



Friday 1st November 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It was wonderful to catch up with many of you during our recent Parent Consultation Meetings. I received overwhelmingly positive feedback about the children's learning this term and the progress they have made over the past eight weeks. Additionally, we also received much praise from visitors, who attended our first open morning session on Tuesday 22nd October. They fed back that St Katherine's was an exciting and aspirational place for our children, and were suitably wowed by our Year 6 Ambassadors, who talked openly about life as a St Katherine's learner and their love of the school.

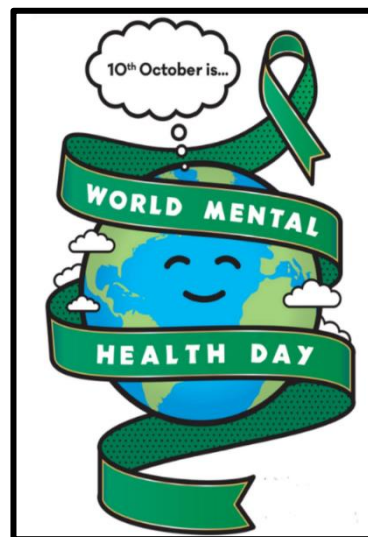
Thank you to all of the staff, for their continued hard work and relentless commitment to providing the very best for our children. We will continue to learn and grow together next term and beyond.

World Mental Health Day

Wellbeing Warriors

We pride ourselves on our commitment to support children to develop personally, as well as academically. This includes developing children's understanding of mental health and how to manage their own wellbeing. To help the children gain a better understanding of how to improve both their physical and mental health, our passionate Wellbeing Warriors recently worked with Miss Aikenhead to prepare and deliver an assembly for World Mental Health Day.

Thank you to all the Wellbeing Warriors for delivering such important and empowering messages throughout their assembly.



Pupil Voice: "I think our assembly gave valuable information. It explained how to look after your own wellbeing and also the importance of Mental Health Day." (Charlie – Year 6)

Captain Wonderweb and the Esteem Machine

On Monday 7th October, we welcomed Captain Wonderweb and the Esteem Machine to St Katherine's. The children thoroughly enjoyed their inactive performances, which focused on empowering children to develop strong minds and think carefully about how to nurture their own self-esteem.



Wellbeing Wednesdays

Our Wellbeing Wednesday music has been a roaring success to date, as we have seen both children and parents dancing, swaying and grooving their way into school. Long may this continue!

If you have any suggestions for uplifting songs that could be added to our playlist, please do let us know.



Pupil Voice: *"I like hearing the music on Wednesday; it makes me cheery. It was great and also funny to see my mum dancing and singing at the gate."* (Eddie – Year 5)

Harvest Festival/ Food Bank Visit

To mark Harvest at St Katherine's, our Year 6 Community Ambassadors presented an assembly about the importance of 'giving' to those less fortunate than ourselves. They displayed our enormous pile of donations in the hall, so that the children could reflect on the impact their contributions will have on the local community.

The Community Ambassadors then visited Snodland Food Assist (foodbank) to deliver our donations. Thank you to everyone that donated - the generosity shown by the school community was truly astounding!



Pupil Voice: "We took all the food donated for our harvest to the foodbank in Snodland. It made us feel proud that we were supporting our local community and families." (Isla and Brooke – Year 6)

Culture and Diversity

Show Racism the Red Card

On Thursday 17th October, St Katherine's was a sea of red, as children and staff stood together to 'Show Racism the Red Card.' By wearing red, our school community demonstrated our unwavering support against discrimination at school, in the local community and across the wider world.

Our Diversity Ambassadors led a whole school assembly, which focused on celebrating our differences and learning from one another. This event is also closely linked to the Black History learning that the children have been participating in, throughout the month of October.



Show Racism the **Red Card**



Black History

Each year group has been learning about a famous black figure in history, as part of their Black History learning this term. Year 6 have looked specifically at the Windrush and an example of an excellent learning outcome can be seen below.

Before we left for England, everyone said it would be a great opportunity to get a new life start a new job and make new friends. Everyone said it was the "mother country" but still I was upset to leave my friends and family in Jamaica and it was hard to say goodbye to things we can't help that one live in England.

Monday 21st June 1948 I was when we were about to arrive in England millions of thoughts were rushing through my head of who everyone had but when we were there when they look surprised they were about to go up. I thought it was about to rain and all of the amazing buildings, busy cars and delicious food but the best thing I noticed was that it was quite opposite. It was cold, dark and gloomy there was no spicy food or plantains just plain bread and potatoes. I thought it will be okay school will be just as I imagined.

At first some people were rude to us but I think that was just because they had never seen us before. On my first day at school I was thinking about all the people I would make and all of the places we would have. I arrived at school and suddenly people were calling me names and making fun of me. I want this place to be a country where everyone can be happy and not made fun of because of their skin colour that is the world I would want to live in.

We decided to leave because everyone said it was a place for us and a better life. I was asked to go to England as it was called the "mother country" by many people, and I was surprised to see how many people were not happy to see us. I was asked to go to England because I thought it would be a good chance for me and my family as we arrived we were being treated like the "other" and not like us. The food was very different as I had normally used to get chicken and potatoes. It was very different to what I had seen in Jamaica. I had to learn to live with things that were hard for me. I had to give up.

I was excited to come to England because I thought it would be a good chance for me and my family as we arrived we were being treated like the "other" and not like us. The food was very different as I had normally used to get chicken and potatoes. It was very different to what I had seen in Jamaica. I had to learn to live with things that were hard for me. I had to give up.

At first some people would tell me to go, they called us names and treated us like we were different. I didn't understand why we were here. I had to learn to live with things that were hard for me. I had to give up.

LONDON

Before we left for England, we were all told that Britain was a kind country, a nice country where there were many job opportunities and a better life. My family thought that it was a brilliant idea so they decided to go. We left behind my grandparents and Aunty who are old to go. So we also had to leave our friends behind and it was hard to say goodbye but we set off, nonetheless we hope that we could help them once we all find jobs.

On Monday 21st June 1948, we arrived and I got to see my first glimpse of England. I was surprised by houses and cars and lots of people to live that was better than Jamaica. I thought that it would be a nice place to live. However the first thing I noticed was the gloomy weather. Even though it was sunny it was still remarkably cold. Another thing was the houses. Although they were big, we were allowed to live in the "other" part. We had to live in tiny little houses that were smaller than the ones we used to live in in Jamaica. The food was different. I was used to spicy chicken and rice so I was the very surprised when they served us plain bread and potatoes.

Steel Pan Workshop

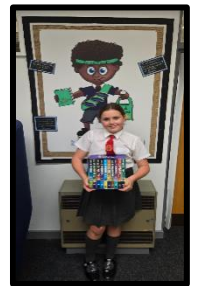
A further activity that helped to build the children's understanding of culture and diversity through music, was when the Steel Pan Company visited our school. During their visit, they delivered interactive workshops for all year groups, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their high energy performances, whilst the children had the opportunity to learn and play music using the steel pans. A huge thank you to our Parent Teacher Association, who covered the whole cost of the steel pan workshops.



Pupil Voice: *"I like the part when they played the pans and we danced. When I played the steel pans, the sound was very calming."* (Samuel – Year 4)

Reading Update

We value the opinions of our children and try to act on the suggestions they bring to the table, in order to improve the school. One example of this is when Elsie wrote to Mrs Wright (Reading Lead) to ask for more Dogman books for the library. This series of books is a firm favourite for many children, so it was great to see Elsie's face when the new books arrived. She was keen to take the first book in the collection and I'm sure that it won't be long until she completes the full set. What a wonderful reading role model!



Vending Machine Winners

Congratulations to Sophia, Freya and Louis, who were drawn from the St Katherine's hat to become our reading vending machine winners. Each individual, along with one child from every class, was awarded a raffle ticket by their teacher, for their efforts in reading. This includes consistently reading at home, making good progress at school or helping others to read. Keep reading over the holidays everyone!



Pupil Voice: *"It was exciting getting to choose a book. I love Roald Dahl."* (Freya – Year 1)

Bringing Learning to Life

A number of visitors were invited into school this term, to provide workshops that have enriched the children's learning. These have included the Year 3 Stone Age workshop and the Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop (below).

Stone Age Workshop

Year 3 took part in an incredible Stone Age workshop as part of their history learning. The children were able to explore a range of artefacts that helped them to compare prehistoric Britain to modern Britain.



Pupil Voice: *"We learnt more about the Stone Age. I touched animal skin and a needle made from bone. This was used to make clothes."* (Aya – Year 3)

The Great Fire of London Workshop

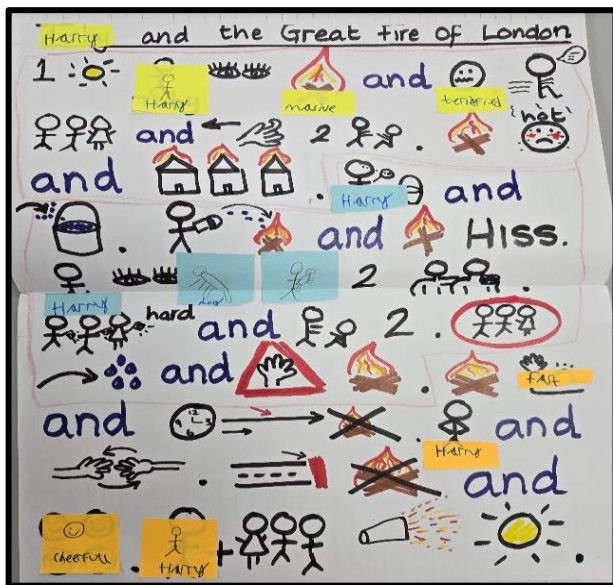
Year 2 participated in a fascinating workshop to develop their understanding about London's notorious fire. The children were immersed in an interactive journey, based on Samuel Pepys' diary, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of this 'Fabulous Finish' to their history topic.



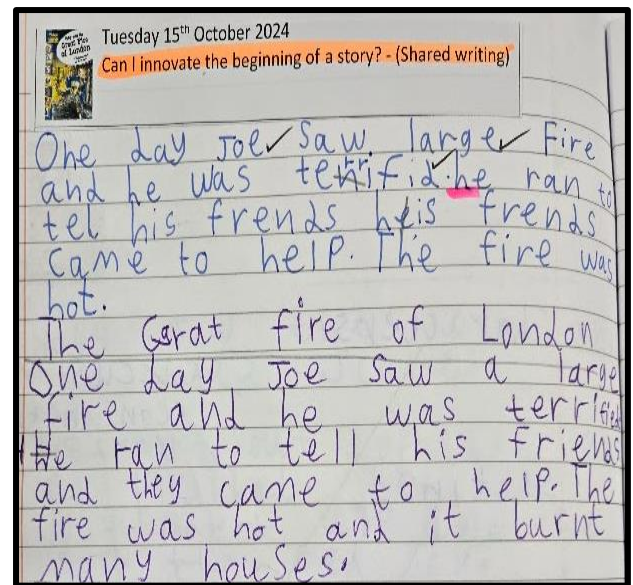
Pupil Voice: *"We acted out the Great Fire, where thirty thousand people were homeless because the houses were destroyed. I liked being Samuel Pepys."* (Georgia – Year 2)

Writing Development

It has been lovely to feel a buzz amongst staff, as we get ready to implement a new writing approach across the school, after half term. Some year groups started to integrate aspects of the new approach at the end of term and staff have been impressed with the children's enthusiasm to learn through story mapping, breaking down the pattern of texts and then innovating them to create their own versions. Have a look at how a child in Year 2 has used a story map to scaffold their understanding of the text, which has then enabled them to accurately retell it through their writing. I can't wait to see their final innovated piece!



Story mapping



Innovating the story

Glow Discos

A HUGE thank you to the PTA for organising the Glow Discos at the end of term. They were all a great success, with both the children and staff making an excellent effort with their glowing costumes. I was incredibly impressed with the children's enthusiasm, behaviour and dance moves; fun was had by all. The event raised **a whopping £1250** for the school! Thank you to all the PTA members and staff for organising the event and supporting throughout the evening.



Pupil Voice: "We danced and danced and had glow sticks and crisps. It was amazing with the lights." (Bella and Millie – Year 1)

Remembrance Day Poppies

The Royal British Legion delivered our annual Poppy boxes this week. Our Community Ambassadors will be visiting classrooms in the afternoon (the first week back after half term), for children to purchase any of the items **for a donation**. Items include poppy reflectors badges, snap bands, poppies and rulers.

Year 6 will also be presenting a special assembly, on Friday 8th November, to mark Remembrance Day. This will provide an opportunity for St Katherine's to pay our respect to those who have lost their lives in wars around the world.



Sports Update

Football

Both our talented boys and girls football teams were privileged to have the opportunity to play at Maidstone's football ground this term, in their respective tournaments. As usual, both teams represented St Katherine's superbly and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship. Well done!



Pupil Voice: *"The football tournament was a great experience even though we didn't win. We worked hard as a team and didn't give up."* (Maisie – Year 6)

Hockey

St Katherine's also took part in a hockey tournament, playing a number of games and narrowly missing out on reaching the semi-finals. Well done to all those that played.



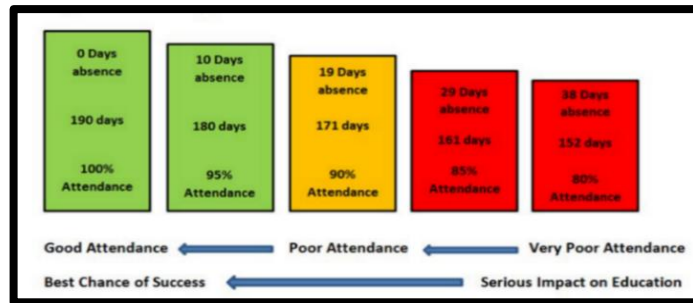
Pupil Voice: *"The hockey tournament was enjoyable. We showed resilience and excellence right to the end. I was impressed with how hard we worked as a team."* (Scarlett – Year 6)

Cross Country

We recently informed you that some of our KS1 children took part in a cross country race, which involved sixty boys and sixty girls from schools throughout the borough. We have now received the results of the event and are delighted to inform you that our boys team came 2nd overall and the girls team came 4th overall – what an achievement!



Attendance Matters!



Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 98.5%		
R	Bramley 92.3%	Gala 94.7%	
1	Peach 94.9%	Pear 81.3%	Plum 95.2%
2	Cherry 94.4%	Quince 93.7%	
3	Hazel 95.7%	Walnut 81.3%	
4	Spruce 88.3%	Pine 83.4%	Fir 94.6%
5	Cedar 94.6%	Teak 94%	
6	Ash 92.3%	Oak 93.7%	Elm 95.2%

School Target: 95%



Key Dates

EVENT	DATE
Children return to school.	Monday 4 th November
Achievement Assembly	Thursday 7 th November
Remembrance Day Assembly led by Year 6 & Mayor and Mayoress Visit	Friday 8 th November
Anti-Bullying Week	Monday 11 th November
Odd Socks Day	Monday 11 th November
National Road Safety week	Monday 18 th November
Van Cols individual and sibling photographs	Tuesday 19 th November
Anti-Bullying Theatre Show (Year R – Year 5) & Year 6 Workshops	Thursday 21 st November
Children in Need – Non-uniform day	Friday 22 nd November
Scholastic Book Fair	Monday 25 th November – Thursday 28 th November 3:20pm – 3:45pm in the Library
Christmas Church Service for Children	Monday 9 th December

Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 13 th December
EYFS Christmas Concert	Friday 13 th December – Time to be confirmed
Christmas Lunch	Friday 13 th December
CRIBS Christmas Performance – Year R – Year 6	Monday 16 th December
Christmas Church Service for Parents	Monday 16 th December – Details to follow
End of Term	Friday 20 th December

Have a great weekend!
Mr. Lang