



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The last two weeks have been extremely busy, with the children participating in a number of enriching learning experiences, including Macmillan Coffee Mornings, African Dance assemblies/workshops, Bikeability and National Poetry activities. We will continue to plan a range of engaging experiences for the children, in order to support both their personal and academic development throughout the year.

### Community News

At St Katherine's, we are committed to 'helping others' within and beyond our local community. In doing so, our children learn about key themes such as empathy and diversity, whilst they also understand the difference they can make to people's lives. This relates specifically to two of our Core Values (Katia Community and Conner & Callie Compassion).



Last week, our wonderful Year 5 children organised Macmillan Coffee Mornings for parents across the school. They hosted, socialised and persuaded parents/ carers to eat as much cake as they could and donate to this great charity.

Thank you to everyone that donated cakes, came to the events or bought cakes after school on Friday. Through your generosity, **we raised an incredible £629.30!**



Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed running the coffee mornings



Our School Ambassadors sold raffle tickets during morning registration.

### Raffle Winners

We are delighted to announce the following winners of our raffle prizes:

Prize	Winner	Prize	Winner
Larkfield Leisure Centre Family Swim	Henry (Cherry Class)	Cyclopark family admission	Skylar (Gala)
Moon Lift Café – Afternoon tea for 2	Grace (Mahogany)	The Swan – Brunch for 2	Ella (Peach)
Maidstone Utd – Admission for 2	Paige (Almond)	Planet Ice – Admission for 2	Harry (Mahogany)
B & Q Prize	Jordan (Quince)	Sweet Hamper	Vivian (Oak)
Gaming Sign	Kieran (Peach)	Drinks Hamper	Aaliyah (Peach)

## Harvest Collection

To mark Harvest at St Katherine's, we ask that parents/children send in food items from the list below that we can donate to our local food bank. Each year we support this wonderful organisation to help combat poverty and hunger in our local community. With the current cost of living crisis, there are more and more families needing to use a food bank, so please do give to this worthy cause. We kindly ask that families **donate the following items from Monday**.



Items NOT needed	Anything else needed, including...
Pasta	Tinned Soup
Cereal	Tinned meat/fish
Beans	Tinned fruit
Tea	Tinned custard / rice pudding
-	Long life milk
-	Toiletries

For further information, please click on the link to the Snodland Food Bank website [https://local.kent.gov.uk/kb5/kent/directory/service.page?id=Pg9pK\\_Ji\\_CU&adultchannel=25](https://local.kent.gov.uk/kb5/kent/directory/service.page?id=Pg9pK_Ji_CU&adultchannel=25)

## **Community Book Nooks**

Please note that from next week, our Reading Ambassadors will be opening our community book nooks (located on the lower playground) every Wednesday after school. Please feel free to visit the book nooks, look at the selection of books and take one home to read for pleasure. When you have finished with the book, please return it to the book nook and take another to enjoy!



## Enrichment

### **Zamble African Dance Workshops**

As part of our Black History learning, we invited the fantastic Zamble African Dance Company into school to present assemblies and deliver interactive workshops. Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed their high energy dances, whilst children in KS2 had the opportunity to learn and perform some traditional African dance routines. Please click on the link to see some of the action: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vH33da7HFmkH5YYLSdchIMH7GBBAMusE/view?usp=sharing>

**A huge thank you to our Parent Teacher Association, who part subsidised the cost of the workshops.**

**Pupil Voice:** "I enjoyed dancing and learning new moves from Ghana." (Evie-Grace: Year 5)



## Bikeability

As part of their transition to secondary school, Year 6 have recently undertaken bikeability training. They thoroughly enjoyed participating in their level 1 and 2 course, which took place on the playground. Following this, the children were supervised on the road to practise becoming safe and competent cyclists.



**Pupil Voice:** *"I enjoyed learning to be a safe cyclist. I will always look in different directions to check for traffic around me when I ride on the road."* (Saraya – Year 6)

## Maths Competition

A few of our Year 6 children represented St Katherine's at an annual Oakwood Park maths competition today. The competition involved a number of rounds, including a speed test, a mini maths relay and a logic round. All of the children were a credit to the school and we are very proud of their achievements. Well done!



## Safeguarding Assembly

In my assembly this week, we discussed how to keep ourselves safe both in school and at home. We focused on the important rule that children shouldn't go anywhere with anyone – even if they know them – if it hasn't been agreed in advance by a parent or guardian.



Please click on the links below to access the assembly PowerPoints that were used in KS1 and KS2. They explored different situations, through a range of cartoons, where characters are asked to go with someone (outside) or meet up with someone (online). The children were then asked to evaluate if each situation was safe or unsafe:

KS1: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oH0kjV71MfJiy8fJiFi4osNn6vAcwP5K/view?usp=sharing>

KS2: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f4eq3yl5jjhJfDUUW0e2ZnQkeGS5tRo/view?usp=sharing>



## Videeing around the school

Please note that filming will take place in school on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October to update the school website**. If parents/ carers have not previously given permission for their child to be filmed, they will wear a high-visibility jacket to ensure that they stay off camera.

## Show Racism the Red Card

Due to the videeing that will take place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, **we will be moving our Show Racism the Red Card event to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October**. On this day, we will be standing together against racism by **wearing an item of red clothing to school**.



**Show Racism the Red Card**

## Wellbeing Warriors

Our passionate Wellbeing Warriors have been working with Miss Aikenhead this week to prepare an assembly for World Mental Health Day on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October. During their presentation, they will focus on what we can do to help us live well and improve both our physical and mental health.



We also look forward to the wellbeing workshops that take place in years 1-6 next week.



## Curriculum Update

### Music

Year 5 have been using keyboards to learn how to develop a piece of music in the style of John Williams, through composition and improvisation.



**Pupil Voice:** "I am really enjoying using the keyboard as I have never had the opportunity to play this instrument before. I am learning to play Hedwigs theme from Harry Potter – it is very interesting." (Ethan – Year 5)



## National Poetry Day

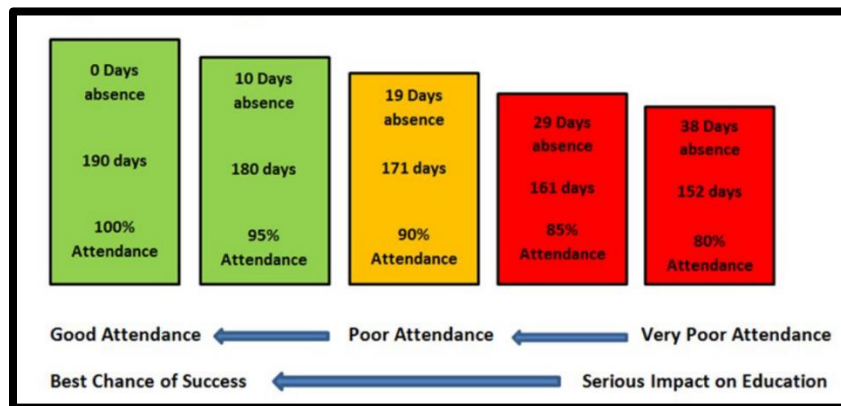
For guided reading this week, the children have been learning about different poems, which they then practised and performed on Friday. The poems included:

- **Nursery** – *Baa Baa Blacksheep*
- **Reception** – *Incey Wincy Spider, Humpty Dumpty & 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.*
- **Year 1** – *I am Happy When...* by Year 1 children
- **Year 2** – *The One Man Band* (a Sounds Write poem)
- **Year 3** – *The Sound Collector* by Roger McGogh
- **Year 4** – *The Jumbies* by Edward Lear
- **Year 5** – *Colonel Fazackerley Butterworth-Toast* by Charles Casley
- **Year 6** – *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost.



**Pupil Voice:** "We learnt all of our poem and performed it with actions. My favourite part was the first verse as I now know that a spectre is a ghost!" (Emilia – Year 5)

## Attendance Matters!



Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 99.1%		
R	Bramley 96.8%	Gala 98.5%	Pippin 93.6%
1	Peach 93.8%	Pear 90.7%	
2	Cherry 94.4%	Quince 94.5%	
3	Almond 92.4%	Hazel 89.2%	Walnut 95.2%
4	Spruce 92.5%	Pine 90.4%	
5	Cedar 91.9%	Teak 96.1%	Mahogany 93.3%
6	Ash 89.6%	Oak 92%	

**School Target: 96%**

**Whole School Attendance: 93.55%**

## Parent Consultation Meetings

Please note that bookings for our parent consultation meetings on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October** went live on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. To book an appointment, please refer to either the text or email that you should have received earlier this week.

## Uniform Reminders

A big thank you to parents/ carers for their support with school uniform since my last newsletter. Please be advised that parents are required to write a note to explain why their child is not wearing the correct uniform to school. If children do not have a note, we will now be sending letters home to notify parents and this will be logged. Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated.



## Parent Teacher Association

I met with the Parent Teacher Association this week and I am delighted to say that they have recruited a number of new members, who are eager and raring to support the school. Please see a message from the PTA below:



*On Monday night we had our first full PTA meeting of the year... and what a turnout! 8+ new faces and apologies from another 3. We haven't had this many for years; it's such a relief! Thank you all so much for coming and for your "fresh pair of eyes".*

*While nibbling biscuits and sipping tea and coffee, we discussed the first events for terms 1 & 2 and are now setting the wheels in motion to get them up and running. So, get your diaries out and block these dates!*

*To kick off on the **3rd November** we will be putting on the Monsters Ball, a Halloween-themed disco split into a few sessions (outlined below).*

*The second event will be a quiz night on the **24th November**. We haven't done one of these for a number of years, but we think it will be great fun. More details to follow shortly.*

*Finally, we have the Xmas Fair on the **2nd December between 11 & 2**. This is a massively popular event, which always draws a big crowd. It will have all the favourites – the raffle, craft room, tombola, Santa, turkey rolls, and many outside gift stall.*

*Our first bit of (part) funding kicked off on Monday, too, with the African drumming & dancing workshops, which everyone – children and staff alike – seemed to really enjoy. And we must give a shout out to PTA chair Kayleigh, who can be seen busting moves in the background of one of the videos!*

*These types of events are wonderfully enriching for the kids and an obvious target for our funding activities. But our funding is only as good as the input we get from the parents, either as helpers or as attendees. So, if there is anything you can do to support our efforts this year, please do let us know.*

*In the meantime, keep an eye on the noticeboard at the entrance to the lower playground and don't forget to follow our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SKSSPTA/>*

Mark Fletcher  
PTA Treasurer

## Monster Ball

Our first PTA event to take place this term will be the Monster Ball Discos on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**. **The cost of entry for all of the Monster Ball discos is £1 per child**. Please note that tickets must be purchased in order for children to attend. Please make payment via your child's school money account. **Payments will be live to pay from 12pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October**.

# THE MONSTERS' BALL

The times of the Monster Ball discos will be:

- **Reception:** 2.00pm – 3.00pm (children to come to school in any fancy dress e.g. princesses, pirates etc).
- **Year 1 & 2:** 3.30pm to 4.30pm
- **Year 3 & 4:** 5.00pm to 6.00pm
- **Year 5 & 6:** 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Please be aware that children's outfits **should not include gore, blood makeup or clown outfits, which may scare other children**.

Further details regarding entrance and exit procedures will be provided nearer the time.

## Parent support and reminders

### E-Safety Advice

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app, which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. It is extremely popular with young people and consistently features near the top of the download charts. Please click on the link below to read some E-Safety guidance and parental tips regarding this app.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/18SFBM7kmdM6ccNwcNfCv4vS3ku\\_H-nCJ/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18SFBM7kmdM6ccNwcNfCv4vS3ku_H-nCJ/view?usp=sharing)



### Double Yellow Lines

I kindly ask that parents do not park over the yellow zig zagged lines at any time, as this poses a significant health and safety risk to our children and school community.



### St Katherine's Osteopath Offer

Mrs Beedell, a parent at our school, has kindly offered members of the St Katherine's school community £5 off when booking an Active Care Osteopathy appointment. With National Mental Health Day coming up next week, it is a fitting gesture that could contribute positively to your health and well-being.

The logo for Active Care, featuring a red circle with white silhouettes of a person, a dog, and a person walking, with the text 'Active Care' below it.

<i>Marion Beedell</i>	
Osteopath M.Ost	
☎	07 888 252 190
✉	marion@activecare.life
📍	Suite G7, Old Library, St Faith's Street, ME14 1LH, Maidstone
🌐	activecare.life
📄	marionbeedell.osteo





## Key Contacts

Please see below some key contact details of a number of organisations, who are available to support and advise parents on a number of wellbeing and mental health issues. **Clicking on the links will take you straight to the websites:**

- [Kent and Medway NHS Mental Wellbeing Information Hub](#)  
HS Kent and Medway have developed a web-based directory of easy to access free support and self-help materials, most of which can be accessed without a waiting list or a GP referral. It is easy to navigate depending on what issues you are facing.
- [Mental Health Matters](#) – Webchat  
If you are registered with a GP in Kent or Medway you can access emotional support, advice and guidance by speaking to a trained counsellor on the [Mental Health Support Chat](#).
- [Kent and Medway urgent mental health helpline](#)  
This helpline is a telephone service available to adults in Kent and Medway who are concerned about their mental health, or the mental health of a friend or relative, and need urgent help. You can contact them on 08007939111. This service is for members of the public who are not currently receiving care or treatment from KMPT. The helpline is open 24/7.
- [Samaritans](#)  
Whatever you are going through you can call the Samaritans any time, 24/7 from any phone for free on 116 123
- [Mind](#)  
When you're living with a mental health problem, or supporting someone who is, having access to the right information is vital. Call 0300 123 3393 – they are open from 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday (except for bank holidays).

## House Points

This week's House Point totals are as follows:

House	Total
Air 	986
Earth 	693
Fire 	734
Water 	864





## Key Dates



DATE	EVENT
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Wellbeing workshops years 1-6
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Videoring to update the school website
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultation Meetings
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Inset Day (children not in school)
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October (2.30pm – 3.15pm)	Maths Workshop
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Year group 'Monster Ball' parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Reception:</b> 2.00pm – 3.00pm (during the school day)</li><li>• <b>Year 1 &amp; 2:</b> 3.30pm to 4.30pm</li><li>• <b>Year 3 &amp; 4:</b> 5.00pm to 6.00pm</li><li>• <b>Year 5 &amp; 6:</b> 6.30pm to 7.30pm</li></ul>
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children In Need
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Van Cols Photography – Individual & Sibling Photos
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November (9.00am – 11.00am)	SEND Coffee Morning
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	PTA Parent Quiz Night (time tbc)
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	PTA Christmas Fair (more information to follow)
Friday 15 December	Last day of term

Have a lovely weekend

Mr. Lang  
Headteacher