



Friday 21st March 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers,

St. Katherine's recently embraced the wonders of science during British Science Week, with children engaging in a variety of investigations around the theme of 'adaptation'. It was an exciting week full of discovery and curiosity!

Using their range of scientific enquiry skills, the children were able to explore the following questions:

- 1) *How does the shape of a bird's beak affect the type of food it can eat?*
- 2) *How do animals use camouflage and mimicry to survive?*

They thoroughly enjoyed predicting, using a range of equipment to investigate their hypothesis and concluding what they had learnt from their results.

Pupil Voice:

"Pelicans' beaks are shaped to scoop up fish. We used a spoon to show this. A pelican would find it hard to drink nectar but a hummingbird wouldn't because of the shape of its beak. We used a pipette to show how this would work. (Wyatt- Year 3)



"The red smarties mimicked poisonous caterpillars because they looked like the red skittles, which we pretended were poisonous. When we picked the smarties, there were more red smarties left than any other colour. This tells me that animals mimic other animals to stop themselves being eaten." (Harry - Year 6)

To further enrich their learning in science, the children were treated to an assembly and workshops from a visiting scientist (KS2) and an animal handler (KS1). This provided them with a unique opportunity to explore scientific concepts in a hands-on, interactive way. Thank you to the PTA for contributing towards the cost of the workshops and helping create yet another memorable experience for the children.



Reading at St Katherine's

World Book Competitions

After much deliberation, we are delighted to announce that the winners of our WBD hat competition are: Chantelle, Matilda and Elly (Year 1).



They will receive a text of their choice from our book vending machine. Thank you to everyone that made the effort to create their own hats. You all looked fabulous!

Congratulations to Ethan, Jasmine and Evie, who won the emoji book quiz and are already enjoying their new books.



Book Vending Machine Winners

Congratulations to Kohana, Amelia and Annabelle, who were drawn from the St Katherine's hat to become our Reading Vending Machine winners! Each of them, along with one student from every class, was awarded a raffle ticket by their teacher for their efforts in reading. This includes consistently reading at home, making good progress at school, or helping others to read.



Scholastic Book Fair

Our Reading Ambassadors are keen to invite you to our latest book fair, which will take place from **Monday 24th to Thursday 27th March**, from 3:20pm to 3:45pm in the school library.

It's a fantastic opportunity for children to buy the latest fictional treats from their favourite authors, or perhaps discover something new that they can get lost in at home. Don't forget, you can use your World Book Day voucher on any purchase! Both cash and card payments will be accepted on the day.



Reading Ambassador Voice: *"Come to our book fair next week. There are hundreds of books to choose from. For each book sold it gives our school a book for our library or class libraries. Let's get reading!"*

Personal Development

National Neurodiversity Week

Our Diversity Ambassadors planned and presented an assembly this week to raise awareness of neurodiversity. The key messages from their presentation were that our differences can be our strengths and help shape who we are. The children left the assembly with the message to be kind and show understanding.

Pupil Voice: *"I feel it was interesting and I have ADHD so it made me feel included."* (Shannon – Year 6)



Comic Relief

St Katherine's was awash with red today as we threw our full support behind Comic Relief. This week, children learned about the charity's mission and how it helps children and families both in the UK and around the world.

A reminder that if you would like to make a donation, please click on the following [link](#).



Aspiration Day

We look forward to the final week of term, where we will be hosting our annual Aspiration Day, designed to inspire and promote a sense of ambition among our children. Throughout the day, the children will participate in workshops with a range of professionals, **including a poet and author, a pilot, an optician, a musician and a vet.** They will then reflect on the skills and knowledge the professionals need to perform their roles and also relate these to our school values.



Fundraiser

"Mrs Hayes, mother of Ethan (Year 6) and a member of the **Diabetes UK Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Parent Support Group**, is inviting the school community to help raise vital funds for families by 'getting moving.' The challenge will take place **over seven days, and all you need to do is move a minimum of 7 kilometres over the week.** You can run, walk, swim, or cycle—anything as long as you're moving under your own power. It's up to you how you do it!

Take a look at the poster (below) for more information or use this link to sign up <https://forms.office.com/r/QUH9fpz789>.

7km VIRTUAL CHALLENGE

Type 1 Diabetes

TAKE ON THE MAIDSTONE & TUNBRIDGE WELLS VIRTUAL CHALLENGE, EARN YOURSELF A BESPOKE MEDAL AND HELP TO RAISE VITAL FUNDS FOR LOCAL CHILDREN WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES.

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

THERE ARE 3 LEVELS TO THE CHALLENGE, SO YOU CAN CHOOSE WHICH LEVEL IS BEST FOR YOU.

- MOVE 7KM OVER 7 CONSECUTIVE DAYS
- MOVE 7KM EVERY DAY FOR 7 CONSECUTIVE DAYS
- MOVE 10KM EVERY DAY FOR 7 CONSECUTIVE DAYS

YOU CAN WALK, RUN, SWIM, CYCLE, PADDLE BOARD OR EVEN JUST TAKE THE DOG FOR A WALK! AS LONG AS YOU MOVE UNDER YOUR OWN POWER!!

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

USE THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP BEFORE 31ST MARCH

£7 FOR 7KM IN 7 DAYS
£10 FOR 7KM EVERY DAY FOR 7 DAYS
£14 FOR 10KM EVERY DAY FOR 7 DAYS

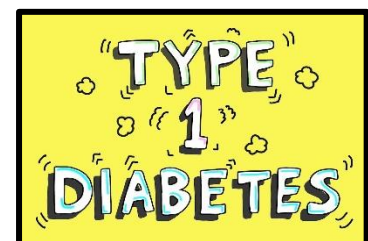
WHEN CAN I COMPLETE THE CHALLENGE?

THE CHALLENGE IS RUNNING FROM MONDAY 26TH MAY AND WILL CONCLUDE AT THE END OF DIABETES AWARENESS WEEK WHICH IS SUNDAY 22ND JUNE. YOU CAN CHOOSE ANY 7 CONSECUTIVE DAYS WITHIN THIS TIME FRAME TO COMPLETE YOUR CHALLENGE.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU ARE FIT ENOUGH TO UNDERTAKE THE CHALLENGE THAT YOU ARE SIGNING UP TO.

Join our Facebook group for more information and updates...
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1235721597511302/>

Run, Walk, Swim, Cycle or get walked
Supporting Children with Type 1 Diabetes



Curriculum Update

During PE this term, Year 4 have been learning to perform balances and rolls. This has included creating sequences that link balances and rolls smoothly with control.

I had the privilege of observing Owen and Janiyah practising during a lesson this week. Please click on the [link](#) to watch their backward roll, which they are working hard to synchronise. I look forward to seeing how this movement fits into their wider sequence.



Community News

We bid a fond farewell to several of our staff members this year, each of whom has made a lasting impact at St Katherine's.

Firstly, we say goodbye to Mrs Webb, who has dedicated over 18 years to our school. Throughout her time here, she has worked tirelessly to support our children, particularly those with SEND, and has made a remarkable contribution to speech and language development. Her commitment has left a lasting impression on both children and staff.

Additionally, Mrs Smith will be retiring at the end of this academic year after eighteen years. She has played an integral role in creating an outstanding learning environment for our children, with her work on school displays setting the standard for excellence. Mrs Smith has also been an invaluable support to many children in her role as a teaching assistant.

We also bid farewell to Mrs Michel, who will be retiring early at the end of this year, after thirteen years of service. Mrs Michel has been one of the unsung heroes in our school office, organising countless trips, residential visits, and school events, all with great dedication and efficiency.

Each of these colleagues will be greatly missed, and we hope you will join us in wishing them all the very best for the future as they begin their next chapters.



The Special Gift Room

A reminder that the PTA will be running a special gift room on **Thursday 27th March**. Please note that the deadline to pay for your child's gift via ParentPay has now passed. However, if you would still like your child to purchase a gift, **please bring £2 to the school office by Wednesday 26th March**.



Parent E-Safety Information

Livestreaming is now a major part of children's entertainment, evolving from gamers sharing screens into a booming industry with diverse personalities. While watching streamers can be entertaining, it comes with potential risks for children, such as misinformation, negative influences, and inappropriate content.

Please click on the [link](#) to read key information about streamers and how to stay up-to-date on the potential dangers associated with watching livestreams.

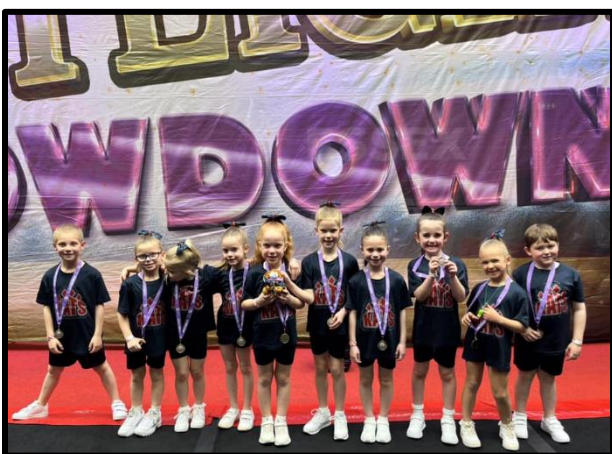


Sports Update

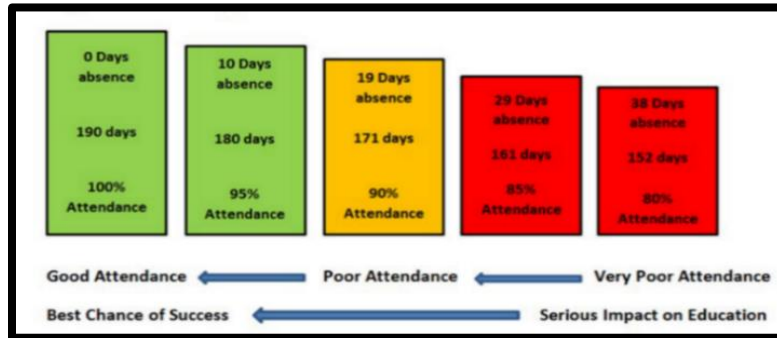
They did it again! Congratulations to our Kats Cheerleaders who competed at the weekend in Colchester alongside over 150 other allstar (non-school) teams.

🐆 Jaguars (KS2) came 1st place making them Division Champions for a second year!

🐻 Cubs (KS1) were rated Excellent and got the highest score in their division, placing them 1st as well. They also 'hit zero' which means they performed a flawless routine with no mistakes and got an extra award for it! Well done Kats!



Attendance Matters!



Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 100%		
R	Bramley 92.0%	Gala 98.9%	
1	Peach 92.5%	Pear 94.7%	Plum 99.8%
2	Cherry 94.6%	Quince 91.4%	
3	Hazel 96.1%	Walnut 91.9%	
4	Spruce 94.0%	Pine 93.5%	Fir 97.6%
5	Cedar 95.0%	Teak 96.3%	
6	Ash 94.1%	Oak 97.6%	Elm 93.9%



School Target: 95%

Key Dates

EVENT	DATE
Start of term 4	Monday 24th February
Scholastic Book Fair	Monday 24 th – Thursday 27 th March
Parent Consultation Meetings	Wednesday 26 th and Thursday 27 th March <i>Please note that Hazel Class appointments are now on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th March.</i>
PTA Gift Room	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