



Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

There's been a noticeable sense of energy around the school recently as children settle into the next phases of their learning journeys. Classrooms feel purposeful and focused, with children engaging well and showing real interest in their work.

Achievement Assembly

Last week's Achievement Assembly added an extra layer of joy to the atmosphere. It was a genuine pleasure to pause, give back a little, and celebrate the wonderful achievements of our children. Moments like these remind us why recognition matters and why taking time to notice each child's growth has such a lasting impact.

One parent captured this beautifully in a message we received afterwards, sharing how much the morning had meant to their family. They wrote that it had been "a wonderful opportunity to hear the thoughtful and encouraging comments about the children," and that the personalised touches made it clear how much time and care had gone into the event. They went on to say that their child, who joined us only recently, "is now beginning to thrive," and that being celebrated in this way had given them "a significant confidence boost."

Feedback like this is a powerful reminder of the difference our community makes when we work together. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. Here are a few of our superstars below:

Nina

Nina consistently demonstrates ALL of our school values. She loves learning and challenging herself to develop her skills further, she is always happy and enjoys her time in Acorn Class. Nina is a respectful and kind little girl - a true role model and school ambassador in the making!

Stanley

Stanley demonstrates all the school values daily. He listens well, is keen to learn and always tries his best. He is a good friend to everyone and is a great role model.

Ella

Ella is a fantastic role model in Hazel class, she is always showing excellence across the curriculum. I have been particularly impressed with her Art learning this term. Below are parts of the learning journey. Her final piece was stunning. Well done Ella!

Hettie

Hettie consistently demonstrates our school values through her responsibility and resilience. She always tries her best in everything she does and sets a positive example as a role model for others. Hettie also supports the school and class community by willingly taking on responsibilities and helping wherever she can. She truly deserves recognition for her ongoing effort and positive attitude.

Thomas

Thomas has tried so hard over the last term with his presentation and handwriting in his English learning and has been very keen to write. He is really proud of the way he presented his information text about a fantastic mythical creature. Well done Thomas, keep up the good work!

Elsie-Marie

Elsie is a fantastic role model in class, always working hard, aiming for excellence, and taking great responsibility for her learning. We are so proud of you, keep up the amazing work!

A Community of Learners

Earlier this month, staff came together for a dedicated INSET day to refocus on our shared goals and prepare for the term ahead.

Key areas of focus included:

- **Analysing data to plan next steps for children.**
- **Exploring materials to strengthen how maths is sequenced and taught.**
- **Deepening understanding of strategies to remove barriers to learning.**

The intention behind the day was to ensure every adult in school feels equipped and aligned in supporting pupil progress.



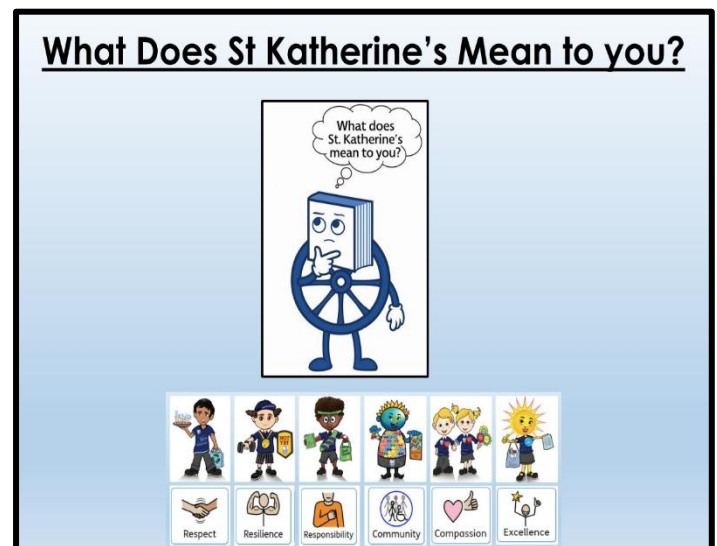
Assembly

In our first whole-school assembly of the year, the children watched a section of the London New Year's fireworks display - a moment filled with colour, celebration, and reflection. We used it as a springboard to talk about New Year's resolutions and how they link to our school value of **Responsibility**: taking ownership of our actions, setting positive intentions, and thinking about the kind of people we want to be.

Partway through the display, a voiceover shared what London meant to them. This prompted a rich conversation about *community*—what it feels like, how we contribute to it, and why it matters. Building on this, I asked the children a simple but powerful question: **“What does St Katherine’s mean to you?”**

Their responses were thoughtful, heartfelt, and deeply affirming of the culture we strive to nurture every day. Among them were: *“A kind community”* and *“Somewhere I feel safe.”*

These reflections speak volumes. They show that our children not only recognise the values we promote but experience them in their daily lives. Please click on the [link](#) to access the assembly.



Curriculum

Reading

Congratulations to many of our brilliant Reception readers who earned their Bronze certificates this week for completing 30 reads at home. Their commitment and enthusiasm are a joy to see, and we're so proud of the progress they're making.

Reading regularly at home plays a vital role in developing fluency, confidence, and a lifelong love of books. It's one of the most powerful ways families can support learning - and these children are showing just how effective it can be.



There are a number of children across the school who are racing their way towards the Silver and Gold awards in our Race to Read challenge. In fact, Lucas (Year 2) has already achieved gold this year - just one glance at his reading record shows the incredible dedication he has shown at home!



Page No.	Comments	Page No.	Comments
9.11.25	Read to page 9 Well done! Keep going Lucas!	10.11.25	Read to page 10 Well done! Keep going Lucas!
11.11.25	Read to page 11 Well done! Keep going Lucas!	12.11.25	Read to page 12 Well done! Keep going Lucas!
13.11.25	Read to page 13 Well done! Keep going Lucas!	14.11.25	Read to page 14 Well done! Keep going Lucas!
15.11.25	Read to page 15 Well done! Keep going Lucas!	16.11.25	Read to page 16 Well done! Keep going Lucas!
17.11.25	Read to page 17 Well done! Keep going Lucas!	18.11.25	Read to page 18 Well done! Keep going Lucas!
19.11.25	Read to page 19 Well done! Keep going Lucas!	20.11.25	Read to page 20 Well done! Keep going Lucas!
21.11.25	Read to page 21 Well done! Keep going Lucas!	22.11.25	Read to page 22 Well done! Keep going Lucas!
23.11.25	Read to page 23 Well done! Keep going Lucas!	24.11.25	Read to page 24 Well done! Keep going Lucas!
25.11.25	Read to page 25 Well done! Keep going Lucas!	26.11.25	Read to page 26 Well done! Keep going Lucas!
27.11.25	Read to page 27 Well done! Keep going Lucas!	28.11.25	Read to page 28 Well done! Keep going Lucas!
29.11.25	Read to page 29 Well done! Keep going Lucas!	30.11.25	Read to page 30 Well done! Keep going Lucas!



Pupil Voice: "I am pleased that I got my certificate. I read every night and I have got better and I am really proud of myself." (Lucas – Year 2)

Vocabulary, Vocabulary, Vocabulary

Across the school, children have been engaging in rich vocabulary activities that help deepen their understanding of language and strengthen their ability to express ideas clearly. Whether exploring new words in English lessons, linking vocabulary to topic work, or using classroom displays to revisit key terms, staff are continuing to prioritise explicit vocabulary instruction and modelling.

These approaches are making a real difference - not just in writing, but in how children speak, reason, and reflect. Below is a scaffold created and discussed in Year 5 and a Year 2 Magpie book, which shows how vocabulary is being captured and later applied in children's outcomes.

Key word	Definition	Synonym	Antonym
precious	rare, valuable	treasured	common
intricately	very detailed	elaborate	plain
dappling	patches of colour	speckled	covered
gnarled	twisted and curved with age	knotted	smooth
swollen	enlarged	bloated	shrunken
torrent	fast and strong flow of water	stream	trickle
raging	extreme angry feeling	furcous	calm
squelching	making a wet sucking sound as feet or an animal on an unstable way	splashing	dry
precipitously	falling or moving in an unstable way	dangerously	securely
churning	mixing, turning in a circular motion	swirling	still
despair	without hope	hopeless	confident

Verbs	Adverbs
tiptoe	(how doing)
Swish	quickly
wiggle	smileless
Crawl	happily
creep	slightly
Swing	quietly
Jogging	badly
Walking	carefully
Sneaked	gracefully
Stomped	hushed
pranced	calmly
danced	calmly
Crept	elegantly
	gently
	slip
	slip

Enrichment

Our wonderful choir are eagerly anticipating next week's Young Voices extravaganza at the O2 Arena, where they will join thousands of others to form Europe's largest school choir. They have been working incredibly hard to learn a wide range of songs for the performance — including the vibrant Wicked Medley — and their enthusiasm has been fantastic to see.

Speaking of young voices, our KS1 and Year 3 choir (below) have also been honing their talents with Miss Aikenhead, and continue to blossom beautifully. St Katherine's has certainly got talent!



Personal Development and Wellbeing

Mylo's Colouring Club

We were delighted to welcome children back to Mylo Colouring Club for the first session of the Spring Term. With clipboards in hand and coloured pens at the ready, the children settled in for a calm and creative afternoon - joined, of course, by Mylo himself, who seemed just as happy to be part of the fun.

The club offers a gentle space for children to relax, connect, and enjoy expressive activities alongside their peers. It's always a joy to see the smiles, the focus, and the sense of community that grows around Mylo's presence. We're looking forward to many more colourful moments this term.



Community News

Our Community Ambassadors have led a fantastic Winter Coat Initiative this term, and we are incredibly grateful for the generous donations from families. Your support has ensured that warm coats have reached those who need them most. This simple act of giving has shown our values of compassion and community in action, making a real difference to local families.



Local News



QUIZ!

Violet Deadman is hosting a quiz night to
fundraise money for her school trip to
Kenya in 2027

CAMP KENYA

RAFFLE!

The Quiz night will take place at Snodland
Community Centre in the Main Hall
On Saturday 31st of January 2026

For tickets please contact Kirsty on 07957 284949

Doors open at 6:30pm, The quiz will start at 7:00pm.

Tickets are £5 per person,
maximum 8 people per team.

There will be a licenced bar.



**Kent
County
Council**
kent.gov.uk



Families who may be eligible for **food or energy support** can now apply directly through Kent County Council's online form. The process is quick and secure, and helps ensure support reaches those who need it most. Apply [here](#).



Sports Update

We look forward to a number of sporting events over the coming weeks, which include:

Athletics - Our Year 3 and 4 Athletics team are hoping to defend their champion's title won last year as they compete in the PASS Sportshall Athletics event next week. Each member will compete in running, throwing and jumping activities to gain points for the team.



Then it will be the turn of some of our Year 2 pupils to gain an insight into what it is like to compete at a high level event out of school as they compete in their own athletics tournament.

Netball - Our Year 5 and 6 netball team continue to build on their skills and will compete in two league matches this term before heading to the Kent Netball tournament next term where we hope to improve on our Silver medals we gained last year!



Next term will also see some of our Year 3 and 4 children learn netball skills and then compete in their very first netball match at the Kent Netball festival.

Football - Unfortunately, our first game of the new year was cancelled due to the poor weather. We look forward to rescheduling the fixture soon and giving the team the chance to showcase their skills.

Cross Country - We are also looking forward to returning to compete in Cross Country and are already training hard to rebuild the stamina after the Christmas break!



Cheerleading - Our KS2 Cheerleading team, Jaguars, are working hard ready to defend their two-time champion title at the Spotlight Showdown competition next term. After some fantastic fundraising from some of the team members, they are going to look amazing in their new sparkly uniforms!



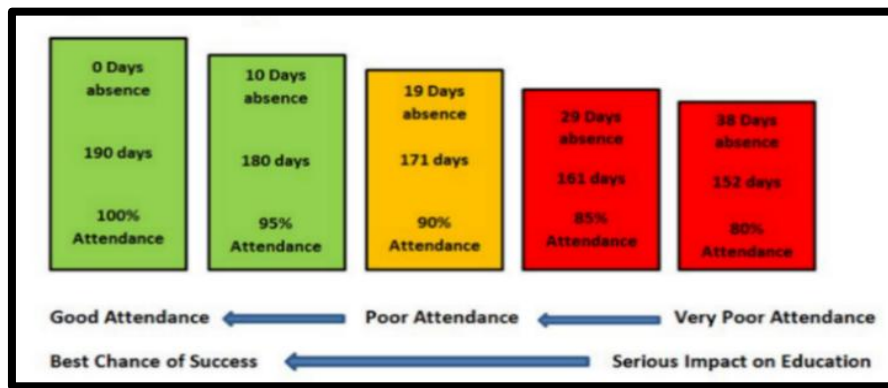
Parent E-Safety Information

The Children's Commissioner has released a new guide to help parents support children with their digital lives. It offers clear, practical advice on setting boundaries and keeping children safe online, based on what young people themselves say works best.



Please click on the [link](#) to access information about the key safety concerns around AI tools and expert advice for keeping young users safe.

Attendance Matters!



Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 100%		
R	Bramley 93.8%	Gala 97.8%	
1	Peach 87.0%	Pear 92.5%	
2	Cherry 94.9%	Quince 97.9%	Damson 93%
3	Hazel 98.7%	Walnut 93.9%	
4	Spruce 95.1%	Fir 93.3%	
5	Cedar 88.7%	Teak 87.2%	Mahogany 95.4%
6	Ash 91.8%	Oak 90.4%	



School Target: **95%**

Key Dates

Young Voices O2	Thursday 22 nd January
Year 6 Restore, Reform, Respect Workshop	Friday 23 rd January
Year 5 Visit to Rochester Synagogue – Teak Class	Wednesday 28 th January
PTA FRY YAY – Doughnut Sale on Lower Playground	Friday 30 th January 3:20pm
Children's Mental Health Week	Monday 2 nd February – Friday 6 th February
Happy Shoes Day	Tuesday 3 rd February
Jewish Speaker in school for Year 1 linked to RE Learning	Tuesday 3 rd February
Urban Activities – Assembly and Workshops Linked to Children's Mental Health Week- Whole School Assembly & Workshops	Wednesday 4 th February
Year 5 Visit to Rochester Synagogue – Cedar Class	Wednesday 4 th February
Learning Together - Phonics Parent Workshop (Reception, Year 1 & Year 2)	Thursday 5 th February
PTA Movie Night – More details to follow soon	Friday 6 th February
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 10 th February
KS1 Stranger Danger Online Safety Assembly Year R & Year 1 & Year 2	Wednesday 11 th February
Year 5 Visit to Rochester Synagogue – Mahogany Class	Wednesday 11 th February
St Kath's Top Tots Session 2	Thursday 12 th February
KS2 Digital Skills Assembly (Year 3,4 & 5) Workshops (Year 5)	Friday 13 th February
Last Day of Term	Friday 13th February

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Lang