



Friday 31st January 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I was delighted to attend an awards ceremony in Dartford, last week, to pick up St Katherine's Bronze Diversity Award. The award recognises our whole school commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion and the excellent provision we have in place to support our children's personal development. We have been asked to become a centre of excellence for diversity and inclusion and are well on the way to achieving our silver standard.

Please click on the [link](#) to access our diversity mark assessment report.



Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and the theme this year is 'Know Yourself – Grow Yourself'. We have a range of activities planned for the children, one of which will include our Wellbeing Warriors presenting an assembly to kick the week off. Additionally, Urban Activities will be visiting the school to introduce children to beat boxing and break dancing. **Please note that Urban Activities will be selling wristbands (£1), posters (£1) and bags (£3) on the lower playground at the end of the school day.**

We also look forward to seeing parents visit classrooms on **Monday 10th February** to look at children's outcomes from the week, which will allow the children to reflect and share their understanding of wellbeing.

Restore, Reform, Respect

Our Year 6 children participated in some powerful workshops today, led by the Restore, Reform, Respect team, who delivered key messages about "choices", through discussions about crime, including knife crime, gangs and county lines. Their presentations motivated our children to reflect on the impact of crime, as well as encourage them to realise their self-worth and talents.



Gurdwara Visit

Over the last couple of weeks, Year 4 have had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Medway Gurdwara and were warmly welcomed by the Sikh community. The visit was an enriching experience as the children learned about Sikh beliefs, including the values of equality, compassion, and service to others.

During the visit, our hosts explained the significance of the Gurdwara and the children were invited to join in with some traditional Sikh customs.

We are grateful for this insightful and memorable experience, which deepened the children's knowledge and understanding of Sikhism.



Pupil Voice: *"At first I was really nervous but afterwards I was really amazed at the fact that all my friends have seen my place of worship and had seen and heard about my religion."*
(Ja'niyah – Year 4)



Year 1 Rabi visit

Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed a visit from a member of the Jewish community, who taught them about what they might see if they went to a synagogue, and how Jews worship God.

They enjoyed trying on a tallit shawl and a kippah, the small, brimless cap worn by Jewish people as a sign of their identity, and to show respect to God. We were also delighted to have a close look at the Jewish holy scriptures written in a Torah scroll. It surprised the children to discover that Hebrew writing is read from right to left.



Chinese New Year Open Afternoon

Our Reception classes had a wonderful day on Wednesday celebrating Chinese New Year! They learnt about 'The Great Race', which is the legend behind the Chinese zodiac, explaining how twelve animals were chosen to represent each year. They also got to taste some delicious Chinese food!

To top it all off, friends and family were invited into school to join in the fun. Thank you to those who were able to attend – the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



NSPCC Assembly

Last week I presented an assembly from the NSPCC, which focused on developing children's understanding of the different types of abuse and what to do if they experience or witness them. Please click on the links below to access the assemblies:



KS1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfY_xrSQNEkcaptions

KS2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRSJOU3xWM4>

Pupil Voice: "I learnt that there were different types of abuse like physical, emotional, neglect and sexual. I know that I should always speak out if I experience or witness any abuse!" (Holly. J – Year 5)



Reception Maths Meetings

Reception classes have been enjoying having a new, daily 'Maths Meeting' with their teachers this week. The meeting gives the children the chance to recap on previous maths learning, as well as introducing new learning ahead of their usual daily maths sessions. Please do ask your children about their "meetings" as they will be very eager to share!



Reading Vending Machine

Congratulations to **Leo, Albe and Edith** who were nominated by their teachers for showing **excellence** in reading, and were pulled out of the St Katherine's hat to receive a well-deserved prize – a book! Children are nominated from each class due to the progress they have made in their reading, their effort with home reading or if they have supported others to read.

They thoroughly enjoyed receiving a token for our reading vending machine and selecting a book of their choice. Happy reading!



Young Voices

Our wonderful choir joined thousands of other children at the O2 Arena last week to become one of the largest choirs in Europe. They sang their hearts out and were also treated to some brilliant performances from MC Grammar, Tommy Blaze (from Strictly Come Dancing) and Soparnika Nair (a BGT contestant).

Thank you to all the parents and staff who attended the event and enabled the children to participate in such an enriching experience.



Sports Update

Athletics

I am extremely proud to announce that the scores are now in and.... our Year 3 & 4 athletics team won the borough competition that took place a few weeks ago! Congratulations to all the children that represented the school.



Netball

Our well-drilled netball team continued their winning streak by recently beating Kingshill 14-0 in a league match. Thank you to Mrs Holt for her continuous hard work with the children.



Football

Our Year 6 boys beat St Marks 3-0 this week. Once again, they showed excellent teamwork throughout the match. Or next match is a local derby against Snodland Church of England School. Good luck to all involved.

PTA Events

We are delighted to announce that the PTA will be hosting the following events during the spring term:

- A Movie Night - **Friday 7th February**. Information has already been sent to parents/ carers.
- FriYAY Doughnut Sale – **Friday 31st January & Friday 28th February**.
- Parent BINGO Evening – **Friday 7th March** (more information to follow).
- Wonka Bar Extravaganza – **TBC**

Thank you to the PTA for their continuous efforts in organising events that bring our community closer and raise funds for school improvement.

Happy Shoesday

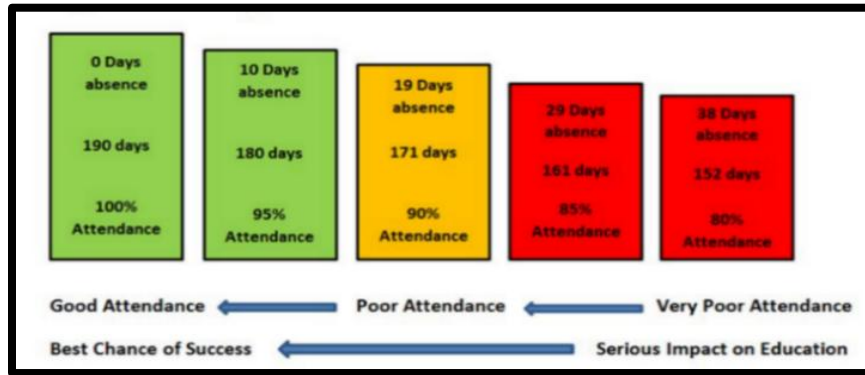
On **Friday 7th February**, we invite children to walk to school wearing footwear that makes them feel happy. This could include trainers, boots or even brightly coloured wellies! Our Happy Shoesday activity is designed to promote healthy living through walking to school. Families that travel by car could always 'park and stride' in order to support this great initiative.



Haircuts

I have noticed a small number of children have had tram lines cut into their hair. Please note that this does not adhere to our uniform policy, which you can access via the following [link](#). Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Attendance Matters!



Weekly Attendance

Please note that a sickness bug has contributed to attendance being lower than normal for last week.

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 98.8%		
R	Bramley 84.4%	Gala 89.9%	
1	Peach 77.7%	Pear 68.6%	Plum 97.8%
2	Cherry 83.3%	Quince 91.4%	
3	Hazel 93.7%	Walnut 93.4%	
4	Spruce 91.4%	Pine 92.5%	Fir 87.5%
5	Cedar 92.5%	Teak 87.5%	
6	Ash 88.1%	Oak 95.7%	Elm 86.2%

School Target: 95%



Key Dates

EVENT	DATE
Children's Mental Health Week	Monday 3 rd February – Friday 7 th February
Year 4 – Spruce visit to the Gurdwara	Tuesday 4 th February
Urban Activities – Breakdancing and beatboxing	Tuesday 4 th February
Happy Shoesday	Friday 7 th February
Parent Classroom Visit (linked to Children's Mental Health Week)	Monday 10 th February (from 3.00pm)
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 11 th February
Parent Times Tables Workshop	Wednesday 12 th February
Please click on the link to sign up.	
Year 6 Music Performance to parents	2.45pm to 3.15pm
End of term 3	Friday 14 th February
Start of term 4	Monday 24 th February

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Lang