



Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

As we come to the end of the Spring term, it's been another purposeful fortnight at St Katherine's. Children have taken part in a wide range of experiences that have broadened their thinking and strengthened our curriculum offer. This has included Aspiration Day, the CRIBS Easter performance and our Learning Together workshops with a focus on times tables.

We've also welcomed visitors delivering Healthy Eating workshops and Kent fire and rescue assemblies, enjoyed the buzz of the Scholastic Book Fair, and seen our Year 6 pupils take real ownership of their Enterprise raffle, with equality for all as the key driver behind their project. It's been a busy but productive end to the term, with plenty for children to talk about as they head into the break.

### Personal Development

#### Aspiration Day

Our Aspiration Day was a brilliant success. Pupils spent the day learning from an inspiring range of visitors, including musicians, pilots, police officers, a print designer, a journalist from the KM Messenger and guide dog trainers. Each guest led hands-on workshops that gave children a real insight into the skills, personal qualities and work ethic needed in their professions.

Throughout the day, pupils made strong links to our school values - respect, resilience, responsibility, community, compassion and excellence - and explored how these values can shape their futures. It was a powerful reminder of the ambition and potential within every child. Please click on the [link](#) to view a short video clip of the day.



**Pupil Voice:** *"I enjoyed learning from the pilot as it made me understand the skills needed to fly a plane. This linked to our school 'responsibility' value." (Henry – Year 6)*

I also wanted to share a lovely piece of feedback from a parent, who told us about the impact Aspiration Day had on their child (child and parent anonymised):

*I just wanted to share with you some positive feedback re yesterday's aspiration day. XXXX came out of class and immediately told me he knew what he was going to be when he grew up. Your visitor with the guide dog has completely captivated him and he is now determined that he wants to train dogs to help the blind or people that need support dogs. He spent the whole evening educating us all on how the dogs help their owner cross the road or find a seat on the bus and he explained that when a dog is working they cannot be stroked or disturbed. I'm sure anyone coming in with an animal is an immediate success but the information given to and absorbed by XXXX really struck me.*

*Thank you for organising such a wonderful day with a variety of visitors :-)*

### **CRIBS**

CRIBS visited St Katherine's this week to retell the Easter story through a vibrant mix of song, art and puppetry. The children were fully engaged throughout, enjoying a creative and accessible retelling that supported their understanding of the Easter message. It was a thoughtful and enriching session for all year groups involved.



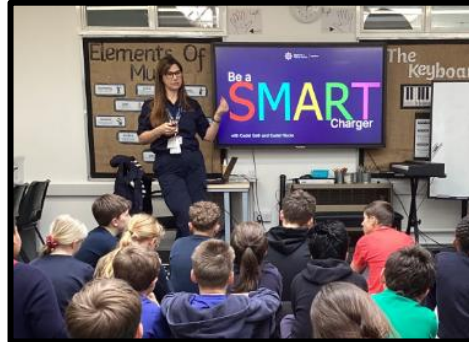
### **Rainbow Wraps – Healthy Eating Workshop**

Contract Dining recently delivered Rainbow Wrap workshops for our children, introducing them to a range of colourful, healthy ingredients and encouraging them to think about balanced food choices. The children enjoyed learning about the different vegetables and flavours — and they especially enjoyed tasting the wraps at the end. It was a great way to support our ongoing focus on healthy eating.



## Kent Fire Rescue Assemblies

Today, pupils across the school took part in engaging assemblies led by Kent Fire and Rescue. The sessions helped children understand the importance of fire safety, the role of firefighters in our community, and the simple steps we can all take to stay safe at home. The assemblies were informative, age-appropriate and very well received by the children, who asked thoughtful questions and showed great curiosity throughout.



**Pupil Voice:** *"There are lots of different rescue teams on a fire team. Water rescue, mud rescue, hole rescue and animal rescue."* (Belle and Esmae – Year 2)

## Community News



### **Learn Together Parent Workshop – Times Tables at St Katherines**

We celebrated Times Tables Rockstars Day with a whole-school focus on the power of times tables, rapid recall and confident number fluency. Children and staff embraced the theme brilliantly, arriving in incredible costumes and really bringing the energy of the day to life. We rounded things off with our 'Learning Together' parents' workshop, attended by over 50 parents, who explored how times tables are taught at St Katherine's before visiting classrooms to see our new FunKey Times Tables Cards in action. Many parents chose to purchase a set after seeing them used. **If you would like to buy any, please contact the school office.**



## Year 6 Enterprise

Over the past two weeks, our Year 6 pupils have shown remarkable initiative and teamwork through their enterprise project. Recognising that not all families may be able to contribute towards end-of-year hoodies or the leavers' party, the cohort organised an Easter Egg Raffle to raise funds themselves.

Their hard work paid off — they raised an incredible £770, enough to purchase a leavers' hoodie for every child. With £70 profit remaining, they are already planning a summer enterprise project, and we look forward to seeing how they grow this fund even further. Thank you to everyone for your generosity and for supporting our Year 6 pupils as they develop into confident young entrepreneurs.



## Curriculum News

### Eggcellent Writing Stimulus


Our Reception children have been absolutely captivated by the arrival of our chicks this month. Beyond the excitement, the experience has offered rich opportunities for learning: caring for living things, observing changes over time, and deepening their understanding of the world around them. The children have shown such gentleness and curiosity as they watched the chicks grow, explored their features and talked about what they noticed.

Our chicks - March 2026



The chicks were fun.  
The chicks were great.  
The chicks were

Our chicks - March 2026



The chicks were quite  
The chicks fun.  
The chicks were mucky.  
The chick running.

Our chicks - March 2026



The chicks were so <sup>and</sup> cuddly.  
The chicks were wiggly.  
The sweet



## Local Field Study

Our Year 3 pupils took part in their geography fieldwork at Leybourne Lakes last week, exploring the local environment and identifying wildlife, trees and leaves. The children worked brilliantly outdoors, using their observation skills to record what they found and deepen their understanding of the natural world. It was a valuable hands-on learning experience that brought their geography curriculum to life.



**Pupil Voice:** "We were looking for the human impact on the lake. For example, we found rubbish that was polluting the environment and we also saw swimmers using the lake." (Aoife – Year 5)

## Sports Update

Well done to both our Year 3 and 4 and our Year 5 and 6 hockey teams who competed in a tournament last week at Maidstone Hockey Club.

Despite no training, Year 3 and 4 won all but one of their matches and only lost one game by just one point! Year 5 and 6 played some incredibly tough and close games, winning their first four matches. They placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall with just four points between them and the first place. Well done!



## Netball

Year 3 and 4 recently had great fun learning netball skills at Aylesford netball club. They worked incredibly hard and won all their friendly matches! They'll be unstoppable once they are old enough to enter the competitive tournaments!

Our Year 5 and 6 netball team had a great time at a recent netball tournament. They won all their group matches and came 4<sup>th</sup> overall out of over 15 schools. They just missed out on 3<sup>rd</sup> place by 1 point! Well done St Kath's!



**Parent E-Safety Information**

This online safety guide focuses on how to tackle hate online. It has tips on talking to trusted adults about upsetting subjects, setting a positive example online and remembering that you have the power to shape your online world.

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



**Community News**

As a way of thanking fans for supporting Maidstone United in the Community, the 1st team are inviting families to come and watch them train and have the opportunity of meet them after their session and get autographs and selfies.

The Spiffire Lounge and shop will be open.

Visitors are welcome from 10.45am and should come through the turnstiles and taking their place in the main stand to watch the action.

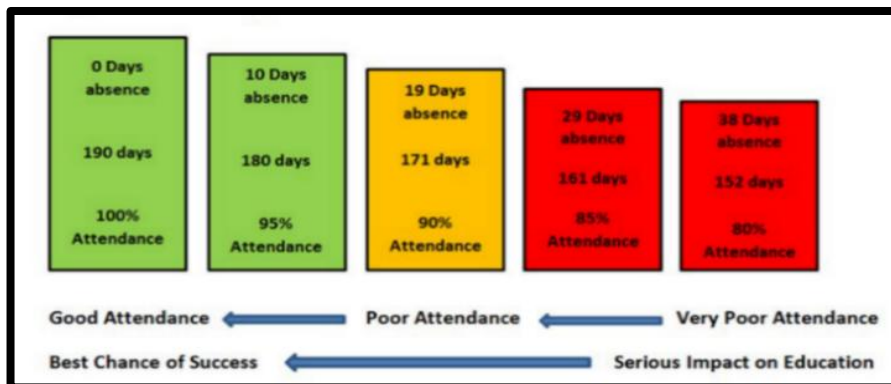
What a fantastic opportunity to support your local football club. Please confirm your attendance by email: [stonesinthecommunity.org](mailto:stonesinthecommunity.org).

**MEET THE TEAM**  
**Thursday 9 April**  
**11am to 12.30pm**  
**Gallagher Stadium**

- Watch a first team training session
- Meet the players and get their autographs
- Take some selfies with your favourites
- Visit the club shop

ORGANISED BY MAIDSTONE UNITED'S CHARITY  
**STONES in the community**

**Attendance Matters!**



## Termly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 99.5%		
R	Bramley 97.4%	Gala 96.4%	
1	Peach 90.4%	Pear 96.1%	
2	Cherry 94.0%	Quince 95.0%	Damson 95.4%
3	Hazel 96.1%	Walnut 93.2%	
4	Spruce 95.1%	Fir 92.7%	
5	Cedar 92.1%	Teak 92.0%	Mahogany 94.0%
6	Ash 92.8%	Oak 93.0%	

**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

<b>Events – Summer Term 1 2026</b>	
<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>Start of Summer 1 (first day back)</b>	<i>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026</i>
<b>Year 4 (Spruce) Trip to the Gurdwara</b>	<i>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 - AM</i>
<b>Achievement Assembly</b>	<i>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026 - 9:15am</i>
<b>Year 4 (Fir) Trip to the Gurdwara</b>	<i>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - AM</i>
<b>SEND Coffee Morning</b>	<i>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – 8.45am to 9.45am</i>
<b>Year 6 SATS</b>	<i>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May</i>
<b>Year R Visit to British Wildlife Centre</b>	<i>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026</i>
<b>St Kath's Top Tots Session</b>	<i>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – 9:15am</i>
<b>Year 3 Visit to Kent Life</b>	<i>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026</i>
<b>Year 5 Trip to Dover Castle</b>	<i>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026</i>

<b>Coppice Athletic Event Year 4 &amp; 5 Classes</b>	<i>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026</i>
<b>Tag Rugby Event</b>	<i>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026</i>
<b>Year 6 Journey of Life – Christ Church – Oak Class</b>	<i>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026</i>
<b>Year 6 Journey of Life – Christ Church – Ash Class</b>	<i>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026</i>
<b>Last Day of Term</b>	<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>

Have a lovely half term.

Mr Lang

