



Friday 6th December 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at St Katherine's, with a number of festive events planned over the coming weeks. We kicked things off in style last Saturday, when our children and staff manned the St Katherine's Santa shed, which proved incredibly popular with the local residents. It was wonderful to see the excitement on children's faces as they approached Santa's grotto and they certainly left with a twinkle in their eye. Thank you to everyone who helped to make, transport and supervise Santa's shed. Well done also to the big man himself, who was visibly exhausted after a hard day's work!



Christmas Lantern Parade

Some of our children participated in the Snodland Lantern Parade last weekend. They made beautiful lanterns in school and then led the way, at the front of the line, to display them alongside hundreds of other people. It was an incredible sight!



Carol Singing at Pilgrims Way Care Home

Our Reception children embodied the true spirit of Christmas this week, by singing Christmas carols at Pilgrims Way Care Home. It was delightful to watch the children perform so confidently in front of their audience, who thoroughly enjoyed joining in with their favourite Christmas classics.



PTA Christmas Fair

We are all very much looking forward to our own Christmas Fair, which takes place **at St Katherine's on Saturday 7th December, from 11am to 3pm**. Come and join the PTA and staff for some festive fun, including games, crafts, stalls, food, a professional face painter and a raffle (including a £150 cash prize).

We look forward to seeing many friends and families at this eagerly anticipated event.



Nativity and Christmas Concert

Our Year 1 and 2 children are currently working extremely hard to rehearse their nativity play – *A Miracle in Town*. I have deliberately avoided the hall during rehearsals, so I get to enjoy the play alongside parents, during the final week of term.

Nursery and Reception are also busily practising their songs and actions for their own Christmas concert, which will take place on **Friday 13th December at 9.15am**. We look forward to seeing parents and carers at both events.

Christmas Service

The whole school will be visiting Christ Church on Monday 9th December to participate in our traditional Christmas service. During the event, our Year 6 School Ambassadors will perform some readings, whilst our choir will sing a number of Christmas carols. There will also be an opportunity for Reverend Danielle to talk about the importance of Christmas for Christians across the world.

Additionally, for the first time this year, we will be hosting a Christmas presentation at **All Saints Church on Monday 16th December**, which will include singing, dancing and poetry readings from our children.

Assembly

In a recent assembly, I used the delightful book 'What the Crow Saw Below' to explore the theme of responsibility and aspiration. I was extremely impressed with the children's understanding of the text and their ability to interpret its key messages. Please click on the [link](#) to access the assembly.



Pupil Voice: "I leant that you should not be scared and always try new things."
(Archie – Year 4)

Bikeability

For part of their transition programme this year, Year 6 participated in a bikeability course. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning how to ride their bikes safely and responsibly and also had the opportunity to apply their new skills both in the playground and out on the local roads.



Curriculum News

Geography Fieldwork

Last week, our Year 3 children experienced what it is like to be real life geographers, as they conducted their own fieldwork, which related to their current topic 'Villages, Towns and Cities'. Through their fieldwork, the children explored how Snodland is used by its residents and visitors, and also carried out their own traffic survey.



Pupil Voice: "Snodland has lots of shops and they are important for different reasons. We can get medicine, cut our hair and buy things for the home like shampoo." (Belle - Year 3).

Writing Review

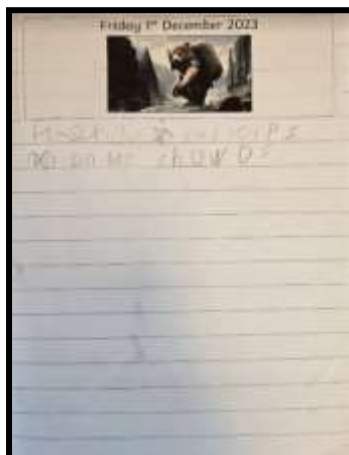
During this week's staff meeting, we reviewed our new writing approach that has been implemented since the start of the term. Teaching staff enjoyed sharing their class's learning sequences and writing outcomes. There was also much discussion about what has gone well and our next steps on our exciting journey.



Staff Voice: "The new English writing approach has positively impacted both pupil engagement and writing outcomes. Both adults and children are enthusiastic about the learning journeys and the supportive texts. The lessons are engaging, interactive, and highly enjoyable!" (Mrs Elliott).

Writing Progress

At St Katherine's, we take every opportunity to celebrate children's successes. Every term, our children participate in a 'cold' writing task, where they are given a picture stimulus and then write about it, without scaffolds or support from the teacher. Just look at the progress Cian (Year 2) and Frankie (Year 4) have made from their previous writing outcome to their latest one. Very impressive!



Sports Update

Year 6

Our Year 6 boys team recently played Ditton Primary School in the league and won a highly competitive game 4-1. Congratulations to the team, who will be brimming with confidence in anticipation of their next game.



Holborough Lakes Sports Event

A small number of children took part in a sports event this week, which involved participating in a range of activities and races. We were very proud of our children, who demonstrated all of our school values throughout the day. Well done!



Netball

I was privileged to watch our netball team's first match of the year this week, which ended in a whopping 17 - 1 victory over Snodland Church of England School. The high level of skill, teamwork and leadership from the players was impressive; the team clearly has huge potential. I look forward to seeing how they progress throughout the year. Keep it up!



Quiz Night

Thank you to the PTA for organising an extremely lively quiz night on Friday 22nd November. A number of teams put their general knowledge to the test over 6 rounds, with 'Let's Get Quizzical' being crowned the eventual winners. Thank you to everyone that participated in the quiz and we look forward to the PTA's next community event.

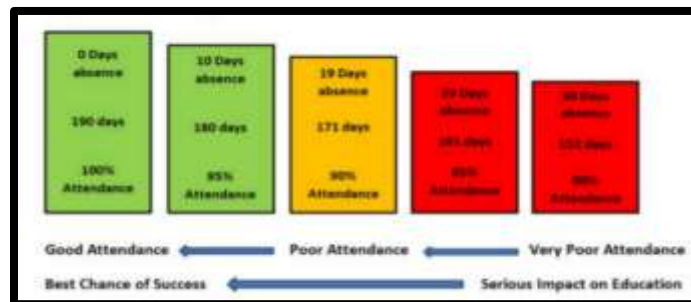


E-Safety

The NSPCC offer some excellent online safety advice for parents, which include online safety guides for online gaming, social media and internet connected devices. Please click on the [link](#) to access this important information.



Attendance Matters!



Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 98%		
R	Bramley 98%	Gala 97%	
1	Peach 89%	Pear 97%	Plum 89%
2	Cherry 95%	Quince 88%	
3	Hazel 92%	Walnut 85%	
4	Spruce 91%	Pine 90%	Fir 91%
5	Cedar 94%	Teak 92%	
6	Ash 94%	Oak 98%	Elm 94%

School Target: 95%

Key Dates

EVENT	DATE
St Katherine's Christmas Fair	Saturday 7 th December
Christmas Church Service for Children	Monday 9 th December
Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 13 th December
EYFS Christmas Concert	Friday 13 th December – 9:15am
Christmas Lunch	Friday 13 th December
CRIBS Performance to children	Monday 16 th December
Evening Christmas Church Service for Parents	Monday 16 th December
KS1 Christmas Nativity Performance to Parents	Tuesday 17 th & Wednesday 18 th December – 2.00pm
KS2 Talent Show	Thursday 19 th December
Class Christmas Parties (Non-Uniform Day)	Friday 20 th December
End of Term	Friday 20 th December

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Lang
Headteacher

