



Friday 24th May 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It is hard to believe that today marks the end of another half term, and with only one more to go, time is very much flying by! The first part of the summer term has been full of exciting learning experiences and wonderful achievements for our children. The last part of the year promises to be the most special yet.

I do hope that you find time to create some memorable moments with your children over the half term, and perhaps, if we keep our fingers crossed, the sun will decide to stay a while and make it a warm week for us all.

Coppice Athletics Event 21/5/24

On Tuesday, Year 4 and Year 5 visited the Julie Rose Stadium, in Ashford, for the Coppice Primary Partnership Athletics Tournament. The children experienced many different events, from long jump to discus and they even got to listen to a talk from two Olympic Athletes. One was Richard Akinyebo, who is the Team GB 100m and 200m sprinter, and the second was Danusia Francis, who is a Team GB and Jamaican Gymnast. The children had a great time competing with and alongside Loose and Coxheath Primary schools. They also gained some medals in the sprint events. All the children enjoyed cheering each other on and they certainly demonstrated our school values of respect, compassion, resilience, responsibility, excellence and community throughout the day.



Pupil Voice: *"It was one of the best school events as I love sports and there was so much going on."* (Brooke – Year 5)

Pupil Voice: *"My favourite part was being called up to race; I was so excited."* (Noah – Year 5)

Pupil Lecturing

It was an absolute privilege to take a number of Year 6 children to the University of Greenwich last week, and deliver a lecture to around sixty student teachers. I talked about the importance of designing and delivering an exciting and purposeful curriculum, and the children offered their opinions and experiences of our own curriculum at St Katherines.

I was brimming with pride as the children, many of whom were extremely nervous, presented with confidence and superb clarity. They received a huge round of applause from the audience, who were clearly inspired by what they heard. Thank you to all that participated on the day.



Pupil Voice: *"It was lots of fun because we got to show off our amazing school to people and to future teachers at Greenwich University."* (Thomas)

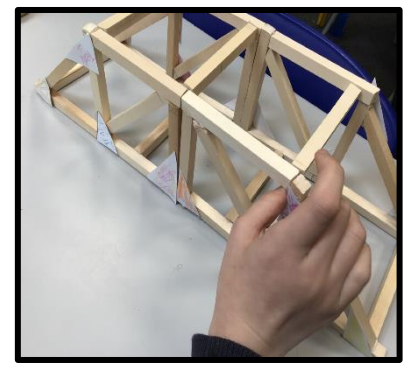
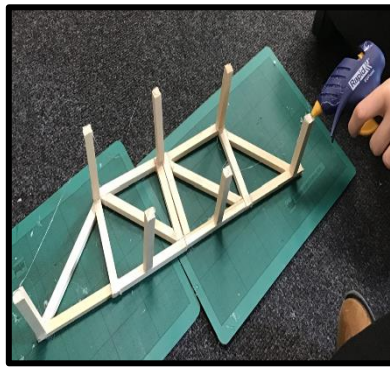
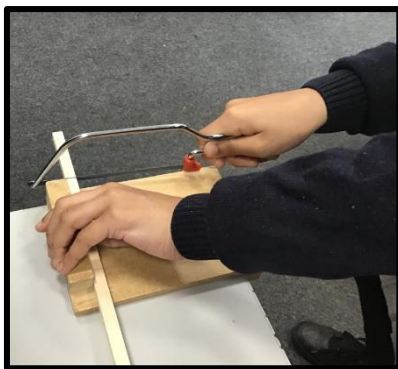
Pupil Voice: *"I really enjoyed going to the University of Greenwich as we got to represent our school and have fun with our friends."* (Ella)

DT at St Katherine'

This term, Year 3's Design and Technology topic was 'Seasonal Tarts'. Over the term, the pupils have learnt about seasonality, chopping and peeling fruit and vegetables and creating their product using a design criteria. This week, they put their skills to the test by preparing and cooking their own seasonal tarts, which looked delicious!



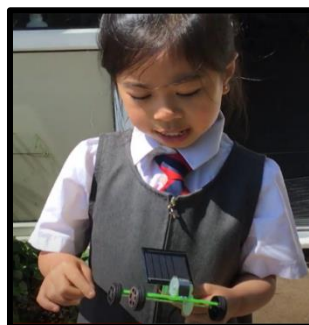
In DT this term, Year 5 have been exploring structures and developing their understanding about how beams, arches and trusses are used to increase the strength of a bridge. They particularly enjoyed applying their knowledge and skills when constructing their own bridges, which is captured below.



Pupil Voice: "We made bridges in DT using wood, saws and glue guns. We measured out the wood, then cut it to the correct size before gluing it together. It was tricky to get the wood all the same length." (Caelan)

Budding Engineer

At St Katherine's, we encourage our children to explore the world and take every opportunity to learn, both in and outside of school. I was delighted that Sofia (Year 3) shared with me her project that she has been working on at home, which involved using a solar panel to power a motorised vehicle. I was extremely impressed with her enthusiasm to learn and the scientific knowledge she had acquired as a result of her home learning. Please click on the [link](#) to hear Sofia's explanation of her wonderful solar paneled vehicle.



Young Programmers

Our Reception children have recently practised using positional language to direct their characters around their chosen map. They also had great fun using simple commands (directions) to program the BeeBots, after first planning the route they wanted their BeeBot to take.



Pupil Voice: "It was fun when the Beebot was turning around" (Dennis)

Reception Outing

Our Reception classes recently had a fantastic trip to the British Wildlife Centre in Lingfield. They saw a variety of wildlife such as foxes, deer, otters, polecats, owls, badgers and wildcats, and learnt all about their characteristics, as well as their habitats. The children followed up their learning at school by creating maps of the centre, writing about their day out and making information leaflets about the animals.



Pupil Voice: "My favourite part was the fox – I loved his colour." (Jesse)

Community Officer

We were fortunate to be visited by Sandra Edwards (Community Officer) last week, who talked to our Year 6 children about online etiquette and E-safety, as part of their transition to secondary school. She was extremely impressed with how interactive our pupils were and the questions they posed.

Pupil Voice: "I found it really interesting because I learnt about what kindness can look like and how to respect and treat others online." (Finley)



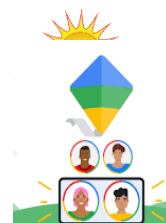
Reading Vending Machine Winners

Congratulations to Henry (EYFS), Albie (Year 1), Evie (Year 3) and Isla (Year 6), who were drawn from the St Katherine's hat, 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 14th June. Good luck and keep reading over the half term break!



E-Safety

Many parents are keen to support their children to create healthy and positive digital habits. There are many apps available that support parents to better understand how their children are spending time on their devices, and enable them to manage privacy settings, in order to find the right balance for their family. One such app is **'Family Link'**, which connects parent's Android or iPhone to their children's phone or tablet to help tailor certain ground rules and limitations. For more information, please click on this [link](#).



Rugby

Our Year 6 rugby team entered their first ever tournament on Thursday. They only had two weeks to learn a completely new sport but competed superbly against teams, who were far more experienced. They played some lovely, flowing rugby and won 3 games, drew 2 and lost 3 (to teams that finished 1st, 2nd and 4th), finishing a respectable 14th out of 29 teams. Please see below a table of results.



St Katherine's 4	Twydall 1
St Katherine's 1	St Helen's 1
St Katherine's 2	Miers Court 1
St Katherine's 0	St Thomas 1
St Katherine's 0	Hempstead 0
St Katherine's 1	Gads Hill 5
St Katherine's 1	Bryony 2
St Katherine's 3	Bredhurst 2

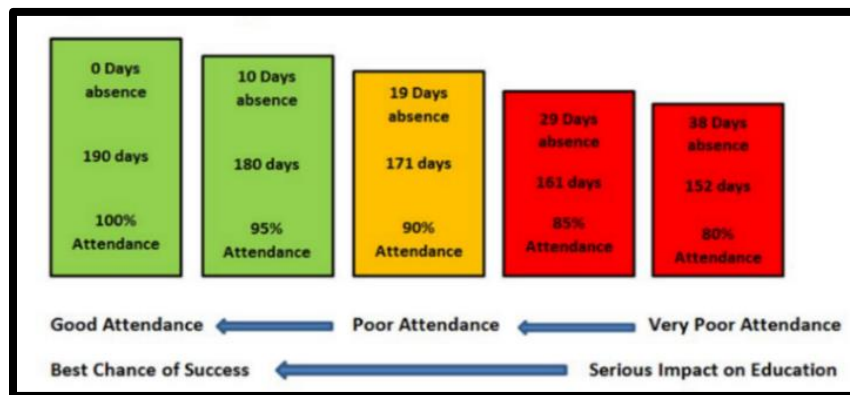


Community Events

New Potyns & Snodland Town FC are thrilled to unveil a new permanent Brazier Beacon in New Potyns, commemorating the bravery and sacrifice of D-Day 80 years ago. Join them as they light the Beacon at 9.15pm on Thursday 6th June. This coincides with National Fish and Chip Day, so there will be a takeaway van on site for people to enjoy piping hot cod bites and chips during the festivities.



Attendance Matters!



Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 99.7%		
R	Bramley 96.1%	Gala 92.6%	Pippin 100%
1	Peach 99.3%	Pear 90.7%	
2	Cherry 98.5%	Quince 91.5%	
3	Almond 94.2%	Hazel 89.7%	Walnut 97.5%
4	Spruce 96%	Pine 92.1%	
5	Cedar 93.1%	Teak 88.9%	Mahogany 88.4%
6	Ash 92.7%	Oak 93.5%	

School Target: 95%

Key Dates



EVENT	DATE
Inflatable Treat	Friday 24 th June
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	Tuesday 2 nd July (9.15am – 10am)
Nursery Sports Day (reserve day)	Tuesday 9 th July (9.15am – 10am)
Reception & KS1/ KS2 Sports Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 (Years 3-6) – Monday 8th July (9.30am to 11am)• Reception & KS1 – Monday 8th July (1.15pm to 3.00pm)
Reception & KS1/ KS2 Sports Day (reserve Day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 (Years 3-6) – Monday 15th July (9.30am to 11am)• Reception & KS1 – Monday 15th July (1.15pm to 3.00pm)
PTA Summer Disco	Friday 5 th July
Year 6 Production	Wednesday 10 th & Thursday 11 th July (6pm – 7.30pm)
Year 6 Leavers Party	Friday 12 th July (5pm – 7pm)
Whole school 'Dance through the Decades' Event	Thursday 18 th July (1.30pm – 3.00pm)

Have a great half term!

Mr. Lang
Headteacher

