



Friday 10th May 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that you enjoyed the long Bank Holiday weekend, despite the miserable weather! We are all keeping our fingers crossed that the sun decides to stay out for a while, so that the children can enjoy some sustained time out on the field.

A Message to Year 6

Next week will see our Year 6 children sit their SATs tests in grammar, reading and maths. We are, of course, extremely proud of their efforts and achievements, both this year and in all their previous years at St Katherine's. We also know that they will naturally try their best – that is all anyone can ask them to do.

The SATs tests are designed to assess how much the children know and have learnt at school, but we all know that the answers they scribe onto the papers will only show a fraction of their achievements. Overtime, our children have developed a multitude of skills that the SATS tests won't be able to assess. They have developed into artists, communicators, deep thinkers, carers, debaters, innovators, resolvers, collaborators and designers... the list goes on! Most importantly, they are phenomenal young people, who are wonderful to be around; I have no doubt that they will go on to become outstanding adults and achieve their goals and aspirations. Whatever the outcome of next week, we appreciate that all of our children are unique, special and much loved by their families and everyone at St Katherine's. Go for it!



Lockdown Drill

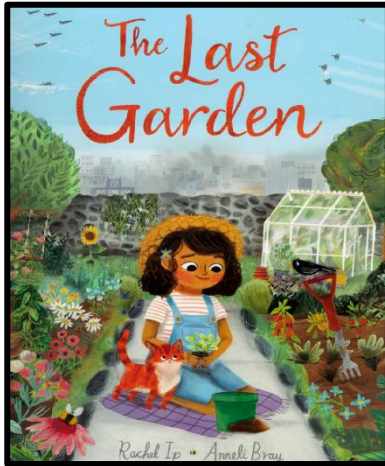
Last week we conducted a whole school lockdown drill, so that the children could familiarise themselves with the emergency procedures. This involved positioning themselves under their desks and remaining quiet for a short period of time. The children were informed that the drill would be taking place beforehand and teachers also explained the reasons behind the practise e.g. if we had to keep everyone inside the building for their own safety, for example if there was a loose dog that entered the school premises.

Please note that we plan a number of drills throughout the year, including fire and lockdown drills, to ensure that essential procedures become second nature to our children. In doing so, they will know exactly what to do in the event that a real life emergency occurs.



Assemblies

In my recent assembly, I used the picture book 'The Last Garden' to demonstrate that we can overcome even the most difficult circumstances, through having compassion, resilience, responsibility and a strong community spirit. Please click on the [link](#) to access the assembly presentation.



Reflection

Resilience
Despite destruction, the garden's seeds show resilience and eventually lead to growing into plants and flowers.

Community
Even in difficult times, beauty can be found. Zara's garden represented a small oasis of hope and healing in the community she lived in.

Compassion
Zara showed compassion towards her friends, the garden and the community she lived in.

Responsibility
Zara showed responsibility by looking after the garden to make sure that it was an area of beauty and also planting new seeds.

Last week, we welcomed Saad Dastagir to St Katherine's, who talked to our children about his life as a Muslim. He read to them from the Quran (in Arabic), and showed prayer mats belonging to him, his young son and daughter. Additionally, Mr Dastagir explained his key beliefs and related this to Christianity, so the children could make some the links between the two religions.



Pupil Voice: "I found it interesting that the Quran is written in Arabic. I have never heard Arabic being spoken before. (Holly – Y4)."

Exciting Outings

At St Katherine's, we believe that school trips are fundamental to 'bringing learning to life'. They offer enrichment to children, build their cultural capital and provide opportunities to consolidate and extend their knowledge and understanding across the curriculum.

Year 3 recently visited Detling Showground, as part of their DT & science topics 'Seasonal Food' and 'Plants', where they learnt about farming and agriculture in the countryside.



Pupil Voice: *"I learnt lots about animals and I now realise how much they matter to us." (George)
" I learnt how to milk a cow – it wasn't a real cow!" (Lillie-Rose)*

Last week, Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Dover Castle, which linked to their history topic 'Medieval Monarchs'. Throughout the visit, they were able to use their historical enquiry skills and deepen their understanding of Medieval society, through investigating dining, and the food and drink from this period of time, all within an impressive Medieval Castle.



Teacher Voice: *"The castle provided some awe and wonder for the children, as they got to experience a different place in history. They thoroughly enjoyed being transported to medieval times and becoming real life historians". (Miss Enston – Y5)."*

A Debate with the Mayor

Our School Ambassadors joined the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling, along with children from other local schools, to debate on some hot topics:

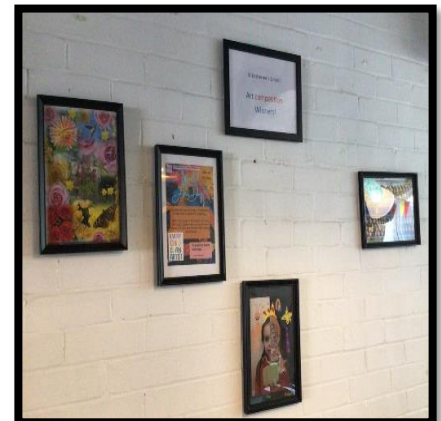
- *Should we be concerned about the amount of sugar in certain foods and drinks?*
- *Should schools ban birthday sweets?*
- *Are school meals healthy and nutritious and good value for money?*
- *Should phones be allowed in primary and secondary schools?*

As usual, our Ambassadors gave a brilliant account of themselves through speaking confidently and articulating their opinions in a considerate but confident manner. Thank you for representing the school so brilliantly. They will be sharing their experience with other children during forthcoming assemblies.



Digital Artists

Congratulations to Isla (Year 5), Dylan (Year 3) & Adelle (Year 1) for winning our recent digital art competition. They produced some extremely creative outcomes, which have been framed and are now displayed in Mood Lift Café. Our winners took a trip to the venue this week and delivered their artwork.



Pupil Voice: *"I am feeling proud that my artwork has been displayed at Mood Lift. I can't wait to spend my voucher and show my family my artwork."* (Adele – Y1).

Reading Vending Machine Winners

Congratulations to Jessica (EYFS), Jordan (Year 2), Harriet (Year 4) and Freddie (Year 5), who were drawn from the St Katherine's hat today, 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 24th May. Good luck and keep reading!



Books that Promote Diversity

To broaden our children's reading experiences, we have recently bought a number of books, which focus on the theme of diversity. The fiction and non-fiction material will support children to develop their understanding of different cultures, whilst they also celebrate people's uniqueness and individualism.



Our new books have been distributed in the school library and in classroom book corners for the children to enjoy.



Diversity Ambassador Voice: "The books are a great idea because we can learn about people's cultures and what it is like to be different from one another." (Noah – Y6).

Cheer Champions

Freya and Grace had a busy Bank Holiday, as they travelled to Milton Keynes to compete in a cheerleading competition. The girls both competed in their separate teams and received an 'excellent' award. We are all extremely proud of you!



Football

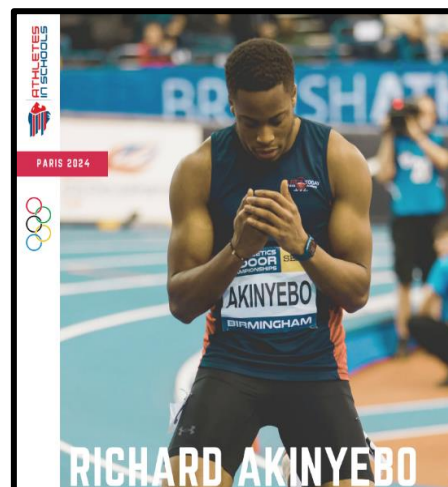
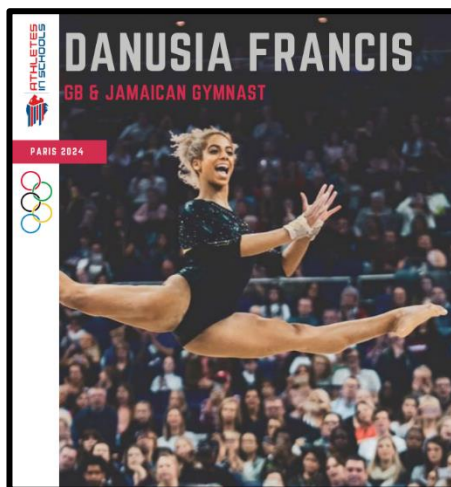
Our very own lionesses played a friendly this week and gave their all, as they do in all walks of life! Although they did not win the game, we could not be prouder of them for showing brilliant sportsmanship and representing the school incredibly well. Thank you and well done.

Coppice Athletics Event 21/5/24

This week marked an exciting moment as the Olympic torch made its way onto French soil, heralding the anticipation for the upcoming Paris Olympics in July. Meanwhile, here at Coppice Primary Partnership, we're gearing up for our Coppice Athletic Event at the Julie Rose Stadium in Ashford.

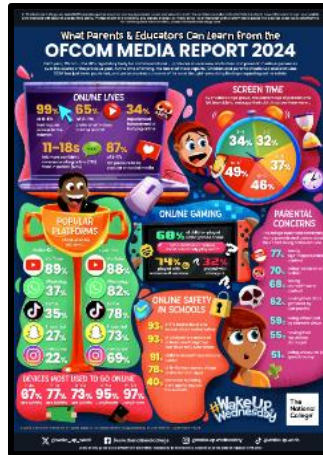
In just a couple of weeks, our year 4 and 5 pupils will have the chance to showcase their talents and sportsmanship. It's a fantastic opportunity for all three schools within our Multi Academy Trust - Coxheath, Loose, and St Katherine's - to come together in the spirit of the Olympics.

As we prepare, we're thrilled to announce that we'll be joined by two special guests, Danusia Francis and Richard Akinyebo. They'll be sharing their incredible experiences of competing at the highest level and shedding light on what it takes to excel as world-class athletes. It's sure to be an inspiring and unforgettable event!



E-Safety

This week's online safety guide for parents includes Ofcom's Media Use and Attitudes Report for 2024. This shows the results of several surveys regarding the activities and experiences of children when interacting with entertainment: from TV to video games to social media platforms. Contained in the report are numerous statistics relevant to children's online safety. Please click on the [link](#) to access the document.



GOODBYE

Farewell

We said goodbye to Mrs Sheehan, our finance officer, next week. She has worked at St Katherine's for fifteen years and has been integral to the smooth running of the office and the general finances of the school. We wish her all the best in her new adventures.

Community Events

- **Aylesford Bulls** invite children in Year 6 to come and enjoy some rugby every Wednesday from 5.30pm – 7pm, starting on the 12th June 2024.
- **This is Us** is holding a quiz night at The Monks Head Snodland to raise money for their groups. The event takes place on Saturday 27th July from 7pm. The cost of entry is £5 per person (including nibbles). Please contact Kayleigh & Michelle at thisisusclub@outlook.com for forms.
- **Dandelion Time** are hosting a May Fayre on Saturday 11th May 2024 from 11am – 3pm. There will be a number of activities to participate in, including games, crafts, plant sales, a chance to meet some of our animals, live music, refreshments and more! It is £2 entry and will take place in Charlton Lane, West Farleigh, ME15 ONY.



Aylesford Bulls
Rugby Football Club

U12'S SUMMER FITNESS FUN AND GAMES

FREE FOR ALL
Every Wednesday
5.30pm - 7pm
Starting 12th June 2024
at Aylesford Bulls Rugby Club

New to Rugby? Don't worry!
Come along and enjoy fun FREE fitness training, games and more...

Open to U12's - Year 7 2024/2025

JOIN TODAY
To register or for more information please contact:

Coach Sam
WhatsApp: 07943148647
sahuc20@gmail.com

Team Manager S
WhatsApp: 07561407451
sbowles@barnet.kes

QUIZ NIGHT

This is Us is holding a quiz night at The Monks Head Snodland to raise money for our groups

COME AND JOIN OUR QUIZMASTER JUDE ON SATURDAY 27TH JULY
ARRIVE AT 7PM TO START OUR AT 7.30PM
TEAMS MIN OF 4 MAX OF 8
£5PP INCLUDING NIBBLES
CONTACT KAYLEIGH AND MICHELLE AT THISISUSCLUB@OUTLOOK.COM FOR FORMS
OR POP IN AND SEE VICKY IN THE MONKS HEAD FOR A FORM

Dandelion Time

MAY FAYRE

SATURDAY 11 MAY 2024
11AM-3PM

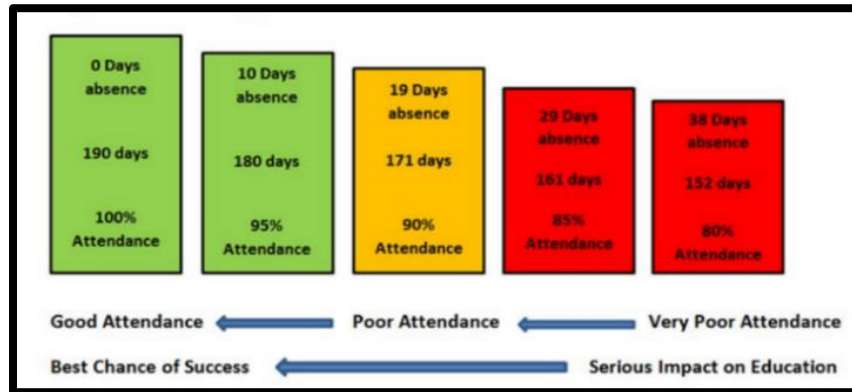
Games, Craft Activities,
Plant Sale,
Meet our Animals,
Live Music, Refreshments
and more!

£2 Entry
Under 12s FREE

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
Ward

DANDELION TIME, CHARLTON LANE, WEST FARLEIGH, ME15 ONY

Attendance Matters!



Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 99.3%		
R	Bramley 100%	Gala 99.1%	Pippin 91.5%
1	Peach 98.7%	Pear 93.7%	
2	Cherry 96.7%	Quince 95.7%	
3	Almond 91.1%	Hazel 92.7%	Walnut 90.4%
4	Spruce 91.8%	Pine 94.2%	
5	Cedar 93.5%	Teak 99.6%	Mahogany 94.6%
6	Ash 91.6%	Oak 81.6%	

School Target: 95%

Key Dates



EVENT	DATE
KS2 SATS	W/B Monday 13 th May
Reception Community Read	Tuesday 14 th May (2.45pm – 3.10pm)
SEND Coffee Morning	Tuesday 21 st May
Year 4 and Year 5 Coppice Athletics Event	Tuesday 21 st May
Year 6 Residential Meeting	Wednesday 22 nd May 17:30pm
Last day of term	Friday 24 th May
Start of Term 6	Monday 3 rd June
PTA Summer Fair	Saturday 22 nd June (11am – 2pm) More information to follow

Nursery Sports Day	<i>Tuesday 2nd July (9.15am – 10am)</i>
Nursery Sports Day (reserve day)	<i>Tuesday 9th July (9.15am – 10am)</i>
Reception & KS1/ KS2 Sports Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>KS2 (Years 3-6) – Monday 8th July (9.30am to 11am)</i> • <i>Reception & KS1 – Monday 8th July (1.15pm to 3.00pm)</i>
Reception & KS1/ KS2 Sports Day (Reserve Day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>KS2 (Years 3-6) – Monday 15th July (9.30am to 11am)</i> • <i>Reception & KS1 – Monday 15th July (1.15pm to 3.00pm)</i>
PTA Summer Disco	<i>Friday 5th July</i>
Year 6 Production	<i>Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th July (6pm – 7.30pm)</i>
Year 6 Leavers Party	<i>Friday 12th July (5pm – 7pm)</i>
Whole school Dance through the Decades Event	<i>Thursday 18th July (1.30pm – 3.00pm)</i>

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Lang
Headteacher