



Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

There is something very special about welcoming our school community back to St Katherine's at the start of a new academic year, and Wednesday was no exception. The sight of smiling, happy faces arriving through the gates was a delight... and that was just the parents!

All joking aside, the children's return to school has been the smoothest and most positive transition I have witnessed during my time at St Katherine's. From the moment they arrived, there was a calm and purposeful atmosphere across the school. Classrooms were filled with engaged, enthusiastic learners, behaviour has been exemplary, and it was wonderful to see every child proudly wearing their uniform, complete with some impressively shiny shoes.

Perhaps most striking of all was the strong sense of belonging that continues to define St Katherine's. The kindness shown between children, the respect demonstrated towards staff and one another, and the genuine excitement for learning have been evident throughout the week. This first week has reminded us just how much the children bring to our school community. We have missed them greatly over the summer, and it is fantastic to have the school full of life, laughter and learning once again.

The positive start we have seen this week gives us every reason to be excited for the year ahead, and I would like to thank parents and carers for your support in helping your children return to school so successfully.

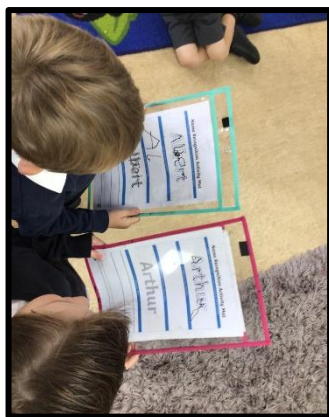


Learning Together - INSET

Before welcoming the children back, staff spent a day learning, reflecting and planning together to ensure the best possible start to the new school year. Alongside safeguarding updates and curriculum development, we focused on how high-quality teaching and learning can strengthen every child's sense of belonging. Research consistently shows that children learn best when they feel safe, valued and connected to their school community, so we explored practical approaches to ensure all pupils feel known, included and able to thrive.



Welcome Reception



We have been delighted to welcome our new Reception children to St Katherine's this week. Thanks to a calm and carefully planned transition, the children have settled exceptionally well, quickly making friendships and growing in confidence. It has also enabled staff to get to know each child and begin building the strong relationships that are so important.

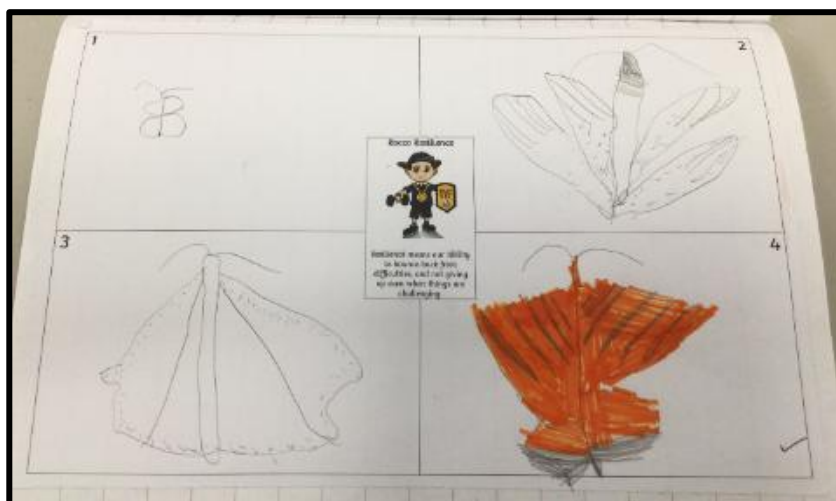
I was particularly pleased to meet two Reception children who were awarded the first Values Stickers of the year for showing excellent resilience while learning to write their names. Well done, boys! We are incredibly proud of all our new starters and the positive way they have begun their St Katherine's journey.

School Value Activities

The children began the week by participating in a number of activities that focused on our school values: **Respect, Resilience, Responsibility, Community, Compassion and Excellence**. These values are firmly embedded in the life of St Katherine's and are demonstrated every day through the actions, attitudes and relationships within our school community. Here are some examples of the activities below:

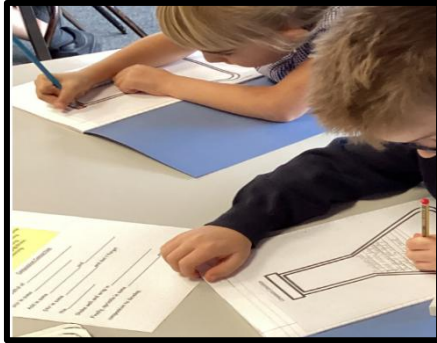
In Year 1, the children were asked to sketch a butterfly and then provide feedback for one another to keep improving their artwork.

Through this activity, the children demonstrated our core values of **Responsibility, Resilience** and **Excellence**. Just look at what the power of feedback had on xxx, who produced this amazing outcome.



Year 6 pupils took part in a team-building challenge to build the tallest balloon tower. The activity encouraged children to work together, communicate effectively and persevere when things did not go to plan.

As they tackled the challenge, pupils demonstrated our school values of **Compassion** by listening to and encouraging their teammates, and **Resilience** by adapting their ideas and trying again when their structures collapsed.



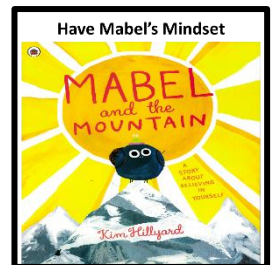
Year 3 created their own **Compassion Concoctions**. The children reflected on the qualities that help us show kindness and care towards others, carefully selecting the "ingredients" they felt were most important, such as respect, helpfulness and understanding.

This activity encouraged thoughtful discussion and helped pupils consider how small acts of compassion can make a big difference to those around them.

A reminder that year groups upload learning posts to **our school Facebook page** on a weekly basis. To keep up-to-date with your child's learning, please navigate to <https://www.facebook.com/stkatherinessnodland>.

Assembly

For my first assembly of the year, we explored the theme of Aspirations. Using the story of *Mabel and the Mountain*, the children reflected on the importance of dreaming big, embracing challenges and never giving up when learning becomes difficult. We discussed how growth comes from stepping outside our comfort zones and developing what we call Mabel's Mindset: courage, resilience and a belief that improvement is always possible.



Please click on the following [link](#) to access the assembly.

Pupil Voice: *"Mabel taught me that even when you are small, you can articulate big things."*
(Harriett – Year 5)

Fabulous Holiday Homework

We have been incredibly impressed with the children's efforts on their summer homework. They've returned to school with a fantastic array of models, posters, projects and fact files - all linked to an exciting topic they'll be exploring this term.

Just have a look at this Roman shield that was produced in Year 4!



Teaching and Learning Presentations

A reminder that parents/ carers are invited to attend our forthcoming 'teaching and learning presentations', where teachers will share key information about their year group and provide an opportunity for parents to ask any questions they may have. Please note that if parents/ carers have specific questions relating to their own children, they should arrange a time outside of the meeting to speak with their child's teacher. The meetings will take place from **2.30pm to 3.00pm** **in the main hall**, on the following days:

Year Group	Date
Reception	Thursday 17 th September
Year 1	Monday 14 th September
Year 2	Tuesday 15 th September
Year 3	Monday 7 th September
Year 4	Tuesday 8 th September
Year 5	Wednesday 9 th September
Year 6	Wednesday 16 th September

Curriculum Coverage Sheets and Spelling

Please note that curriculum coverage sheets and spellings for this half term will be emailed to parents today. These can also be found on our school website and contain the follow information:

- **Curriculum Coverage Sheets** – This document outlines the key topics and areas of learning across the curriculum, for the first part of the autumn term.
- **Spellings** – Children's weekly spelling lists for this half term have been outlined in one document for parents. Children that have personalised spellings will be given these to take home.

*Please note that we have taken on board feedback from our Parent Voice Committee and **homework will be issued next Friday, in line with children's spellings.**

Congratulations Miss Wood!

I would also like to thank our wonderful school community for making Miss Wood, our new Assistant Headteacher, feel so welcome during her first week at St Katherine's. She has certainly been thrown straight into school life, leading parts of our INSET day, meeting children and families, and quickly becoming part of the St Katherine's team.

We are also delighted to share the happy news that Miss Wood is expecting a baby. We look forward to supporting her and watching her blossom throughout the autumn term as she continues to get to know our community. We know you will join us in wishing her every happiness as she embarks on this exciting new chapter.



Parent Support

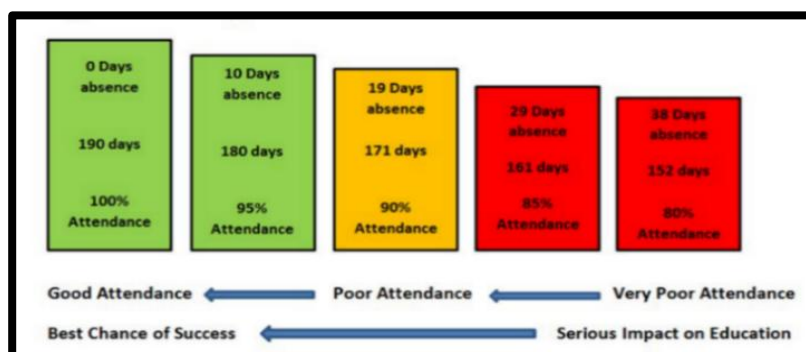
This week's guide focuses on supporting your children to go back to school. Although most children have a positive transition back to school, there are some who can find this difficult. As we have only been back for a few days, some children may still find returning to school after the weekend challenging. Please click on the [link](#) to access the short guide, with some useful tips and advice.



Attendance Matters!

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.

Our aspiration is for everyone at St Katherine's to attend school at least **95%** of the year. If your child's attendance drops below this, they will inevitably fall behind, as days off will mean lost learning time.



Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 100%		
R	Bramley 100%	Gala 100%	
1	Peach 92.4%	Pear 97.1%	
2	Cherry 99.3%	Quince 100%	
3	Hazel 98.7%	Walnut 94.2%	
4	Spruce 96.0%	Fir 96.1%	
5	Cedar 94.7%	Mahogany 97.3%	
6	Ash 95.0%	Oak 99.1%	Elm 96.2%

School Target: 95%



Key Dates



EVENT	DATE
Year 3 Meet the Teacher	Monday 7 th September – 2.30pm in the hall
Year 4 Meet the Teacher	Tuesday 8 th September – 2.30pm in the hall
Year 5 Meet the Teacher	Wednesday 9 th September – 2.30pm in the hall
Kent Test (11+)	Thursday 10 th September
Year 1 Meet the Teacher	Monday 14 th September – 2.30pm in the hall
Year 2 Meet the Teacher	Tuesday 15 th September – 2.30pm in the hall
Year 6 Meet the Teacher	Wednesday 16 th September – 2.30pm in the hall
Reception Meet the Teacher	Thursday 17 th September – 2.30pm in the hall
YR6 BikeAbility	14 th , 15 th , 16 th , 17 th , 18 th and 21 st September
Macmillan Coffee Mornings run by Year 5 – Everyone Welcome	Mahogany Class Wednesday 23/9/26 (am) and Cedar Class Thursday 24/9/26(pm)
African Dance Performance and Workshops	Thursday 1 st October & Friday 2 nd October
World Mental Health Day Assembly	Monday 5 th October
Happy Shoes Day	Tuesday 6 th October
St Kath's Top Tots Session	Friday 9 th October
Parent Consultation Evenings	Tuesday 13 th & Thursday 15 th October -3:45- 6:30pm
Harvest Celebration	Wednesday 14 th October
Show Racism the Red Card	Thursday 15 th October
Last Day of Term	Thursday 15 th October
Trust Wide INSET Day for staff	Friday 16 th October

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Lang
Headteacher