



Friday 26th January 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been a busy couple of weeks, with many exciting and memorable activities taking place, such as the choir's incredible performance at the O2 area and our Chinese dragon dancing workshops. We also had the Year 6 Reform, Restore, Respect presentation, which made our children think deeply about the repercussions of their choices and how this can affect their future lives.

As we enter into the last two weeks of term, I look forward to seeing you all at the forthcoming parent meetings, whilst the children have Children's Mental Health Week and National E-Safety Day to look forward to.

Pupil Voice

Road Safety

Last week, our Community Ambassadors and School Ambassadors performed some road safety fieldwork to identify the main hazards along St Katherine's Lane, during the school drop off. Some children created a tally chart of hazards to record the number of different incidents that occurred, whilst others interviewed the general public to gauge their opinions about road safety outside the school premises.

The Ambassadors are in the process of writing to parents/ carers about their findings and this will be sent next week.



Our assembly this week followed on from the Ambassador's road safety fieldwork. We took the opportunity to discuss their observations and remind the children about how to stay safe when crossing the road. Please click on the link to access the assembly presentation:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FxlRSctyLOiW62t92YAArnRDgUXNXhC/view?usp=sharing>

Pupil Leadership Team

The Pupil Leadership Team recently met with their classes to discuss ways in which we could further develop the playgrounds. They came up with a range of ideas, including games, resources and new playground markings. The children then wrote to the PTA to ask if they would fund some of the playground developments; they look forward to receiving their reply.

Dear Parent, Teacher Association

We are the pupil leaders at St Katherine's School and nursery. We have recognised as a leadership group that children in our school would like new equipment for net playtimes and also equipment for outside play and lunch times.

We each asked our classes to tell us which equipment they would like for net play and outside playtimes. We gathered the information and then told Miss Aikenhead our results.

We found out that classes would like some board games such as; UNO, snakes and ladders, monopoly and Jenga. They also said they would like Lego, colouring and puzzle books.

For outside the classes said they would like another set of football goals, ping pong table and more creative activities and books outside.

To help us with this please would you be able to donate some money for each class to the pupil leadership team so that we can buy some of these things to make our playtimes fun, exciting and enjoyable and most of all not boring like they are sometimes.

Thank you so much for reading our letter and we look forwards to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully
The pupil leadership team



Special Educational Needs

Newsletter

Please click on the link to access the latest SEND newsletter from Mrs Loveland:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r15bMnrh2kz1BLHil7UUqf6A5MLk-Fe5/view?usp=sharing>

Coffee morning

A reminder that Mrs Loveland will be hosting her next coffee morning on **Tuesday 30th January from 9am to 11am**. The meeting provides an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to discuss matters related to SEND and share their experiences and challenges in a professional environment.



Enrichment

Young Voices

Our wonderful choir experienced the awe and wonder of Young Voices last week, as they sang their hearts out, alongside eight thousand other children at the O2 Arena. As well as soaking in the incredible atmosphere and being part of one of the largest choirs in the world, the children were also treated to live performances from professional singers, dancers and rapper MC Grammar.

It was a once in a life time experience that will stay in the memory for a long time. Hopefully, it will inspire our children to be aspirational in everything they do - perhaps one day they may even make an appearance on the stage!

Please click on the link to get a flavour of the experience:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SV3vhbA2NKWeOmdDuL0vfxLWUMPZ17j4/view?usp=sharing>



Pupil Voice: *"It was the first time I have sung with thousands of people! I enjoyed singing the 'walking medley' with my friends." (Robbie – Year 5)*

Dragon Dance Workshop

This week, we have been learning about the origins of Chinese New Year. Children in KS2 were able to immerse themselves in Chinese culture through participation in dragon dance workshops, where they learnt traditional sequences and then performed them to our younger children.

Through the workshops, the children were able to develop an appreciation of the importance of the dance, what it represents and how it is choreographed.

Thank you to the PTA for funding such an enriching and memorable experience for the children.

Pupil Voice: *"I learnt how Chinese culture is different to ours. We danced with fans, umbrellas and the dragon. I loved how we could move the dragon together." (Hettie – Year 3)*



Reform, Restore, Respect

Our Year 6 children participated in a thought-provoking workshop today, which had some powerful messages delivered by the Reform, Restore, Respect team. They aim of the session was to raise children's awareness about the importance of education, with their key message being "Education is the key - not a life of crime". Discussions centred on anti-crime, anti-gang, county lines and anti-knife behaviour, and the children were enthralled by Francis' personal journey and the important messages he gave.



Pupil Voice: *"Francis told us to never, ever go down the route of crime because it could lead to prison. You won't have as many opportunities to do what you want and go to the places that you would like to."*

Curriculum News

Science

In Mrs Ireland's Science Club, the children have been learning how changes in temperature can change the flow of air. They were set a challenge: can you place a coin on top of a glass bottle and move it, without touching it? With the power of science – they could!

Please click on the link below to see Jenson in action:



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13JJc5Fh72neTnaEukgVc8q6sI5-vhAJb/view?usp=sharing>

EYFS

This week, Year R have been learning about Grace Darling as part of their Real-Life Superheroes topic. The children were amazed to learn about wonderful Grace and the brave efforts she took to save the lives of others from her remote Lighthouse in the Farne Islands. All three classes were very inspired and enjoyed creating their own model lighthouses from clay during their challenge time!



Reading

Reading Vending Machine Winners



Congratulations to Violet in Year R, Destiny in Year 2, Ellie in Year 3 and Archie in Year 5, who were drawn from the St Katherine's hat on Friday 19th January, 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 2nd February. Good luck and keep reading!



Community Book Nooks

A reminder that our Community Book Nooks open every Wednesday after school for all children to come and take a book to enjoy reading at home, either by themselves, or with a family member. Once you have finished reading the book at home, please return it and take another. We are constantly replenishing the Book Nooks with new material that is being donated by the local community. Here are a few examples of the latest additions (right).



Community Read

Once again, thank you to all the parents, carers and family members that contributed to the latest 'community read' in Reception. Your support and role-modelling is key to promoting reading for pleasure and hooking our young readers into the wonderful world of books!



Parents E-Safety Tip

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. It offers a vast amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences and enables them to interact with a large community of online players. However, the platform can expose players to a number of risks. Please click on the hyperlink below for some key advice for parents and carers:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rVb76CeO6vF1zlBrALU7RWhZUqn7nA92/view?usp=sharing>



Congratulations

I am sure that you would like to join me in congratulating Miss Pettitt on successfully completing her teaching degree and officially graduating this week. Well done!



Sports News

Drue (Year 6) plays for Wateringbury Football Club and received 'star of the week' at training last Thursday and player of the match on Sunday, where her team won 4-0. Drue is the team's goalkeeper and didn't concede a single goal! A superstar for the future perhaps?



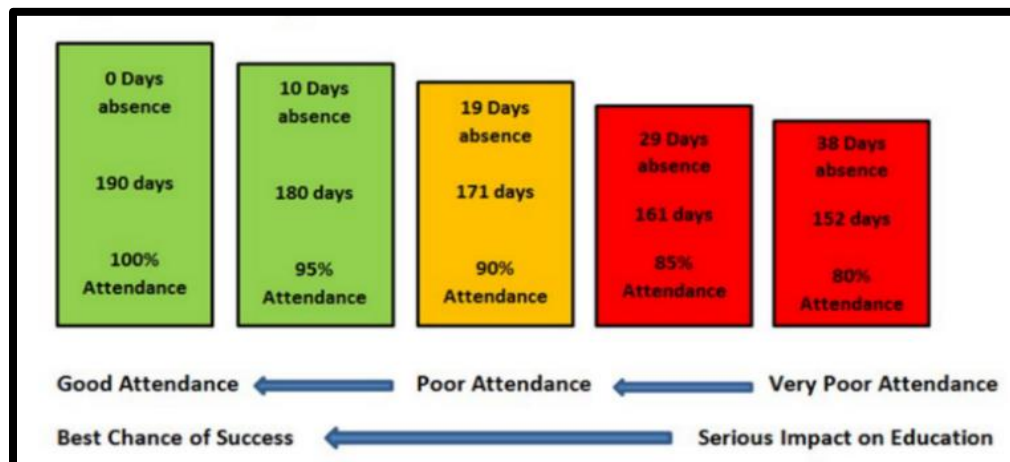
Happy Shoes

A reminder that it is St Katherine's '**Happy Shoes Day**' on **Monday 29th January**. We run this day in order to promote the benefits of walking to school, which includes children's participation in exercise and the reduction of air pollution in the local environment.

On these days, parents/ carers are encouraged to either walk to school or park and stride. Additionally, the children should **come to school wearing footwear that makes them feel happy**. This could range from colourful trainers to wellies. For the safety of the children, we kindly ask that **football boots or heelies are not worn to school on this day**.



Attendance Matters!



Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 98.1		
R	Bramley 93.1	Gala 94.5	Pippin 91.5
1	Peach 97.2	Pear 92.7	
2	Cherry 93.7	Quince 97.5	
3	Almond 93.7	Hazel 89.2%	Walnut 91.5%
4	Spruce 95.6%	Pine 91.3%	
5	Cedar 93.4%	Teak 92.8%	Mahogany 91.8%
6	Ash 94.2%	Oak 89.6%	

School Target: 95%

Key Dates



EVENT	DATE
Happy Shoes Day	Monday 29 th January
SEND Coffee Morning	Tuesday 30 th January 9am -11am
Children's Mental Health Week	W/B Monday 5 th February
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 6 th February
Parent Evenings	Cherry Class - Tuesday 30 th & Wednesday 31 st January All other classes - Wednesday 7 th & Thursday 8 th February
Last day of term	Friday 9 th February

Have a great weekend.

Mr. Lang
Headteacher