



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It's hard to believe that we have reached the end of an action-packed half term, which has been full of engaging and enriching experiences for the children. I would like to thank the whole of the St Katherine's community for making me feel so welcome in my first term. It has been a pleasure to get to know the children, staff and parents on a deeper level over the last seven weeks, and I am excited about working with you all in the future.

### Community News

#### Harvest Celebration

To mark Harvest at St Katherine's, our Year 6 Community Ambassadors and Mrs Ireland (RE Lead), presented an assembly about Harvest. We displayed the enormous pile of donations in the hall, so that the children could reflect on their contributions to the food bank and local community. Thank you to everyone that donated; the generosity shown by the school community was quite astounding!



#### Community Book Nooks

Our community book nooks were officially opened last week and it was great to see the **Reading Ambassadors** promoting them, with many parents and children selecting a book to take home to read. Please be reminded that every **Wednesday** the book nooks will be open, so feel free to visit, 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!



## Parent Voice Group

It was a pleasure to meet the Parent Voice representatives this week and talk through a number of points related to school improvement. They provided me with some excellent information and suggestions, which I will take back to discuss with staff. Please note that minutes of the meeting will be emailed to parents after half term.



## Remembrance Day Poppies

The Royal British Legion delivered our annual Poppy boxes this week. The **Community Ambassadors** will be visiting classes in the afternoons for children to purchase any of the items for a donation. Items include poppy reflector badges, snap bands, poppies and rulers.



Year 6 will also be presenting a special assembly on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November to mark Remembrance Day. This will provide an opportunity for St Katherine's to pay our respect to those who have lost their lives in wars around the world.

## Apple Day Winners

Christchurch Eco Green Team held an 'Apple Day' on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. This occasion celebrates the many different varieties of apple that are grown in the UK and it also tied in with our Harvest assembly.

Children at St Katherine's were given the opportunity to be creative and draw an apple of their own design. We had some wonderful entries and are delighted to announce the following positions were awarded to:

Winner	
Name	Class
Louis	Spruce
Lily	Quince
Runner Ups	
Buddy	Cherry
Akshara	Teak
Arjun	Cherry
Charley	Bramley
Zaire	Pear
Millie	Gala



## Enrichment

### Clubs

This term, many children have participated in a variety of clubs across the school, including coding club, craft club, Lego club and many sports clubs, which will continue after half term. We will endeavor to broaden the existing clubs in the spring term and tap into the interests of the children, in order to provide a balanced extra-curricular offer.



### The Great Fire of London

Year 2 participated in a fascinating workshop to enrich their learning about London's notorious fire, key locations and characters. The children were immersed in an interactive journey based on Samuel Pepys' diary and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of their 'Fabulous Finish' to their History topic.



**Pupil Voice:** *"I enjoyed acting out the different buildings that the fire destroyed." (Buddy – Year 2)*

### Stone Age Workshop

Year 3 took part in an incredible Stone Age workshop as part of their history learning. The children got to explore a range of artefacts that helped them to compare prehistoric Britain to modern Britain.



**Pupil Voice:** *"I liked it when we explored the real artefacts." (Harry – Year 3)*  
*"I liked seeing the Stone Age tools." (Paige – Year 3)*



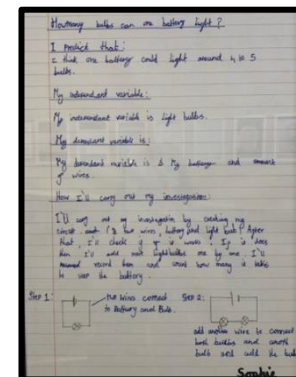
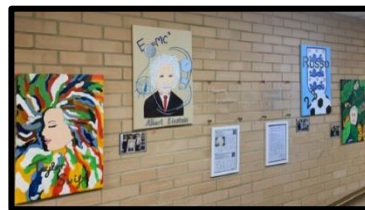
## Hockey Tournament

Last week, our **Year 4 hockey team** played brilliantly in a tournament with other schools from Malling. The team made it all the way through to the semifinals without conceding any goals. In the end, the team finished a very respectable **4<sup>th</sup> place** in the whole of Malling! All the players represented the school superbly and demonstrated **resilience** and **excellence** throughout the event – well done!



## Aspirational Alley

I am delighted to say that we continue to add children's outcomes to our '**Aspirational Alley**' display area, which showcases children's excellent outcomes. In addition to our previous entries, **Evie (Year 4)** has been added for the letter she received from the mayor; **Leo C (Year 4)** and **Italia (Year 2)** for their striking artwork and **Hayden (Year 3)** and **Alina (Year 2)** have also joined for their brilliant explanations. Whose outcomes will be displayed next?



We also have a specific area to showcase '**Perfect Presentation**'. Currently, the outcomes displayed (above) are from: **Hettie (Year 3)** and **Sophie (Year 6)**. Congratulations to all!

## Show Racism the Red Card

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October, St Katherine's was a sea of red, as children and staff stood together to 'Show Racism the Red Card'. By wearing red, our school community demonstrated our unwavering support against discrimination at school, in the local community and across the wider world!



Show Racism the **Red Card**



**Pupil Voice:** *"I wore red to school to show my support in stopping discrimination. Everyone is equal and it is important that everyone is treated fairly."* (Cadence – Year 6)

## Wellbeing Warriors

Our passionate Wellbeing Warriors worked with Miss Aikenhead and Mrs Elliott to prepare and deliver an assembly for **World Mental Health Day**, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October. During their presentation to the whole school, the Well Being Warriors focused on what we can do to help us improve both our physical and mental health.

Well done to all the Wellbeing Warriors for presenting the assembly and delivering a very important message.

Children from Year 1 to Year 6 also took part in a **mindfulness workshop** that focused on giving children strategies to support their own wellbeing. **A big thank you to the PTA for subsidising part of the cost of the workshop.**



**Pupil Voice:** *"The breathing activity in the workshop calmed me down. I learnt how to breathe in and out slowly and correctly."* (Sophia – Year 6)

**Pupil Voice:** *"The man who ran the workshop had a jar and when he shook the jar it showed us how sometimes all our thoughts can be jumbled up."* (Jamie – Year 4)



## Curriculum Update

### Outdoor Learning

Children in Year R experienced the 'Forest School' this week. All three classes enjoyed spending time **exploring, climbing, investigating** and even making **bird food hangers**. Some children even enjoyed **looking closely** at the honeycomb with their **magnifying glass** in the **mud kitchen**.



### Computing

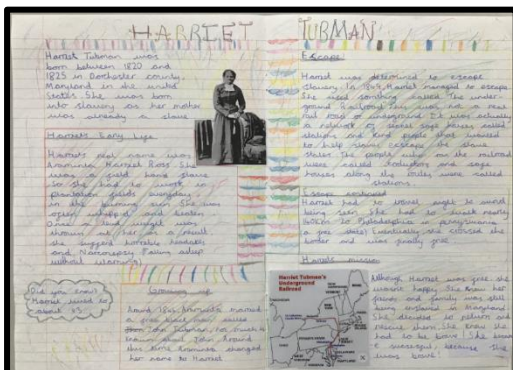
In Year 1 the children explored using the '**Beebots**' for their computing lesson and learnt how to create an algorithm to manipulate the Beebot. They used the vocabulary such as "**forwards**", "**backwards**" and "**direction**".



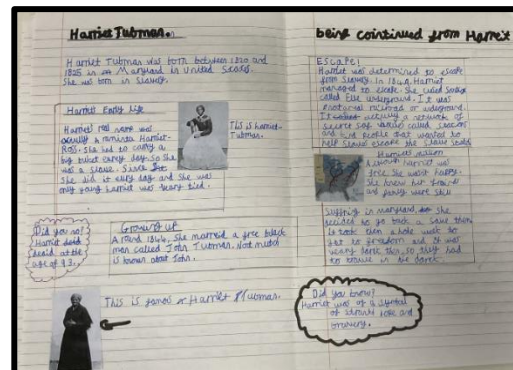
**Pupil Voice:** "I enjoy working with the Beebot and using the buttons to make it move forward, left, right and backwards. You can also press the forget button if you make a mistake! (Edward – Year1)

### Black History

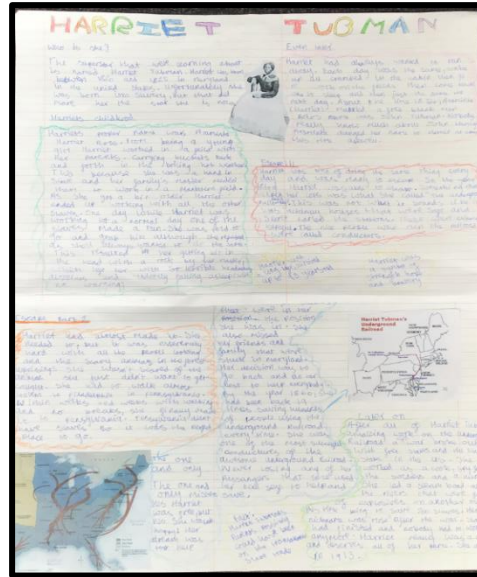
Year 5 have been learning about Harriet Tubman as part of their Black History learning and produced some excellent learning outcomes. Here are a few below:



Neve – Year 5

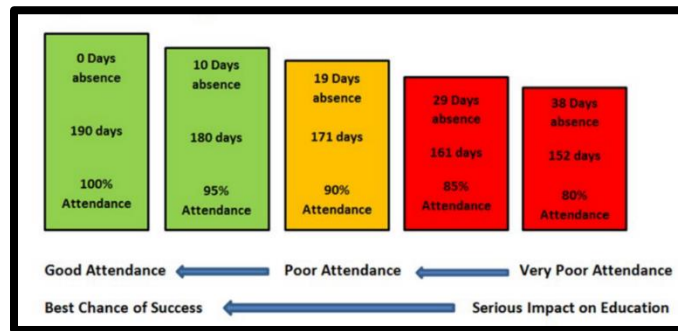


Ellie – Year 5



Millie – Year 5

### Attendance Matters!







Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 99.7%		
R	Bramley 94.2%	Gala 99.7%	Pippin 98%
1	Peach 94.9%	Pear 92.9%	
2	Cherry 95%	Quince 95.6%	
3	Almond 93.7%	Hazel 94.2%	Walnut 92.3%
4	Spruce 92.8%	Pine 93.1%	
5	Cedar 90.6%	Teak 94.1%	Mahogany 92.1%
6	Ash 94.1%	Oak 89.9%	

School Target: 96%  
Whole School Attendance: 93.5%

## House Points

This week's House Point totals are as follows:

House	Total
Air 	986
Earth 	693
Fire 	734
Water 	864

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

## Key Dates



DATE	EVENT
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> <p>*A letter will go out w/b Monday 30 October to provide further details.</p>
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 half term. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.**

Regards

Mr. Lang  
Headteacher