St Katherine's School & Nursery

Parent Newsletter

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Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

What a fantastic start to the new school year! St Katherine's has quickly come back to life with the energy, joy and curiosity of our children. From the moment they arrived on Tuesday, they've shown respect, kindness, confidence and a real eagerness to learn. Their thoughtful interactions with staff and their excellent behaviour - both in lessons and around the school - have set a brilliant tone for the term ahead. It's a pleasure to see the school community thriving once again.

Premises Developments

At St Katherine's, we're always looking for ways to make our school feel welcoming, safe and inspiring for everyone. Over the summer, we've resurfaced the car park and pathways to make access smoother. We are also in the process of adding new railings around the stage area to give it a more polished, attractive look. In the lower playground, we will also be creating a new outdoor reading area, using natural materials to provide a calm, inviting space where children can enjoy books, connect with nature, and build a love of reading beyond the classroom. These changes are part of our ongoing commitment to creating a school environment the whole community can be proud of.

Over the summer, I connected with a talented graffiti artist who works with a charity to create inspiring murals in public spaces. I've invited him to visit St Katherine's to explore how we might bring some vibrant, creative touches to key areas of the school. It's an exciting opportunity to celebrate art, community, and imagination - watch this space!

INSET

Staff at St Katherine's began the term with a purposeful and energising INSET day on Monday, diving into key areas of our school improvement plan. The day included safeguarding refresher training, updates to the national Early Years Foundation Stage framework, and practical strategies for teaching times tables and division facts—complete with the help of our new FunKey Maths cards! Our learning support assistants also took part in targeted training to strengthen their impact across the school. As ever, we're fortunate to have such a committed and enthusiastic team, who were ready to welcome the children back on Tuesday and begin building strong relationships and exciting learning journeys from day one.

Welcome Reception

We were delighted to welcome our new Reception children this week as they began their first transition days at St Katherine's. They've embraced their new learning environments with curiosity and confidence, quickly settling into routines and forming new friendships. It's been a joy to see them explore, play and begin their journey as part of our school community.

School Value Activities

The children began the week by participating in a number of activities that focused on our school values: **Respect, Resilience, Responsibility, Community, Compassion and Excellence.** Our values were introduced last year and are now firmly embedded throughout the school community. Here are some examples of the value activities below:

Respect

Year 4 wrote acrostic poems around the theme of respect.

Compassion

Year 5 made positivity pebbles for their classes.

Responsibility

Year 3 children carefully described their drawing for others to recreate.

Resilience

Year 6 children made a balloon towers in teams.

Community

Year 5 worked together to make the highest pasta structures.

Excellence

Year 2 children made their own rosettes of excellence.

A reminder that year groups upload learning posts to **our school Facebook page** on a weekly basis. To keep up-to-date with your child's learning, please navigate to https://www.facebook.com/stkatherinessnodland.

Assembly

My assembly this week focused on aspirations and journeys. I used the wonderful journey of the England Lionesses to highlight the key skills and values that are required to fulfil any goal. The children also helped me to identify what Excellence looked like at St Katherine's. Here are some of the children's thoughts below:

- ***"Excellence is when you produce quality writing and keep improving to bet better and better." (Nancy – Year 5)***

Please click on the following **link** to access the assembly.

Teaching and Learning Presentations

A reminder that parents/ carers are invited to attend our forthcoming 'teaching and learning presentations', where teachers will share key information about their year group and provide an opportunity for parents to ask any questions they may have. Please note that if parents/ carers have specific questions relating to their own children, they should arrange a time outside of the meeting to speak with their child's teacher. The meetings will take place from **2.30pm to 3.00pm in the main hall,** on the following days:

Year Group	Date
Reception	Wednesday 17th September
Year 1	Tuesday 16th September
Year 2	Monday 15th September
Year 3	Friday 12th September
Year 4	Wednesday 10th September
Year 5	Tuesday 9th September
Year 6	Thursday 18th September

Curriculum Coverage Sheets and Spelling

Please note that curriculum coverage sheets and spellings for this half term will be emailed to parents today. These can also be found on our school website and contain the follow information:

- **Curriculum Coverage Sheets –** This document outlines the key topics and areas of learning across the curriculum, for the first part of the autumn term.
- **Spellings –** Children's weekly spelling lists for this half term have been outlined in one document for parents. Children that have personalised spellings will be given these to take home.

Fabulous Holiday Homework

We have been incredibly impressed with the children's efforts on their summer homework. They've returned to school with a fantastic array of models, posters, projects and fact files - all linked to an exciting topic they'll be exploring this term. Here are just a few examples of the excellent outcomes they've produced.

Year 2

Year 1

Rewards, Rewards, Rewards

At St Katherine's, we believe in celebrating positive behaviour and recognising the values that make our school community thrive. Children are rewarded in a variety of ways - from stickers and certificates to special privileges and praise postcards. These rewards are closely linked to our school values and help reinforce the attitudes and actions we want to see every day. To find an overview of our rewards, please click on the link.

Congratulations Mrs Page!

We are thrilled to share some joyful news from the summer break - Mrs Croucher got married and is now Mrs Page! We send our heartfelt congratulations to her and her partner, and wish them every happiness in this exciting new chapter.

Parent Teacher Association

I met with the newly formed PTA this week and we are all very excited about organising many fundraising events this year, in order to help support school development. There will continue to be a key focus on subsidising children's enrichment to support the development of children's cultural capital, and keep the cost of workshops and visitors to a minimum for parents.

The first enrichment activity of the year will see **African storytellers** visit St Katherine's in October for part of our learning during Black History Month. Thank you to the PTA for subsiding the cost of the event and we look forward to a wonderful learning experience for all.

Watch this space for many other events and activities that the PTA have in the pipeline.

Parent Support

This week's guide focuses on supporting your children to go back to school. Although most children have a positive transition back to school, there are some who can find this difficult. As we have only been back for a few days, some children may still find returning to school after the weekend challenging. Please click on the **link** to access the short guide, with some useful tips and advice.

Attendance Matters!

Your child will only be successful if they attend school. Our aspiration is for everyone at St Katherine's to attend school at least **95%** of the year. If your child's attendance drops below this, they will inevitably fall behind, as days off will mean lost learning time. Please see the chart below that outlines the impact of your child's attendance on their learning.

In addition to our **'Pool Party'** prizes, we will continue to reward children, who maintain a high level of attendance, throughout the year, with half termly raffles to win one of the following prizes, of their choice, courtesy of Maidstone Leisure Centre:

- A family of four ticket to **'swimming'** and the **'Aqua Challenge Obstacle Course'** (approximate value - £45). Children have to be aged 6+ and be able to swim 25 metres.
- A family of four ticket to **'swimming – the family fun pool'** and the **'soft play area'** (approximate value - £30).
- A family of four ticket to the **'Sky Trail' & 'Dino Golf'** (approximate value - £50). Please note that these activities are only open at weekends and school holidays from April to October.

Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 100%		
R	Bramley 100%	Gala 100%	
1	Peach 93.5%	Pear 96.7%	
2	Cherry 100%	Quince 97.3%	Damson 98.9%
3	Hazel 98.7%	Walnut 94.2%	
4	Spruce 96.4%	Fir 98.3%	
5	Cedar 95.2%	Teak 97.2%	Mahogany 100%
6	Ash 98%	Oak 92.4.%	

School Target: 95%

Please click on the **link** to view an attendance letter that was sent out this week.

Key Dates

EVENT	DATE
Kent Test (11+) ***Familiarisation Paper***	Friday 5th September
Year 5 Teaching and Learning Presentations	Tuesday 9th September at 2:30pm
Year 4 Teaching and Learning Presentations	Wednesday 10th September at 2:30pm
Kent Test (11+)	Thursday 11th September
Year 3 Teaching and Learning Presentations	Friday12th September at 2:30pm
Year 2 Teaching and Learning Presentations	Monday 15th September at 2:30pm
Year 1 Teaching and Learning Presentations	Tuesday 16th September at 2:30pm
Reception Teaching and Learning Presentations	Wednesday 17th September at 2:30pm
Year 6 Teaching and Learning Presentations	Thursday 18th September
Macmillan Coffee Mornings	23/9/25 (am), 24/9/25 (am) & 25/9/225 (pm) – *more information will be provided shortly.*
Happy Shoes Day	Tuesday 30th September
African Storytelling Performance and Workshop	Friday 3rd October
World Mental Health Day	Friday 10th October
Y6 Bikeability	Friday 10th October and then 13th – 16th October
Show Racism the Red Card	Tuesday 14th October
Harvest Celebrations	Thursday 16th October
Open Evenings	Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th October
Last day of term	Thursday 16th October
Trust INSET Day	Friday 17th October

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Lang
Headteacher