



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we begin our Christmas holidays, we can all look back on another rewarding and action-packed term, full of enrichment for our children. This includes, most recently, being immersed in 'all things Christmas', which has included EYFS performances, KS1 nativities, a dazzling evening service at All Saints Church (attended by the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling), and our Reception children singing to the residents of Pilgrims Way Care Home. We even had a festive performance from our choir, who sprinkled some Christmas spirit throughout St Katherine's, with their wonderful performances at the school gates today.

Our talent end of term talent show provided a platform for our children to showcase their amazing qualities, which featured actors, dancers, musicians and magicians. It was lovely to observe the skills and confidence of those that participated, who were clearly motivated by the audience's encouragement and support.

Please take the opportunity to spend some quality time with your families over the holidays. Laugh a lot, play lots of games, lay in (if possible) and have a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We all look forward to seeing the children refreshed, rejuvenated and raring to go on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025!**

### **Christmas Festivities**

St Katherine's has been 'stepping into Christmas' over the last few weeks, and we have captured many of our festive events below.



### **Christmas Fair**

Thank you to our dedicated PTA members for organising an excellent Christmas Fair. It was an extremely busy event, which included a number of stalls, face painting, arts and crafts, present wrapping and, of course, the big man himself was busy meeting and greeting children throughout the day. I am delighted to say that **the event raised over £2500 for the school!**



### **EYFS Concert**

Well done to our Nursery and Reception children for their amazing Christmas concert that took place last week. They sang their hearts out in front of parents and carers, who were beaming with pride and thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Thank you to all the staff that were involved in planning and preparing the children for the event.



### **KS1 Production**

Our talented Year 1 & 2 children performed their Christmas nativity play, 'A Miracle in Town', to parents and carers this week. It was a pleasure to watch the children perform so confidently with such vigour and enjoyment. Parents and carers certainly left with a smile on their faces. Thank you to all of the staff that contributed to such a wonderful performance.



### **CRIBS**

We were fortunate enough to be treated to another theatrical performance by CRIBS, who used songs, acting and puppetry to retell the story of Christmas. It was a great opportunity for the children to experience learning through 'the arts', which helped them to reflect and consider the importance of the Christmas story, during this week's celebrations in school.



**Pupil Voice:** *"I enjoyed the show because I learnt about the Christmas story in an interesting way."  
(Ella – Year 3).*

### **Christmas Lunch**

Children had a merry old time during our Christmas lunch, as they sang a range of Christmas tunes, pulled crackers and generally had a fun and festive time. They even had their food plated and served to them by members of staff! Thank you to the PTA for supplying all the crackers.



### **Evening Service – All Saints Church**

The St Katherine's community packed into All Saints Church this week to observe a magical Christmas service. Our School Ambassadors narrated, the choir performed a number of Christmas songs, there was an instrumental performance from our recorder group, our Year 2 actors brought the Christmas story to life and there was even some dancing from our Year 6 children.

The stunning church provided awe and wonder for our children and over two hundred people came to watch. Thank you to Reverend Danielle for allowing us to use such an incredible setting and for all of the adults involved, who helped to bring the wonderful service together.



### **Singing at Tesco**

Our wonderful choir sprinkled some Christmas cheer throughout the wider community by performing a number of songs at Tesco in Larkfield. We received compliments from many of the general public, who thoroughly enjoyed our choir's performance.



## St Katherine's Got Talent

To end the term on a high, our KS2 children were invited to showcase their talents through our second annual talent show – and they didn't disappoint! The audience was 'wowed' by a range of performers, who stepped up to the plate to entertain the children. Congratulations to everyone that took part in the show. There are many acts that will stay long in the memory!



**Pupil Voice:** "We had the opportunity to see everyone's talents, which included a range of acts. My favourite was probably the singing acts." (Max – Year 5).

## Santa's Presents

The children were surprised by a visit from a special person today. Santa took time out of his busy schedule to deliver presents to every class across the school. Thank you to the PTA for liaising with Santa – the children were in awe of his presence!



## Messages from our School Ambassadors

As we break up for the school holidays, to spend time with our loved ones, we understand that it can be a difficult time for some families. Therefore our Ambassadors wanted to wish everyone well and pass on their positive messages to the school community.

- **Our School Ambassadors have written to parents about what they believe Christmas truly means to them. You can access this by clicking on the following [link](#).**
- **Our Wellbeing Warriors gave out personalised messages to the school community today. We hope they put a smile on your face!**



Please note that if families need support over the Christmas period, there are a number of agencies that you can contact, which I have outlined on the next page.

- **Kent Family Hubs** – [www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/kent-family-hub/](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/kent-family-hub/)  
TMCC@kent.gov.uk – 03000 418008
- **SALUS** – [www.salusgroup.org.uk/support-services/tonbridge-malling-district/](http://www.salusgroup.org.uk/support-services/tonbridge-malling-district/)  
- Salus is an organisation that exists to improve the lives of children – activities in the Ditton and Snodland area for young people aged 8+ years.
- **Solihull Approach** – [www.inourplace.co.uk](http://www.inourplace.co.uk)  
Understanding your child, free parenting courses dedicated to improving emotional health and wellbeing in parents, children, adults and grandparents
- **NHS Kent Child** – [www.family.kentcht.nhs.uk/child](http://www.family.kentcht.nhs.uk/child)  
Support for children's development from baby through to teenager. Including health, emotional wellbeing, school, SEND, DV, family finances etc.
- **Childline** - <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/1-2-1-counsellor-chat/>
- **Young Minds Parenting Helpline** – [link](#) - 0808 802 5544 (Mon-Fri from 9.30am to 4pm).
- **Space 2 Be Me** parenting support group for children with SEN  
- <https://space2beme.org.uk/services/#>

## The Wider Curriculum

### Geography Field Work

Year 6 recently participated in a local fieldwork project, which involved carrying out some resident surveys, in relation to the following inquiry questions: Year 6: *"How have housing developments impacted the local environment?"*

The general public were delighted to take part in the fieldwork and were extremely complimentary about the children's behaviour and attitudes towards learning.

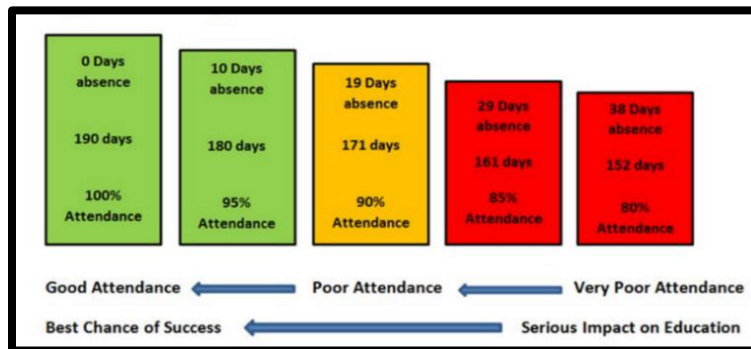


## Parent E-Safety Information

Children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. This week's information helps parents to keep themselves apprised of social media and help children to navigate these platforms in a safe, responsible manner. Please click on the [link](#) to access the information poster.



## Attendance Matters!



Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 99.4%		
R	Bramley 96.8%	Gala 98.9%	
1	Peach 96.0%	Pear 95.8%	Plum 95.6%
2	Cherry 93.9%	Quince 87.68%	
3	Hazel 92.2%	Walnut 88.2%	
4	Spruce 93.3%	Pine 85.9%	Fir 86.8%
5	Cedar 91.7%	Teak 90.7%	
6	Ash 95.0%	Oak 97.8%	Elm 89.8%



School Target: 95%  
Whole School Attendance: 94.1%

Please be reminded that the Department of Education dictates **attendance below 95% is poor and that below 90% is 'persistent absenteeism'**. The reason for this is clear; good attendance is vital for the success of pupils and their wellbeing. Our own school data, as well as that issued nationally, makes clear that **poor attendance results in poorer outcomes for children**.

### **The Law**

Children must attend school under the Education Act 1989 (revised). Poor attendance at school can result in one or more of the following:

- a Parenting Order
- an Education Supervision Order
- a School Attendance Order
- a fine (sometimes known as a 'penalty notice')

Please note that **persistent lateness is also detrimental to children's achievement and progress**.

**It is my duty as Headteacher to address poor attendance and the duty of my Governing Body to hold me accountable for it. St Katherine's has always had a firm stance on attendance matters and will continue to do so. Your cooperation in this matter is both a necessity and greatly appreciated.**

### **Uniform Reminders**

The St Katherine's school uniform is extremely important to us. Our children look smart in their uniform, which reflects the tone and ethos of our school. It is one way that we identify ourselves as a school community, which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of life.

I have noticed that towards the end of term some children were not consistently wearing the correct school uniform, particularly in relation to **school ties, school shoes, plain silver or gold stud earrings, whilst some children had tram lines cut into their hair**. Please click on the following [link](#) to view the school's uniform policy.

**If you have any difficulties in purchasing school uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school in confidence to discuss how we can best support you.**



Please also note that during the recent Parent Voice meeting, I shared examples of new jumpers and cardigans, which are cheaper, better quality and will dry quicker when washed. I have asked for more samples from the supplier so that I can share these with parents/ carers during school pick up in the new term. Watch this space!



## Key Dates

EVENT	DATE
End of Term	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
INSET DAY	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Start of Term</b>	<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>
Whole School Assembly on Islam	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January
Year R Community Read	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January - 2:45pm
Achievement Assembly	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January
Chinese Dragon Dancing, Fan and Umbrella Workshops - EYFS & KS1	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January
NSPCC Assembly EYFS, KS1 and KS2	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 4 Pine Class trip to the Gurdwara	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January
Visit from the Rabi for Year 1	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January
Attendance Pool Party	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January
Young Voices at the O2 Arena	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 4 Fir Class trip to the Gurdwara	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January
Year R Chinese New Year Open Afternoon	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January – 2:30pm
Restore, Reform, Respect – Year 6	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January
Children's Mental Health Week	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February – Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 4 Spruce Class trip to the Gurdwara	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February
Urban Activities – Breakdancing & Beatboxing – whole school Assembly and Workshops for KS2	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February
Happy Shoes Day	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February – All Day

Have a lovely Christmas break.

Mr. Lang  
Headteacher