



Friday 18th September 2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Excitement has been roaring through the school since our Reception explorers made an incredible discovery last week: a potential dinosaur skull hidden within our grounds! The excitement reached new heights when the skull was revealed in assembly, prompting gasps of amazement from children across Years 1 to 6. This 'mystery fossil' has sparked curiosity throughout the school and provided a fantastic stimulus for writing, with pupils eagerly researching, debating and sharing their opinions about which species of dinosaur our discovery could be.



We have already received some outstanding dinosaur outcomes, packed with facts, research and imagination. Our Chair of Governors will select one winner from KS1 and one from KS2 to have their work sent to the Natural History Museum for expert consideration. As a special reward, the school will fund travel and lunch for the winning families, giving them the chance to immerse themselves in the awe and wonder of the museum. The deadline for entries is **Monday 21st September**. Good luck to all our budding palaeontologists as they uncover the clues behind our mystery fossil! 🦖🦕



Pupil Voice: "I think it is the skull of an Allosaurus because it is too small to be a T-Rex." (Cian – Year 4)

Ambassador Elections

This week marked an exciting moment in our school year as children from across the school took part in the election of our new St Katherine's Ambassadors. After submitting letters of application, our candidates confidently presented speeches to the whole school, sharing why they would make excellent representatives. It was wonderful to see such courage, enthusiasm and commitment on display. To bring democracy, one of our key British values, to life, children from Years 2 to 6 cast their votes in a real ballot.

Following a closely contested election, I proudly presented Kohana, Amaya, Freddie, Oscar, Oliver and Ayla with their Ambassador ties this week. Throughout the year, they will work closely with me to help shape school life, promote pupil voice and champion the values that make St Katherine's such a special place to learn and grow. A huge well done to all the candidates for their effort and ambition.

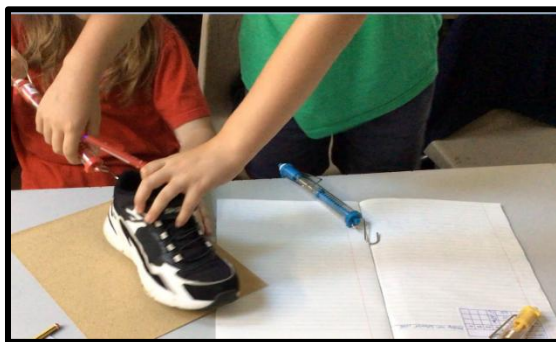
Curriculum News

Scientists at Work

Our new '**Talk for Science**' plans are proving a real hit with teachers and children! The approach puts practical scientific enquiry at the heart of learning, encouraging children to ask questions, make predictions, investigate, observe and discuss what the evidence tells them.

Already this term, **Year 2** have explored common animals and their characteristics, **Year 3** have investigated shadows and different types of materials, and **Year 5** have investigated forces by measuring how many newtons are needed to move a shoe across different surfaces.

Most importantly, children aren't simply learning about science. They are thinking, talking and working like scientists.



Pupil Voice: *"We learnt that if animals don't have babies, they will eventually become extinct. We also learnt that animals have different characteristics like fur and feathers. Birds have feathers but squirrels have fur."* (Rae – Year 2)

Bikeability

Being a bike enthusiast myself, it is always wonderful to see our children developing their cycling skills through Bikeability. The Year 6 programme helps children build confidence, improve their bike-handling skills and learn how to cycle safely. Most importantly, it equips them with skills that can support healthy, active and independent travel as they grow.



African Dance Workshops

On Thursday 1st October and Friday 2nd October, all children will have the opportunity to take part in an exciting African Dance Workshop.

This special event will mark the start of Black History Month, giving the children the opportunity to experience and celebrate the richness of African dance, culture and traditions.

We are delighted that **the PTA is generously funding more than half of the cost of the workshop.** To help cover the remaining cost, we are asking for a **voluntary contribution of £1 per child**, which can be made via your child's Arbor account. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed.



We are sure this will be a fantastic and memorable experience for all the children and a wonderful way to begin our Black History Month celebrations.

Community News

Teaching and Learning Presentations

Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to attend our recent Teaching and Learning presentations. It was a valuable opportunity to meet the year group teachers, gain an overview of **the learning and curriculum for the year ahead**, understand key expectations and ask any questions you may have.



We appreciate that not all parents and carers were able to attend the presentations in person. Therefore, **all presentations have now been uploaded to the school website**, so that everyone has the opportunity to access the information shared.

MacMillan Coffee Mornings

Thank you to everyone who has already donated a cake or cakes for our forthcoming Macmillan Coffee event next week. A reminder that cakes 'baked at home' can be **delivered from Monday 22nd September** onwards.

Our Year 5 children are incredibly excited about hosting these sessions and raising money for such a worthwhile cause. Please click on the following link to register your attendance at one of the events.

[Macmillan Coffee Event - Wednesday 23rd September and Thursday 24th September 2026 – Fill out form](#)

We would like to thank you in advance for your generous donations and we look forward to seeing you at these events.

Day and Time	
 	Wednesday 23rd September 2026 (9.15am-10.15am) (Mahogany Class hosting this session)
	Thursday 24th September 2026 (2pm - 3pm) (Cedar Class hosting this session)

Parent Voice

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who have expressed an interest in joining our Parent Voice Group this year. We really appreciate your willingness to get involved and help us continue to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

I will shortly be sending out the agenda for our first meeting, which will be scheduled for the last week of this term. This will give committee members the opportunity to share the key topics with their classes beforehand and gather the views, ideas and feedback of other parents and carers. This valuable parent voice can then be brought to the meeting and form an important part of our discussions.

We are really looking forward to working with you and hearing the views and perspectives of our wider school community.



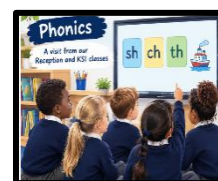
Learning Together Workshops

You will have received information this week regarding our forthcoming Learning Together Workshops. These sessions give parents the opportunity to hear from subject leaders about the intent behind their subject, before seeing how this is implemented in practice with our children.

Our two workshops this term are listed on the next page. **Please click on the relevant link to secure your place:**

Phonics – A short discussion with Mrs Elliott, our Phonics Lead, followed by a visit to our Reception and KS1 classes to see phonics in action.

Book your place here: [Learning Together Workshops - Phonics Year R, Year 1 and Year 2. – Fill out form](#)



Year 5 & 6 IXL – A short discussion with Mr Lang, followed by an opportunity to work alongside some of our Year 5 and 6 children, who will demonstrate how we use IXL to enhance and support our maths curriculum.

Book your place here: [Learning Together Workshops - IXL for Year 5 & Year 6 – Fill out form](#)



Extra-Curricular Offer

Bringing the House Down

It was lovely to pop in and see our new **House of Talent** extra-curricular club in action this week. I was really impressed by the passion and energy of the coaches, and it was fantastic to see the children getting so involved in their first session.

At St Katherine's, we have a real love of and commitment to the arts, and I'm looking forward to strengthening our partnership with House of Talent and creating even more opportunities for our children to perform and shine.



In fact, I've already persuaded the team to kick off our traditional KS2 Christmas Talent Show this year!

WELCOME TO HOUSE OF TALENT
A HOME FOR PASSION, A STAGE FOR TALENT.

House Of Talent is a Performing Arts school created by a Mother Daughter duo! With over 30+ years experience running dance schools, teaching and working in the industry in many avenues from West End musicals to judging at high level competitions.

NOT JUST CLASSES
a Performing Arts family

Debbie & Chelsie

TIMETABLE

MONDAY:
Cobham Hall School, DA12 3BL
16:45 - 18:45
Musical Theatre Ages 6-17

WEDNESDAY:
St Katherine's School & Nursery, ME6 5EJ
3:30pm - 5:00pm
Dance Academy Ages 5-12

THURSDAY:
Halling Community Centre, ME2 1BS
16:00 - 17:00 MINI'S MUSICAL THEATRE Ages 3-6
16:15 - 17:00 DANCE FOUNDATIONS Ages 6-15
17:00 - 19:00 POP ACADEMY Ages 6-17
19:00 - 19:45 INTER JAZZ Ages 8-17
19:00 - 20:00 LAMDA & SINGING PRIVATE LESSONS Ages 6-17

READY TO SHINE?

AFTER-SCHOOL DANCE ACADEMY
★ FIRST CLASS FREE! ★

Join our After-School Dance Academy for 1.5 hours of dance, creativity, and fun! Students will explore Commercial, Jazz, and Street Dance while developing flexibility, strength, coordination, and performance skills through stretching, technique work, and exciting choreography.

SCAN TO SIGN UP!

WEDNESDAY 3:30PM - 5:00PM

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- ★ STRETCHING & FLEXIBILITY
- ★ STRENGTH & CONDITIONING
- ★ DANCE TECHNIQUE & SKILLS
- ★ COMMERCIAL DANCE
- ★ JAZZ DANCE
- ★ STREET DANCE
- ★ FUN CHOREOGRAPHY & PERFORMANCE

LOCATION:
ST KATHERINE'S SCHOOL & NURSERY
ST KATHERINE'S LANE
SNOODLAND
KENT
ME6 5EJ

★ NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY - EVERYONE WELCOME! ★

houseoftalentperformingarts.co.uk



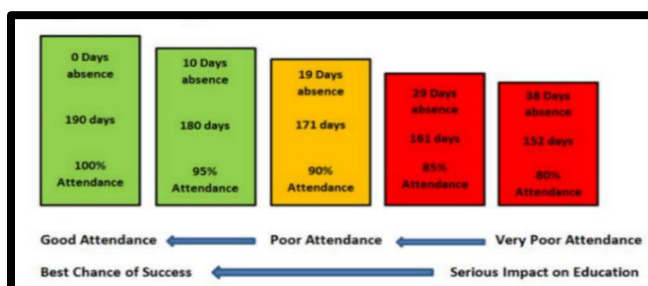
Online Parent Support

Online multiplayer games can be brilliant places for children to play, socialise and share interests, but some gaming communities can become hostile or harmful. This guide explores toxic gaming behaviours including bullying, deliberate sabotage, discriminatory abuse, threats and doxing, as well as the ways these experiences can affect a young person's wellbeing both online and offline. 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 99.4%		
R	Bramley 99.5%	Gala 99.8%	
1	Peach 93.7%	Pear 90.8%	
2	Cherry 97.0%	Quince 97.4%	
3	Hazel 96.4%	Walnut 97.9%	
4	Spruce 96.0%	Fir 93.7%	
5	Cedar 94.2%	Mahogany 94.0%	
6	Ash 95.7%	Oak 95.9%	Elm 96.1%



School Target: 95%

Key Dates

EVENT	DATE
YR6 Bikeability	21 st September
Macmillan Coffee Mornings run by Year 5 – Everyone Welcome!	Mahogany Class hosting Wednesday 23/9/26 (9:15am) and Cedar Class hosting Thursday 24/9/26(2pm)
Learning Together Workshop – Reception, Y1 & Y2 Phonics	Tuesday 29 th September: 2.15pm – 3.15pm
African Dance Workshops Year R – Year 6	Thursday 1 st October & Friday 2 nd October
PTA FRY YAY (More details to follow)	Friday 2 nd October - 3:20pm (Lower Playground)
World Mental Health Day Assembly	Monday 5 th October
Happy Shoes Day	Tuesday 6 th October: 2.30pm – 3.15pm
Learning Together Workshop – Y5 & Y6 IXL (Maths)	Tuesday 6 th October: 2.15pm – 3.15pm
St Kath's Top Tots Session	Friday 9 th October: 9:15am
PTA Glow Disco – Year R – Year 6 (More details to follow)	Friday 9 th October
Year 2 Great Fire of London Workshop	Monday 12 th October
Parent Consultation Evenings	Tuesday 13 th & Thursday 15 th October: 3.45-6.30pm

Harvest Celebration	<i>Wednesday 14th October</i>
Year R Autumn Afternoon	<i>Wednesday 14th October at 2:30pm</i>
Show Racism the Red Card	<i>Thursday 15th October</i>
Last Day of Term	<i>Thursday 15th October</i>
Trust Wide INSET Day for staff	<i>Friday 16th October</i>

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Lang
Headteacher