



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been lovely to greet the children back to school, after a well-deserved Christmas break. They have returned refreshed and invigorated, and I have been extremely impressed with their calm transition back to school life.

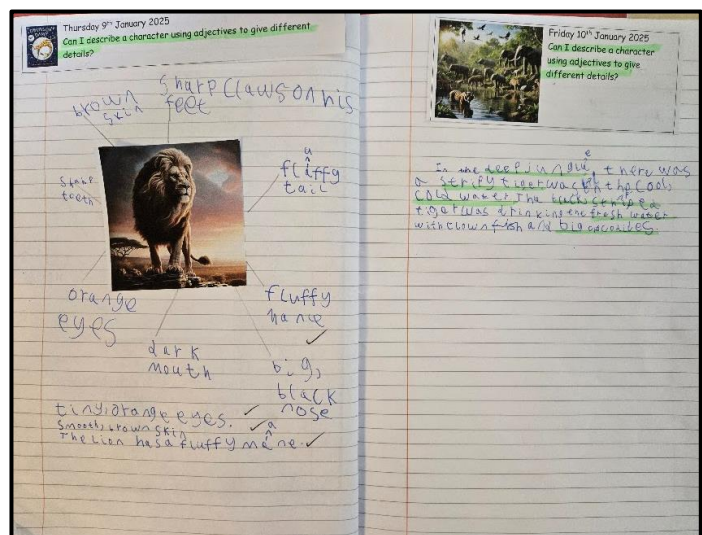
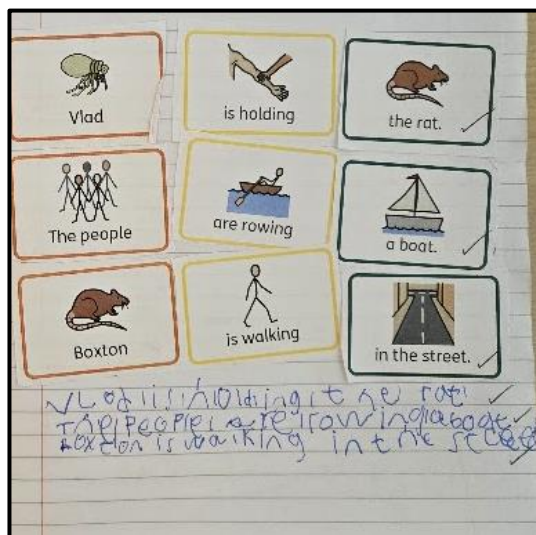
It has also been a pleasure to catch up with families at the school gate, and learn about their Christmas experiences. Although some families fell foul to the winter lurgy, it was clear that you all treasured the quality time you had at home with your children, as I did.

### INSET

It has been business as usual at school, with our INSET day focusing on the further development of our new writing model, which has already made a clear impact on children's writing outcomes.

During the training, we focused on developing writing toolkits to deepen children's understanding of the key aspects of writing. We then discussed improvements to our current planning model, which will ensure that children's learning journeys are effectively scaffolded. This will support them to use and apply learnt skills with increasing independence.

All staff continue to work relentlessly on the development of writing and it is clearly having an impact. An example of our progress is epitomised through a Year 2 child's writing (below), which shows an outcome at the start of the year (this is highly scaffolded) and their most recent outcome, which was independently written.



## Achievement Assembly

It was lovely to invite parents/ carers into the school to be part of our latest awards ceremony, where we celebrated children's achievements across the curriculum. I look forward to seeing many more of you throughout the course of the year.

Congratulations to the following children, who received a certificate during the Achievement Assembly:


- **Nursery:** Olivia
- **Reception:** Beau and Alia
- **Year 1:** Jessica, Charley and Amelia
- **Year 2:** Alisha
- **Year 3:** Leni and Millie
- **Year 4:** Frankie and Aoife
- **Year 5:** Zhenar and Lily
- **Year 6:** Zakai, Aayan and Belle

Below are a few example slides from the Achievement Assembly:

**Quince Class**  
**Alisha**


Since joining St Kath's Alisha has shown all the school values.

She tries her best in all areas of the curriculum, particularly in our recent English learning journey where she wrote a fantastic set of instructions! Well done Alisha. - Keep up the hard work!




**Gala Class**  
**Alia**

For understanding and speaking the English language so quickly since starting school and for beginning to read and write simple words as well as having a good knowledge of number.




**Plum Class**  
**Amelia**

For showing exceptional effort and excellence in all areas of the curriculum. Amelia has produced some fantastic writing this term. She is a kind and caring member of the class and has been a brilliant role model to her peers, always making the right choices. Keep it up Amelia!




**Fir Class**  
**Frankie**

Frankie shows excellence in all of his work, and his hard work is paying off, particularly in his writing in English. Frankie is always enthusiastic and has worked hard in all his lessons. Well done Frankie!




**Cedar Class**  
**Zhenar**

Zhenar is a super role model for pupils at St. Katherine's. He takes **responsibility** for his learning, by applying himself with great focus and concentration every day. Zhenar also shows great **respect** to staff and other pupils in Cedar class with great listening skills.



**Ash Class**  
**Zakai**


Zakai has worked incredibly hard this term and shown real determination when completing all of his Year 6 practice SATs tests. It has been amazing to see how much your scores have improved which is as a result of your **resilience**, and we've been so proud of how excited you've been to share your progress with us after each test. Keep up this fantastic attitude—you're doing brilliantly!



## House Points Winners

Congratulations to Fire House (red), who won last term's house point competition with a whopping 982 points. Well done to all the other houses all also amalgamated large totals.

**Fire will now have a non-uniform day on Monday 27th January 2025.** Children in Fire House are invited to wear their own clothes and sensible shoes into school for the day. If your child is in **Pear or Peach Classes** and in Fire House, they may wear their own clothes on **Tuesday 28th January 2025**.

	= 918 Dojo Points
	= 911 Dojo Points
	= 982 Dojo Points
	= 761 Dojo Points



## Curriculum update

### PE

Year 3 started their gymnastics learning journey this term by creating sequences and shapes on the mats. They then collaborated with their partners to add different levels to their movements. Over the coming weeks, the children will be exploring how to incorporate a range of different apparatus into their sequences. We look forward to seeing their progress.



## Personal Development (Diversity)

### Imam Visit

We welcomed Mr Dastigir to St Katherine's this week, who shared his insights into Islamic traditions, culture and values during a whole school assembly. Throughout his presentation, he spoke about the importance of compassion, respect, and education in Islam. He then connected these principles to our school values. Children had the opportunity to ask questions, deepen their understanding of Islamic beliefs and discuss a number of religious artefacts that Mr Dastigir had brought along.



**Pupil Voice:** "I learnt about many important beliefs, such as there is only one God (Allah). Also, I got to see the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam, which I haven't seen before." (Lily – Year 5)

## Chinese New Year Dragon and Umbrella Dancing

Children in KS1 participated in an exciting dragon and umbrella dancing workshop today. The children had a fantastic time learning vibrant and energetic dance forms, which helped them develop their coordination, rhythm and teamwork. It also gave them an insight into Chinese culture, the importance of dance and what it symbolises. It was a joy to see their enthusiasm and creativity shine throughout the workshops. We look forward to the many other enriching experiences that we have planned for the children this year.



**Pupil Voice:** "We liked the music from China that we danced to." (Molly – Year 1)

"I learned how to dance like a dragon because it's Chinese New Year and they have dragon dances in China." (Harley – Year 1)

## Forest School

We are excited to share that our Year 1 children began their forest school sessions last week. The children had a wonderful time exploring nature, learning about the environment and engaging in fun outdoor activities. These sessions are designed to help our children develop new skills, build confidence and foster a love for the outdoors. We look forward to many more adventures in the weeks to come!



## Community Read

It was a pleasure seeing so many friends and family participate in our Reception 'community read' this week. The classrooms and small hall were buzzing with adults reading to children both individually and in groups. It was a superb way to promote reading for pleasure and support the children to fall in love with a good book!



## Assembly

For my assembly this week, I used the wonderful tale, 'The Snail and the Whale,' to explore the theme of **resilience**. I posed a range of questions about the snail's actions, which supported the children to understand how resilience can take many forms. Please click on the [link](#) to access the assembly.



**Pupil Voice:** *"The snail solved many problems by being resilient. I am resilient when I read aloud because I sometimes find it challenging."* (Kostadin – Year 4)

Next week I will be delivering a KS1 and a KS2 assembly from the NSPCC, in order to support children to speak out if they are worried - either to a trusted adult or Childline. These assemblies will be engaging and interactive with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. If you would like to know more about the 'Speak out. Stay safe.' programme, please visit [www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout)



## Sports Update

### KS1 & KS2 Agility Competitions

Teams from KS1 and KS2 recently participated in an indoor athletic event, against a host of other schools. The children looked incredible in their sports kits and represented the school superbly. The organisers are currently totalling up the points for all of the schools that took part, and we look forward to receiving the results.



### Netball

We are incredibly proud of our netball team, who despite being unable to practice since November, beat St Marks Primary School 8-2 this week. Well done to everyone involved!



### PTA Events

I met with members from the PTA today to discuss the key events that will be organised for the spring term. These will include **a class movie night, a community bingo event and a Wonka Bar extravaganza**. More information will follow over the coming weeks.



## Children's Nails

We have had a few incidents over the last two weeks, where children have been scratched, whilst playing in the playground, due to another child's overgrown nails. We kindly ask that parents ensure that their children's nails are cut to a reasonable and safe length, in order to avoid any injuries to others.

Your cooperation in this matter is very much appreciated.



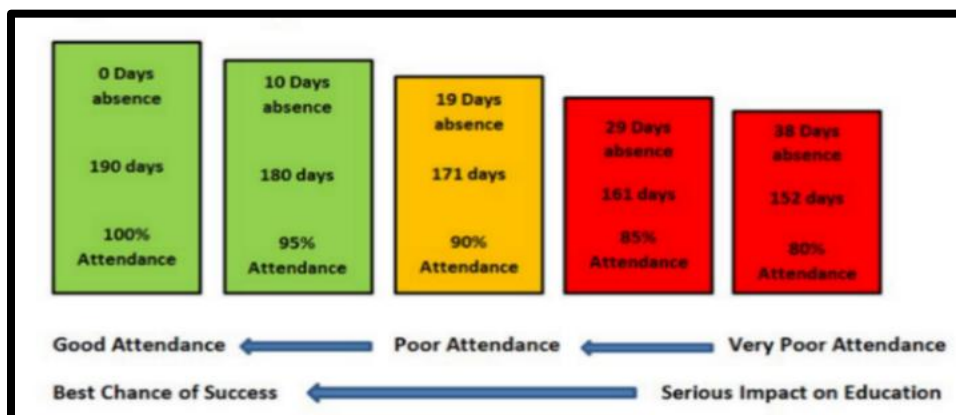
## E-Safety

This week's parent E-Safety information focuses on the array of online challenges that children face. It highlights ways to tackle different risks, such as mental wellbeing, physical harm and injury, and gives parents some excellent tips with regard to monitoring and supporting their children online.

Please click on the [link](#) to access this important information.



## Attendance Matters!



## Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 98.7%		
R	Bramley 91.1%	Gala 98.8%	
1	Peach 94.4%	Pear 98.3%	Plum 98.7%
2	Cherry 95.1%	Quince 92.5%	
3	Hazel 97.8%	Walnut 95.6%	
4	Spruce 95.2%	Pine 94.5%	Fir 92.0%
5	Cedar 95.3%	Teak 87.7%	
6	Ash 96.3%	Oak 97.3%	Elm 96.9%



School Target: 95%

## Key Dates

EVENT	DATE
NSPCC Assembly	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 4 - Pine Class visit to the Gurdwara	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January
Year 1 - visit from a Rabi	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January
Attendance Pool Party	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January
Choir - Young Voices at the O2 Arena	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January
Non uniform Day Reward for Fire House	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January
Non uniform Day Reward for <u>Peach and Pear children</u> in Fire House	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 4 – Fir Class visit to the Gurdwara	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January
Reception – Chinese New Year Open Afternoon	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 6 - Restore, Reform, Respect	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 visit to the Gurdwara	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February
Urban Activities – Breakdancing and beatboxing	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February
Happy Shoes Day	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February
End of term	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Lang  
Headteacher