



Friday 22nd May 2026

After a welcome burst of sunshine, just in time for the bank holiday weekend, we can look back on a short but wonderfully productive term at St Katherine's, filled with engaging learning and memorable enrichment. Pupils enjoyed standout experiences, including visits to Dover Castle and the Julie Rose Athletics Stadium, both of which created real moments of awe and wonder.

We were also proud to celebrate two significant achievements this term:

- **Area of Excellence Award** — During our recent Challenge Partners Review, leaders from across England recognised St Katherine's for 'Achieving Personal Excellence Through Our School Values'. They felt that the exceptionality and impact of this work should be shared with others across the network, highlighting it as a model of practice.



- **Silver Diversity Award** — We were delighted to receive our Silver Diversity Mark last week, and we are already working towards our Gold Award. We have also been invited to be one of the first schools nationally to become a Centre of Excellence, reflecting the strength and ambition of our ongoing work in diversity and inclusion.



As we look ahead, we're excited for an action-packed final term, culminating in our annual whole-school dance event, which promises to be a joyful finale to a fantastic year.

Farewell to Mrs Page

We will be saying a heartfelt farewell to Mrs Page, who will be leaving us shortly after half term due to health-related reasons. I would like to express my sincere thanks for all the incredible work she has done to support children's pastoral care and the strong relationships she has built with

our families. Her compassion, dedication and warmth have made a lasting difference to so many within our school community.

Mrs Page will be sorely missed, and we wish her every happiness and good health for the future.

SEND Coffee Morning: Understanding ADHD and Autism Pathways

Our recent SEND Coffee Morning brought parents together for an open and supportive conversation about how to talk to children who are on the ADHD and autism pathways. Families shared experiences, asked questions and explored practical ways to help children understand their own neurodiversity with confidence and reassurance.

As part of the session, parents were introduced to a range of carefully chosen children's books designed to help explain neurodiversity in a child-friendly way. These resources are now available through our new SEND Lending Library, which is open for parents to borrow from whenever they wish.

If you would like further information, please speak to Mrs Loveland, who will be very happy to help.



St Kath's Top Tots: Musical Magic!

Our Top Tots sessions continue to grow each term, bringing families together for joyful early learning experiences. This time, we were joined by Helen from Musical Bumps, who led a lively session filled with singing, dancing, bubbles, puppets, actions and parachute play.



As you can see from the photos, parents and children alike had a wonderful time — laughter, music and movement filled the room as everyone joined in. These sessions are a lovely way to strengthen early connections and build confidence through play and rhythm.

Next term, we'll be inviting families to join us for some messy play fun, so prepare for creativity, colour and plenty of smiles!



Curriculum News

Science Club – Brilliant Bubbles

Year 2 scientists explored the fascinating world of bubbles - discovering how science and fun go hand in hand! Pupils experimented with different bubble solutions, learning that adding more glycerine helps bubbles last longer and grow larger. They investigated shapes and surface tension, finding that bubbles are always spherical because this shape uses the least energy.

The playground was filled with colour and laughter as children tested their ideas and shared discoveries.

Pupil Voice: *"If you wet the surface first, you can make half a bubble and others inside it too!"*
(Amelia – Year 2)



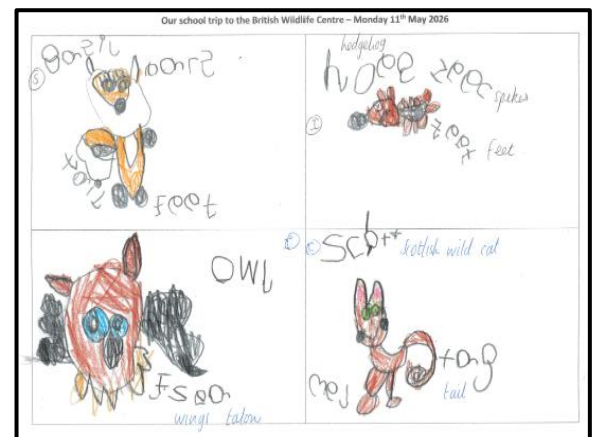
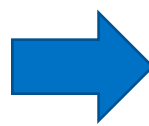
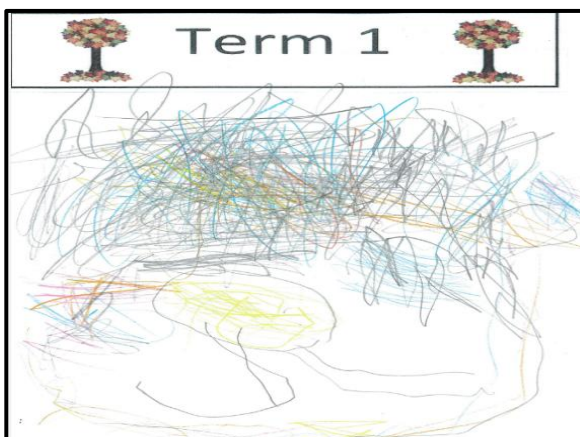
Reception Progress: Esme's Learning Journey

Esme's progress this year has been remarkable! From early mark-making and exploratory scribbles in Term 1 to confidently writing her name and producing detailed, labelled drawings by Term 5, her development in fine motor control, letter formation, and scientific understanding shines through.

Her artwork now shows clear attention to detail and growing confidence in representing ideas - from colourful early experiments to carefully observed animals following the class trip to the British Wildlife Centre. Esme's writing has become beautifully legible, reflecting her perseverance and pride in learning.

A wonderful example of how curiosity, practice, and creativity combine to make learning flourish in Reception!

Name writing	
Beginning of Term 1	h
Beginning of Term 2	m. a. s. j
Beginning of Term 3	e. f. m. d.
Beginning of Term 4	E. F. M. G.
Beginning of Term 5	ESM
Beginning of Term 6	



Year 3 – A Day in Ancient Greece!

Walnut Class stepped back in time during their fascinating Greek workshops at Kent Life. Pupils became brave Greek warriors, learning how to hold shields and march in formation before exploring the myths and legends of the gods and goddesses. They also took part in Greek theatre, performing scenes full of drama and expression — just as ancient Athenians once did!

The children were captivated by the stories, costumes, and hands-on experiences that brought history to life. It was a day filled with curiosity, teamwork, and laughter — a brilliant way to deepen their understanding of ancient Greece while having tremendous fun.



Year 4 – Defenders at Dover

Year 4 had a fantastic day exploring Dover Castle, diving deep into its rich history and medieval life. From discovering the grandeur of the Great Hall to learning how food was prepared and games were played centuries ago, the children were fully immersed in the experience.

Even though the weather left everyone a little cold and soggy, their enthusiasm never wavered - they listened attentively, asked thoughtful questions, and represented St Katherine's beautifully. The staff at the castle were full of praise for their curiosity and manners.

A memorable day of learning and living history - Year 4 were truly a credit to the school.



Sports

Coppice Athletics Event – Year 4 & 5 Shine at the Julie Rose Stadium

Year 4 and 5 pupils had an unforgettable experience at the Coppice Athletics Event this week, held at the impressive Julie Rose Stadium in Ashford. For most, it was their first time performing in a real athletics stadium - a powerful piece of cultural capital that gave them a genuine sense of what it feels like to compete on a professional stage.

Throughout the day, pupils collaborated brilliantly - not only with each other, but with children from our partner schools. They encouraged teammates, celebrated successes, and showed real determination in every event. The competitive races were a highlight, with pupils giving their all while demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship.

I was genuinely thrilled by their attitude, resilience and impeccable behaviour. Their conduct made us incredibly proud, and it clearly made an impression on the professional athletes supporting the event too - they were so inspired by our pupils that they have volunteered to return as part of next year's Aspiration Day. Please click on the [link](#) to watch some video highlights.



Pupil Voice: *"I really enjoyed running and competing against other schools. I got to experience what professional athletes do. I won a third place medal for the 100m relay and I am so proud of all the team "* (Aston – Year 4)

Tag Rugby Tournament Stars

Our Tag Rugby team kicked off their first tournament of the year in fantastic style — playing nine matches, winning seven, drawing one and losing just one. It was a joy to watch them play with such cohesion, demonstrating the skills we've been developing in training and the real togetherness that has grown within the squad. Their teamwork, determination and positive attitude shone through every game, making this an excellent start to the season.



ESafety Information

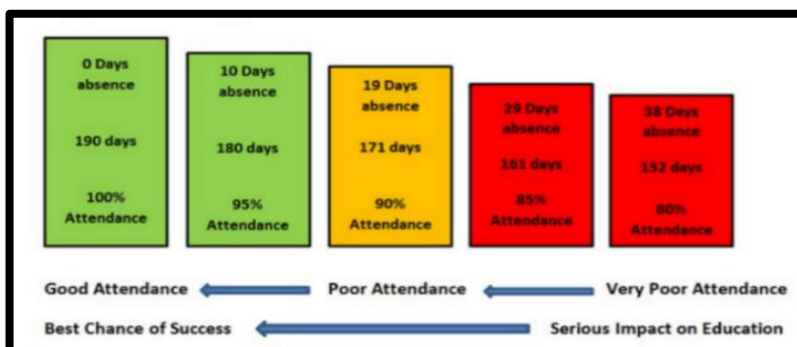
A number of parents have recently asked for more insight into the apps their children are using. Most smartphones allow parents and carers to manage exactly which apps and features appear on their child's device - including blocking downloads and preventing access to anything that isn't age-appropriate.

This week's guide focuses on parental controls for managing apps on Android devices. It offers practical steps to help reduce the chance of your child accessing games or apps that may not be suitable for their age.

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



Attendance Matters!



Termly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 100%		
R	Bramley 96.4%	Gala 97.6%	
1	Peach 92.6%	Pear 97.9%	
2	Cherry 98.1%	Quince 95.0%	Damson 95.3%
3	Hazel 95.2%	Walnut 91.3%	
4	Spruce 94.1%	Fir 91.8%	
5	Cedar 99.6%	Teak 95.6%	Mahogany 94.2%
6	Ash 92.6%	Oak 96.1%	

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 2 2026	
EVENT	DATE
Summer Term 2 begins	
Year 2 Visit to Shorne Woods	<i>Friday 12th June</i>
Year 4 Visit to Howletts Zoo	<i>Tuesday 16th June</i>
Year 1 Visit to Wingham Wildlife Park	<i>Friday 19th June</i>
PTA Summer Fair	<i>Saturday 20th June</i>
Year 6 Residential to Ashford	<i>Monday 22nd – Wednesday 24th June</i>
Sports Day KS2 & Five Acre Wood	<i>Tuesday 30th June 9:30-11:30am</i>
Sports Day Year R & KS1 (YR1-YR2)	<i>Tuesday 30th June 1:15-3pm</i>
Nursery Sports Day	<i>Wednesday 1st July 9:15am -10am</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>
Year 6 Leavers Party	<i>Thursday 17th July</i>
Dance Through the Musicals	<i>Monday 20th July – 1:30-3pm</i>
Year 6 Leavers Assembly to Parents	<i>Tuesday 21st July - 1:30pm</i>
Last Day of Term	Tuesday 21st July

Have a lovely half term.

Mr Lang

