



Friday 14th February 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers,

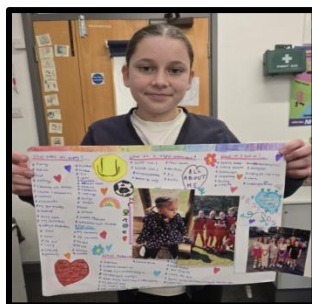
It's hard to believe that we have now reached the halfway point in the year. It has been a pleasure to watch the children grow both academically and personally over the last six months – they amaze me every day!

Children's Mental Health Week

St Katherine's recently celebrated Children's Mental Health Week by taking part in a range of activities, which were designed to raise children's awareness and deepen their understanding of mental well-being. The week started with an assembly, led by our Wellbeing Warriors, who discussed how children can express and manage their emotions. They also introduced the theme for this year, 'Know Yourself. Grow Yourself', and promoted strategies to help children build resilience and self-care.

The children were then treated to performances from Urban Activities, who led beatboxing/ breakdancing assemblies and workshops. They thrilled the children with their talents, and promoted the importance of living an active lifestyle, following your interests and having fun with your friends. Children also enjoyed building up a sweat on our visiting smoothie bike, which helped develop their understanding of healthy food choices. All of the activities during the week were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and conveyed key messages about wellbeing in young people.

To conclude, hundreds of parents descended upon classrooms on Friday to look at children's wellbeing mind maps and collages. Thank you to everyone that came - your presence created so much excitement across the school!



Curriculum Update

Paramedic Pete



Reception have been thinking about 'real life heroes' this term and to consolidate and enrich their learning, we arranged a visit from Paramedic Pete. Not only did the children find out about the work of a paramedic, they also got to try on his uniform and were introduced to lots of important equipment. They even got to explore the inside the ambulance! You can only imagine their excitement when Paramedic Pete turned on the flashing blue lights and the siren to reenact an emergency!

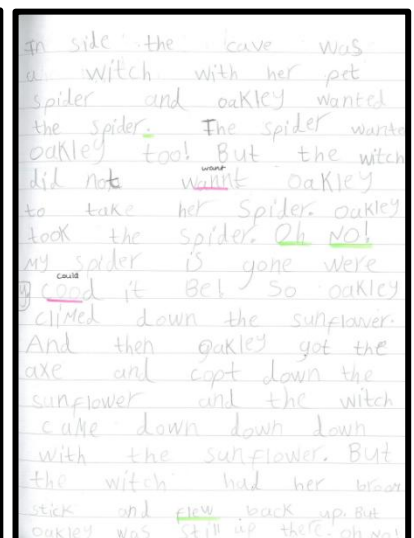
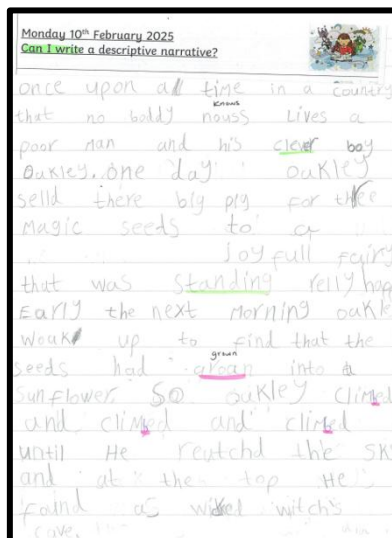
Pupil Voice: "Paramedic Pete helps people if they get hurt. I went inside the ambulance."
(Annabelle- Year R)

Pupil Voice: "Paramedic Pete put on the siren and the flashing lights. The siren was very loud."
(Edward - Year R)

Writing

We have now completed two terms using our new writing model, and I have been extremely impressed with the impact it is having. Children have enjoyed learning the structure and style of different text types through story mapping and performance, whilst they continue to apply their writing skills in interesting and engaging contexts.

We continue to focus on developing children's handwriting skills. Below, you can see Year 1 pupils enhancing their gross and fine motor skills through ribbon work — an important step in strengthening the physical process of writing. The second picture showcases a fantastic piece of work by Millie (Year 1), who innovated the tale of Jack and the Beanstalk to create her own unique version. What a talented young author!



Maths

At St Katherine's, we believe that using practical resources is essential for helping children develop a strong conceptual understanding of mathematics. I had the pleasure of popping into KS1 this week and observing this first hand, where Year 1 used concrete apparatus to form number bonds to twenty and Year 2 explored money and different complements to one pound.



Pupil Voice: *"I learnt that 100 pennies make one pound. I also made 25p using one 20p coin and one 5p coin."* (Aaliyah – Year 2)

Forest School

This term, Year 1 children have participated in weekly forest school sessions and have thrived, developing their confidence, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, in our outdoor environment. Through activities such as den building, craftwork and exploring wildlife, they have built resilience, creativity and an appreciation for the natural world. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity grow each week.

Next term, Year 2 will have the opportunity to enrich their learning through our forest school provision. I can't wait to see how they get on!



Safer Internet Day

This week children in KS1 and KS2 have been thinking about how to keep safe on the internet. KS1 classes have been learning about how to stay SMART and keep themselves safe when using their devices. KS2 have learned about how to protect themselves from online scams, including phishing.

Reception classes have particularly enjoyed spending some time with their Year 6 buddies and have created internet safety posters. Keep your eyes peeled for them on display around the school!



Parent E-Safety Information

This week's E-Safety information focuses on mental health and wellbeing apps and the risks attached to these. Please click on the [link](#) to read key information for parents to help them safeguard their children online.



St Katherine's Got Talent

A huge thank you to Riley, who showcased his talents during Celebration Assembly this week, by treating everyone to a keyboard masterclass of 'Believer' by Imagine Dragons. Riley showed create composure and serious talent as he wowed his audience, whilst they entered the hall for the assembly.



Pupil Voice: "Riley was amazing at playing the piano. It was a lovely way to come into Celebration Assembly and hear Riley demonstrating his talent." (Amina – Year 4)

Community News

Please see below flyers from Kent police and Maidstone United Soccer Schools.

Youth Engagement Event – Wednesday 19th February, Snodland

Kent Police, Tonbridge Family Hub, and a range of partners will be in Snodland on Wednesday 19th February to offer advice and hear your thoughts on keeping our communities safe.

@ Snodland Community Centre, Paddlesworth Road, Snodland
10am to 2pm

- Come and have a go on the Tech Zone gaming bus, which will have officers from Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Unit, with Kent Police, to discuss a range of topics to keep you safe.
- The Tonbridge and Malling Family Hub will be speaking to young people and families about the amazing work they do.
- Free Bike Marking, provided by Kent Police.
- Salus will be attending with VR headsets and laser tag guns and be on hand to speak to families on a range of topics.
- Kenward Trust will be there to provide information and advice around drugs and alcohol.

Kent Police

TECHZONE **SALUS** **Kenward Trust**

TONBRIDGE & MALLING **Kent Family Hub** **Kent Const. Const.** **Snodland Community Centre**



MAIDSTONE UNITED SOCCER SCHOOLS

www.maidstoneunited.co.uk/soccerschool

Sports Update

Netball

Our netball team continued their unbeaten run by beating Trottiscliffe and Barming this week. They march through to the semi-finals of the cup and will meet Southborough, who knocked us out at the same stage last year. Go for it!

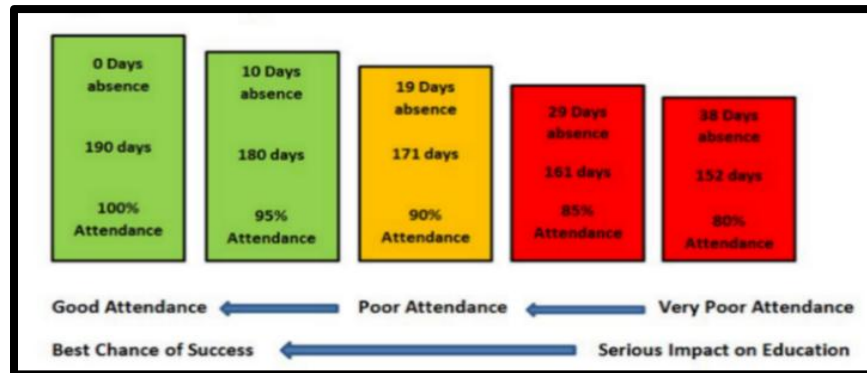


Football

A number of our children from Years 5 & 6 represented St Katherine's against Snodland Church of England School last week. Both teams lost their matches; however, I was immensely proud of the boys, who demonstrated high levels of sportsmanship, determination and resilience. They also looked superb in their St Katherine's kits. Well done!



Attendance Matters!



Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 99.6%		
R	Bramley 91.8%	Gala 94.5%	
1	Peach 93.3%	Pear 96.7%	Plum 92.7%
2	Cherry 97.6%	Quince 93.1%	
3	Hazel 95.5%	Walnut 91.1%	
4	Spruce 87.9%	Pine 94.2%	Fir 88.6%
5	Cedar 88.2%	Teak 91.7%	
6	Ash 96%	Oak 96.2%	Elm 96%



School Target: 95%

Key Dates

EVENT	DATE
Start of term 4	Monday 24th February
Class and group photographs	Tuesday 4 th March
World Book Day	Thursday 6 th March
PTA Bingo Night	Friday 7 th March
British Science Week	W/B Monday 10 th March
Comic Relief	Friday 21 st March
Scholastic Book Fair	Monday 24 th – Thursday 27 th March
Parent Consultation Meetings	Wednesday 26 th and Thursday 27 th March
Fire Safety Talks	Friday 28 th March
Aspiration Day	Monday 31 st March
CRIBS Easter performance	Tuesday 1 st April
End of term 4	Friday 4th April

Have a lovely half term break.

Mr Lang