



Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

You may have noticed the temperature has gradually begun to drop outside; leaves are falling everywhere and our EYFS and Key Stage 1 children have started to learn carols and narrations – you could say that it is beginning to look a little like Christmas at St Katherine's! We will soon be in the swing of things when our Christmas trees are put up next week and, of course, we have our exciting PTA Christmas Fair to look forward to, which takes place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Christmas is literally just around the corner and we look forward to all the festive cheer this brings.



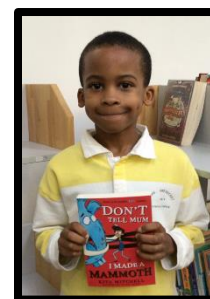
### Remembrance Sunday

Following our excellent Year 6 Remembrance Assembly at school, some of our children joined in with the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows and Scouts of the 1<sup>st</sup> Snodland Scout Group, in taking part in a local Sunday Service. Thank you to Thomas W (Year 3), who laid our poppy wreath on behalf of the St Katherine's School community.



**Pupil Voice:** "I walked with the Cubs and saw all the wreaths being laid. We all sang a song and said a prayer together." (Elsie – Year 4).

## Reading Vending Machine Winners



Congratulations to Brody in Year R, Aura in Year 1, Samuel in Year 3 and Caelan in Year 5, who were drawn from the St Katherine's hat on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, to become the latest reading vending machine winners. They were each awarded a raffle ticket by their teacher for either consistently reading at home, making good progress at school or helping others to read. The next vending machine book raffle will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Good luck and keep reading!



**Pupil Voice:** *"I was shocked to be picked. I read every day so that I could get this opportunity and hopefully get picked by my teacher. I chose Dog Man from the vending machine, it's a great book - I've read it twice already!" (Caelan – Year 5)*

## Scholastic Book Fair

At St Katherine's, we promote a life-long love of reading through our teaching of quality texts, our engaging book corners, our beautiful library, our reading vending machine and our community book nooks. To further support children's reading for enjoyment, we are inviting families to come along to our school book fair after school next week. The Book Fair will be from **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November (3.20pm to 4.00pm)**. This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase some stocking fillers or add another quality text to your child's book collection. Children will be given the opportunity to purchase a book from a large selection of genres. Commission from the sales will contribute towards replenishing classroom book corners and the library.

To visit the book fair, parents/ carers should enter the library from the lower playground. Reading Ambassadors will be at the doors to greet parents and direct them into the library area. To purchase books, QR codes will be available to scan and **payment is card only**.



## Diversity Ambassadors Assembly

The Diversity Ambassadors led an informative World Diabetes Day Assembly last week. Their presentation helped children develop their knowledge of Type 1 diabetes, and gain an understanding of how people, including some of our own pupils, regulate their bodies. The children were fascinated by the science behind diabetes and have a new found appreciation of diabetics and how responsible and inspiring they are to us all.



Please click on the link to view the assembly:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S6v4A14kMBFVfYRvGbgJAEkNjn80Rieb/view?usp=sharing>



**Pupil Voice:** *"It made me feel proud to talk about and tell children about diabetes because I have diabetes. I enjoyed working with the other children in the Diversity Team. My friends said that I was great when talking about diabetes."* (Ethan – Year 5)



## Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who made such a great effort by dressing in Pudsey Bear T-Shirts, yellow clothing and many, many spots to support Children in Need. The children took the opportunity on Friday to learn about the charity and the impact their donations can make to others, who may not be as fortunate as themselves.

## Football Tournament

Congratulations to our talented girls football team who thoroughly enjoyed the experience of playing in a recent tournament, despite the rain and cold weather! Everyone showed excellent teamwork and respect, and this was recognised by the referees and other teams, as they won the prestigious 'Sportsmanship Award'. We are all very proud of the team.



Well done to the boys' football team, who lost a hard-fought match 2-0 to Snodland Primary. They keep growing and improving together as the weeks go by. Keep it up!



Some of our Year 3 and 4 children participated in a football tournament this week. Once again, they played with pride and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout. Well done!



**Pupil Voice:** "We played five games of football in a tournament and we won two games. We came fourth overall ." (Brodie – Year 3)

### Forest School

Children across Key Stage 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their outdoor learning experiences in our forest school area this term. The children have participated in a number of activities with Ms Coates and Mrs Carruthers, and have shown fantastic teamwork when building their dens. They have been highly engaged, excited and curious when exploring our natural environment.



**Pupil Voice:** "I really enjoyed working on the bridge with the other children. I made new friends and worked as a team" (Jasmine – Year 5)

### Science Club

It has been wonderful to see so many children enjoying this term's extra-curricular activities, which are run by staff members and external companies.

I popped in to see Mrs Ireland's Year 4 'mad scientists' last week and they showed me the kazoos they had made. I was very impressed by the knowledge they had gained through making their instruments. They were all very keen to tell me about it and show me how loud their instruments could be played!



**Pupil Voice:** "I enjoyed making kazoos in Science Club and I learnt that vibrating elastic bands make a great sound." (Scarlett).

'When we made kazoos, I learnt that shortening the elastic band raises the pitch.' (Hollie).

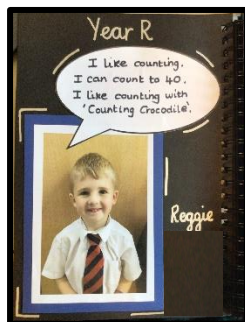
## Spring term Clubs

Please note that a full list of extra-curricular clubs for the Spring term will be sent to parents next week. Each club will contain a link, where **parents can register their child's interest**. In the event that a club is oversubscribed, we will draw children out of a hat. Please note that children, who did not get selected for a club in the autumn term, will have priority in the spring term.

## Reading and Maths Champions

Each term, a child is selected from each class to become a Reading or Maths Champion and are celebrated in a 'Champions Book', which is displayed in our 'Aspirational Alley'. To become a Reading or Maths Champion, a child must consistently demonstrate the school values within the subject e.g. consistently showing excellence in their outcomes, or continually demonstrating resilience when learning becomes challenging. Congratulations to the following children for becoming our first CHAMPIONS:

Reading Champions	Maths Champions
<b>Reception</b> - Henry, Charley and Ethan	<b>Reception</b> - Lucas, Mason and Reggie
<b>Year 1</b> - Kayla and Pria	<b>Year 1</b> - Autumn and Daniel
<b>Year 2</b> - Ameila and Rafael	<b>Year 2</b> - Charie and Kai
<b>Year 3</b> - Nina, Henry and Amina	<b>Year 3</b> - Elijah, Ethan and Taloula
<b>Year 4</b> - Carson and Jasmine	<b>Year 4</b> - Alfie and Theo
<b>Year 5</b> - Harry, Neve and Ellis	<b>Year 5</b> - Teddie, Joshua A and Zakai
<b>Year 6</b> - Reid and Noah	<b>Year 6</b> - Thomas and Lucas



## Pom Poms Donation

Thank you to Jag Dance Academy for donating some professional Pom Poms for our cheerleading club. The pom poms belonged to the GFC Gems, Gillingham Football Club's official cheerleading team, and are beautifully modelled by Mr Young (below).



## **Christmas is Coming!**

We have a number of exciting festive events planned in the forthcoming weeks, which I have outlined below:



### **CRiBS**

This year, we have invited CRiBS' to St Katherines to perform the Christmas story in a thought-provoking and creative way, through the use of song, narration and puppetry. We look forward to their performance.

### **EYFS Christmas Songs**

EYFS (including Nursery) will be performing Christmas songs in the hall on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 9:15am**. Parents of children in EYFS can book tickets for the performance by clicking on the link below. Please note that due to our hall's seating capacity, and in the interests of health and safety, parents are limited to **a maximum of two tickets per family, for one performance**.

### **EYFS Christmas Concert**

<https://forms.office.com/e/QJLVMXQfcT>

I am delighted to announce that our Reception children will also be visiting Pilgrim's Residential Home on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December, to perform carols to the local residents. This is bound to melt a few hearts and sprinkle some Christmas cheer beyond the school gates.

### **KS1 Production**

Year 1 & 2 will be performing the Christmas classic 'Prickly Hay' on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 2pm**. The performances will be held in the hall and will last for approximately 50 minutes. Parents in Year 1 & 2 can book tickets for the performances via the link below. Please note that due to our hall's seating capacity, and in the interests of health and safety, parents are limited to **a maximum of two tickets per family, for one performance**.

### **KS1 Prickly Hay**

<https://forms.office.com/e/U5ikisTU4U>

### **Bad Weather Warning**

In the unlikely event of the school closing due to severe weather conditions, please note that we will inform parents via text/email and the school website.



Parents can also log onto [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentclosures.co.uk) and register for alerts, this will ensure you receive live closure information.

### **Respectful Driving and Parking**

We have had a number of complaints about inconsiderate driving and parking outside the school. I kindly ask that parents/ carers are respectful at all times and avoid the following:



- 1) **Speeding along St Katherine's Lane** – this puts the health and safety of our school community at risk.
- 2) **Parking on yellow lines** – this causes clear obstructions and may prevent the emergency services from entering the school.

I will be contacting the borough and asking them to send CCTV parking enforcement cars during drop off and pick up times, in order to monitor the situation and ensure that a safe environment is maintained outside the school premises.

### Extended Provision

A reminder that in order for children to attend our before and after school provision, **they must be booked in using the School Money system. Please note that if a child has not been booked into a session, they will be unable to attend.**



A small minority of parents continue not to use our booking system for the morning sessions and drop their children at the reception door, unsupervised, early in the morning. **This clearly poses significant safeguarding risks for the children, and I therefore kindly ask that parents refrain from doing this at all times.** Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

### Quiz Night

We look forward to getting 'quizzical' this evening, as a number of parents, and also a staff team, will battle it out to become St Katherine's own egg heads! Good luck to everyone involved.



### Attendance

Thank you for Mrs Sewell for hosting this half term's pool party for our winning children, who achieved 100% attendance across any given week in Autumn 1. They thoroughly enjoyed the event and are keen to maintain a high level of attendance so that they are in the running to be drawn in the Autumn 2 pool party raffle.

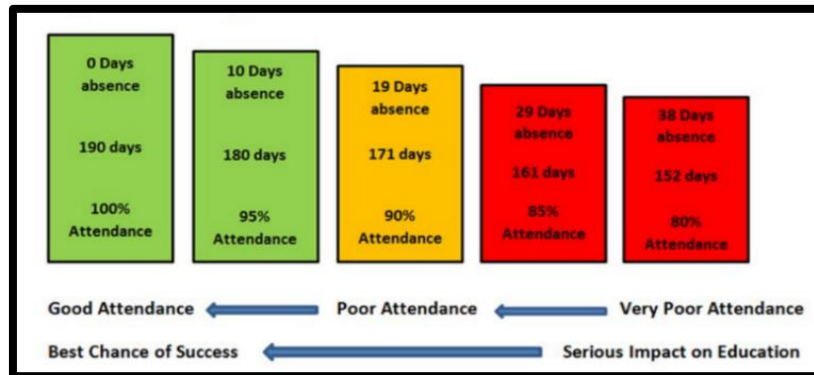


Year Group	Winner
Year 1	Oscar F
Year 2	Finley C
Year 3	Jacob R
Year 4	Lola V
Year 5	Maisie S
Year 6	Henry C
Whole School	Erin S

Our winner of the 97-100% termly attendance draw was Erin, who chose the Dino golf and sky trail experience for her reward. I look forward to seeing pictures of her enjoying the activities with her family when it reopens later in the year.



**Attendance Matters!**







Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 99.5%		
R	Bramley 92.7%	Gala 98.8%	Pippin 95.1%
1	Peach 95.3%	Pear 88.9%	
2	Cherry 93.6%	Quince 93.5%	
3	Almond 95.7%	Hazel 93%	Walnut 94.7%
4	Spruce 87.4%	Pine 91.5%	
5	Cedar 90.9%	Teak 96.2%	Mahogany 92.4%
6	Ash 91.1%	Oak 90.3%	

**School Target: 96%**  
**Whole School Attendance: 93.5%**



## House Points

This week's House Point totals are as follows:

House	Total
Air 	829
Earth 	705
Fire 	681
Water 	811

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



## Key Dates

EVENT	DATE
<b>PTA Quiz Night</b>	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November (6.30pm – 9.00pm)
<b>The Dogs Trust Assembly &amp; Workshops</b>	W/B 27 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Scholastic Book Fair</b>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Non-Uniform Day in support of the Christmas Fair</b>	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December
<b>Christmas Fair</b>	Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December (11am – 2pm)
<b>Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children)</b>	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>EYFS Christmas Concert to Parents</b>	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December (9.15am)
<b>Christmas Dinner</b>	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>CRIBS company Christmas Performance</b>	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>EYFS Christmas singsong at Pilgrim's View Care Home</b>	Monday 11 December (1:30pm)
<b>KS1 Christmas Performance</b>	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December (2pm)
<b>Christmas Party</b>	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>End of Term</b>	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr. Lang  
Headteacher