



Friday 7th November 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers,

After our very first two-week October break, it's been a genuine pleasure to see the children return with such calm focus, positive energy and readiness to learn. Their smooth transition back into school life has been remarkable - full of engagement, kind interactions and a real sense of purpose in the classroom. We are proud of how they've settled back into routines and embraced the learning ahead with such enthusiasm.

A Colourful Welcome Back

Over the half term, our resident street artist Rossi Toltech has transformed two key spaces in school with stunning new murals. One celebrates the high aspirations we hold for every child, while the other brings our outdoor reading area vividly to life. Before the break, children were invited to suggest their favourite fictional characters - and Rossi made sure the most popular choices were included. Next time you're on site, take a moment to explore the artwork... how many characters can you spot?

The creativity doesn't stop there. As a next step, the children who produced outcomes for our recent graffiti competition will be working directly with Rossi to design and create one final mural - this time on the playground, celebrating our core value of *community*. It's a wonderful opportunity for pupil voice and artistic collaboration to come together, and we can't wait to see how their ideas take shape.



Pupil Voice: *"I love it the reading mural! It looks like you are taken inside the book and the picture tells you where reading can take you."* (Olive – Year 4)



The front office area has also undergone a revamp, with a brand-new worktop and glass panels now installed. These additions not only enhance the overall aesthetics but also improve security and confidentiality for staff and visitors.



Achievement Assembly

This week, we held our first Achievement Assembly of the year, where children were recognised for excelling in one of our school values. It was a truly uplifting occasion, with proud smiles all around as we celebrated their achievements and shared some of the fantastic learning outcomes they've produced this term. From thoughtful writing to creative problem-solving, each child's contribution reflected not just skill, but character - and it was wonderful to see parents beaming with pride as their children's efforts were acknowledged. Here are a few of our superstars:

Peach Class
Olivia [redacted]

Olivia is a fantastic role model and member of Peach Class. She completes all her work with a can do attitude as well as helping others. She always shows pride in all her learning. Well done Olivia, keep up the great work!



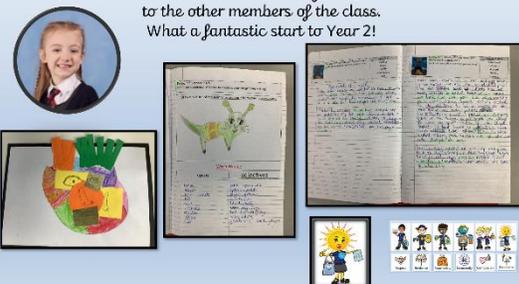
Quince Class
Charley [redacted]

Charley has made excellent progress across all subjects, especially in her poetry writing, which has been particularly impressive. Her creative ideas, thoughtful language choices and expressive style have really stood out. Well done, Charley!



Cherry Class
Millie [redacted]

Millie has shown pride and excellence in all areas of her learning over the term and has been a great role model to the other members of the class. What a fantastic start to Year 2!



Ash Class
Harrison [redacted]

Harrison is an outstanding role model who always makes the right choices and sets a wonderful example for others. His dedication to always doing his best and consistently demonstrating our school value of excellence is truly impressive.



Teaching and Learning

Stunning Starts

At the start of each new writing journey, children are immersed in a creative hook - a purposeful activity designed to spark curiosity, ignite imagination and help them connect with the learning ahead. Whether it's a dramatic scene, a mysterious object, or a role-play experience, these hooks give pupils a clear sense of purpose and make their writing feel meaningful from the very beginning. It's been brilliant to see how quickly they engage, ask thoughtful questions and begin crafting ideas with confidence.



Year 2 enjoyed making jam sandwiches and then wrote instructions for how to make them.



Peach class had a great morning finding all the things to build a trap kit for Mr Young to catch a wolf.



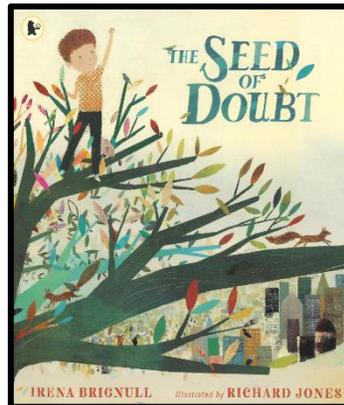
A troll destroyed Fir Class! They are now planning how to locate and catch the beast.



Our nursery children turned pumpkins into creative canvases to support their mark-making skills!

Assembly

My assembly this week focused on our school value of **excellence** and I used the beautiful book 'The Seed of Doubt' to explore the concept of aspiration and linked this to the children's own hopes for the future. To access the assembly, please click on the following [link](#).



The Hallway of Hopes

We're excited to introduce our new display: *The Hallway of Hopes* - a space dedicated to celebrating pupil goal-setting and progress. Children choose a personal learning goal, and we track their journey over time, highlighting effort, growth and achievement. Our first focus children, Ezmai and Danaya, have both chosen to improve their handwriting, and the progress they're making already this term is fantastic. With photos, samples and reflections on display, it's a powerful reminder of what can be achieved with determination and support.



Pupil Voice: "I am trying hard to make my handwriting better." (Danaya – Year 2)

Sporting News

Well done to our girls football team who played so well in their football tournament this week! They represented the school with outstanding manners and enthusiasm and were, as always, a credit to the school.



Pupil Voice: *"I played 5 games and scored a goal against another school. I enjoyed being part of the team."* (Mia – Year 4)

Community News

Poppies

A huge thank you to our brilliant Community Ambassador, Jasmine, who supported this year's poppy sales with such care and commitment. Her efforts have helped raise awareness and contributions for the Royal British Legion, and it was lovely to see so many children and families engaging with this important tradition.

We're now looking ahead to Year 6's Remembrance Assembly next week, which promises to be a profound and moving experience for all. The children have been preparing with thoughtfulness and maturity, and we're proud of the way they're honouring the stories, sacrifices and values that Remembrance represents.



St Kath's Top Tots

We are delighted to invite parents and babies/ toddlers to our first 'Top Tots' session on Thursday 13th November at 10.30am. It is a great opportunity for families to connect with others in the school community and pick up some helpful tips from professionals.

This sessions will feature a qualified infant massage expert, who will demonstrate techniques and share advice on infant massage.

To book you place at our St Kath's Top Tots Baby & Toddler Group, **please scan the QR code to confirm your attendance.**



Uniform reminders

Our school uniform is important to us. Our children look smart in their uniform, which reflects the tone and ethos of our school. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school community and it promotes a strong, cohesive identity, which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of life. It also promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school. School uniform is part of our ethos and in coming to St Katherine's, parents agree to support our policy.

Please see below the following extracts from our uniform policy with regard to hairstyles and nails:

HAIRSTYLES

Children's hair should be **neatly groomed**. Long hair past shoulder length, on both boys and girls, **should be tied back** to help prevent the spread of head lice. **Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school. Children may not have distinctive line designs or words cut into their hair/ eyebrows or permanent/temporary coloured hair.** The use of styling products should be kept to a minimum. **Hair colouring/ highlighting is not permitted.**



NAIL POLISH & MAKE-UP

For health and safety reasons, children's nails should be cut to a short length. Children **should not wear nail varnish or false nails** to school and **make-up is not permitted**. If a child wears fake nails to school, they will be unable to participate in PE lessons, or go out onto the playground for breaktime/ lunchtime until they have them removed.



Online Safety - Parent Support

Pokémon TCG Pocket has exploded in popularity, with over 100 million downloads worldwide. This week's guide helps trusted adults navigate the risks – from addictive spending habits to endless new card sets. With tips on monitoring purchases, managing play time and encouraging fairness, the advice supports parents and educators in keeping young players safe while still enjoying the game. Please click on the [link](#) to access the short guide, with some useful tips and advice.

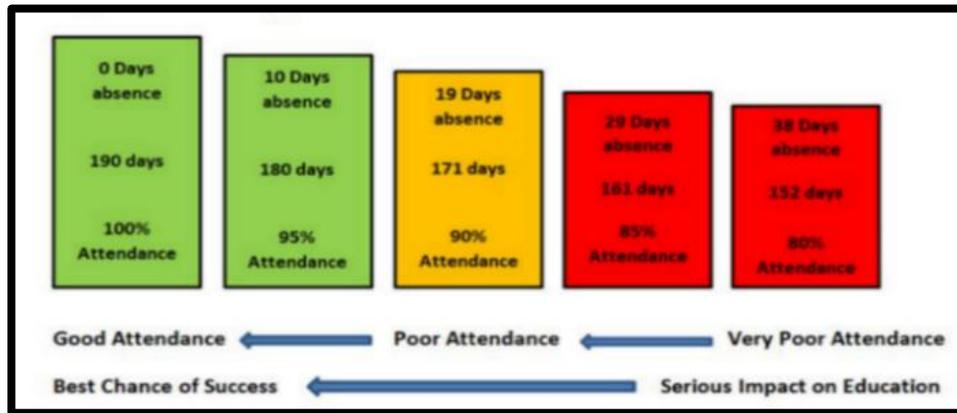


The infographic provides a comprehensive overview of the risks associated with Pokémon TCG Pocket for parents and educators. It features a central illustration of a young boy in a red cap and blue shirt, holding a smartphone. The infographic is divided into several sections:

- WHAT ARE THE RISKS?** (Page 3): A summary of the main risks.
- ADDICTIVE BACK OPENING**: Discusses how the game's mechanics can lead to compulsive spending.
- QUICK BUT MISLEADING**: Explains how the game's fast-paced nature can obscure the true costs.
- PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE**: Details the financial pressure of purchasing premium passes.
- ENDLESS BACK LOOPS**: Describes the cycle of spending to acquire new cards.
- COST OF BOOSTER PACKS**: Provides information on the high cost of booster packs.
- COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY**: Discusses the risks of online play, including cheating and harassment.
- Advice for Parents & Educators**: Offers practical tips for monitoring and managing the child's play.
- MONITOR SPENDING HABITS**: Suggests ways to track and limit spending.
- PLAY TOGETHER**: Encourages social play to reduce isolation.
- TEACH FAIRNESS**: Emphasizes the importance of fair play and sportsmanship.

The infographic is produced by WakeUpWednesday and The National College.

Attendance Matters!



Termly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 98.9%		
R	Bramley 100%	Gala 99.6%	
1	Peach 93.7%	Pear 96.7%	
2	Cherry 98.7%	Quince 96.5%	Damson 93.2%
3	Hazel 94.1%	Walnut 91.7%	
4	Spruce 98.0%	Fir 94.5%	
5	Cedar 91.5%	Teak 99.3%	Mahogany 97.9%
6	Ash 93.2%	Oak 92.2%	

School Target: 95%



Key Dates

EVENT	DATE
Remembrance Day Assembly Year 6 Leading & Mayor Visit	Tuesday 11 th November
New Year R (Intake 2026) Open Evening	Wednesday 12 th November 6-7:30pm
Children in Need – Dress Down for Pudsey	Friday 14 th November
PTA Quiz Night	Friday 14 th November (More details to follow)
Be Bright Be Seen – Road Safety Week	Monday 17 th November
Individual School Photographs	Tuesday 18 th November
Odd Socks Day & Anti Bullying Assemblies for Year R – Year 5 and Workshops for Year 6	Wednesday 19th November Date change
Book Fair in Library run by Reading Ambassadors	Monday 24 th – Thursday 28 th November 3:30pm

Drama 4 All Workshops Year R – Year 2	<i>Tuesday 25th November</i>
New Year R (Intake 2026) Open Morning	<i>Wednesday 26th November 9-10:30am</i>
Year R Community Read	<i>Wednesday 26th November 2:30pm</i>
Alvin – Magistrate Talk Year 6 in school	<i>Friday 28th November</i>
New Year R (Intake 2026) Open Afternoon	<i>Thursday 4th December 1:30pm-3pm</i>
Christmas Fair at St Katherine's	<i>Saturday 6th December 11am - 2pm</i>
Christmas Church Service for children in KS1& KS2	<i>Tuesday 9th December AM</i>
Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch	<i>Friday 12th December</i>
EYFS (Nursery & Year R) Christmas Concert	<i>Friday 12th December 9:15am</i>
CRIBS Theatre in School - EYFS, KS1 & KS2	<i>Monday 15th December</i>
KS1 (Year 1 & 2) Christmas Performance	<i>Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th December 2pm</i>
Christmas Church Service for Parents	<i>Tuesday 16th December 6-7pm (More details to follow)</i>
Last Day of Term	Friday 19th December

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr. Lang
Headteacher