



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024

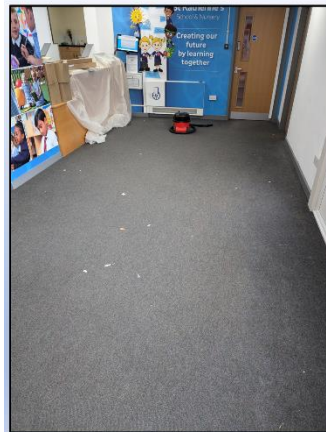
Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been wonderful to see the children return to school this week and fill St Katherine's with the laughter, happiness and learning buzz that has been missing over the summer holidays. I have been particularly impressed with the children's transition back to school. They returned on Tuesday with smiles on their faces, did not hesitate to ask members of staff how they were and have also demonstrated outstanding behaviour, both through their engagement and enthusiasm in class, and their general conduct around the school. It certainly is good to be back!

### **Premises Developments**

Our premises team, Mr Young and Mr Kennett, have been extremely busy over the holidays making a number of improvements to the school site. They painted the reception area and the swimming pool and have also overseen the installation of new carpets, which I'm sure you will agree, look fabulous!

At St Katherine's, we strive to provide the very best environment for our school community, and these developments reflect our commitment to providing excellence for all.



## INSET

The staff at St Katherine's enjoyed a busy INSET day on Monday and worked collaboratively on many areas of our school improvement plan. We are blessed to have such dedicated and hard-working staff throughout the school, who were eager to welcome the children back on Tuesday, start forming positive relationships with their new classes and begin their new learning journeys.



## School Value Activities

The children began the week by participating in a number of activities that focused on our school values: **Respect, Resilience, Responsibility, Community, Compassion and Excellence**. Our values were introduced last year and are now firmly embedded throughout the school community. Here are some examples of the value activities below:



### Excellence

Reception children had fun writing their names.



### Compassion

Year 1 took part in 'respect relays'.



### Excellence

Year 2 children thought about the excellent skills they possessed.



### Resilience

Year 3 children made a class community tree.



### Community

Year 4 enjoyed a marble run.



### Responsibility

Year 5 children constructed towers with pasta and spaghetti.



### Resilience

Year 6 constructed balloon towers in teams.

A reminder that year groups upload learning posts to **our school Facebook page** on a weekly basis. To keep up-to-date with your child's learning, please navigate to <https://www.facebook.com/stkatherinessnodland>.

## Assembly

My assembly this week focused on the school value of (Ella) Excellence and the children helped me to identify what this looked like at St Katherine's. Here are some of the children's thoughts below:

- "Excellence is when you challenge yourself and always persevere to complete your challenge – never give up!" (Elsie – Year 6)
- "I think that Excellence is when you use finger spaces and full stops when we write." (Felicity – Year 1)

Please click on the following [link](#) to access the assembly.



## Teaching and Learning Presentations

A reminder that parents/ carers are invited to attend our forthcoming 'teaching and learning presentations', where teachers will share key information about their year group and provide an opportunity for parents to ask any questions they may have. Please note that if parents/ carers have specific questions relating to their own children, they should arrange a time outside of the meeting to speak with their child's teacher. The meetings will take place from **2.30pm to 3.00pm in the main hall**, on the following days:

Year Group	Date
Reception	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September
Year 1	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 2	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 3	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 4	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 5	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 6	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September

## Parent Voice: Homework

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the homework survey at the end of last year. I have provided some key outcomes from the survey below (the data is based on 89 responses):

- 74% of parents who completed the survey felt that the amount of homework was 'about right' for their child.
- 84% felt that the level of challenge was 'about right' for their child.
- 86% felt that their child either 'engaged' or 'really engaged' with their homework activities.
- 62% felt that the interval between homework tasks being given out was 'about right'. 31% felt that it was 'too long'.

We very much appreciate your feedback, which will help us to make informed decisions about any future developments related to children's homework.



### Curriculum Coverage Sheets and Spelling

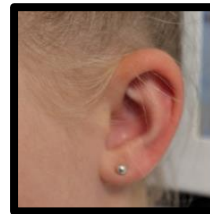
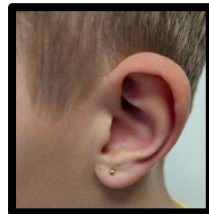
Please note that curriculum coverage sheets and spellings for this half term were emailed to parents this week. These can also be found on our school website.

- **Curriculum Coverage Sheets** – This document outlines the key topics and areas of learning across the curriculum, for the first part of the autumn term.
- **Spellings** – Children's weekly spelling lists for this half term have been outlined in one document for parents. Children that have personalised spellings will be given these to take home.

### School Uniform

It was great to see the children sparkling from head to toe in their new uniforms on Tuesday. The children love belonging to the St Katherine's community and an important part of this is our uniform, as it represents our school values of **Excellence**, **Responsibility** and **Community**. I very much appreciate parents/ carers support with this.

A polite reminder that children's earrings should be plain gold or silver and socks should be plain grey or white.



### London to Brighton

You would have received information today regarding my participation in next week's London to Brighton ride. Thank you to all the parents/ carers that have already contributed to my chosen charity – Ickle Pickles, who provided critical intervention to support one of our pupils, MJ, when he was born. If you would like to make a donation, please click on the [link](#) (please note that this is the new link).



### Junior Cycling Challenge

Staying with the theme of cycling, congratulations to Freya who complete a 10km ride as part of her Kent Junior Cycling Challenge. She obviously chose a wonderful day for her ride and she enjoyed sharing her experience with loyal friend Sam.



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## Parent Teacher Association

I met with the newly formed PTA this week and we are all very excited about organising many fundraising events this year, in order to help support school development. There will continue to be a key focus on subsidising children's enrichment to support the development of children's cultural capital, and keep the cost of workshops and visitors to a minimum for parents.

The first enrichment activity of the year will see **a steel band visit St Katherine's** in October for part of our learning during Black History Month. Thank you to the PTA for subsidising the cost of the event and we look forward to a wonderful learning experience for all.



Watch this space for many other events and activities that the PTA have in the pipeline.

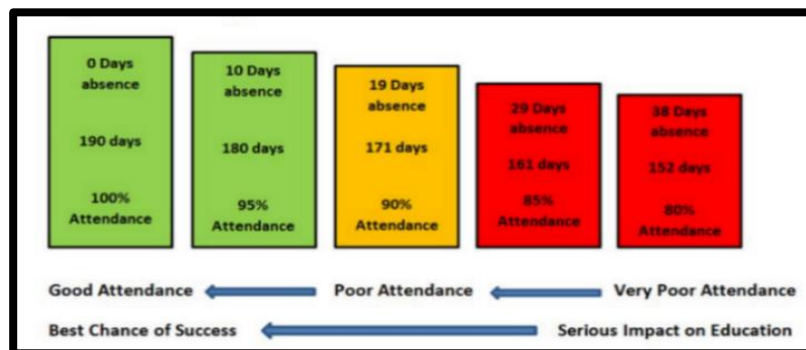
## Parent Support

This week's guide focuses on supporting your children to go back to school. Although most children have a positive transition back to school, there are some who can find this difficult. As we have only been back for a few days, some children may still find returning to school after the weekend challenging. Please click on the [link](#) to access the short guide, with some useful tips and advice.



## Attendance Matters!

Your child will only be successful if they attend school. Our aspiration is for everyone at St Katherine's to attend school at least **95%** of the year. If your child's attendance drops below this, they will inevitably fall behind, as days off will mean lost learning time. Please see the chart below that outlines the impact of your child's attendance on their learning.



In addition to our **'Pool Party'** prizes, we will continue to reward children, who maintain a high level of attendance, throughout the year, with half termly raffles to win one of the following prizes, of their choice, courtesy of Maidstone Leisure Centre:

- A family of four ticket to **'swimming'** and the **'Aqua Challenge Obstacle Course'** (approximate value - £45). Children have to be aged 6+ and be able to swim 25 metres.
- A family of four ticket to **'swimming – the family fun pool'** and the **'soft play area'** (approximate value - £30).
- A family of four ticket to the **'Sky Trail' & 'Dino Golf'** (approximate value - £50). Please note that these activities are only open at weekends and school holidays from April to October.



*\*Maidstone Leisure Centre is currently undergoing some major developments, which may impact the accessibility of the above prizes.*

### Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn		
R	Bramley <i>Transition Week</i>	Gala <i>Transition Week</i>	
1	Peach 98.7%	Pear 98.1%	Plum 99.4%
2	Cherry 99.5%	Quince 95%	
3	Hazel 96%	Walnut 95.1%	
4	Spruce 97.9%	Pine 98.4%	Fir 96.8%
5	Cedar 94.7%	Teak 98.1%	
6	Ash 96%	Oak 97.7%	Elm 100%

**School Target: 95%**



### Key Dates



EVENT	DATE
Kent Test (11+) <u>Familiarisation Paper</u>	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 5 Teaching and Learning Presentations	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September
Kent Test (11+)	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 1 Teaching and Learning Presentations	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 2 Teaching and Learning Presentations	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 3 Teaching and Learning Presentations	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 4 Teaching and Learning Presentations	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 6 Teaching and Learning Presentations	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September
Macmillan Coffee Mornings	24/9/24 (am) & 25/9/24(pm) – more information will be provided shortly.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Lang