



Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It was great to hear that news of our recent OFSTED success has been broadcast in the media this week, through KMFM radio and Kent Online. Our reputation within the local community continues to blossom and we should all be proud of being part of a special St Katherine's community. Please click on the following links for the [newspaper article](#) and [radio feature](#).

In other news, it has been a busy couple of weeks in school, which began with the children participating in a range of memorable reading activities for 'St Katherine's Reading Week'. The children thoroughly enjoyed their reading buddy sessions, online author workshops, community reads and fruit and veg/ masked reader competitions. They also made a brilliant effort to either dress up as their favourite fictional character or dress down and come to school in their pyjamas and onesies to re-enact a bedtime read. Some of the highlights have been captured below.



The Masked Reader



Fictional fruit & veg



Reading buddies



Community Read

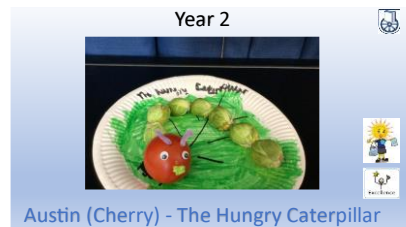
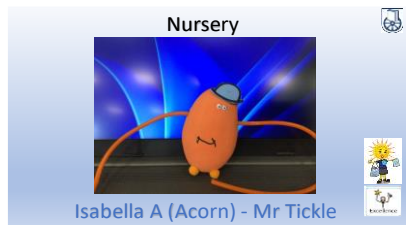


Dressing up

### [Mylo's Fictional Fruit & Veg competition](#)

Thank you to everyone that took the time to create their fictional fruit and veg characters. We were astounded by the time and effort the children put into their designs. After much deliberation, our Reading Ambassadors chose the following winners from each year group, who will receive a token for our reading vending machine.





### The Masked Reader

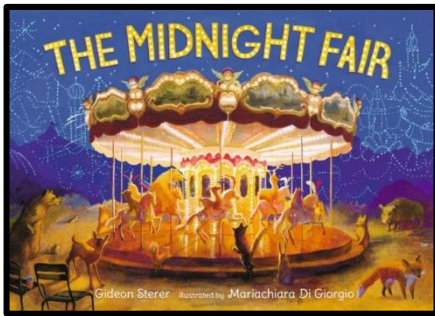
Staff had a blast reading their favourite books, whilst concealing their identities behind a range of quirky masks. Thank you to everyone that entered the competition. Individual's, who correctly identified the Masked Readers, were entered into a draw, and I am delighted to announce that **Grace (Pear Class)** was picked out of a hat. They will also receive a token for our reading vending machine. Happy reading!

The results of the Masked Reader are as follows: **1) Mrs Patel (orange), 2) Mrs Kane (white mask), 3) Mr Lang (broccoli), 4) Mrs Brookman (monkey), 5) Miss Stebbens (elephant), 6) Miss Aikenhead (monkey – blue hair), 7) Mrs Ireland (pig), 8) Mr Chatley (Ironman), 9) Mrs Wright (Bear), 10) Miss Clutterbuck (muppet), 11) Mrs Loveland (robot).**



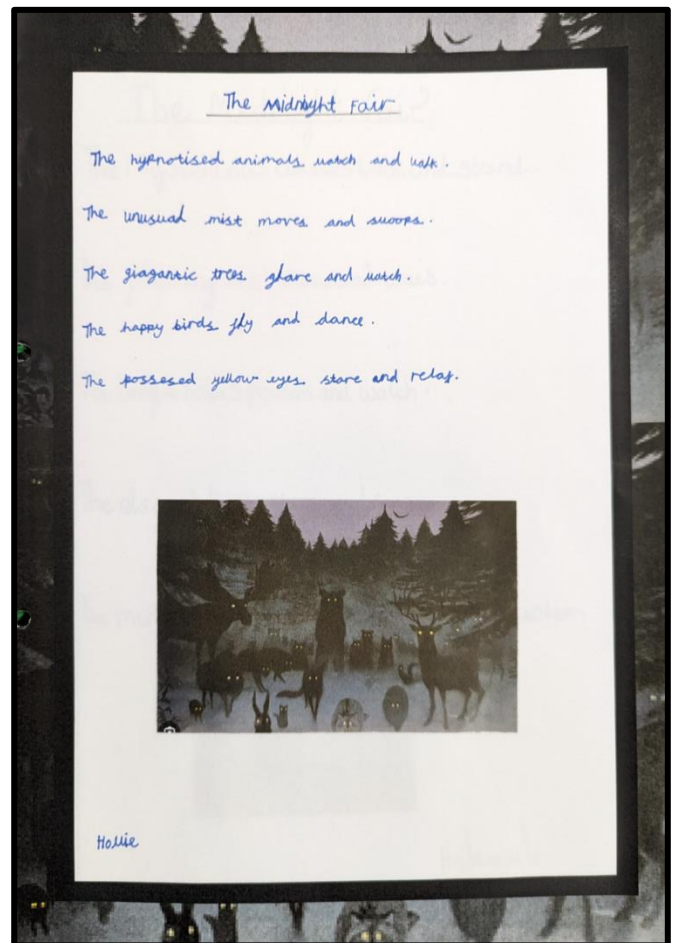
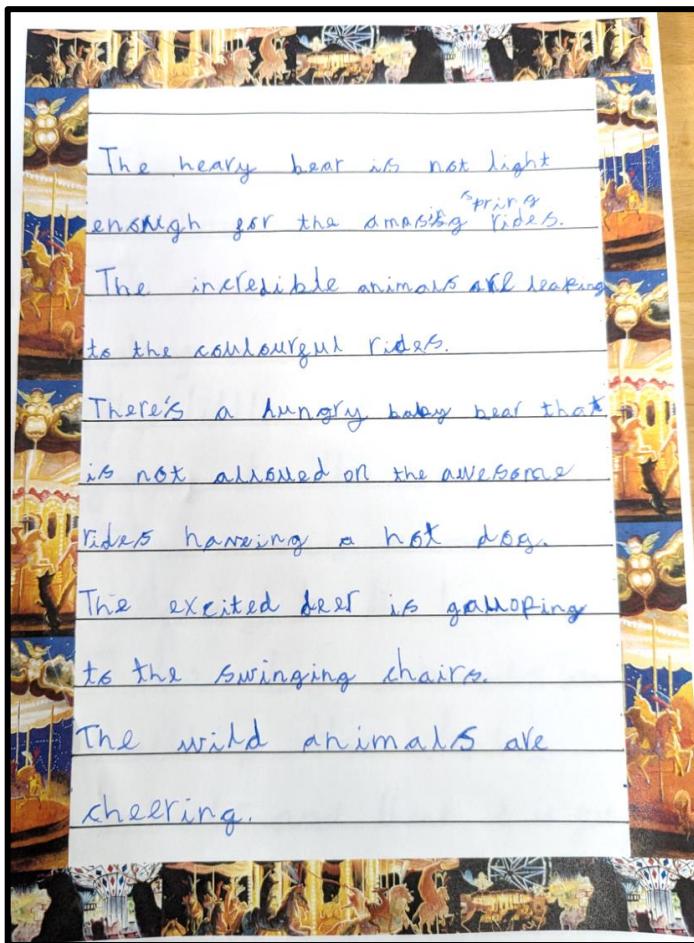
## Picture Book Week

Last week, children from Nursery to Year 6 used stimulus from the wonderful picture book 'The Midnight Fair' to develop their understanding of verbs. They participated in drama and language-based activities, which supported them to draft, edit and then publish their poems.



Here are some outcomes from children in Year 2 and 4. I am sure you will agree, they have certainly used effective language choices to bring their poems to life.

**Pupil Voice:** "I like to publish and improve my work and make it neater. I was proud of the language I used, especially 'hypnotised'." (Hollie – Year 4)



## British Science Week

This week, our children developed their scientific enquiry skills through conducting a range of experiments around the theme of 'colour'. This included learning through investigations such as walking water, bleeding skittles and magic milk (KS1), whilst KS2 delved into acids/alkalines and chromatography. We were also visited by Professor Peewee, who wowed the children with his scientific workshops.

Our science focus coincided with National British Science Week and provided an opportunity to celebrate the subject and identify how science helps us to understand the world around us.



## Author Visit

We are extremely excited that our **St Katherine's Aspiration Day** on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March is only a few weeks away. For part of the day, David Fuller, a children's author, will be running workshops for children in KS2 to talk about what inspires him to write, and the challenges he faces when putting pen to paper.

David will also be **selling and signing copies of his books at the reduced price of £4.50 (usually £5) to any children who would like a copy on the day.** Here are a selection of his books and some links to where you can find out further information about him.

# Author visit



## Young Carer Assembly

We were visited by Sophie from Young Carers this week, who spoke about the 10,000+ registered Young Carers in Kent. She discussed the important role they play in caring for family members with illnesses, disabilities and mental health difficulties.



Through the presentation, our children developed an appreciation of the daily challenges young carers face, whilst at the same time trying to live their own lives.

**Pupil Voice:** *"This assembly was inspiring to me because I saw so many people who have to care and help a member of their family. To help and care for others is one of the kindest and most stressful things that you can do in your life. That is why most people usually need more support than others."*

(Lily – Year 6)



## Amazing Role Model

I received an inspiring email from a parent of a Reception child this week, who praised the impact their child's Year 6 buddy was having on them.

*"I wanted to just praise one of your Year 6 students called Tristan. He is my son's buddy in reception. Ethan often mentions his buddy and what they have done in the day. It's so lovely to hear. Tristan often has seen Ethan at the beginning of school and ALWAYS approaches him and says hello, often giving him a hug or a high five. He often sees him outside of the school gates and if he is on his bike he stops and talks to Ethan as well. He is always polite and asks if he is ok."*

*This evening Ethan fell over on his way to swimming and Tristan saw him crying and came straight over and waited for a little while, whilst Mr Young and I tried to calm him down. Ethan saw him and I think he took some comfort in seeing him there. Tristan put his hand on his shoulder and asked him if he was ok."*

*Please could you pass on my thanks to him and also if anyway pass this on to his parents. He has always been nothing but polite, kind and caring towards Ethan and I wanted to feed this back because if it was my son then I would be very, very proud to see how he has interacted with Ethan."*

Thank you to Tristian for providing such a brilliant role model to Ethan and others around the school. You are clearly inspirational to the people around you!



## Red Nose Day

St Katherine's was smothered in all things red today and our Community Ambassadors led an assembly to promote Comic Relief, and the fabulous work the charity does to support families both abroad and throughout the UK. A reminder that if you would like to donate to the charity, please click on the following [webpage](#).



## Diversity Ambassadors

Next week our Diversity Ambassadors will be presenting an assembly about Cerebral Palsy, to develop children's understanding and appreciation of individuals who live with the disability. We look forward to the team's presentation.



## Charity Champion

We are incredibly proud of Larry (Year 1), who has raised a staggering £2,000 for NeST, a charity that helps individuals with nephrotic syndrome, a condition that affects individual's kidneys. Larry is passionate to keep raising money, so that researchers can find a cure for his 'naughty kidneys' (Larry's own words).



This March, Larry is taking part in the March Marathon, which consist of travelling 26.2 miles by any human powered transport. We have been informed that Larry tends to prefer his bike to complete his miles!

Larry's family appreciates that giving to charity can be challenging for families at this time. However, if anyone is able to contribute to Larry's mission, please click on the following link: <https://gofund.me/bd3140ae>. Your support is very much appreciated.



## Parents E-Safety Tip

This week's online safety guide focuses on YouTube. It highlights a number of risks such as connecting with strangers, inappropriate content and high visibility.

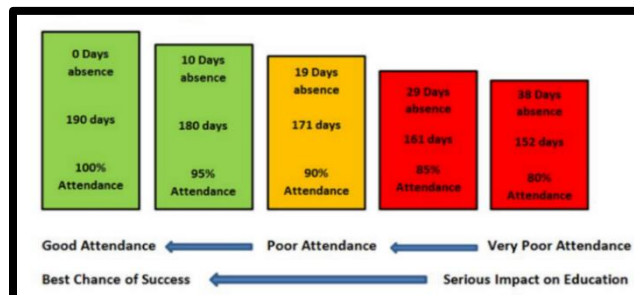


<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-MXBi6vqUXd1wxwXppRiVLsvA32eC-31/view?usp=sharing>

## Undefeated Netballers

Our tenacious netball team beat Snodland Church of England School 16-2 yesterday to remain undefeated and win their league. They will now be paired against teams in the borough, who have won their respective leagues, to see who progresses to the final. Good luck and keep it up!

## Attendance Matters!



## Weekly Attendance

| Year | Classes         |                 |                   |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| N    | Acorn<br>99.9%  |                 |                   |
| R    | Bramley<br>100% | Gala<br>100%    | Pippin<br>95.6%   |
| 1    | Peach<br>95.9%  | Pear<br>88.9%   |                   |
| 2    | Cherry<br>96.2% | Quince<br>90.4% |                   |
| 3    | Almond<br>96.3% | Hazel<br>89.7%  | Walnut<br>84.8%   |
| 4    | Spruce<br>91.2% | Pine<br>84.3%   |                   |
| 5    | Cedar<br>89.3%  | Teak<br>96%     | Mahogany<br>89.3% |
| 6    | Ash<br>95.5%    | Oak<br>86.4%    |                   |



School Target: 95%

## Key Dates



| EVENT                                         | DATE                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Comic Relief Day (Red Clothes Day)</b>     | <i>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March</i>                                   |
| <b>KS2 Virtual Reality History Experience</b> | <i>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> &amp; Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March</i> |
| <b>PTA Movie Night</b>                        | <i>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</i>                                   |
| <b>Aspiration Day</b>                         | <i>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March</i>                                   |
| <b>CRIBS Easter Performances</b>              | <i>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</i>                                 |
| <b>Last day of term</b>                       | <i>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</i>                                 |

Have a great weekend.

Mr. Lang  
Headteacher