



Friday 9th February 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of another busy half term, which has been full of enrichment and memorable experiences for our children and staff. Some of the highlights have included Chinese Dragon Dancing, this week's visit from Action Jackson and, of course, our recent Ofsted inspection.

It has been a joy to observe the school values become firmly embedded across the school and this is reflected in children's positive attitudes and behaviour. I continue to witness countless acts of politeness, kindness and resilience on a daily basis. Long may this continue!

There is such a strong community spirit at St Katherine's; the children love their school and are keen to contribute wherever they can. As I reach my own milestone (six months as headteacher), I am proud of what we have all achieved since the start of the year - the sky really is the limit!

I hope that you all have a restful half term and take the opportunity to spend some quality time with your families.

Children's Mental Health Week

At St Katherine's, we are committed to educating our children about the importance of mental health, in order to support their personal development. This week, the children were thrilled to meet Action Jackson, the UK Ambassador for Happiness, who used song, dance and bundles of enthusiasm to convey the message: **Dream Big. Act Now. Never Give Up. You're Amazing!** Please click on the link below to watch a short clip of Action Jackson's KS2 assembly.

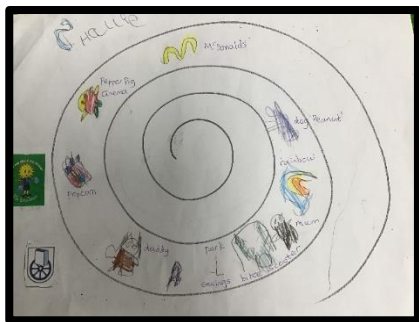


https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s2llgHFXkY41b9JixCBk6dXoqhDvP_uX/view?usp=sharing

Pupil Voice: *"I really enjoyed the workshop. Action played his guitar and we all had fun. I learnt that I should never give up and show resilience in all that I do."* (Holly – Year 4)

Expression Swirls

For part of the children's learning in PSHE, and to promote Children's Mental Health Week, the children created their own 'Expression Swirls' to identify the most important things in their lives. I hope that parents and carers enjoyed the opportunity to come into school and look at the children's outcomes. Below are examples of expression swirls across the school.



Reception



Year 4



Year 6

Assemblies

This week we presented two themed assemblies, one for Safer Internet Day and another to promote Children's Mental Health Week, which was led by our Wellbeing Warriors. Please click on the links to access the assembly presentations:

- **Safer Internet Day:** https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f0ikw1disl5_8mITPc95tKp23dKUHjYZ/view?usp=sharing
- **Children's Mental Health KS1:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/177kE6Znyxna6lXHPoabD8DGw3QDlxlab/view?usp=sharing>
- **Children's Mental Health KS2:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lrUjVqGg3S0U7ts7G5MD2-J4Rz5xuKj/view?usp=sharing>

Magnificent Mylo

Miss Aikenhead recently attended The Dog Mentor Conference where she had the chance to learn about information and knowledge related to having a Dog Mentor (Mylo) in school. It was also a chance to share wonderful stories about the impact Mylo has had within the St Katherine's Community.

At the end of the conference, there was an award ceremony and we are excited to announce that Mylo won '**The Biggest Smile Success Story**', due to his impact on our children, staff and parents. Well done Mylo – what a fantastic achievement!



Pupil Voice: "Mylo makes me feel happy when I am with him – he's amazing. He makes me calm every time I look at him. He is cute, fluffy and a great friend" (Evie – Year 4).

Red Cross Visit

This week, Year 6 were visited by Babs (a member of the Red Cross), who provided workshops to develop children's understanding and empathy around refugees. She discussed different situations that can sometimes lead to people having to leave their own country, and also provided a great opportunity for the children to ask questions about the consequences of war and the struggles refugees can often face.



Pupil Voice: *"We were told a story about a young boy called Hamza, who left Syria due to war. It took him three years to travel to the UK and he had an incredibly tough journey. I was able to put myself in his position and think about how much he struggled. He definitely showed resilience during his journey."* (Zoe – Year 6)

Curriculum Update

Physical Education

I have been popping into a number of PE lessons over the last couple of weeks and have enjoyed watching the children use a range of apparatus to sequence different movements. They have been learning how to execute their movements precisely and apply them at different levels and speeds.



Year 1



Year 3



Year 6

Safer Internet Day

The children participated in a number of activities this week, in order to promote safe and responsible online behaviour. Here are just a few examples:

- In Reception, the children have been learning about making safe choices when using devices. They read about 'The Adventures of Smartie the Penguin' and how it is important to tell a grown up when we are not sure about something we see online.

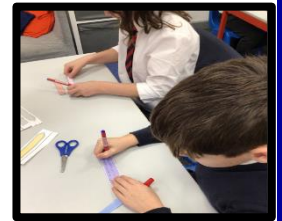


- In Year 2, the children read a story about Mo and Jaz, who were learning about what to do if they saw something online that worried them.
- Children in Year 4 discussed how the internet has the power to influence the way young people think, feel and act. However, sometimes the internet can have a negative influence on us. They talked through what they should do if faced with any negative influences.
- Children in Year 6, looked at how technology has changed over time and how we might deal with the challenges it presents. They discussed ways to stay safe online, whilst still enjoying all the benefits the internet has to offer. The children then created some top tips to help others stay safe online:



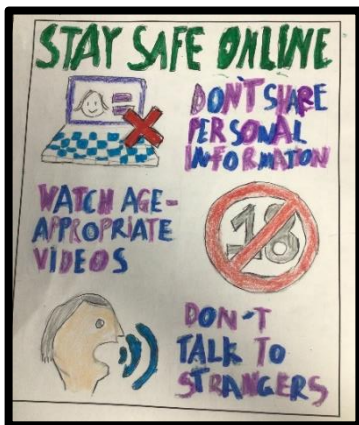
"Keep your personal details private and don't share your password with anyone." (Mason)

"Talk to someone if you see something online you don't understand or are not happy about." (Lilly)



E-Safety Competition

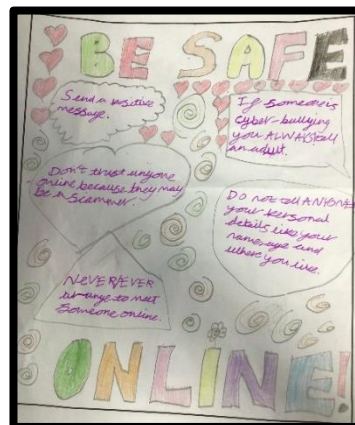
Miss John (Computing Lead) also launched an E-Safety poster competition last week and we received a number of excellent entries. After much deliberation, the finalists of the competition were Elodie, Akshara, Shannon and Lily-Rose. All of the children received a certificate and our eventual winners were (Elodie and Akshara). Their poster designs will now be transformed into canvases and form part of our new E-Safety display.



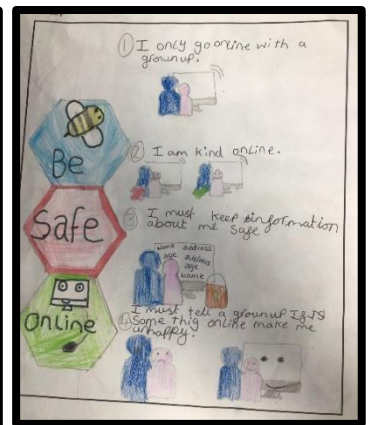
Elodie - Year 2



Akshara - Year 5



Shannon - Year 5



Lily-Rose - Year 6

Parents E-Safety Tip

One in every five children between the ages of 10-15 experienced bullying online last year: abusive messages, inappropriate language aimed at them or being excluded from group chats, for example. Please read the tips provided by National Online Safety (NOS) to help support your child build positive relationships online and avoid some of the potential issues.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YBdfnSTBl6K4HC1WgMwpEAPQ1dQ6Uxz/view?usp=sharing>



SEND Update

Thank you to the parents that attended last week's coffee morning. During the session, Mrs Loveland discussed key strategies to support with children's routines and regulation at home. The next coffee morning will take place on **Tuesday 12th March**.



Reading Vending Machine Winners

Congratulations to Dennis, Ashton, Binar and Harry, who were drawn from the St Katherine's hat to become our latest reading vending machine winners. Each one of them, along with one child from every class, were awarded a raffle ticket by their teacher for their efforts in reading. This includes consistently reading at home, making good progress at school or helping others to read. Raffle tickets are then drawn from EYFS, KS1 and KS2. The next vending machine book raffle will take place in the new term. Good luck and keep reading!



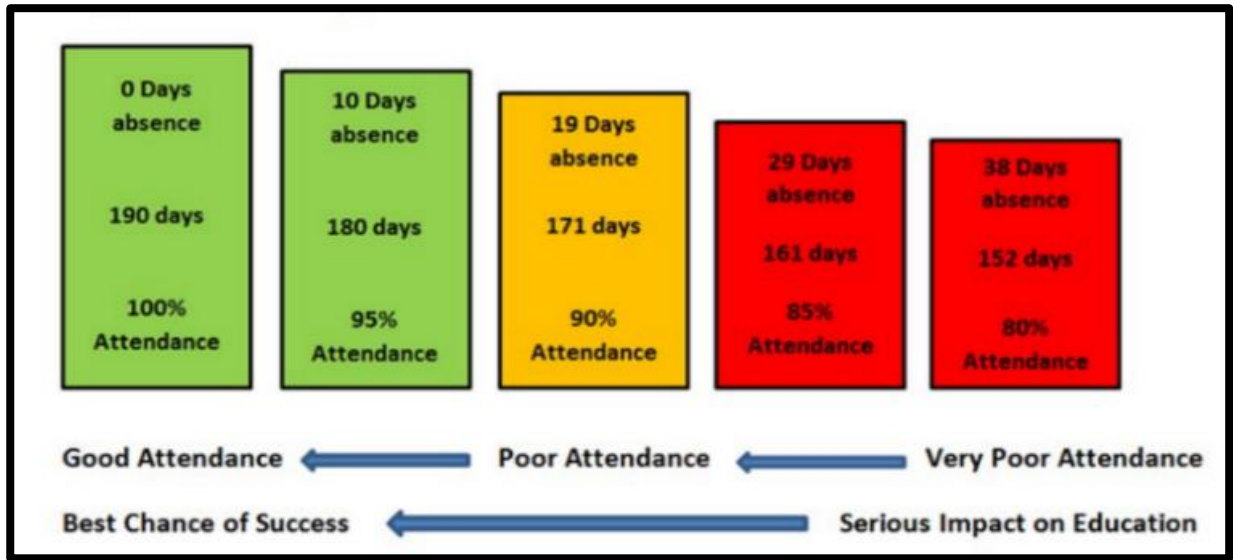
Pupil Voice: *"I like reading because I learn new words. I was shocked that I was chosen from the reading raffle and I could choose a book from the vending machine, as there are lots of children in Year 5 & 6"* (Harry – Year 5)

Netball

Our Year 6 netballers played in a friendly match against Eccles Primary last week and won 12-9, with Lenny scoring all twelve goals! I was privileged to watch part of the game and was very impressed with the teamwork and sportsmanship displayed by everyone involved. Congratulations and good luck for your next game.



Attendance Matters!



Weekly Attendance



Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 98.1		
R	Bramley 94.5	Gala 96.1	Pippin 91.3
1	Peach 94.3	Pear 92.7	
2	Cherry 95	Quince 90.4	
3	Almond 97.1	Hazel 87.2%	Walnut 89%
4	Spruce 93.2%	Pine 94.69%	
5	Cedar 88.1%	Teak 97.3%	Mahogany 93.4%
6	Ash 93%	Oak 83.5%	

School Target: 95%

Key Dates



EVENT	DATE
First day of term 4	Monday 19 th February
Times table workshop	Wednesday 28 th February: 2.30pm – 3.15pm
School group photographs (Van Cols Photography)	Tuesday 5 th March
World Book Day	Thursday 7 th March
British Science Week	Monday 11 th to Friday 15 th March
Comic Relief	Friday 15 th March
Virtual Reality Experience (Years 3-6)	Wednesday 20 th & Thursday 21 st March
Whole school 'Aspiration Day'	Monday 25 th March
Last day of term 4	Thursday 28 th March

Have a great half term.

Mr. Lang
Headteacher