



Friday 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,



One of the things that makes St Katherine's such a special place is the strength of the community around our children. Over the past couple of weeks, that has been particularly evident. From our **Year 5 Macmillan Coffee Mornings, to our Parent SEND mornings and Learn Together workshops**, it has been wonderful to see so many families coming into school, getting involved and sharing in the life and learning of our children.

I am incredibly grateful for that commitment. A strong school community is not simply about attending events; it is about the partnership we build between children, families and staff, and the shared belief that we all have a part to play in helping every child thrive.

I have also really appreciated the feedback we have received around our '14 Moments That Matter'. Your thoughts and ideas are helping us think carefully about the experiences we want every child to have during their time at St Katherine's. This will directly inform some exciting enhancements to our curriculum and enrichment offer and, importantly, help us shape a clear pledge to every child about what it means to grow, learn and belong at St Katherine's.

There is something very powerful about a community coming together around its children. Thank you, as always, for the part you continue to play in ours.

A Little Awe and Wonder Goes a Long Way!

I have to say, I was completely overwhelmed by the volume, creativity and quality of the entries we received for our recent Mysterious Dinosaur Skull Competition.

We had gigantic fact files, 3D-printed fossils, videos, homemade artefacts, stunning artwork and some quite incredible pieces of research. The time, thought and imagination that children had poured into their entries was wonderful to see.

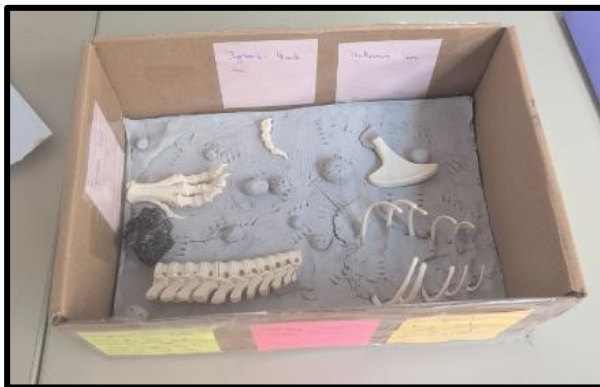
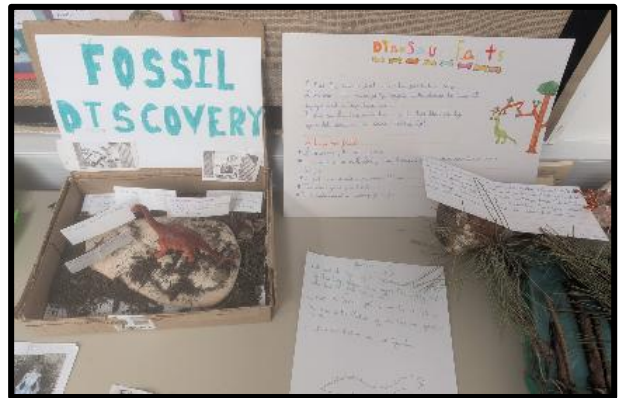
I am very glad that it was Mrs Evenden, our Chair of Governors, and not me who had the unenviable task of choosing the winners! With so many exceptional entries, it was an almost impossible decision. After much thought and deliberation, the following children were selected as our winners and will enjoy a day out at the Natural History Museum, including lunch courtesy of the school!

Our winners: KS1 – Florence & KS2 – Lavina

I have included just a few examples of the incredible outcomes below to give you a flavour of the effort, creativity and enthusiasm the competition inspired. Sadly, we couldn't possibly include them all! More than anything, I loved seeing just how immersed the children became in solving our prehistoric mystery.

- [Palaeontologist Video 1](#)
- [Palaeontologist Video 2](#)
- [Letter from Mrs Evenden \(Chair of Governors\)](#)

Have a look at some of the children's amazing outcomes below:

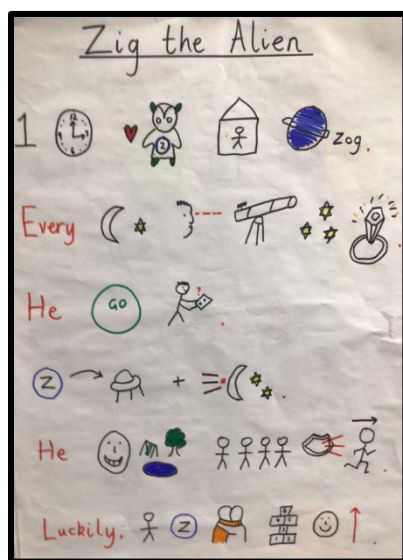


Talk For Writing in Action

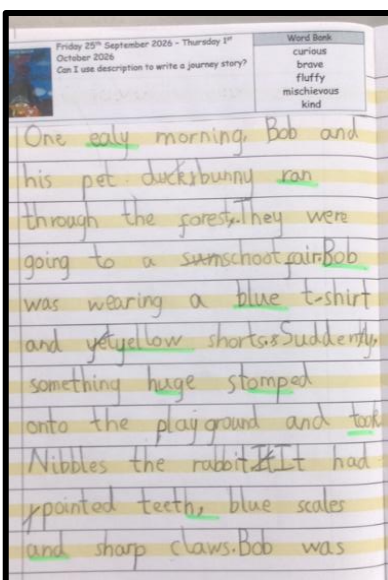
Across the school, children have been busy developing their skills as writers. Through Talk for Writing, children use story maps and oral rehearsal to learn the vocabulary and structure of different texts, before exploring the author's tools that make them effective. For example, when writing a portal story, children might learn how an author builds suspense or transports the reader from one world to another.

Handwriting remains an important priority at St Katherine's. Research suggests that the physical act of writing by hand helps the brain make important connections that support learning and memory. Put simply, putting pen to paper really does matter!

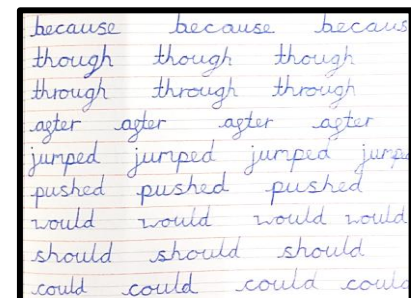
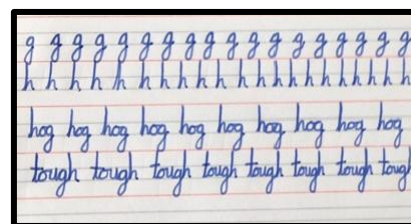
Below are a few examples of children practising and applying specific author's tools as they build towards their independent writing. It is wonderful to see them taking what they have learnt and beginning to make it their own.



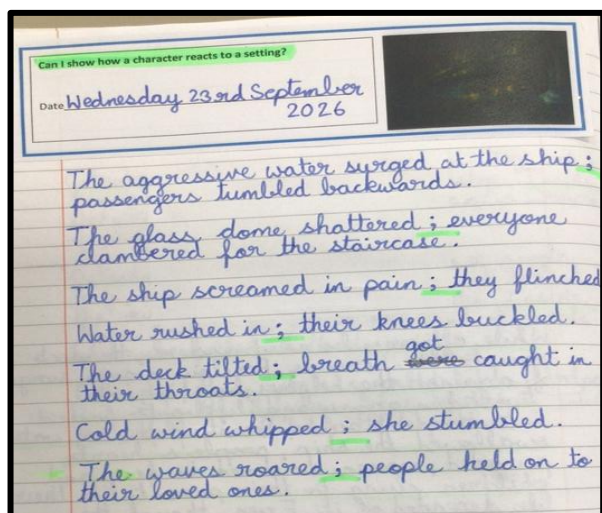
Year 1 learning their story map ready at the start of their writing journey.



Year 1 Innovation



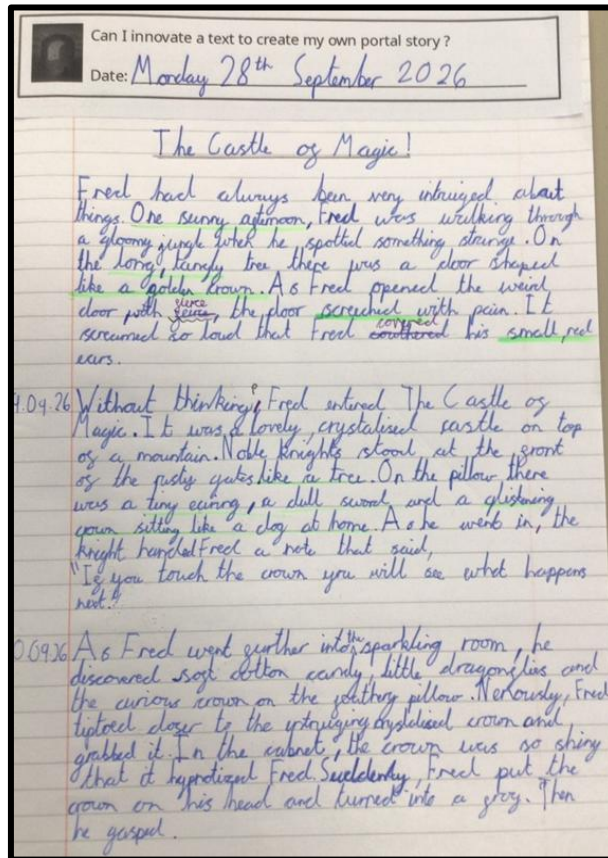
Year 4 & 5 handwriting practise.



Year 6 short-burst grammar activity

Portal Story Plan (Setting Description)		
Underlying Pattern	Model Text: The Connection	Innovation Plan
Prologue Describes the setting as it is now.	Where was once a battlefield, now just weeds grow.	What was once a majestic ship is now a pile of rust and rubble. The Titanic is now at the bottom of the ocean.
Opening Mc finds something that connects to the new setting.	Mc explores the attic. Mc finds an antique silver necklace with a blue gem.	Mc explores the beach. Mc finds a silver necklace with a blue heart gem on it. Willow and Hazel.
Build up Mc goes through portal to new setting.	Mc is transported to battlefield.	Mc is transported to Titanic.
Problem and solution Mc encounters problem and escapes.	A action: Was saving, gunfire, shells scattering. Solution: She gets transported back.	Action: A loud bang and water floods on. Solution: She goes back to the beach.
Ending Return to original setting.	Back in the attic still clutching the antique shell.	Back on the beach still clutching the necklace.

Year 6 'Boxing Up' ideas



Year 3 Innovation

Mr Nourish

The sound of 'Food, Glorious Food' filled St Katherine's this week as Mr Nourish made a very special visit! The children were certainly intrigued, with plenty of high fives, hugs, smiles and a few frowns along the way.

At St Katherine's, we want to help children develop healthy habits and positive attitudes towards food and drink. We are working closely with Nourish to ensure that our children receive a varied, enjoyable and high-quality menu. A member of the Nourish team will be joining us at our forthcoming Parent Voice meeting, providing an opportunity for parents to ask questions, share feedback and find out more.

We've also been discussing some exciting enrichment opportunities that could get our children even more involved in learning about food, nutrition and healthy choices. Watch this space!



Ugandan Dance Workshops

What a stunning start to Black History Month! Our Ugandan Dance Workshops gave children the opportunity to experience dance and music from another culture, while having an enormous amount of fun along the way!

The children threw themselves into the rhythms and movements, asked some fantastic questions about dance, clothing and Ugandan culture, and fully immersed themselves in the experience. Opportunities like this are an important part of broadening children's cultural experiences, helping them learn about, appreciate and celebrate the world beyond their own.

Plenty of smiles, plenty of rhythm and a wonderful way to bring learning to life!



Pupil Voice: *"I learnt Hakuna Matata was Swahili, which is a language spoken in Uganda. (Ella – Year 3)*

Learning Together Parent Workshop: Phonics

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents and carers into school for our recent Learning Together Phonics Workshops. Mrs Elliott, our Phonics Lead, began by sharing the key intent behind phonics at St Katherine's, before parents and carers had the opportunity to step into classrooms and see this brought to life in practice.

A huge thank you must go to our staff for opening their classroom doors. Inviting a room full of adults to watch you teach can be daunting at the best of times, but particularly in Reception, where our youngest children have only been with us for a few short weeks!

Feedback from those able to attend has been overwhelmingly positive, and we hope the sessions provided a valuable insight into how children learn to read at St Katherine's. We completely understand that work and other commitments mean not everyone can attend during the school day, so the **presentations have been uploaded to our website for all parents and carers to view.**





MacMillian Coffee Mornings

Our St Katherine's community recently came together to support Macmillan Cancer Support through a fantastic cake sale. Our Year 5 children showed compassion, community spirit and responsibility as they planned, prepared and gave back to others. Every cake, donation and helping hand made a difference.

Together, we raised an incredible... £632!

A huge thank you to everyone who baked, bought, donated and supported this special event.



Parent Voice

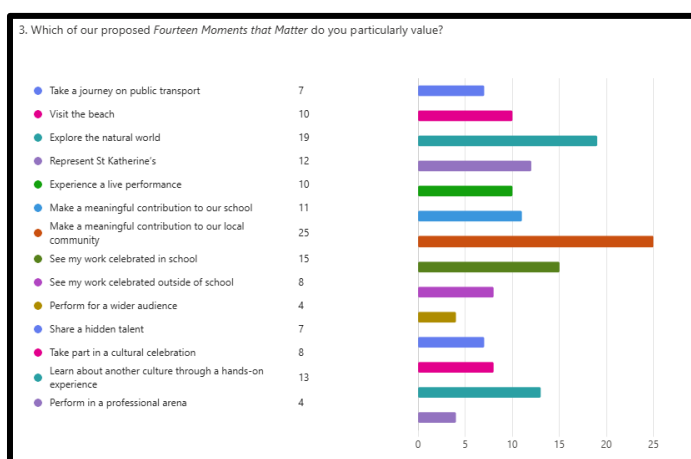
A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to share feedback on our proposed 'Fourteen Moments that Matter'. Your responses have been incredibly helpful as we reflect on our current curriculum offer and consider the key experiences and opportunities that we believe every child should encounter during their time at St Katherine's.



It was clear from the survey that families really value the principle behind this idea, and I am particularly grateful for the thoughtful comments, suggestions and new ideas that were shared. These will now help us refine our thinking and ensure that the final activities reflect what matters most to our children, families, staff and wider school community.



We will now bring together the feedback from all of our stakeholders, refine the final Moments that Matter, and share these with parents and carers after half term. Thank you for helping us shape the next stage of our curriculum together.



Local Events

MUFC MAIDSTONE UNITED

SOCCER SCHOOLS

LEARN
PLAY
DEVELOP
HAVE FUN!

OPEN TO
BOYS &
GIRLS!

£25 PER DAY OR £60 ALL 3 DAYS

MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER TO WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER

SCAN TO BOOK TODAY!

**BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!
SPACES LIMITED - DON'T MISS OUT!**

<https://maidstoneunited.co.uk/youth/soccerschool/>

Train. Play. Win!

Silhouette Dance and Theatre School

DANCE CLASSES IN LEYBOURNE CHASE

Classes in Ballet, Tap, Modern, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Drama, Street Dance, Lyrical, Contemporary & Gymnastics

From Age 2 to adults
Exams ★ Competitions ★ Shows

COMPETITION WINS
"Dance Challenge UK" Regional Finalists
"So You Want to Dance" Best Newcomer Dance School

louise@silhouettedanceschool.co.uk
www.silhouettedanceschool.co.uk

PTA FriYay

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising another fantastic FriYay doughnut event. We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy and commitment the team continues to give to raising funds for St Katherine's.

The impact of this fundraising can be seen right across the school, helping us to provide additional opportunities, experiences and resources for our children. The poster (right) shows just how much the PTA's hard work and your support have contributed to our school.

Thank you to our PTA and to every family who supports their events. It really does make a difference!



Parent Support

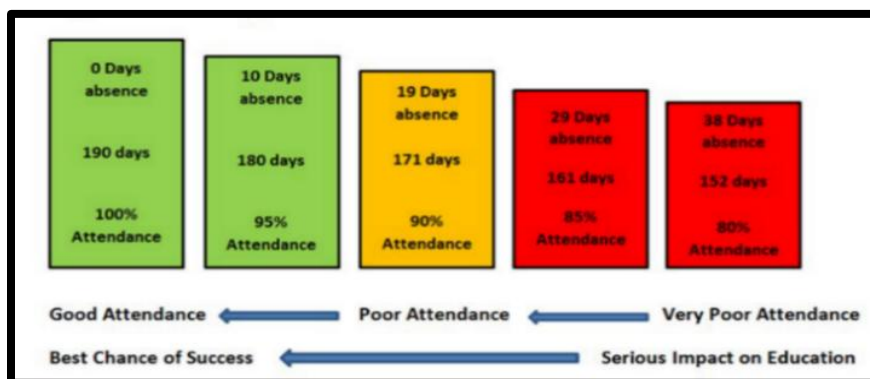
Bullying impacts the lives of many young people and the effects can be long lasting. Adults play a key role in building young people's confidence to speak out, support one another, and stand up to unkind behaviour. This guide offers a way to help youngsters make a positive difference. Please click on 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 may begin to fall behind, as days off will mean lost learning time.



Weekly Attendance

Year	Classes		
N	Acorn 99.7%		
R	Bramley 100%	Gala 100%	
1	Peach 94.9%	Pear 90.2%	
2	Cherry 98.6%	Quince 98.9%	
3	Hazel 96.4%	Walnut 96.3%	
4	Spruce 94.2%	Fir 92.4%	
5	Cedar 93.7%	Mahogany 94.7%	
6	Ash 96.1%	Oak 94.5%	Elm 88.0%



School Target: 95%

Key Dates

EVENT	DATE
World Mental Health Day Assembly	Monday 5 th October
Happy Shoes Day	Tuesday 6 th October
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	Wednesday 14 th October
Year R Autumn Afternoon	Wednesday 14 th October at 2:30pm
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