



Friday 5th December 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It's an exciting time at St Katherine's as we head full steam into the festive season! Our School Ambassadors have been busy running the Snodland Santa Shed, preparations are underway for the St Katherine's Christmas Fair this Saturday, and the hall is alive with nativity and Christmas service rehearsals. Even our Christmas tree has made its grand appearance - bringing sparkle and cheer to the school entrance. It's safe to say, the countdown to Christmas is well and truly underway!



Community News

A Soaked Santa Shed!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our Santa Shed such a success last Saturday. Taking pride of place at the Snodland Christmas Market, the stall brought festive cheer to the town - despite the cold and heavy rain!

Our school community rallied together, with staff, families and School Ambassadors braving the weather to run the stall and share the joy. Their efforts truly reflected St Katherine's commitment to giving back to the local community.

We're thrilled to share that we raised over **£300** for local causes - thank you to everyone who contributed and supported us on the day!



Pupil Voice: *"I enjoyed the event as I got to greet people before they met Santa. It was great to see the children so excited when I asked them their name and age, before taking them to the Santa's shed." (Amelia – School Ambassador)*

Christmas Lantern Parade

Our pupils proudly took part in the Christmas Lantern Parade in Snodland, marching through the town with their beautifully crafted lanterns to the rhythmic beat of drums. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and their creativity and enthusiasm added to the very special festive atmosphere that brought the whole community together.



Poppy Collection

We were delighted to receive a heartfelt thank-you from the Poppy Appeal this week, recognising our school's contribution to this year's remembrance collection.

Thanks to the generosity and support of our community, St Katherine's raised an incredible **£622** - a fantastic amount that will go towards supporting veterans and their families.

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped us honour this important cause.



Scholastic Book Fair Success

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent Scholastic Book Fair. We're thrilled to share that we raised £596 for the school! This fantastic total will go directly towards replenishing and refreshing our book stock, ensuring that every child continues to have access to exciting, high-quality reading materials. Your support helps us nurture a lifelong love of reading across our school community — thank you!



Reception Community Read

Thank you to everyone who joined us last week for our community read session. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying stories together, and the atmosphere throughout the school was truly magical. The children clearly loved sharing their favourite books with their family and friends - and their presence made it all the more special.



Friyay Fun

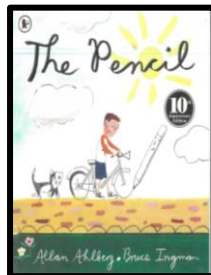
A huge thank you to our fantastic PTA members and pupil helpers for running last Friday's ever-popular Friyay Doughnut stall. It continues to be a real hit with the school community and raises valuable funds to support school development projects.

We will let parents and carers know when the next event will take place after half term - so keep an eye out and bring your sweet tooth!



Assembly

For my assembly this week, I used the thought-provoking book 'The Pencil' to discuss the importance of making mistakes and learning from them. To access the assembly, please click on the following [link](#).



Teaching and Learning

Oracy through drama

One of our key curriculum focuses this year is developing children's oracy skills - helping them to speak with confidence, clarity and purpose. We're committed to providing pupils with meaningful opportunities to express themselves, collaborate and perform.

One way we do this is through drama, and EYFS, Years 1, 2 & 3 had a fantastic time recently when 'Drama4All' visited the school to lead a storytelling workshop. The children were fully engaged, and the experience gave them a brilliant chance to practise speaking, listening and performing in a fun, creative setting.



Reception Storytelling

Reception children have been exploring the story Owl Babies through storymapping, using actions and visuals to learn its language and structure. They then innovated the tale, creating imaginative new versions, before orally retelling their stories with confidence and flair. Teachers have also observed children applying their storytelling independently in provision outside the classroom. Please click on the [link](#) to watch a video to see their storytelling in action - a wonderful example of how oracy brings learning to life!



Fabulous Fieldwork

This term, our children in Years 3 and 6 have been out and about conducting real-world geography fieldwork. Year 3 explored how land is used across Snodland, observing and recording different types of spaces and their purposes. Meanwhile, Year 6 completed field sketches and carried out a public survey to gather local views on housing and facilities in the town.

Fieldwork like this helps pupils connect classroom learning to the world around them - building curiosity, confidence and a deeper understanding of their community.



Pupil Voice: *"We looked carefully at the different areas of Snodland and studied how they were being used. We also completed an environmental survey and looked at the noise level, graffiti and if the buildings were well-maintained."* (Noah – Year 6)

Safeguarding Audit

We were delighted to welcome Catherine Irving, a safeguarding consultant, to St Katherine's last week as part of our bi-annual safeguarding audit. Catherine carried out a thorough review of our practices and activities across the school, and her findings were extremely positive.

Her report highlights that St Katherine's has an excellent safeguarding culture, reflecting the commitment of our staff and school community, and the care shown to every pupil. Catherine has also provided a set of next steps which will help us continue to strengthen and develop our safeguarding systems even further.

We are proud of this recognition and look forward to building on her recommendations to ensure that St Katherine's remains a safe, supportive and nurturing environment for all.

Pupil Voice:

- *"When I am sad, I put my lollipop stick in the red pot and my teacher always comes to me and makes me feel better. We also have fire drills and lockdown practise to keep us safe. I feel very safe at school."* (Elly - Year 2)



Sports Update

Football

Unfortunately, we had to postpone this week's boys' cup match with Tiger Primary School. We look forward to playing them in the new year.

Netball

Meanwhile, our netball team played a recent match against Allington Primary school. As always, they showed wonderful resilience and sportsmanship, as they battled away against a very tough opposition – eventually losing 7-3.

Pupil Voice: *"We are improving our passing and movement on the court, and are playing better as a team."* (Brodie – Year 5)



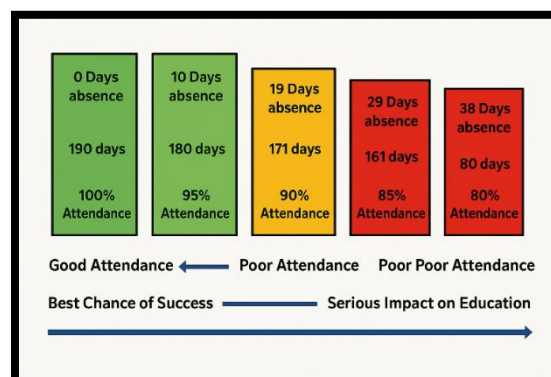
Online Safety - Parent Support

Last week, I experienced a safeguarding incident involving my own daughters and Snapchat. It was a timely reminder of the risks that can arise online, even with platforms that seem familiar. In response, I felt it was important to re-share the parent guide from the National College, which offers valuable advice and practical steps to help protect young users.

The guide highlights potential risks and outlines safeguarding actions that parents and carers can take to support safe and responsible use of social media. Please click on the [link](#) to access the short guide.



Attendance Matters!



Termly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 100%		
R	Bramley 94.2%	Gala 99.6%	
1	Peach 89.1%	Pear 92.1%	
2	Cherry 95.5%	Quince 97.6%	Damson 88.7%
3	Hazel 87.4%	Walnut 89.7%	
4	Spruce 93.5%	Fir 94.1%	
5	Cedar 84.4%	Teak 89.8%	Mahogany 91.1%
6	Ash 94%	Oak 91.5%	

School Target: 95%

Key Dates



EVENT	DATE
Christmas Fair at St Katherine's	Saturday 6 th December 11am - 2pm
Christmas Church Service for children in KS1& KS2	Tuesday 9 th December AM
Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch	Friday 12 th December
EYFS (Nursery & Year R) Christmas Concert	Friday 12 th December 9:15am
CRIBS Theatre in School - EYFS, KS1 & KS2	Monday 15 th December
KS1 (Year 1 & 2) Christmas Performance	Tuesday 16 th & Wednesday 17 th December 2pm
Christmas Church Service for Parents	Tuesday 16 th December 6-7pm (More details to follow)
Last Day of Term	Friday 19th December

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr. Lang
Headteacher

