



Friday 19th September 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Despite the torrential rain - uncannily timed to greet us at the gates and wave us off at home time – the last two weeks have been anything but gloomy. The school has been positively buzzing, with children diving into their learning with great enthusiasm. From curious questions, creative thinking and lively collaboration, the energy indoors has more than made up for the soggy skies outside.

School Ambassadors

This week marked a proud moment in our school calendar: the election of our new St Katherine's Ambassadors. Our twelve candidates began by writing letters of interest, then bravely took to the stage to deliver speeches in front of the whole school - an impressive feat in itself! To support our children's understanding of democracy, a key British value, pupils from Years 1 to 6 cast their votes in a real-life ballot.

After counting the votes, I was delighted to present **Alfred, Max, Amelia and Hollie** with their Ambassador ties during assembly. They'll be working closely with me throughout the year to champion everything that makes St Katherine's so special. A heartfelt thank you to all the candidates for their enthusiasm and effort - I look forward to seeing them continue to give back through other pupil voice opportunities this year.



Below is an image of our new Ambassadors being introduced to Mrs Evenden, our new Chair of governors, who will be formally introducing herself to parents in the coming weeks.

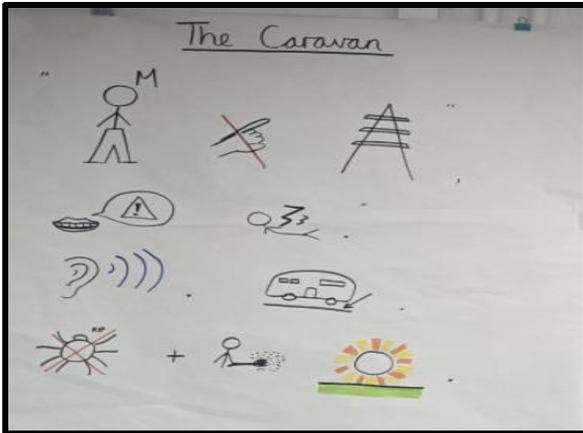


Pupil Voice: "I am very excited as it means a lot to me, as I can help the school become even better than it is ." (Amelia – School Ambassador)

Teaching and Learning

Our children have been fully immersed in their writing journeys this term, diving into the first stage of our Talk for Writing sequence with real enthusiasm. By learning and rehearsing an extract from a high-quality text, they are absorbing rich language and identifying the key writing tools used by the author - tools they will later apply in their own creative work. Through drama, discussion and imaginative activities, children bring these texts to life, deepening their understanding and sharpening their skills.

Below is an example of a Year 5 story map, which acts as visual cues to help children rehearse part of a quality text. There is also a short video of Evie performing a monologue from the perspective of the character to deepen her understanding of voice, emotion and motivation.



The Caravan

"Now Mitch, don't go and play by the pylon," my mum had warned me. "You'll get yourself electrocuted." Did I listen? No. At the base of this towering monster was a caravan. It was a place of dead spiders and dust but it was our special place.



Click on the [link](#) to watch Evie's monologue.

Sing, sing, sing!

At St Katherine's, singing isn't just something we do - it's something we treasure. I popped into our weekly singing assembly this week, and there really isn't anything quite like the sound of hundreds of children singing their hearts out. It's joyful, powerful and impossible to ignore. Singing builds confidence, strengthens community and gives every child a chance to express themselves - whether they're belting out a chorus or quietly finding their harmony.

Our Infant and Junior choirs are now up and running, bringing even more opportunities for musical magic. If you'd like a glimpse of the energy and spirit that singing brings to our school, take a look at the short video of our singing assembly by clicking on the link (right).



[Link](#) to singing assembly.

Assembly

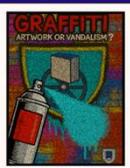
This week's assembly explored a thought-provoking question: **Graffiti - artwork or vandalism?** To help children reflect on this, we welcomed professional street artist Rossi Toltech into school. Rossi shared his creative journey and showcased some of his work, including the striking new mural at Lockmeadow in Maidstone. He'll be working with us to produce two outdoor art pieces that will enhance our school environment - and some lucky children will get to help him! Please click on the following [link](#) to access the assembly.

To be considered, pupils simply need to respond to the question **"Is graffiti a form of art—or just messy vandalism?"** through either a piece of graffiti-inspired artwork or a written reflection. Mrs Evenden, our Chair of Governors, will then select six children - two from each phase (Years 1–2, 3–4, and 5–6) - to join Rossi in bringing this exciting project to life. Please see below a promotional poster for the competition.



Competition

Is graffiti a form of art - or just messy vandalism? We want your opinion, your creativity and your voice!



To win an opportunity to work with a professional street artist on projects around the school either:

- Design a piece of graffiti-inspired artwork that explores this question.
- or
- Write a response to the question.

Entries to be handed into Mr Lang by Friday 3rd October 2025.

- 📍 Where did graffiti begin - and why?
- 🏠 From ancient walls to city streets: how has graffiti changed over time?
- 🗣️ Can graffiti speak louder than words?
- 🌍 Graffiti around the world—what do different cultures say with spray?
- 🎨 What makes graffiti powerful? The message, the style, or the place?
- 🌟 If you could graffiti one message for the world to see, what would it be and what would it look like?
- 🏫 Would graffiti look different on a school wall than on a city wall? Why?
- 🚫 Should graffiti be banned—or celebrated?

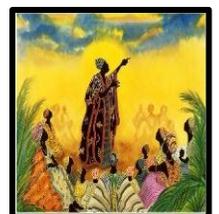
Community News

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Teaching and Learning Presentations, where class teachers shared key information about the year ahead. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers engaging with the curriculum and routines that shape daily life at St Katherine's. For those who were unable to join us, the presentations have now been uploaded to our website and are available to view at your convenience.



African Storytelling Performance

On Friday 3rd October, all children will enjoy a special assembly and take part in a workshop featuring an African Storytelling. This exciting event will mark the start of Black History Month and give children the opportunity to experience the richness of African storytelling culture and traditions. We are delighted to share that the **PTA has fully funded this workshop for every child in the school** – another example of how your support at events helps create amazing opportunities for our children.



MacMillan Coffee Event

Thank you to everyone that has already donated a cake or cakes for our forthcoming Macmillan Coffee event next week. A reminder that cakes 'baked at home' can be **delivered from Monday 22nd September** onwards.

Our Year 5 children are incredibly excited about hosting these sessions and raising money for such a worthwhile cause. Please be reminded to click on the following link to register your attendance at one of the events.

<https://forms.office.com/e/WH3h63S8FP>

We would like to thank you in advance for your generous donations and we look forward to seeing you at these events.



Day and Time
Tuesday 23rd September 2025 (9:15am-10:15am) (Teak Class hosting this session)
Wednesday 24th September 2025 (9:15am-10:15am) (Mahogany Class hosting this session)
Thursday 25th September 2025 (2pm-3pm) (Cedar Class hosting this session)



Parent Voice

A quick reminder to parents and carers about the recent letter inviting expressions of interest for this year's Parent Voice Group. This is a valuable opportunity to help shape school life, share ideas, and work in partnership with staff to support our community. If you'd like to be involved, please take a moment to register your interest by clicking on the following [link](#). We're looking forward to welcoming a diverse group of voices and perspectives to the table.



PTA

The St Katherine's PTA has some exciting events coming up!

- **PTA Meeting – Thursday 25th September (5.30pm – 7pm).** Everyone is welcome, come along and find out how you can get involved and the exciting plan for the year
- **FRY-YAY Doughnuts! – Friday 3rd October**, from 3:20pm on the lower playground. Treat yourself and the family to a tasty end-of-week treat.
- **Glow Disco – Friday 10th October** for Years R–6. A fun evening of music and dancing – don't miss it! More information will be sent out.

We'd love to see as many families and children as possible at these events. Your support makes a real difference!



Parent Support

This week's guide examines Snapchat's latest feature, including AI tools, Snap Map and subscription content, and the potential risks they pose to young users. Please click on the [link](#) to access the short guide, with some useful tips and advice.



Half Term Swimming

Please see the poster below regarding half term swimming opportunities at St Katherine's.

Children's SWIMMING Lessons

ST KATHERINE'S SCHOOL, POOL, SNODLAND

OCTOBER HALF TERM 2025

Mon 20th - Friday 24th OCT

5 DAY Crash Courses

Half hour Sessions
Between 8am - 11am

1:1 & 2:1 Lessons any age
(Siblings or Friends)

Group Lessons for age 3 year +

St Kathrines School, Pool, Snodland

TERM TIME LESSONS

Monday	4.00pm - 7.00pm
Tuesday	3.30pm - 6.30pm
Wednesday	3.30pm - 6.30pm
Thursday	3.30pm - 6.30pm
Friday	3.30pm - 6.00pm
Saturday	8.00am - 12.00pm
Sunday	9.00am - 11.00pm

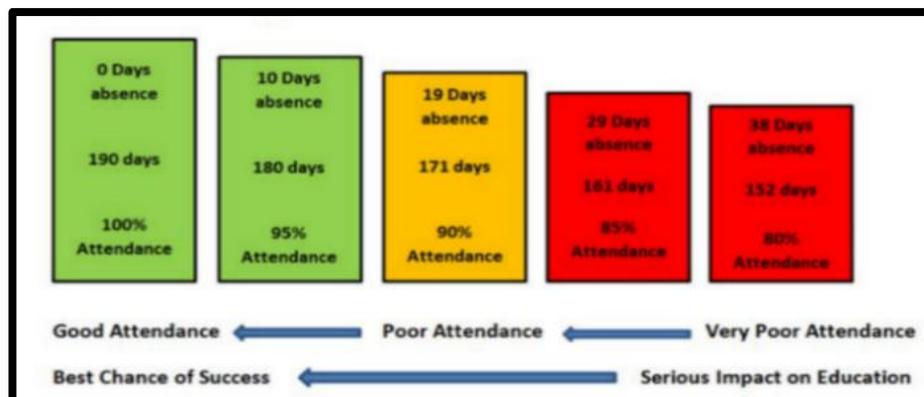
Group Lessons (age 3 years +)
also 1:1 & 2:1 Lessons Available



For more info please contact
JAN on 07825252913 or at
starfishswim@hotmail.com

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.



Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 100%		
R	Bramley 98.0%	Gala 99.6%	
1	Peach 92.2%	Pear 98.2%	
2	Cherry 98.0%	Quince 96.1%	Damson 97.1%
3	Hazel 96.6%	Walnut 93.2%	
4	Spruce 97.3%	Fir 88.5%	
5	Cedar 96.4%	Teak 94.7%	Mahogany 97.9%
6	Ash 94.0%	Oak 93.3%	

School Target: 95%



Key Dates

EVENT	DATE
Macmillan Coffee Mornings	23/9/25 (am), 24/9/25 (am) & 25/9/225 (pm)
PTA Meeting	Thursday 25 th September – 5.30pm to 7pm
Happy Shoes Day	Tuesday 30 th September
African Storytelling Performance and Workshop	Friday 3 rd October
PTA FRI YAY Event	Friday 3 rd October – 3:20pm Lower Playground
World Mental Health Day	Friday 10 th October
Y6 Bikeability	Friday 10 th October and then 13 th – 16 th October
PTA Glow Disco Years R-6	Friday 10 th October
Show Racism the Red Card	Tuesday 14 th October
Harvest Celebrations	Thursday 16 th October
Open Evenings	Wednesday 15 th & Thursday 16 th October
Last day of term	Thursday 16 th October
Trust INSET Day	Friday 17 th October

Mr. Lang
Headteacher