



Friday 6th March 2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The past few weeks have been full of rich learning and shared experiences across St Katherine's. Our Chinese New Year work brought a real sense of curiosity and enjoyment, with children exploring traditional umbrella dancing, martial arts movements and the stories behind the celebration. Reception families also joined us for an immersion afternoon, giving parents the chance to learn alongside their children and share in the excitement.

We also had great fun with our smoothie bike sessions this week. Children pedalled hard to power the blenders, experimented with different ingredients, and talked about how food, movement and healthy choices all link together. The combination of physical effort and tasting their own creations was a real highlight.

This week, our focus shifted to World Book Day, with the whole school exploring the beautiful picture book *Flotsam* as a shared text. Virtual assemblies and reading buddies helped bring classes together, and we ended the week with our much-loved dress-up day.

It's been a busy, positive and engaging few weeks, with children throwing themselves into every opportunity.

Achievement Assembly

Last week's Achievement Assembly was a lovely opportunity to come together and celebrate the children's hard work. Pupils shared their learning, talked confidently about what they were proud of, and showcased a range of outcomes across the curriculum. It was wonderful to have parents with us, giving the children a real sense of audience and making the celebration feel even more special. Here are some of our superstars below:



Acorn Class
Lottie Duffin

Lottie has made excellent progress across all areas of the Early Years curriculum and consistently demonstrates a positive attitude towards her learning. She thrives in her learning environment and embraces new experiences with confidence and enthusiasm. She engages in a wide-range of activities and works well both independently and with her peers.

Bramley Class
Olivia Barnes

Olivia sets an outstanding example to others. She is a positive and motivated learner and kind friend, who always tries her best and shows an excellent attitude. She has made some wonderful progress already this year, especially with her reading and writing.

Damson Class
Ellis Herbert-Providence

Ellis is an excellent role model for the rest of the class because of his fantastic attitude to learning. He always listens and contributes thoughtfully to class discussions.

His curious nature means that he asks good questions especially in science. He has worked hard in English this term and is proud of his independent *Wishing Tale* in which he managed to include all of the tools we have learnt.

Hazel Class
William Russell

William is a superb member of Hazel Class and an excellent role model as he has a fantastic attitude towards his learning. He always listens well and contributes to class discussions across all areas of the curriculum. I have been particularly impressed with Williams maths learning last term. He has worked hard to develop his thinking through both diving deeper activities and Journal entries.

Fir Class
Kai Marshall

Kai is a hardworking member of Fir class and he is a fantastic role model. He is always demonstrating respect and excellence by working hard in all of his lessons. I have been particularly impressed with his writing in English, where he has written an amazing story about capturing and defeating a monster. He has also produced excellent work in maths, science and art. Well done Kai!

Cedar Class
Lilie-Jane Beedell

Lilie-Jane is a truly conscientious pupil and a superb role model within our class. She consistently demonstrates excellence in her learning and takes great pride in all that she does. Her handwriting is beautifully presented, reflecting the care and attention she applies to every task. When she encounters more challenging work, Lilie-Jane demonstrates resilience, persevering with a positive attitude. Her approach to learning is consistently enthusiastic, and she contributes thoughtfully in class. Lilie-Jane should be incredibly proud of her achievements and attitude.



Personal Development

Chinese New Year Learning

As part of our Chinese New Year focus, we began with an assembly introducing the celebration and its traditions, giving children a clear sense of the festival's meaning and cultural significance. Throughout the week, they deepened this understanding through hands-on experiences including traditional umbrella and fan dancing, simple martial arts movements and - especially for our Reception pupils - a parent-and-child immersion session.

These activities helped children see how movement, story, symbolism and language all contribute to cultural celebrations. Learning a few Chinese phrases added to the sense of discovery, and the children approached the whole week with real enthusiasm, making it a memorable and meaningful start to the term.



Pupil Voice: "I enjoyed learning to say 'thank you' and doing the crane position as it is relaxing and calm." (Zaire – Year 3)

Assembly – Chinese New Year Traditions

Last week's assembly introduced the children to Chinese New Year, focusing on the festival's key traditions and the meaning behind them. We explored how families prepare for the celebration, the symbolism of colours and animals in the zodiac, and why the festival is such an important moment of togetherness.

We also reflected on how learning about cultural festivals helps us understand and appreciate the diversity within our school community and beyond. Please click on the [link](#) to access the assembly.



Smoothie Power in Action

Our smoothie bike sessions brought a brilliant burst of energy to the school, thanks to the team from Contract Dining. The children loved the chance to combine two things that always go down well here: great food and plenty of movement. Each class took turns to pedal the bike-powered blender, discovering how much effort it takes to create something as simple as a smoothie and talking about the ingredients that help keep our bodies healthy.

There was a real sense of achievement as the children tasted the drinks they had worked to make, and the activity sparked lots of discussion about fitness, nutrition and making positive choices. It was a lively, hands-on way to reinforce the message that staying active and eating well can be both enjoyable and rewarding.

Pupil Voice: *"I learnt that smoothies can be healthy as they contain fruits. Riding the bike was easy and I enjoyed tasting our class smoothie."* (Brodie – Year 5)



Curriculum

Wonderful World Book Day

World Book Day was a joyful celebration of reading across the school. Children explored *Flotsam* as a shared text, sparking imagination and thoughtful responses. Live virtual lessons helped pupils reflect on their reading preferences and understand the many ways people enjoy books.

Younger children in Years R–3 took part in story and dance workshops based on classic tales, while a late addition - our parent read - created an inclusive atmosphere for families to share stories together. The week ended with our much-loved dress-up parade, with children proudly sharing their favourite characters and books. Reading remains firmly at the heart of school life.



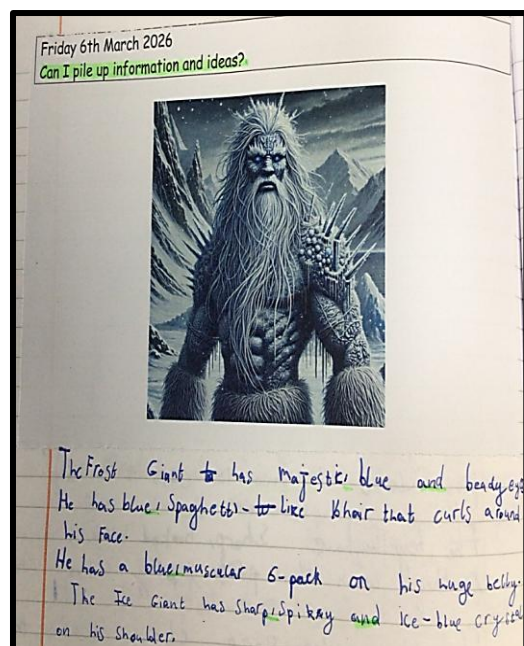
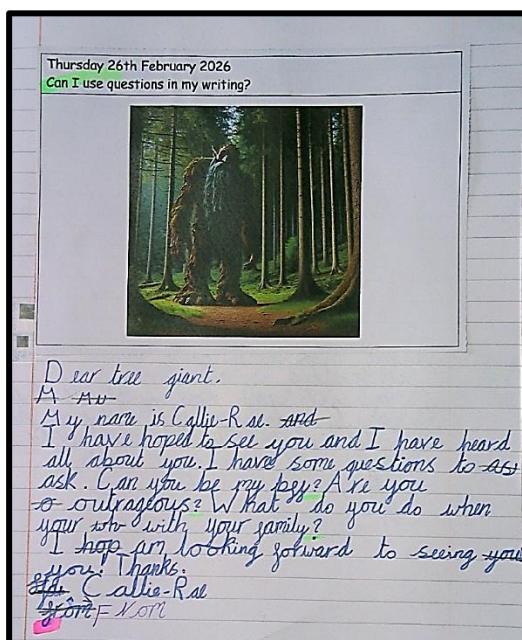
Pupil Voice: *"I enjoyed dressing up because it is different to our school uniform. Also, you can see what all the other children like to read by the costumes that they wear."* (Elsie – Year 6)

Awe and Wonder through Writing

Year 2 have been completely absorbed in their current writing unit, thanks to the magical stimulus of the Tree Giants and a touch of AI-powered imagination. The children are learning to develop rich descriptive writing and organise their ideas clearly, and the sense of mystery surrounding the Tree Giants has given them a real purpose for their work.

Over the past two weeks, pupils have discovered a series of intriguing clues around the school grounds, each one revealing a little more about the St Katherine's Tree Giants and sparking lively discussion about who - or what - might be watching over our site. This unfolding narrative has kept the children highly motivated, with many arriving each morning eager to see what they might uncover next.

To give their writing a meaningful audience, the children will be sending samples of their final pieces to Shorne Country Park, which they will visit later in the year. This link has helped them understand the purpose behind their writing and encouraged them to take real pride in the quality of their work



Girls Power! Year 5 Art

Year 5 have been exploring figurative mixed media this term, but the learning has gone well beyond technique. Alongside developing their skills in layering materials and considering how images shape our views, the children have been studying the work of influential female artists. This has included looking closely at Yayoi Kusama, Frida Kahlo and the Guerrilla Girls, and discussing how each uses art to express identity, challenge stereotypes and highlight issues of fairness.



Sports Update

Our boys' football team recently played Valley Invicta Aylesford in a cup match. It was a determined, hard-fought performance, with the team showing real resilience throughout, but the game ended in a 3-1 defeat, bringing our cup run to a close.

We meet the same side again next week in the league, and the boys are already focused on building on this performance and pushing for a stronger result.

Parent E-Safety Information

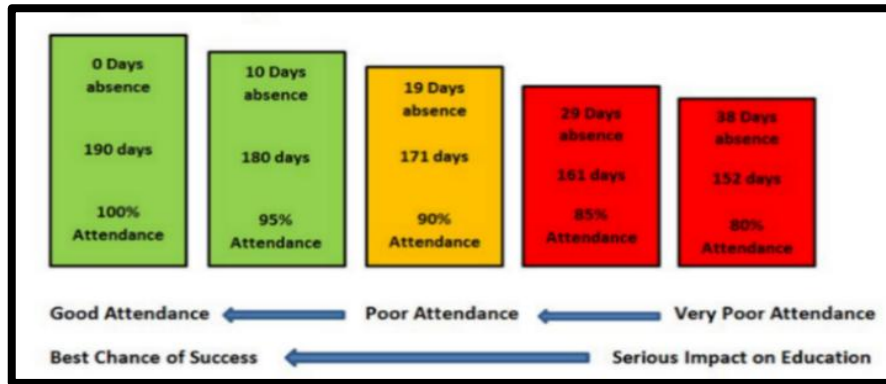
We know many families are looking for ways to manage screen time and app access at home. The parent information guide shared this week offers a clear, step-by-step guide to setting up parental controls on [Android phones](#), including:

- **Blocking app downloads and in-app purchases** through the Play Store
 - **Turning off auto-updates** to prevent unwanted changes
 - **Using Google Family Link** to set daily limits and monitor usage
- These tools can help create healthy boundaries around technology and support children in using devices responsibly.

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



Attendance Matters!



Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 100%		
R	Bramley 96.8%	Gala 94.6%	
1	Peach 94.5%	Pear 96.4%	
2	Cherry 94.5%	Quince 96.7%	Damson 90.7%
3	Hazel 95.7%	Walnut 93.3%	
4	Spruce 95.4%	Fir 93.9%	
5	Cedar 92.2%	Teak 94.0%	Mahogany 94.7%
6	Ash 91.4%	Oak 92.8%	



School Target: 95%

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



Events – Spring Term 2 2026	
EVENT	DATE
British Science Week	Monday 9 th March
Learning Together Times Table Workshop for YR2,3,4 & 5	Tuesday 10 th March at 2:15pm
NSPCC - Speak Out Stay Safe Assembly KS1 & KS2	Friday 13 th March
Sublime Science Workshops - All day	Monday 16 th March
NSPCC - Speak Out Stay Safe Workshops YR2,5 &6	Tuesday 17 th March
Parents Consultations	Tuesday 17 th March 3.45-6.30pm Thursday 19 th March 3.45-6.30pm
	Teak Class Wednesday 18 th and Thursday 19 th March 3.45-6.30pm
	Oak Class Tuesday 17 th March 2:30 – 5pm Thursday 19 th March 1.30-4pm
	Hazel Class Tuesday 17 th & Wednesday 18 th March 3.45-6.30pm
Red Nose Day – Children wear red to school	Friday 20 th March
Book Fair in the Library	Monday 23 rd – Thursday 26 th March
Year 2 – Healthy Eating Rainbow Wraps Workshop	Wednesday 25 th March
CRIBS Easter Performance – EYFS, KS1 & KS2	Friday 27 th March
St Katherine's Aspiration Day 2026 EYFS, KS1 & KS2	Monday 30 th March
Kent Fire and Rescue Talks – Year R – Year 6	Thursday 2 nd April
End of Term	Thursday 2nd April

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Lang
Headteacher