



Friday 22nd September 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We were fortunate enough to have a visit from the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling this week, who officially opened our new reading vending machine, took a tour of St Katherine's with our School Ambassadors and presented an assembly to years 1 to 6. For most children, it was the first time they had seen the Mayor, and they were excited to learn about his roles, which linked to our Community and Responsibility values. Here is what he had to say about his visit:

"We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to St Katherine's today, where the new school values are being extremely well promoted and with so much enthusiasm. Mr Lang has a clear vision which inspires the children, who show great fondness towards him and the staff. The journey has only just begun and we are sure that great things are to come.

We were particularly impressed with the enthusiasm for history, art and reading and the other subjects are no doubt enjoyed with similar joy and dedication. It was also wonderful to see the nurture the school provides for children through the nurture provision, sensory rooms and Mylo – the school dog.

Overall, it was a wonderful visit."

James and Jill Lark

(Mayor & Mayoress of Tonbridge and Malling)



The Mayor & Mayoress with Mrs Wright (Reading Lead) and our Reading Ambassadors.

Library and Reading Vending Machine

I am delighted to inform you that our library has now been restored after the recent flood, with the addition of a few new furnishings. Thank you to Mrs Wright and the children/ staff that helped put the library back together.

We are extremely pleased to open our reading vending machine, which will provide an additional incentive for children to read for pleasure. Every two weeks, teachers will nominate a child from their class, who has impressed with their reading, either through reading consistently (e.g. reading everyday), making great progress or supporting others to read. They will then be awarded a raffle ticket, which will be draw out of a hat for EYFS, KS1 and KS2. **The winner from each phase can select a book from the vending machine to take home!**



Diversity and Discrimination Assembly

In my assembly this week, we discussed what makes individuals unique, in order to develop children's understanding around diversity and discrimination. The children spoke about the benefits of learning from one another's cultures, interests and beliefs. They understood that diversity is an important aspect of St Katherine's, which we all embrace and celebrate.

We also explored how people could be discriminated against as a result of their differences e.g. the colour of their skin, their beliefs or appearance. The children were able to tell me who they would speak to if they ever experienced or witnessed discrimination, both at school and in the wider community.

Please note that as a school community, we do not tolerate any form of discrimination and I appreciate parents/ carers support in adopting and supporting our stance on this.

Pupil Voice: *"Everyone is equal and we are different in our own way! Everyone should be treated fairly because we all should have equal rights. If we were all the same we would basically have no fun at all. Be kind. Don't discriminate. Live. Laugh. Love yourself!" (Cadence & Saraya – Year 6)*



Our Year 6 children celebrate diversity and with our Reggie Responsibility and Katia Community models.

Show Racism the Red Card

To demonstrate our core value of **respect**, we will be standing together against racism by wearing an item of red clothing to school on **Friday 13th October**. Please note that we will send out a reminder nearer the time.



Show Racism the **Red Card**

Happy Shoes Day

The school was full of Happy Shoes today as we all promoted the benefits of walking to school. Here are some of the children's thoughts from today:



Pupil Voice:

"Happy Shoes Day is a day to wear your happy shoes to walk to school!" (Emelia – Year 1)

"Happy Shoes Day is about encouraging people to walk to school. It is good to wear the shoes we want to wear." (Hayden – Year 3)

Curriculum Update

Year 6 Art - This week, Year 6 enjoyed using their observational skills to sketch detailed drawings using charcoal.



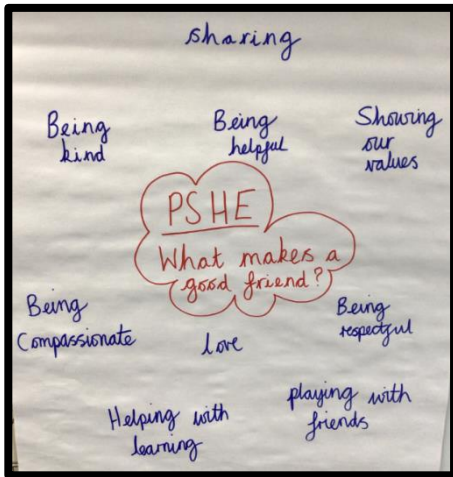
Mr Holt's modelling under the visualiser.

Pupil Voice: *"I enjoyed adding detail through patterns, shading and tone to make my sketch look as realistic as possible. I am really happy with how my sketch came out!" (Rashayla -Year 6).*

Music – Year 4 have had fun this week learning a new song 'One Little Voice'. The children developed their skills by singing in unison, blending their voices with one another and respecting each other's contributions. Please click on the link to listen to a small section of the song: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OfQKSt_k3KfitM6YkZocqjUUKSO9QEVE/view?usp=sharing

Pupil Voice: "I enjoyed learning how to sing the different parts in my group." (Esmae – Year 4)

PSHE - Year 2 have been learning about what a friend is and what a good friend does/ does not do. They put forward some excellent ideas about friendship and are looking forward to learning more.



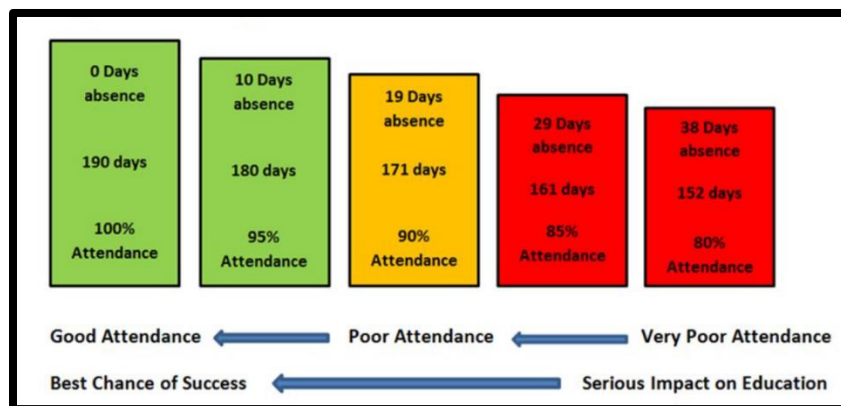
Performing Arts Workshop

Many children participated in some very lively performing art workshops this week. The sessions included singing, dancing and acting. As you can see, it was an enjoyable experience for all!

Enriching experiences such as these are extremely beneficial to the children. We now look forward to our African drumming/ dance workshops, which will take place on **Monday 2nd October**.



Attendance Matters!



Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 99.6%		
R	Bramley 97.7%	Gala 97.5%	Pippin 95.1%
1	Peach 94.6%	Pear 90.7%	
2	Cherry 95.7%	Quince 94.5%	
3	Almond 94%	Hazel 91.6%	Walnut 96.8%
4	Spruce 93.6%	Pine 91.4%	
5	Cedar 92.2%	Teak 97%	Mahogany 95.2%
6	Ash 89.2%	Oak 92.9%	

School Target: 96%
Whole School Attendance: 94.4%

Aspiration Alley

We have created a new display area within the school called '**Aspiration Alley**', to promote high expectations and showcase children's excellent outcomes. I am pleased to say that we already have two wonderful outcomes displayed: Ralph (Reception) for writing his name so beautifully and Emilia (Year 5) for her breathtaking artwork. Whose outcomes will be displayed next?



Parent Meetings/ Workshops

Please note that the following parent meetings/ workshops will take place this term. If you would like to attend the meeting, please click on the links below:

SEND Coffee Morning – 3/10/23 (9.00am – 10.00am): Mrs Loveland would like to invite parents/ careers of children with special educational needs to attend an informal coffee morning. This will provide an excellent platform for parents to network and discuss their child's needs, challenges and the support the school can offer. **Link:** <https://forms.office.com/e/yWJ2xjBTtn>

Phonics Workshop – 10/10/23 (2.30pm – 3.15pm): Mrs Kenney (Phonics Leader), will present how we implement our phonics scheme (Sounds Write) and discuss how parents/ carers can best support their children at home with their reading. This workshop will be aimed at parents, whose children are in Nursery to Year 3. Link: <https://forms.office.com/e/ugzqMvaPdi>

Maths Workshop – 31/10/23 (2.30pm – 3.15pm): Mr Tweddle (Maths Leader), will discuss how maths is taught at St Katherine's through our mastery approach. He will also highlight how parents can support their children to consolidate and develop their maths learning at home. This workshop will be aimed at parents, whose children are in Years 1 to 6.
Link: <https://forms.office.com/e/aNNBac9DHr>

Parent Consultation Meetings

Please note that we will be holding parent consultation meetings on the evenings of **Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th October**. During the meetings, parents will have the opportunity to discuss their child's learning with the teacher and also look at children's books.

More information regarding how to book an appointment will be sent the w/b Monday 2nd October.

Parent Voice Group

A reminder that parents should register their interest to become part of the Parent Voice group **by Monday 25th September**. Please refer to the previous email to access the relevant links.



Trips and Payment

I have had a few parent queries regarding trip contributions this week. To clarify, the school organises enrichment opportunities for the children, in order to support and consolidate their learning across the curriculum. Please note that the school is unable to subsidise the cost of the trips/ visits and therefore parents are asked to contribute in order to cover the cost. In the interest of fairness for all families, we ask that all parents contribute. However, if any parents have difficulties making payment, they should contact the school in confidence.



Please be aware that if sufficient payment is not received, planned trips and visits may have to be cancelled. Your cooperation in this matter is most appreciated.

Clubs

I am delighted that we have already been able to broaden children's extra-curricular activities and we will continue to look for opportunities to further extend these throughout the year.

I have had some initial feedback from parents regarding the method in which children are selected for extra-curricular activities and I would like to review this. In order to do so, this item will form part of the agenda for our first Parent Voice group meeting. The date of the meeting will be announced when all members of the committee have been confirmed.



Uniform Reminders

Thank you to all the parents and carers that have supported the school by ensuring that their children consistently come to St Katherine's in full school uniform. I have noticed that a small number of children are not wearing **small, plain gold or silver stud earrings**. Please see the photographs below, which show the earrings that children are permitted to wear into school. **After next week, if children wear earrings that are not plain gold or silver, they will be asked to remove them.** Thank you for your cooperation with this.



Community News

New Football Kits – Our new football kits have finally arrived and are beautifully modelled below by our School Ambassadors. Thank you to Co-op (Snodland) for sponsoring the kits, which look fantastic! We look forward to the children wearing them when they represent the school this year.



Macmillan

A plea to parents/ carers to remember to bring their cake donations into school throughout the week, in preparation for the Year 5 Coffee mornings, which take place at the following times:

Day and Time	Year Group
Tuesday 26 th September 2023 (9am-9:45am)	EYFS, Year 1 & Year 2 parents
Wednesday 27 th September 2023 (9am-9:45am)	Year 3 and Year 4 parents
Thursday 28 th September 2023 (9am-9:45am)	Year 5 & Year 6 Parents

We really need your donations so please keep them coming in!

Our Community Ambassadors will also be outside the school during morning registration with raffle tickets (**£1 per strip**). Our current prizes include the following:

- Larkfield Leisure Centre – A family swim ticket
- Cyclopark - Day admission for five people
- Mood Lift Cafe - Afternoon Tea for two people
- The Swan - Brunch for two people
- Planet Ice - 2 x admission for two people
- Maidstone United FC - Admission for two people
- A gaming sign
- A B&Q voucher

Parent Teacher Association





I met with the PTA this week who are keen to arrange a number of community events this year. I am delighted to say that the following events are currently being organised and **provisional dates have been set**. More information will follow shortly:

1. **Year group 'Monster Ball' parties - Friday 3rd November (times tbc)**
2. **A Parent Quiz Night will be on Friday 24 November (time tbc).**
3. **A Christmas Fair will be on Saturday 2nd December.**



House Points

This week's House Point totals are as follows:

House	Total
Air 	674
Earth 	657
Fire 	598
Water 	595



Key Dates



DATE	EVENT
Monday 25 th September – Tuesday 3 rd October	Bikeability – Year 6
Monday 2 nd October	African drumming/ dance workshops
Tuesday 3 rd October (9.00am – 10.00am)	SEND Coffee Morning
Wednesday 18 th & Thursday 19 th October	Parent Consultation Meetings
Friday 20 th October	Inset Day
Tuesday 31 st October (2.30pm – 3.15pm)	Maths Workshop
Friday 3 rd November	Year group 'Monster Ball' parties (times tbc)
Friday 17 th November	Children In Need
Tuesday 21 st November	Van Cols Photography – Individual & Sibling Photos
Wednesday 22 nd November (9.00am – 11.00am)	SEND Coffee Morning
Friday 24 th November	The Parent Quiz Night (time tbc)
Saturday 2 nd December	The Christmas Fair (more information to follow)
Friday 15 December	Last day of term

Have a lovely weekend

Mr. Lang
Headteacher