



Friday 1st May 2026

I hope you all had a lovely Easter break and were able to enjoy some quality time together making special memories. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school so seamlessly last week. They have come back focused, enthused and genuinely excited about their learning. Classrooms are already buzzing with curiosity as pupils immerse themselves in new and interesting learning journeys. Their positive start has set a brilliant tone for the term ahead.



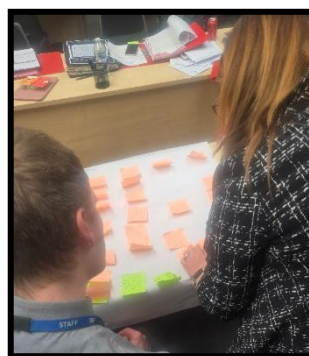
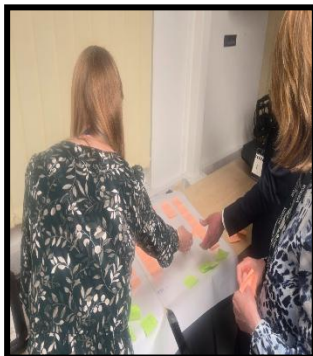
Challenge Partners Review

At St Katherine's, we pride ourselves on being reflective and outward-looking, taking every opportunity to learn from others and improve. As part of our involvement in the national development programme Challenge Partners, we welcomed leaders from across England last week for a three-day review of our school. They spent time with the Senior Leadership Team discussing the context of St Katherine's and our school development priorities before generating a set of enquiry questions. These were explored through lesson visits, reviewing children's outcomes and speaking with staff, pupils and parents. Through their quality assurance activities, the reviewers captured exactly what makes our school special - our friendly but focused culture, our pupil-first approach, our aspirational ethos and our high level of inclusivity. This was beautifully summed up by a parent during an interview who said, **"At St Katherine's, every child is seen."**

We are also delighted to share that we applied for, and were accredited with, an Area of Excellence: **"Achieving Personal Excellence Through Our School Values."** Reviewers commented that our values are truly lived by the whole school community and have a significant impact on the children and the life of the school.

As part of the review, we also discussed a number of next steps. These align closely with the priorities already set out in our School Improvement Plan, meaning we can continue to build on our strengths with clarity and purpose. Over the coming months, we will be working strategically on these areas to ensure the positive impact on pupils continues to grow. Please click on the [link](#) to read our report.


Senior Leaders working with members of the Senior Leadership Team to identify positive trends and next steps.




SLT Voice: *"It was a pleasure working with other leaders, celebrating our school and thinking deeply about next steps to drive St Katherine's forward."* (Miss Aikenhead – Deputy Head)

Achievement Assembly

It was a pleasure to welcome families to the first of our summer Achievement Assembly of the term. During the presentation, we celebrated children's achievements that had been identified by their class teachers and linked each one to our school values. It was wonderful to recognise the effort, responsibility and excellence shown across the school, and to share these moments with our families. Below are some examples of the children we celebrated.










Acorn Class




Scarlett

Scarlett approaches everything she does with a **positive attitude**. She is a **creative learner** and has a **fantastic imagination** which she expresses through her wonderful artwork. Scarlett is **friendly and kind** to all of her peers. Her **patience and supportive nature** shines through in her interactions. Scarlett consistently follows our school values and sets a **great example** to all the children in Acorn Class.











Gala Class




Theo

Theo has been **working so hard** this year on his reading and writing. He is making good progress and is **always keen to learn**. He has developed a **neat handwriting style** and is beginning to write simple words by himself. He uses his **Imagination** when creating story maps and can retell stories well. **Keep up the great work Theo!**















Quince Class




Penelope






Penelope has shown **fantastic determination** in her writing this term. She has worked **incredibly hard** to **improve her handwriting** and has produced a **brilliant creative fact file**, full of **super ideas** and **careful detail**.






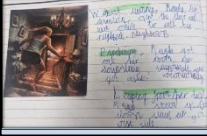


Walnut Class




Aslan


Aslan has made **fantastic progress** with his learning, especially in his reading and writing. He has made **fantastic progress** with the **presentation of his work**, and his writing includes the different tools that have been taught in class.

Aslan also shows the core value of **community**. He always comes into class with a **smile on his face**, **works well with his peers** and is always **ready to help them**.
Well done Aslan!



Spruce Class






Albie

Albie **upholds our school values of community, compassion, responsibility, and resilience** in everything he does.


He is **kind and respectful** to others, making sure everyone feels **included and supported**.

As a good friend, Albie shows **compassion by helping** classmates when they **need encouragement** and by **treating everyone with care and understanding**.







Teak Class




Gracie


Gracie has shown **excellence** in all areas of her learning and always completes her work to the **best of her ability**. She is a **fantastic role model** to others and a **responsible and helpful member** of Teak Class.

Well done Gracie, keep it up!


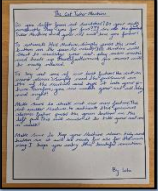




Oak Class



Lola

Since joining St. Katherines in January, Lola has made a **wonderful impression** and become an **excellent role model** to all. She demonstrates a **strong sense of responsibility** by taking real ownership over her learning. Lola consistently works hard, strives to do her best and sets high expectations for herself. Her work is neatly presented, reflecting the care and pride she takes in everything she does.



Ash Class



Hollie

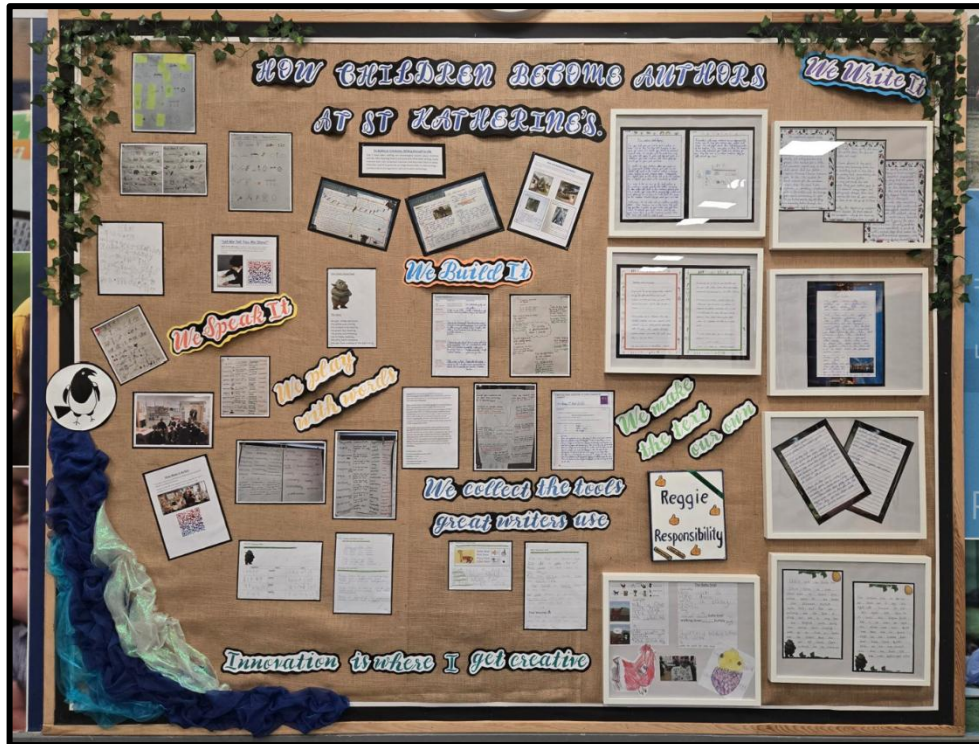
Hollie's **commitment to learning** is truly **inspiring**. She puts in **maximum effort** every single day and even arrives early for extra lessons because she genuinely wants to succeed. Alongside her hard work, Hollie is so **kind, thoughtful, and a pleasure to teach**. She is a **brilliant role model**, and we are **incredibly proud** of all of her hard work.





Dazzling School Environment

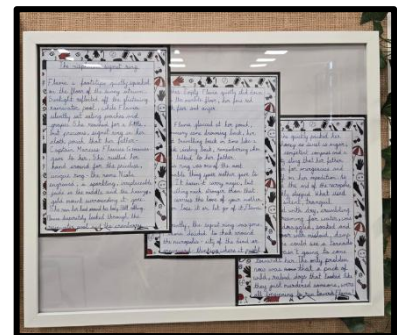
We know how important it is to celebrate children's outcomes and to showcase the high expectations we hold for every pupil. Our displays are a powerful way of bringing this to life, reflecting our school values of **Responsibility** and **Excellence** in a way that is visible the moment you walk through the door. This is especially clear in our new whole-school writing display, which shows the progression of skills from Reception right through to Year 6, highlighting the pride children take in their work and the ambitious standards they strive for. Our displays shine a light on the exciting learning journeys taking place across the school and the aspirations our pupils hold for themselves.



Reception



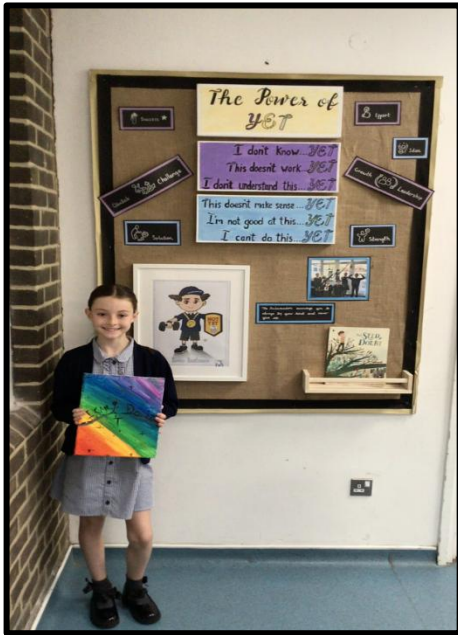
Year 1



Year 5

Above and Beyond

We are incredibly proud of Lavina in Year 4, who recently created her own inspirational canvas in her own time, complete with a positive message to encourage others. This thoughtful piece of artwork now sits proudly alongside our 'Not Yet' display, which promotes resilience, determination and the belief that challenges help us grow. Lavina's contribution perfectly captures the spirit of never giving up and taking responsibility for your own success. It is wonderful to see pupils taking such pride in their learning and actively living out our school values.



Enrichment **Performing Arts**

Year 3 took part in an exciting performing arts workshop this week, designed to build children's confidence, creativity and teamwork through drama, music and movement. The session encouraged self-expression and supported pupils in developing their communication skills while having great fun along the way. The workshop aimed to create memorable learning experiences that boost wellbeing and engagement, and it was wonderful to see the children embracing every moment.

Pupil Voice: *"There was a move that was tricky but Miss Alice encouraged us to keep practicing"* (Daniel- Year 3)
"I really liked the workshop, as the music made me feel happy" (Eliza – Year 3).



Gurdwara Awe and Wonder

Our Year 4 pupils recently visited the local Gurdwara as part of their learning in Religious Education and to deepen their understanding of Sikh beliefs, values and traditions. Experiences like this are an important way of helping children appreciate the diversity within our wider community and develop respect, curiosity and empathy towards others.



During their visit, the children learned about the significance of the Gurdwara as a place of worship, explored key features of the building and heard about the importance of service, equality and kindness within the Sikh faith. They asked thoughtful questions, showed great respect and came away with a richer understanding of how different communities live out their beliefs. It was a meaningful and memorable experience that strengthened both their knowledge and their cultural awareness.



Curriculum News

EYFS focus

Nursery

Acorn Class have been busy exploring different materials this week by sorting and matching objects into groups. The children compared items and talked about what they were made from, using great scientific vocabulary along the way.



The children's challenge word was *transparent*, and Lottie confidently explained that it meant "we can see through it." This learning links beautifully to nursery's topic on looking after Planet Earth, and helping the children understand how materials can be reused and recycled to protect our environment.

Reception

This week, Reception classes have been engaged in using their imagination and fine motor skills to build some settings around our exciting new car track. The children have worked together to build some familiar places including the zoo, the farm, Little Red Riding Hood's house and some Snodland landmarks. They were also very excited to add their "mini me's" to their scenarios which helped to bring their ideas to life.



Sports Update

Please note that the following dates have been allocated for our Summer Sports Days. We have also set aside a reserve day in case we need to postpone an event due to adverse weather conditions.

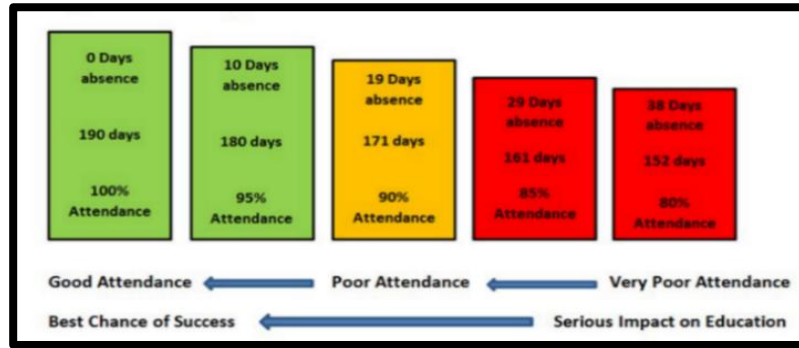
Year Group	Date	Reserve Date
Nursery	Wednesday 1 st July 2026 9:15am -10am	Wednesday 15 th July 2026 9:15 -10:00am
KS2 & Five Acre Wood	Tuesday 30 th June 2026 9:30-11:30am	Monday 13 th July 2026 9:30-11:30am
Year R & KS1(Year 1& Year 2)	Tuesday 30 th June 2026 1:15pm – 3pm	Monday 13 th July 2026 1:15pm – 3pm

Rugby

Our Year 6 rugby team have been busy practicing in preparation for their upcoming tournament, and their commitment has been fantastic to see. They are showing wonderful teamwork, working hard to gel as a unit while also recognising and making the most of the individual talents within the group. There is a real buzz of excitement as they get ready to compete for the school, and their determination is shining through each session. I must also admit that, through coaching them at lunchtime, I have realised I am far too old to keep up with them — they are absolutely wearing me out! Their energy, enthusiasm and team spirit are something to be proud of.



Attendance Matters!



Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 100%		
R	Bramley 95.8%	Gala 98.5%	
1	Peach 93.2%	Pear 99.0%	
2	Cherry 99.8%	Quince 98.1%	Damson 95.2%
3	Hazel 96.4%	Walnut 93.4%	
4	Spruce 94.9%	Fir 93.7%	
5	Cedar 85.9%	Teak 97.4%	Mahogany 96.0%
6	Ash 95.0%	Oak 95.8%	

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 – Summer Term 1 2026

EVENT	DATE
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 th May
Year 4 (Fir) trip to the Gurdwara	Thursday 7 th May
Year R Community Read	Friday 8 th May - 2:45pm
Year 6 SATs Week	W/B Monday 11 th May
Year R visit to the British Wildlife Centre	Monday 11 th May
St Kath's Top Tots Session	Friday 15 th May
Year 3 visit to Kent Life	Monday 18 th May
Year 5 trip to Dover Castle	Tuesday 19 th May
Year 6 Rugby tournament	Tuesday 19 th May (this is a new date)
Coppice Athletic Event – Year 4 & 5 classes	Thursday 21 st May
Year 6 Journey of Life - Christ Church: Oak Class	Thursday 21 st May
Year 6 Journey of Life - Christ Church: Ash Class	Friday 22 nd May
Last Day of Term	Friday 22nd May

Events – Summer Term 2 2026

EVENT	DATE
Summer Term 2 begins	Monday 1 st June
Year 2 Visit to Shorne Woods	Friday 12 th June
Year 4 Visit to Howletts Zoo	Tuesday 16 th June
Year 1 Visit to Wingham Wildlife Park	Friday 19 th June
PTA Summer Fair	Saturday 20 th June
Year 6 Residential to Ashford	Monday 22 nd – Wednesday 24 th June
Sports Day KS2 & Five Acre Wood	Tuesday 30 th June 9:30 - 11:30am
Sports Day Year R & KS1 (YR1-YR2)	Tuesday 30 th June 1:15-3pm

Nursery Sports Day	<i>Wednesday 1st July 9:15am -10am</i>
PTA Summer Disco	<i>Friday 3rd July</i>
Nursery & Reception Reports sent out	<i>Monday 6th July</i>
Year 1 & Year 2 Reports sent out	<i>Tuesday 7th July</i>
Year 3 & Year 4 Reports sent out	<i>Wednesday 8th July</i>
Year 6 Production	<i>Wednesday 8th July</i>
Year 5 & Year 6 Reports sent out	<i>Thursday 9th July</i>
Year 6 Production	<i>Thursday 9th July - 6-7:30pm</i>
Reserve Sports Day KS2 & Five Acre Wood	<i>Monday 13th July – 9:30 – 11:30am</i>
Reserve Sports Day Year R & KS1 (YR1-YR2)	<i>Monday 13th July - 1:15-3pm</i>
Reserve Nursery Sports Day	<i>Wednesday 15th July -9:15am -10am</i>
Dance Through the Musicals	<i>Monday 20th July – 1:30-3pm</i>
Year 6 Leavers Assembly to Parents	<i>Tuesday 21st July !;30pm</i>
Last Day of Term	<i>Tuesday 21st July</i>

Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend.

Mr Lang