



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we reach the final newsletter of the term, it's impossible not to reflect on just how jam-packed the past weeks have been. The children have thrown themselves into a whirlwind of exciting learning experiences and enrichment opportunities - from celebrating Children's Mental Health Week to exploring our local community and even travelling further afield to the brilliant Williams Formula 1 Education Centre.

We have also welcomed a fantastic range of visitors into school, including Paramedic Pete, Open View, who led safer internet workshops, and of course the incredible GB Extreme team, who had the whole school captivated with their beatboxing and breakdancing.

It has been a breathless run of activity, but the children have loved every minute - and their enthusiasm has made it all the more special.

### Personal Development

#### **Children's Mental Health Week**

St Katherine's came alive last week during Children's Mental Health Week, with GB Extreme's breakdancing and beatboxing workshops, giving children the chance to try new skills, build confidence, and step outside their comfort zone.

Our Wellbeing Warriors launched the week with an assembly on "This Is My Place," encouraging everyone to feel that they have a secure and safe place at school and within the local community.

Children took part in activities across the week, including Happy Shoesday to promote active travel, and creating 'Belonging' mind maps to explore the people and places that help them feel connected. We ended by welcoming parents and carers to share in the children's reflections. A joyful week celebrating self-expression, self-awareness, and positive mental health.



**Pupil Voice:** "Children's Mental Health Week is important because if children are not happy they can be distracted by things that are making them sad, and may not learn as well as they could."

*I hope children learnt how to be happy and be connected from our assembly" (Leilah – Year 6)"*

## Paramedic Pete

Our Reception children had a fantastic visit from Paramedic Pete, where they learned about the important role of a paramedic and explored some of the equipment he uses. The highlight was stepping inside the ambulance, complete with flashing lights and sirens! This experience linked perfectly to their 'Understanding the World' curriculum and their topic 'People Who Help Us' / 'Superheroes', helping the children talk about community helpers and recognise real-life 'superheroes' such as paramedics, police officers and vets.



## **Safe Online Workshops**

This week, our pupils took part in a series of engaging online safety sessions tailored to their age groups – all funded by the PTA!

Firstly, David Tricks worked with our EYFS and KS1 children, introducing key messages about staying safe online through simple, age-appropriate activities. The children responded brilliantly and showed real curiosity about how to make safe choices when using technology.

For KS2, we welcomed OpenView Education, who delivered dynamic, drama-based workshops focused on digital resilience and responsible online behaviour. Their sessions were interactive, thoughtful and pitched perfectly for older pupils.



## Enrichment

### **Formula 1 Fun!**

Fourteen of our recent competition winners enjoyed an unforgettable visit to the Williams Formula One Education Centre. The children had the chance to get up close to real F1 cars, explore racing technology, chat with mechanics and even test their skills on virtual racing simulators. It was a long day with an early start and a late finish, but the experience gave back far more than it took. A huge thank-you to the staff who made this opportunity possible.

**Pupil Voice:** *"It was really fun! We got to learn that all of the Formula 1 cars were made of carbon fibre. I was so excited to be chosen for this experience."* (Millie – Year 4)



## Curriculum

### **Science**

Year 2 have been looking at a variety of seeds and sorting them into groups that the children came up with themselves such as size, shape, colour or pattern. They noticed how different seeds can be and were particularly excited to see a picture of the largest seed in the world - a double coconut seed. The children also planted seeds against the side of a transparent cup, so they see exactly what happens when a seed germinates and grows into a plant.

The children were using the observing over time (seed planting) and identifying, grouping and classifying (seed sorting) enquiry types. They also watched a time lapse video of a plant growing which they were very excited about!



**Pupil Voice:** *"I enjoy finding out new things in science, especially when we have real things to look at in the lesson."* (Ellis – Year 2)

## Year 4 Digital Art

Year 4 have been exploring digital art and the use of landmarks in art this term. They enjoyed a walk around Snodland, where they photographed local landmarks for inspiration. Using these images, the children created their own digital final pieces, combining creativity with an appreciation of their local area.



## Reading Vending Machine Winners

We are delighted to announce that our latest reading vending machine winners are Freya (Year 3) and Brodie (Year 5). Children from each class across KS2 were selected by their teachers for excellence in reading - whether through demonstrating a true passion or love for reading, showing strong progress, or showing real dedication to reading at home.

Well done to both children for having their names pulled out of the St Katherine's hat on this occasion.



## Assembly - stereotypes and discrimination

In my recent assembly, we explored the ideas of stereotypes and discrimination, discussing how quick judgments about someone's appearance or background can lead to unfair treatment. We looked at real examples, including how unkind comments or assumptions can affect others, and reflected on our responsibility at St Katherine's to treat everyone with respect and challenge stereotypes whenever we see them.

Please click on the [link](#) to access the assembly.



## Extra-curricular Fun

Our Drawing Club and Games Club continue to be hugely popular, offering children valuable opportunities beyond the classroom curriculum. Drawing Club gives pupils the space to express themselves creatively, develop fine-motor skills and build confidence in their artistic ideas. Games Club, meanwhile, encourages teamwork, turn-taking and strategic thinking, all while helping children form positive friendships in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. Both clubs provide a wonderful balance of fun, social interaction and skill-building, and it has been fantastic to see so many children engaging so enthusiastically.

Thank you to Mrs Pryor and Mrs Humm for leading both clubs and creating such positive, enriching experiences for the children.



**Pupil Voice:** *"I can express myself in games club, meet new people and have fun!" (Teja – Year 5).*

## Sports Update

### **Athletics**

Year 2 had a fun-filled morning taking part in a wide range of sports activities. The children threw themselves into every challenge with brilliant enthusiasm, showing real resilience, determination and teamwork throughout. It was wonderful to see them encouraging one another, trying their best and celebrating each other's successes.

They narrowly missed out on 3<sup>rd</sup> place and finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of the seven schools taking part — a fantastic achievement given the level of competition and the number of events they completed.

Well done, Year 2 - we are incredibly proud of you!



### **Netball**

A huge congratulations to our netball team who recently beat Kings Hill 12-7. They showed fantastic resilience, community and respect. Every single player was superb and we are very proud of them!

They then took on Trottiscliffe last week and although it was a 10-9 loss, the absolute determination, effort and encouragement they showed even in the face of adversity was outstanding! We were even prouder of them in this match than the winning match!!



## Parent E-Safety Information

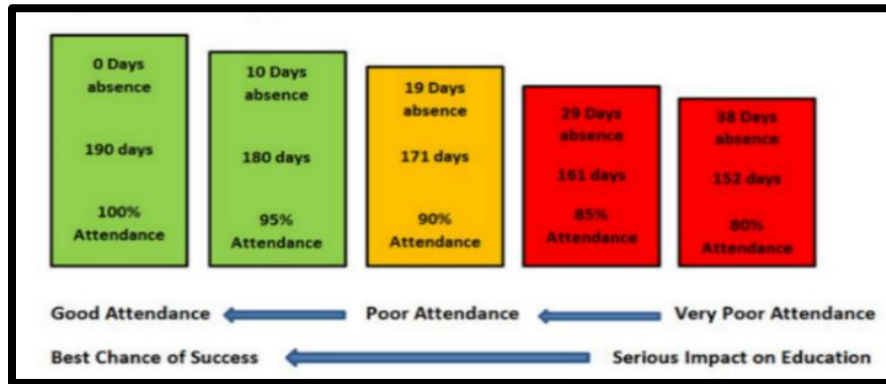
Digital devices are woven into everyday life for children and young people, but balancing the benefits with potential risks can feel challenging.

This parent information guide explores how screen use can influence sleep, emotional regulation, physical health and online experiences, offering clear context around why concerns about wellbeing are growing.

Please click on the [link](#) to access the short parent information guide.



## Attendance Matters!



## Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 98.5%		
R	Bramley 94.6%	Gala 93.9%	
1	Peach 92.0%	Pear 95.8%	
2	Cherry 93.7%	Quince 93.8%	Damson 91.2%
3	Hazel 88.1%	Walnut 91.9%	
4	Spruce 86.3%	Fir 92.9%	
5	Cedar 88.5%	Teak 85.5%	Mahogany 95.3%
6	Ash 93.1%	Oak 88.0%	



**School Target: 95%**

Our attendance figures for this week show a real mix across the school. Some classes have had an excellent week, while others have seen more absence than usual.

**Good attendance is one of the strongest predictors of how well children achieve in school.** Even small, regular absences can add up quickly, making it harder for pupils to keep up with new learning, stay confident, and build the routines that help them thrive.

Being in school every day ensures children don't miss key teaching, social interaction, and the sense of belonging that comes from being part of their class community. Please continue to support your child by helping them attend every day they are well enough to be in school. If you are experiencing any difficulties with attendance, we are always here to help.

## Key Dates



<b>Events – Spring Term 2 2026</b>	
<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>Term Starts for Children</b>	<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>
<b>Chinese Dancing Workshop EYFS &amp; KS1</b>	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Achievement Assembly</b>	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February at 9:15am
<b>Year R Chinese New Year Parents Afternoon</b>	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February at 2:30pm
<b>Martial Arts Workshop KS2</b>	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Van Cols Class and Group Photos</b>	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March
<b>Year 5 – Healthy Eating Smoothie Bike Workshop</b>	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>World Book Day</b>	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>World Book Day – Dress Up</b>	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>British Science Week</b>	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Learning Together Times Table Workshop for YR2,3,4 &amp; 5</b>	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March at 2:15pm
<b>NSPCC - Speak Out Stay Safe Assembly KS1 &amp; KS2</b>	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Sublime Science Workshops - All day</b>	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>NSPCC - Speak Out Stay Safe Workshops YR2,5 &amp;6</b>	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Parents Consultations</b>	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 3:45-6:30pm
<b>Red Nose Day – Children wear red to school</b>	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Book Fair in the Library</b>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Year 2 – Healthy Eating Rainbow Wraps Workshop</b>	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>CRIBS Easter Performance – EYFS, KS1 &amp; KS2</b>	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>St Katherine's Aspiration Day 2026 EYFS, KS1 &amp; KS2</b>	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Kent Fire and Rescue Talks – Year R – Year 6</b>	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
<b>End of Term</b>	<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>

Have a lovely half term.

Mr Lang