs, as assessed by the multi-agency Early Years meeting.
- Children of staff.

**All children become eligible for 15 hours of free nursery education**, the school term after their third birthday.

**Children born between:**

1<sup>st</sup> April & 31<sup>st</sup> August

1<sup>st</sup> September & 31<sup>st</sup> December

1<sup>st</sup> January & 31<sup>st</sup> March

**Free funding will start:**

Term 1 - September

Term 3 - January

Term 5 – April

If both parents are working, **you may be eligible for 30 hours a week childcare**, subject to meeting certain criteria. Applications can be made at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

Each child will be funded to a maximum of 15 universal hours per week, with an extended 15 hours per week entitlement offered as a funded place, depending on the 30 hours eligibility criteria. Places will be allocated based on availability, at the time of application.

Our **totally free** offer for **15 hours** is **5 x am or pm sessions**.

Our **totally free** offer for **30 hours** is **4 x full days and 1 x am or pm session**.

Patterns of delivery can be flexible across the whole school day including extended day sessions, fees may be applicable. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or Nursery Team.

## PAID EARLY EDUCATION

Parents who wish for their child to join our nursery, prior to qualifying for funded sessions, can start when they reach their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday and **pay for their sessions until their free entitlement funding begins**. Parents who require extra sessions (more than 15 hours or if applicable 30 hours) will be charged for those extra sessions:

Sessions:	
AM Session – 8.45am to 11.45am	3 hours free or £18.00
PM Session – 12.30am to 3.30pm	3 hours free or £18.00
Full School Day – 8.45am to 3.30pm	6.75 hours free or £39.00 (please supply a packed lunch)
Lunch Session – 11.45am – 12.30pm	0.75 hours or £3.00 (please supply a packed lunch)
Extended Day:	
Breakfast Club – 7.30am – 8.45 am	£4.50 (includes breakfast)
After School Club – 3.30pm – 6pm (except Friday)	£12.50 (includes snack and light meal)



Fees continue to be payable if a child is absent. In cases of prolonged absences, parents should consult the Nursery Lead about fees payable. **Each child's attendance at the setting is conditional upon continued payment of any necessary fees.** If your child is ill on an extra session that is not selected on the Parental Declaration Agreement form, then payment is still applicable, unfortunately, it cannot be swapped for a funded day. This would also apply to school lunches. Breakfast and After School clubs need to be booked in advance via the online booking system – these payments are also non-refundable.

Payments can be made **via our school money system; we also accept childcare vouchers.**

Should the Nursery be unable to open, due to the weather or any other unforeseen circumstances, alternative sessions will be offered or fees credited to your account.

## **STARTING AT ST KATHERINE'S SCHOOL & NURSERY**

Please see below, how we ensure a smooth transition into our school. However, we recognise that some children may require an adapted approach, which can be discussed with parents prior to the visits.

### **NURSERY**

- Welcome pack and tour of setting
- Initial phone call with our Nursery Lead
- Home visit to discuss your child's well-being, interests and start date

### **RECEPTION**

- Welcome pack
- Nursery visit or discussion (if your child attends a nursery)
- Home visit to discuss your child's well-being and interests
- Taster days

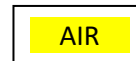
### **YEAR 1 – YEAR 6**

- Welcome Pack
- Phone call/meeting with the Class Teacher to discuss your child's well-being and interests
- Where necessary contact with previous school
- Taster days (available on request)

### **HOUSE SYSTEM**

On joining the school, your child will be allocated to a House Team, which are named after the four natural elements.

These are:



Your child will wear this colour for their PE t-shirt. On the days your child has PE they are to come to school dressed in their

### **PE Kit.**

PE t-shirts and all uniform can be purchased from **Pages School Wear, Maidstone:**

<https://pages-schoolwear.co.uk/Products/Index?schoolId=64> . Further details regarding school uniform are on page 14.





## SCHOOL LIFE

### BEGINNING OF SCHOOL DAY

- The grey gates on the bottom playground are **opened at 8:25am and classroom doors open at 8:30am.**
- We ask Year 5 and Year 6 to **enter the top playground via Katherine Wheel Pre-School pathway.**

### END OF SCHOOL DAY

- The grey gates on the bottom playground are **opened at 3:15pm and all children leave their classroom at 3.20pm.**
- Year 5 and Year 6 children, **for whom we have written permission,** can walk home alone.

## ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE

Parents/ carers have a legal duty under the Education Act 1996 to ensure that any child of compulsory school age attends school on a regular basis. Only by attending school every day will your child have the best chance to get the most for their education. Good attendance and punctuality establishes a positive working ethos early in life and we ask that parents try to establish these good routines.

Please note that if your child is absent from school, we ask that parents/carers report their absence by **email [absence@st-katherines.kent.sch.uk](mailto:absence@st-katherines.kent.sch.uk) or telephone the school office on 01634 240061 before 8.15am to advise of the reason.** Failure to confirm a reason for absence could result in an unauthorised absence being recorded. **All appointments must be supported by written evidence. Holidays during term times are not authorised.**

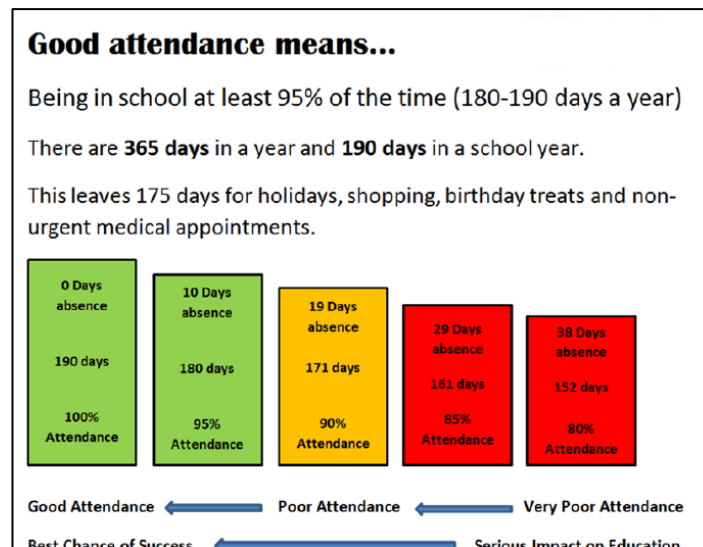
As part of our safeguarding procedures, **we may make home visits** if an email has not been sent into school explaining the reason for the absence and children are not accounted for.

## WHY DOES ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY MATTER?

Attending school on a regular basis is the key to your child doing well and will set them up with good habits for later life and the working world. It will also give your child the opportunity to:

- **Make friends and feel included**
- **Learn new things and develop their skills**
- **Increase their confidence and self-esteem**
- **Improve their social skills**
- **Achieve their full potential and fulfil their aspirations**

The school gate opens at 8.25am and close at 8:40am. It is important that your child arrives to school on time **EVERY** morning, as frequent lateness interrupts their own and other children's learning.





## HOME LEARNING

Home Learning tasks are set weekly throughout the school. The key areas where you can support your child are in reading (each night), times table, spellings or phonic sound practice. **Home Learning in the Early Years is accessed through 'Evidence Me'.**

## OUTDOOR LEARNING

Our school has extensive grounds; these are used for outdoor learning and sporting activities.

We have a large field used for a range of sporting activities across the year, including two trim trails. We have a Forest School on the school grounds, where children will learn forest craft and exploration.

Our Sensory Garden offers a calm and quiet area for children to learn and support their well-being.

All children have the opportunity to learn in the outdoor areas, come rain or shine!



## OUTDOOR LEARNING FOR NURSERY & RECEPTION

We ask parents and carers to provide a pair of wellies, which will remain at school throughout the year. We ask children to come in with a suitable coat with a hood as children will use the outside area in all weathers. In the summer we ask children to come to school wearing a sun hat and sun cream.

## SWIMMING

At St Katherine's, we are very lucky to have our own swimming pool on site. Swimming is part of the National Curriculum and as such, **all children are expected to take part.** Swimming lessons are delivered by our trained swimming teacher and take place throughout the year. Our aim is that **every child is able to swim a minimum of 25 metres unaided, and understand safe self-rescue** by the time they leave our school.

Children in Year 1 to Year 6 rotate their swimming termly and swim once a week for 3 out of 6 terms. Children in Reception swim once a week in terms 3 and 4 and 5 and 6. There is a cost for swimming, which is determined at the beginning of each academic year.



## SCHOOL FACILITIES

At St Katherine's we believe in meeting the educational and well-being needs of all children. Therefore, in school we **have a large well stocked library** that the children get the chance to visit on a weekly basis. We also have a dedicated **Art Room**; which children are able to work in with our Resident Artist. To further support well-being, we have **a Nurture Classroom and Sensory Room.**

## PUPIL VOICE

We believe that children have an important part in shaping their educational experiences and helping to develop St Katherine's. Therefore, we create a number of opportunities for children to take on key roles across the school, such as School Ambassadors, Prefects and Peer Mediators, which help to develop their personal and leadership skills. We also carry out pupil conferencing to ensure that children are given a voice and are able to contribute towards decision making within their school.



## SCHOOL CLUBS

As a school, we offer various clubs to our children and these run before school, at lunch time and afterschool. There is a wide variety of different clubs including art, needlework, dance, recorders and many more. The school also have established cheerleading, football, netball and Korfbal teams and the children are often given the opportunity to represent their school in competitions. Our cheerleading team have previously competed and won the National Championships!

## COMMUNICATION

At St Katherine's School & Nursery, our main form of communication is **via Teachers to Parents**. Please ensure that the school office have your most up-to-date email address at all times in case of emergencies. If parents wish to contact the school, they can do so by phoning **01634 240061** or [emailing\\_office@st-katherines.kent.sch.uk](mailto:emailing_office@st-katherines.kent.sch.uk).

## PAYMENTS

St Katherine's is **a cashless school** and we have a **'No Debt Policy.'** All payments for school dinners, trips, wrap around care, nursery fees etc. are to be paid via our online payment system, called School Money. This saves time for parents, as well as providing a fully auditable system, where both parents and the school can easily track and monitor payments for services, such as the extended day, trips and swimming.



## WEBSITE AND TWITTER

The school website is <https://www.stkatherineskent.co.uk>. Please visit our website for the latest news, policies, term dates and all other key information. We also have a school Twitter page (**@StKathsKent**), where weekly school events and curriculum outcomes are posted.

## PARENT NEWSLETTER

Mr Lang's newsletter is sent to parents fortnightly and contains key information about school events and curriculum learning. It also shares children's successes and signposts parents/ carers to important dates and community activities.

## PARENT VOICE GROUP

Working in partnership with parents is of the utmost importance to us and we value parent's feedback. Parent Voice groups are formed in the autumn term and run throughout the year, whereby a parent representative from each class meets regularly with the Headteacher to discuss a wide range of topics to further improve the school.

## PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The PTA play a key role in giving something extra to the children of St Katherine's. They work alongside the school and this relationship means they can provide the school with new equipment and, where needed, help with buying additional extras. The PTA meet approximately every six weeks to discuss fund raising, arrange events and ensure parents are informed of what has been planned. They are extremely keen to hear from parents, who would like to help support the school by joining the committee. To find out more visit: <https://www.facebook.com/SKSSPTA/>

## PROFESSIONS

Many parents and carers are employed in professions that our children would love to hear about. If you are a vet, police officer or work in a field that might tie into our curriculum, we would really like to hear from you. This could involve you visiting school to speak about the work you do.



## EDUCATIONAL VISITS

St Katherine’s School & Nursery recognises the valuable contribution that additional activities make to children’s education, including trips, performances, clubs and residential trips etc. and how they can enhance and enrich a school experience. When organising events and activities, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost, which we aim to keep a minimum. Under the terms of the Education Reform Act (1988) parents/ carers are advised that such contributions are voluntary, but if sufficient contributions are not received, the trip may not go ahead.

## SPECIALIST SUPPORT

St Katherine’s School & Nursery values the individuality of all children and are committed to every child fulfilling their potential, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or background. We believe that all children, including those identified as having ‘special educational needs’ have an entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum, which is accessible to them, and that every child is fully included in all aspects of school life.

We also believe that all children should be equally valued and we strive to eliminate prejudice and discrimination, and to develop an environment where everyone can flourish and feel safe.

### DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS (DSL)

Safeguarding pupils and staff is foremost in the minds of all staff at all times. Should staff members have any concerns relating to children or other members of staff they are reported immediately to a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

**The DSLs at St Katherine’s School & Nursery are:**

Mr Lang (Headteacher)



Miss Aikenhead (Deputy Headteacher)

Mrs Loveland (SENCO)



Mr Tweddle (Assistant Headteacher)

Miss Abbott (Family Liaison Officer)



### INCLUSION MANAGER (SENCO) & FAMILY LIAISON OFFICER (FLO)

We are very lucky to have a SENCO and a Family Liaison Officer. Should you feel you need to discuss any aspects of educational needs, wellbeing or nurture for you child, please contact the school office to make an appointment to see either the SENCO (Mrs Loveland) or our FLO (Miss Abbott).

### NURTURE TEAM

The Nurture Team provide support to children to enable them to access their learning to their full potential. This may include: ELSA, Drawing and Talking Therapy and many other interventions. These interventions aim to provide children with the tools required to breakdown any barriers to learning.

The Nurture Team is led by our FLO (Miss Abbott).

### 1:1 SUPPORT

As and when required, we are able to offer 1:1 support. This enables our children to be given the opportunity to learn the same as their peers but in a personalised way that they benefit from.



### THE DOG MENTOR

Mylo is our Dog Mentor. The benefits of having Mylo in school include:

- A calming effect on children and staff.
- Improved behaviour and concentration, reduced stress and improved self-esteem.
- Encouraging expression, participation and confidence for all children.
- Fostering a sense of responsibility.
- Encouraging respect and thereby improving children's relationships with each other, parents and teachers.
- Teaching children to nurture and respect life.
- Helping children build confidence in speaking, listening and reading.
- Improving attendance.



## WRAP AROUND CARE

St Katherine's School & Nursery have our own breakfast and after school club on site for children in Nursery to Year 6.

- The breakfast club **opens at 7.30am and runs until 8:40am.**
- Our After-School Club is available **from the end of the school day until 6pm.** A light tea is provided i.e. beans on toast, wraps, pasta and toasties.

All clubs are managed by the school and staffed by experienced school personnel. **All places must be pre-booked via our school money system.** Should you wish to book your child into one of the clubs unexpectedly, please telephone the school office to arrange.

## FIRST AID

At St Katherine's School & Nursery, we record any accidents that occur in school and staff administering first aid hold a valid certificate of competence e.g. paediatric training.

If your child has an accident in school, and they require first aid, an accident slip will be completed and given to parents outlining the details of the incident, the injury and the treatment given.

Please be assured that if your child is involved in an accident which we consider serious (for example, a head injury or if they are in need of medical treatment), a member of the school office will contact you as quickly as possible, and the emergency services if required, before recording the details of the incident.

## MEDICINES IN SCHOOL

There may be occasions when your child needs medication during the school day. We are able to support your child with this if the doses cannot be administered around the school day e.g. they need 4 doses a day. In these circumstances the following procedures are to be followed:

- Medication must be provided in the original container that it was dispensed in, with the original pharmacy label and dosage instructions.
- Parents/ carers must complete the parental consent form, including the required dose and times at which the medication is to be given and return it to school. No medication will be administered without this written consent.



## EPI-PENS/ PRESCRIBED CREAMS

Allergies are an important condition that affects some children and prescribed medicines for these should be kept in school. However, before any medicines can be administered, parents must complete a medical form from the School Office and all medicines must be clearly labelled with your child's name and the dosage required. It is the responsibility of parents/ carers to ensure that replacement epi-pens/ creams etc. are provided in good time.

## ASTHMA

The school recognises that some children suffer from asthma and takes all reasonable steps to ensure that asthmatic children can fully participate in all aspects of school life. Inhalers will always be accessible to asthmatic children at all times. Parents and carers should ensure that inhalers are clearly labelled with their child's name and replacement inhalers are provided before the expiry date.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Children in Years R, 1 and 2 are entitled to government funded free school meals, without the need for a parental application. In Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 payments are required for school meals, **unless you have applied for Free School Meals.**

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you are entitled to some benefits, then please apply for free school meals with immediate effect – even if your child is in Year R, 1 and 2, as this will automatically transfer to Year 3, without you having to reapply for free school meals.

In order to check eligibility, you will be asked to complete a section in our admissions form and we will then check if your child is eligible. Alternatively, you can apply online at: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

All school meals are prepared and cooked daily on site by our contract catering company.

Menus are worked **on a 3 weekly basis** and pupils have a daily choice which they order in registration, please ensure that your child only request a school dinner if a pre- payment has been made. **Payment for meals should be made in advance through our school payment system.**

***Pre-payment not applicable to Free School Meals & Universal Free School Meal children but meals still need to be ordered to enable the kitchen staff to prepare enough food.***

We appreciate that sometimes a school meal is required at short notice (forgotten packed lunch etc.)The catering company will provide a meal on the understanding that the money owing will be paid promptly and may refuse to supply a further meal should payment not be received.



## WATER BOTTLES & SNACKS

St Katherine's are part of the 'Healthy Schools' initiative and kindly ask that all children bring in a small bottle of water to drink during the school day, which can be filled up as required. Please note that the bottle should be clearly labelled with your child's name and **should contain water only - squash and juice are not permitted.**



Children in the early years and key stage one (Years 1 & 2) are provided with a free piece of fruit or vegetable daily via the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS). Children in Year 3 and above can bring a small healthy snack (fruit or vegetable, no sugary fruit snack such as fruit winders) to eat during morning playtime.

## HEALTHY LUNCHBOX & SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Children not requiring a school meal should bring in their own packed lunch. As a healthy school, we kindly ask parents to try to limit the number of high sugar/ fat foods and drinks in their child's lunchbox – bars of chocolate and fizzy drinks are not permitted. Our lunchtime supervisors monitor the content of lunchboxes and if children have too many high fat, sugary food snacks, we will contact parents to discuss and advise healthier alternatives. Please note that we are a **nut free school** and kindly ask that you do not include nuts of any type in your child's lunch. Guidance and ideas for healthier lunchboxes can be found on the following link: [www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes](http://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes)

As a school, we educate the children about the negative impact single use plastics have on the environment. Therefore, we kindly ask that, where possible, the following guidelines are adhered to:

- Bring drinks in reusable cups rather than plastic or non-recyclable single use packs.
- Avoid the use of plastic straws in drinks.
- Buy larger yoghurt pots and spoon it into smaller reusable containers.
- Use a lunchbox with compartments to put items in, rather than buying single wrapped items.



## SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our school uniform is important to us. Our children look smart in their uniform, which reflects the tone and ethos of our school. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school community and it promotes a strong, cohesive identity, which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of life. It also promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school, and it enhances security when off site.

School uniform is part of our ethos and in coming to **St Katherine's**, parents agree to support our policy. **Please remember to name all items of clothing.**

At St Katherine's School & Nursery we believe that the uniform we require should be affordable, in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform. Uniform can be purchased **by visiting the store at Unit 7-8 Granada House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JR or ordered via their website**, whereby you will have the option for your order to be delivered to your home or to the school. For more information, please go to <http://pages-schoolwear.co.uk/Products/Index?school=64>

We also have our Community Wardrobe that has second hand school uniform available for free or a donation.



## WINTER UNIFORM:

- Grey skirt, grey pinafore dress and grey trousers
- Grey or white socks and grey tights
- Plain white shirt
- Navy blue jumper with logo or without
- School tie (not required in Nursery)
- Black shoes (trainers are not permitted)



## SUMMER UNIFORM:

- Grey skirt, grey pinafore dress, grey trousers and grey shorts
- Navy blue and white checked dress
- Grey or white socks and grey tights
- Plain white shirt
- Navy blue jumper with logo or without
- School tie (not required in Nursery)
- Black shoes (trainers are not permitted)



## PE & SPORT

- Navy blue shorts
- T-shirt (Colour of house – red, green, yellow or blue)
- Black plimsolls / Trainers
- Plain trainers for outside only and trim trail
- Swimming trunks/shorts or swimming costume (not bikini), swimming hats
- Navy blue tracksuit



## GENERAL

- Book bags
- PE bags
- Sunglasses are not allowed (unless medically necessary)
- Sun cream in the summer months must be applied before school
- Warm winter coat
- Sun hat for summer



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### FOOTWARE

It is school policy for all children to wear **black shoes, no trainers, canvas, plastic or open toed sandals.**

### HAIRSTYLES

Children's hair should be **neatly groomed.** Long hair past shoulder length, on both boys and girls, **should be tied back** to help prevent the spread of head lice. **Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school.** **Children may not have distinctive lines designs or words cut into their hair or permanent or temporary coloured hair.** The use of styling products should be kept to a minimum. Hair colouring/ highlighting is not permitted.





## HAIR ACCESSORIES

Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' should be plain black or navy (the school colours). Hairbands should not be oversized or flamboyant.

## JEWELLERY INCLUDING WATCHES

For health and safety reasons, we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exception to this is small stud earrings in pierced ears. All studs must be removed for PE lessons to prevent them from causing injury. **Staff are unable to help with the removal of jewellery and they cannot be covered with tape.**

Children may wear a small suitable watch to school **from Year 2 onwards**. Please note that smart watches are not permitted. The school will be unable to take responsibility for any watches or jewellery that is lost.

## HATS, HEADSCARVES or HEADWARE

Head coverings inside the school building are not permitted unless it is due to religious reasons. School hats for winter and summer should be as plain as possible and ideally in the school colour of navy. School hats are available with the St Katherine's logo from [School Uniform – Pages Schoolwear \(pages-schoolwear.co.uk\)](http://pages-schoolwear.co.uk).

## NAIL POLISH & MAKE-UP

For health and safety reasons, children's nails should be cut to a short length. Children **should not wear nail varnish or false nails** to school and **make-up is not permitted**.

## PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

Pupil Premium Funding is granted to schools by the government, based on the number of children who are entitled to receive free meals. The school receives £,1385 per pupil. This money is used in a variety of ways to help support individual children and the whole school community, including:

- Funding or part-funding the provision of Teaching Assistants to support individuals, small groups and classes to help children achieve their academic potential.
- Funding the provision of specific resources to support and improve achievement.
- Funding the provision of Teaching Assistant support for non-academic interventions to help increase self-esteem, develop social skills, improve relationships, confidence etc.
- Subsidising extra-curricular activities, visitors and performers to the school for individual children.
- Subsidising school trips and uniforms for individual children.

The following criteria applies to qualify for pupil premium funding:

- a) Children eligible for free school meals currently or during the past six years.
- b) Children with parents currently serving in the armed forces.
- c) Children in care or adopted children.

It is extremely important that if your child is ever eligible for free school meals, **you should claim**. For each eligible child, the school receives funding for the next six years, even if parents go back to full-time work. Children may be eligible if their parent/ carer is receiving:

- a) *Universal Credit – annual salary of £7,400 or less in Universal Credit payments. This equals an average of £616.67 per month in net earned income (after deductions).*
- b) *Working Tax Credit 'run-on' – the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax credit.*



- c) *Child Tax Credit, providing you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190.*
- d) *Income Support*
- e) *Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.*
- f) *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.*
- g) *Support under Part VU of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.*
- h) *The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit*

*Or your child has been*

- a) *Looked after by the local authority.*
- b) *Has been adopted from care.*
- c) *Has left care under a special guardianship.*

In order to check if your child is eligible for this, **you will be asked to complete a section in our admissions form and we will then be able to check if your child is eligible.**

## FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY

If at any time your family are experiencing financial difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact the Headteacher/school office to discuss the support the school can offer. There may be financial support available, for example paying for activities or helping with uniform costs.

## VISION AND VALUES

Our vision and values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin teaching and learning as well as provide an environment that ensures an Ethic of Excellence throughout our school.

We place a great emphasis on developing the 'whole child' and pride ourselves on ensuring the well-being and personal growth of all children. Our curriculum not only brings learning to life but also supports children's Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development and, where possible, we make links to the school's locality, history and current affairs.

British Values are promoted both explicitly and across the curriculum. We recognise that the local demographic is not as diverse as the wider locality and therefore we plan opportunities for children to be exposed to, learn about and appreciate different cultures and religions. This prepares children for life in modern Britain.

**St. Katherine's School**  
Creating our future by learning together.





## SCHOOL CONTACTS



**St Katherine's School & Nursery**  
**St Katherine's Lane,**  
**Snodland**  
**Kent**  
**ME65EJ**

**Headteacher:** Mr Lang

**Deputy Headteacher:** Miss Aikenhead

**Assistant Headteacher:** Mr Tweddle

**SENCO:** Mrs Loveland

**Family Liaison Officer:** Miss Abbott

**Trust Lead:** Mr Chatley

**Email:** [office@st-katherines.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-katherines.kent.sch.uk)

**Absence Email:** [absence@st-katherines.kent.sch.uk](mailto:absence@st-katherines.kent.sch.uk)

**Telephone:** 01634 240061

**Website:** [www.stkatherineskent.co.uk](http://www.stkatherineskent.co.uk)

**Twitter:** [St Katherine's School and Nursery @StKathsKent](https://twitter.com/StKathsKent)

**Facebook:** [St Katherine's School & Nursery](https://www.facebook.com/SKSSPTA/)

**PTA (Parent Teacher Association):** <https://www.facebook.com/SKSSPTA/>



## SCHOOL TERM DATES



### Term Dates

### Academic Year 2023 – 2024

#### **Term 1**

Inset Day – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 (children not in school)

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Inset Day – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (children do not attend school)

#### **Term 2**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

#### **Term 3**

Inset Day - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023 (children not in school)

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

#### **Term 4**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

#### **Term 5**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

#### **Term 6**

Inset Days - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 - Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024