



Monday 1st July 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Finally, the sun has come out to play and has decided to stick around for a couple of weeks – and long may it stay! The warmer weather always seems to lift people's spirits and it certainly contributed to the success of our recent summer fair and the Year 6 residential last week, which were both memorable events.

As we enter the final three weeks of the year, we still have so much for the school community to look forward to, which includes children's 'meet the teacher' sessions, the Reception 'Drop & Play' & Teddy Bear's Picnic events, our PTA disco, the Year 6 production and our Dance Through the Decades extravaganza. Please note that letters relating to Sports Day and our dance event will be sent out this week. It is certainly going to be a busy – right up until the end of the year!

Bronze Diversity Award

Last week we were visited by Samson from Learning Workz, who spent the day at St Katherine's assessing us for our Bronze Diversity Award. During the assessment, he talked to senior leaders, teachers, governors and children about how we provide opportunities to learn about diversity and different cultures. We shared with him our assemblies, enrichment activities, curriculum activities and displays, which showcased how we foster an ethos of inclusivity and celebrate diversity.

Samson was extremely impressed with the opportunities we provide our children with to learn about and appreciate different cultures and religions. He felt that the children were being well-prepared for life in modern Britain, and suggested that **"Something special was happening at St Katherine's."**

I am delighted that [we have been awarded the Bronze Diversity Award](#) and have been invited to an awards ceremony in October, as it is likely that we will be shortlisted for other awards. Samson was so impressed with the school that he has also invited us to become 'a centre of excellence' for culture and diversity. Watch this space!



DIVERSITY
MARK
BRONZE

Year 6 Residential

I had the privilege of accompanying our Year 6 children on their residential trip to Kingswood last week. The venue was bathed in sunshine, as the children enjoyed a fun-packed three days of activities, which included 3G swings, a leap of faith, fencing, a camp fire, orienteering and laser tag.

The children threw themselves into absolutely everything and were a credit to the school. I have no doubt that the children slept well when they were safely returned to their families and their own beds.

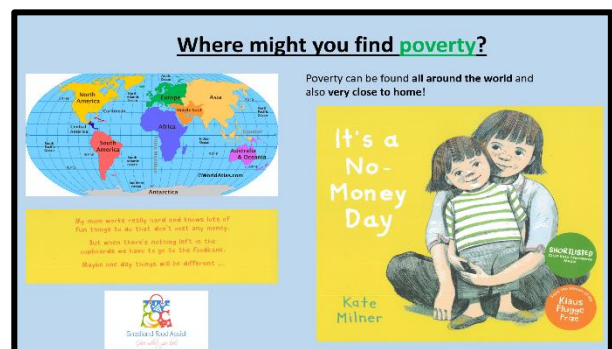
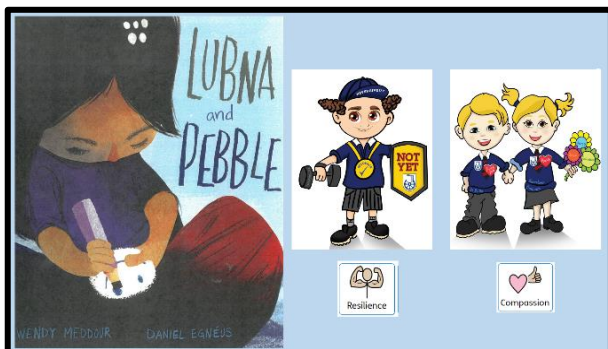


Pupil Voice: "My favourite activity as probably the 'leap of faith' because I got to face my fear of heights. Everyone encouraged me and I went for it!" (Noah – Y6)

Assembly

My assemblies over the last two weeks have focused on our school values **Respect, Resilience and Compassion**. I used the beautiful books 'Lubna and the Pebble' and 'It's a No Money Day' to explore refugees and the theme of poverty, both globally and within the local area. I was extremely impressed with the children's empathy towards those who are less fortunate than themselves. They clearly understood the role we play as a school in supporting families in the local community through our fundraising events and weekly community foodbank and wardrobe. Please click on the links below to access the assemblies.

- [Lubna and the Pebble](#)
- [It's a No Money Day](#)



Pupil Voice: "I think that it is important that we help others learn about poverty because people can be in different positions to others. I like that we have a food bank every Monday because it provides items for people that might not be able to afford to feed their family." (Holly – Y4)

Trips

Year 1 recently had a brilliant time at Wingham Wildlife Park, where they visited a range of animals, which they have been learning about in their science lessons. During their visit, they had the opportunity to participate in a workshop, where they explored different bones, including a giraffe neck bone. Did you know that both giraffes and humans have seven bones in their neck!



Pupil Voice: "Some of the rooms were dark because the animals that lived there were nocturnal – they sleep during the day and come out at night time." (Eliza – Y1)

To consolidate and enrich children's learning in science this term, Year 2 enjoyed a day out at Shorne Woods Country Park, where they worked alongside a park ranger to explore habitats. The children thoroughly enjoyed pond dipping, minibeast hunting and going on a nature walk. They also used a magnifying glass to get up close and personal with wildlife (see picture below).



Pupil Voice: "I found a green caterpillar on a tree and we put it in a magnifying jar, so I could look at it more closely. It had circles and black dots on its skin" (Wyatt – Y2)

Year 4 had a fantastic time on their recent visit to Horton Kirby. The children were able to bring their geography learning to life by studying a local river. In the morning, the children pulled on their wellies, got into the river and measured the flow. They also got to see first-hand the impact of erosion, deposition and transportation on a river. The children also built on their knowledge of habitats by learning all about the animals and insects that lived in or near the river. The children were very excited to spot some beautiful dragonflies too!

In the afternoon sessions, the children took part in an investigation to see which rocks were impermeable and which were permeable, whilst they also had the opportunity to build their own model of a river. They had to create meanders and identify how they could protect a school built on a flood plain. Overall, the children had a fantastic time. Well done Spruce and Pine Class!



Pupil Voice: "When I was in the river I could see where erosion was happening. It was great to see it in real life!" (Esther – Y4)

Community Events

PTA Summer Fair

Thank you to all of our friends and families that came to our wonderful Summer Fair. I was really impressed with the community feel throughout the event and it was great to see everyone come together and enjoy performances from our cheer and rugby teams and generally relax and have fun together.

Thank you to the PTA for organising the Summer Fair, which raised an impressive **£1600** for the school! I also very much appreciate the support many staff and children gave by running stalls throughout the event.



Pupil Leadership Team

Members of the Pupil Leadership Team, accompanied by Miss Aikenhead, ran a St Katherine's stall at Snodland cricket club on Sunday, in order to raise money for both the school and the club. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience of promoting the school and being part of the wider community. Thank you to all that gave up their time for the event.



PTA Summer Disco – Friday 5th July – 5pm -7pm

We are all looking forward to our summer disco, which will take place on **Friday 5th July**.

The timings of the discos are as follows:

- **Reception: 2 pm to 3 pm** (the children will be dismissed from their classes at the end of the normal school day)
- **Years 1 & 2: 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm**
- **Years 3 & 4: 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm**
- **Years 5 & 6: 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm**



Vigo Rugby Club

Vigo Rugby Club are looking to recruit new players for next season. If you are interested, why not go along to their next training session on **Sunday 14th July?**

A recruitment poster for Vigo RFC. The poster features three young boys in rugby gear running with the ball. The text on the poster includes: "LOOKING FOR NEW PLAYERS FROM U6 TO U11 24/25 SEASON", "GIVE RUGBY A TRY", "COME ALONG, FIND OUT MORE AND MEET OUR PLAYERS AND COACHES", and "SUNDAY 23rd JUNE FROM SUNDAY 14th JULY 10AM". The Vigo RFC logo is in the top right corner. At the bottom, there are logos for various sponsors and contact information: "GET IN TOUCH Vigo RFC vigo_rfc vigo youth@gmail.com".

Kent Junior Cycling Challenge



As an avid cyclist myself, I am keen to inform parents/ carers about the Kent Junior Cycling Challenge, which aims to encourage as many young explorers as possible to get out and cycle.

For a child, there is nothing more satisfying than competing a challenge and being rewarded for it. Young explorers can take part in the Explore Kent Junior Cycling Challenge and earn a reward for their cycling adventures. They can mark their achievement with a Junior Cycling Challenge certificate, ranging from Bronze (5km), Silver (8km) and Gold (10km). Please click on the following link for further information: <https://explorekent.org/explore-kent-junior-cycling-challenge/>

Sports News

A number of girls from Year 5 & 6 participated in a recent football tournament. It was lovely to see a few of the girls represent the school for the very first time – well done! As usual, our tenacious young ladies showed determination, skill and sportsmanship throughout their matches and were a real credit to the school.

Our Year 6 boys' football team also played in a football tournament and narrowly missed out on the semi-finals – they only conceded three goals in the seven games that they played! They eventually came 4th out of 17 schools, which is a wonderful achievement.

A team of Year 3 & 4 boys and Year 3 & 4 girls recently represented the school at two local football tournaments. Considering they had never played together before; they worked impressively as a team and played some lovely football. A special mention to Brody (Year 3), who scored three goals in four games during the boys competition. Well done!

Thank you to all the children that have represented the school this year. We very much appreciate your commitment and the passion and pride you have shown when playing.



Brilliant Behaviour

Over the course of this term, we have had a number of visitors to St Katherine's, including leadership teams from other local schools, moderators and also new families, who have been given tours around the school. We have received excellent feedback from all of our visitors regarding the positive ethos and culture that they have experienced during their visit and the strong sense of community that is present at St Katherine's. Examples of this include children asking staff how they are, holding doors open for each other and generally being thoroughly nice human beings. Our children are always a credit to the school and should quite rightly be celebrated for encompassing all of our school values, which they live every day.



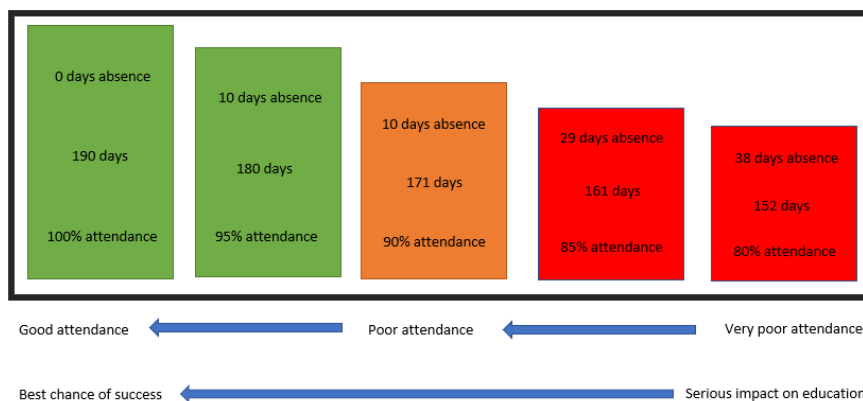
Ambassador Voice: "We are all very proud of all the children, from Reception to Year 6, for demonstrating our school values. We are a very special school, with special children and staff." (Zoe, Lucas, Henry & Sofia).

E-Safety

This week's online safety guide offers an insight into the risks posed to children and young people by online gambling and advises you on how to safeguard them effectively. Please click on the [link](#) to access the short guide.



Attendance Matters!



Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 98.3%		
R	Bramley 91.5%	Gala 94.1%	Pippin 86.3%
1	Peach 91.3%	Pear 89.2%	
2	Cherry 95.4%	Quince 90.6%	
3	Almond 90.8%	Hazel 87.7%	Walnut 90.7%
4	Spruce 94.4%	Pine 97.1%	
5	Cedar 87.0%	Teak 88.2%	Mahogany 94.3%
6	Ash 91.1%	Oak 87.8%	

School Target: 95%



Key Dates



EVENT	DATE
Nursery Sports Day	Tuesday 2 nd July (9.15am – 10am)
Nursery Sports Day (Reserve Day)	Tuesday 9 th July (9.15am – 10am)
PTA Summer Disco	Friday 5 th July
Reception & KS1/ KS2 Sports Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS2 (Years 3-6) – Monday 8th July (9.30am to 11am) • Reception & KS1 (Years R, 1 & 2) – 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 (Years R, 1 & 2) – Monday 15th July (1.15pm to 3.00pm)
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)
Year 6 Parent Leavers Assembly	Friday 19 th July (1.30pm – 2.15pm)
Last Day of Term	Friday 19th July

Have a lovely week.

Mr. Lang
Headteacher