



Friday 26th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It goes without saying that we have all been **'Feeling hot, hot hot'** this week! Both staff and pupils have taken it all in their stride. Classrooms have stayed calm, routines have flexed sensibly, and children have shown real maturity in following guidance to stay safe, comfortable and ready to learn.

Our warm-weather risk assessment continues to be used dynamically, with staff keeping a close eye on conditions and making sensible adjustments throughout the day. From increased access to water, to learning in shaded or cooler spaces, to adapting activities where needed, everyone has played their part.

With the sunshine set to continue, we hope you're all able to make the most of the warm weather over the weekend.



Transition – Moving on Up!

A strong, well-planned transition is one of the most important things we can offer our children at this point in the year. It helps them feel secure, confident and ready for the next stage of their learning, and it ensures that every child is known, understood and supported from day one in September. Our approach is deliberately rigorous, relational and rooted in what we know works best for pupils' wellbeing and progress.

Over the coming weeks, teachers are timetabled for dedicated class handover meetings, where they will discuss each individual child in depth. This includes academic strengths, areas for development, pastoral needs, friendships, learning behaviours and any additional support in place. These conversations ensure that every child is set up for success as they move into their new class.

Children will also have opportunities to meet their new teacher and take part in transition activities designed to help them feel comfortable, familiar and excited about the year ahead.

Reception transition

Our Reception children will begin joining whole-school assemblies so they can experience the routines and rhythms of the wider school community in a gentle, supportive way.

It was also wonderful to welcome the parents and children of our new Reception cohort during last week's transition meetings. Both children and parents had the chance to explore their new learning environments, meet staff and begin forming those early relationships that make such a difference. We are delighted to have planned a number of familiarisation visits across the term, including a teddy bears' picnic on the field, which is always a highlight.

The end of an era

For our Year 6 pupils, transition is well underway. This includes meetings with staff from their secondary schools, transition workshops with CRIBS, and of course their residential visit to Kingswood in Ashford. The children had an amazing time rock climbing, raft building, zip lining, orienteering and much more. The only downside was having to sit through England's rather dull performance against Ghana - the sole low point in an otherwise action-packed two and a half days. As always, the children represented the school brilliantly, and a huge thank you goes to the staff who supervised day and night to ensure everyone was safe, supported and able to make the most of the experience.

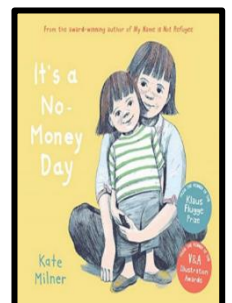




Assembly

In our recent assembly, we explored the issue of poverty - both on a global scale and within our local community. Together, we discussed what poverty can look like for many families and considered the different reasons people might experience financial hardship.

To bring the issue closer to home, I shared the story *It's a No Money Day* by Kate Milner. This powerful book helped illustrate the day-to-day reality of poverty for some families in our area, particularly the difficult choices they may face around food.



We also reflected on what we do as a school to support families in need, and how our actions are guided by our core values of **responsibility** and **compassion**. The assembly encouraged children to think about how we can all show kindness, understanding and support to those around us. Please click on the [link](#) to access the assembly.

Diversity Ambassadors Shine – Clean Air Day Assembly

Last week the Diversity Ambassadors led an assembly on supporting people who have asthma and lung disease with a focus on clean air and pollution. The children presented passionately and were able to engage the rest of the school through asking a number of thought-provoking questions.



Pupil Voice: *"We told the children about Clean Air Day and talked about the effects of pollution."*
(Kostadin – Diversity Ambassador)

PTA Summer Social Success

Thank you to our incredible PTA for organising yet another brilliant social event. It was wonderful to see so many families join us last Saturday, creating a real sense of community as children and adults took part in games, browsed the stalls and enjoyed being dazzled by our fantastic cheer teams. Families even had the chance to watch an exhibition rugby match between our upcoming Year 5 stars and our more experienced Year 6 team — a real highlight of the afternoon.

The event raised a whopping **£2,189.08**, which will go directly towards school improvement projects. This includes our latest library refurbishment, where the PTA has already contributed £2,000 towards its development. We are incredibly grateful for their ongoing support and commitment to enriching the experiences of all our children.

Watch this space - exciting things are on the way.



Curriculum

Tremendous trips bring learning to life

Our enrichment trips this term have been nothing short of tremendous - real, hands-on experiences that bring learning to life and spark the curiosity, confidence and joy that sit at the heart of our curriculum.

Year 1 had a fantastic day at Wingham Wildlife Park - it may have been hotter than a safari in Africa, but the children smiled throughout and were an absolute credit to St Katherine's. Their excitement and curiosity never dipped, even in the sunshine.

The trip linked beautifully to their science learning on animals, habitats and seasonal changes. As they explored the park, the children compared different species, talked about where animals live and what they need to survive, and used lots of the scientific vocabulary they've been practising in class. Seeing real animals up close helped them deepen their understanding in a way that classroom learning alone simply can't replicate.

They were thrilled to spot so many amazing creatures - from big cats, reptiles to playful primates - and the day sparked plenty of "wow" moments and thoughtful questions. It was hands-on learning at its best, wrapped up in sunshine, smiles and a brilliant sense of adventure.



Pupil Voice: *"It was really exciting. I saw a tiger, a sleeping lion and I loved watching the tall giraffes eating."* (Freddie – Year 1)

Year 4 had an amazing time at Howletts Zoo last week. The children were fascinated by the huge variety of animals they encountered and made brilliant links back to their science learning on classifying animals. They discussed different groups, compared features and thought carefully about how scientists organise living things.

A real highlight was hearing a talk from one of the zookeepers all about the gorillas - including the chance to see the new baby gorilla up close. The children were amazed to learn that humans actually have more hair than gorillas, which certainly sparked some lively conversation! It was a fantastic day of hands-on learning, curiosity and awe, and the children represented the school beautifully throughout.

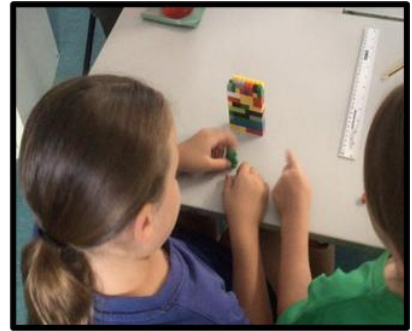


Engaging Maths

'Where's Teddy?' Learning through position and play

Year 1 have been busy using positional language in their maths lessons this week. Children placed their counting teddies on *top*, *above*, *below*, *under*, *in front*, *behind* and *between* different objects, applying their understanding through playful, hands-on exploration.

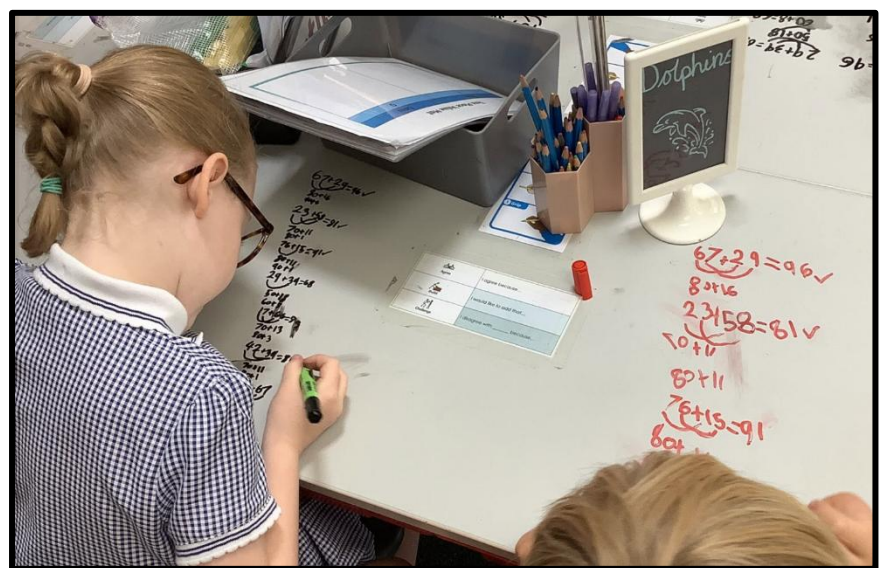
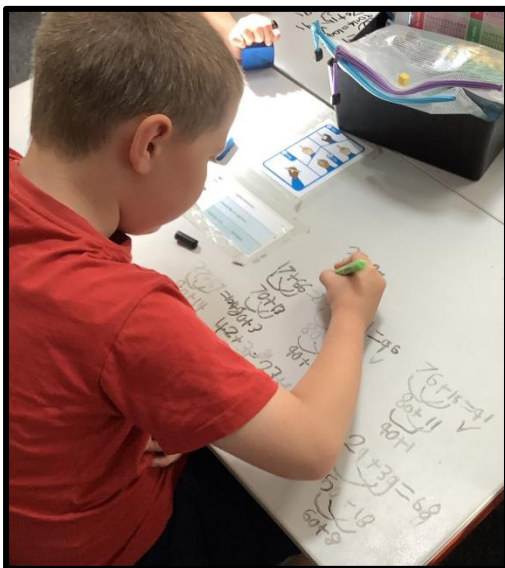
These activities help pupils develop spatial awareness, mathematical vocabulary and reasoning - all key building blocks for geometry and problem-solving later in the curriculum.



Year 2 Mastering Addition

Year 2 have worked incredibly hard in maths this week, practising how to add two 2-digit numbers with confidence and accuracy. Using their whiteboard tables, pupils explored different strategies, checked their answers and shared methods with their partners - all helping to strengthen their understanding of number relationships and mental calculation.

It's wonderful to see such focus and enthusiasm for learning. Let's hope they didn't use permanent marks on the tables!



Pupil Voice: "We were learning how to use a strategy to add numbers. We added the tens and then the ones to find the answer. We also got to check our partner's working out." (Millie – Year 2)

Sports Update

Year 6 Netball at Greenfields

As usual, our mixed Year 5/6 team played brilliantly even in the heat. They went through the group stages in second place and were unfortunately knocked out in the quarter finals with a last-minute goal from the opposition team. Well done to all who played.



Borough Football Tournament – A Brilliant Day of Team Spirit

Our KS1 and KS2 football teams recently represented St Katherine's with skill, determination and outstanding sportsmanship at this week's borough tournament. Both squads played with real heart - supporting one another from the sidelines, celebrating every goal, and showing the kind of encouragement that makes us incredibly proud.

KS1 delivered a fantastic set of matches and missed out on the quarter-finals by just one point, going out only on goal difference.

KS2 battled through to the knockout stages and were seconds away from a semi-final place, narrowly losing to a last-minute goal in their quarter-final.

Every player gave their all, and their teamwork, resilience and positivity shone throughout the day. A huge well done to all involved - you represented the school brilliantly.

Community News

Larkfield Football Club – U9 Ladies Team Recruitment Evening

Local girls in Year 2 and Year 3 are invited to join Larkfield Football Club's U9 Ladies Team this September! The club is hosting a special recruitment evening on Thursday 2 July 2026, from 5pm – 6.30pm at Larkfield Recreation Ground (ME20 6PU).

It promises to be a fun, welcoming event for girls keen to build confidence, teamwork and skills while being part of a growing local club.

For more information, contact Manager Leanne on 07711211595.



Little Ninjas

Serious family fun awaits at West Malling Academy! Karate Leadership UK offers engaging martial arts programmes for all ages — from energetic Little Ninjas aged 3+ to family-focused Kickstart sessions that build confidence, fitness, and teamwork.



Waymakers Welcome BBQ – Sunday 30th August, 4–6 pm

Young people aged 10–17 are invited to join the Waymakers group at Christ Church Community Hall for a relaxed BBQ, great food, and a chance to meet new friends.

RSVP to Harriet on 07340 550189.



Arbor Guidance

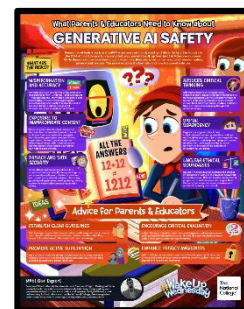
Please click on the following [link](#) to access a video to support parents with booking meals.



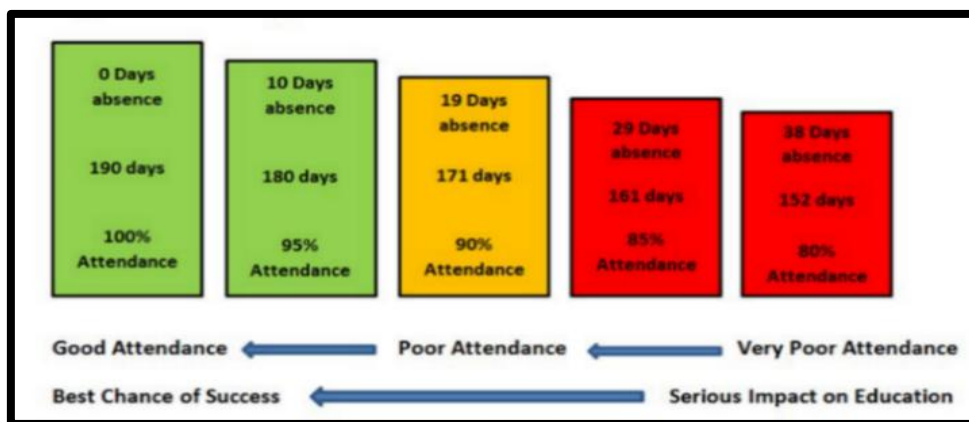
Parent E-Safety Information

Artificial Intelligence can be a brilliant tool for creativity and learning – but it's not without its hazards. With 3 in 4 pupils now using generative AI (up from just 2 in 5 last year), it's more important than ever for parents and educators to understand the risks.

Please click on the [link](#) to access information about the key safety concerns around AI tools and expert advice for keeping young users safe.



Attendance Matters!



Weekly Attendance

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.

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 100%		
R	Bramley 91.6%	Gala 92.2%	
1	Peach 84.8%	Pear 95.1%	
2	Cherry 92.1%	Quince 85.6%	Damson 92.2%
3	Hazel 89.7%	Walnut 93.5%	
4	Spruce 90%	Fir 80.3%	
5	Cedar 86.7%	Teak 87.5%	Mahogany 91.2%
6	Ash 87.3%	Oak 90.4%	



School Target: 95%

Key Dates

Events – Summer Term 2 2026	
EVENT	DATE
Start of Term	Monday 1 st June
Sports Day KS2 (Five Acre Wood & YR3-YR6)	Tuesday 30 th June 9:30-11:30am
Sports Day Year R & KS1 (YR-YR2)	Tuesday 30 th June 1:15-3pm
Nursery Sports Day	Wednesday 1 st July 9:15am -10am
CRIBS – Moving UP Transition Year 6	Friday 3 rd July AM
PTA Summer Disco Year R – Year 6	Friday 3 rd July 2-7:30pm
Nursery and Year R Reports sent out	Monday 6 th July
Year 1 and Year 2 Reports sent out	Tuesday 7 th July
Meet the Teacher	Tuesday 7 th July 2:30-3pm
Year 3 and Year 4 Reports sent out	Wednesday 8 th July
Year 6 Production	Wednesday 8 th July 6-7:30pm
Year 5 and Year 6 Reports sent out	Thursday 9 th July
Year 6 Production	Thursday 9 th July 6-7:30pm
Meet the Teacher	Thursday 9 th July 2-3pm
Reserve Sports Day KS2 (Five Acre Wood & YR3-YR6)	Monday 13 th July 9:30-11:30am
Reserve Sports Day Year R & KS1 (YR-YR2)	Monday 13 th July 1:15-3pm
Optional Parents Evening	Monday 13 th July
Reserve Nursery Sports Day	Wednesday 15 th July 9:15am – 10am
Year 6 Leavers' Party	Thursday 16 th July 5:30pm
Nursery Leavers' Party – Picnic and Bouncy Castle	Friday 17 th July
Dance Through the Musicals	Monday 20 th July
Year 6 Leavers Assembly to Parents	Tuesday 21 st July 1:30pm
End of Term	Tuesday 21 st July

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Lang