St Katherine's School & Nursery

Parent Newsletter

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Thursday 15th October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Doesn't time fly when you're having fun!

As always, it has been an action-packed term, beginning with a seamless transition back from the summer holidays and culminating in our first parent consultations of the year to discuss and celebrate the learning that has taken place over the past seven weeks.

I continue to be immensely proud of how our school community grows and develops together. The enthusiasm, commitment and talents of our children never cease to impress me, and there is much to look forward to in the months ahead.



We have several exciting projects on the horizon that will further strengthen our enrichment offer and provide meaningful opportunities for children to share their learning with audiences beyond the school gates. These authentic experiences not only celebrate children's achievements but also provide powerful motivation and help raise aspirations and standards.

Upcoming opportunities include a monthly slot on Five Acre Wood's live radio station, community outreach work with Snodland Football Club and Lower Grange Farm, and the exciting prospect of showcasing our very own pupil artwork in a dedicated display at Snodland's Moonlit Café. Watch this space!

At St Katherine's, our pupils have a voice!

This term, our pupil leadership teams have played a key role in promoting important messages across the school. Our **Wellbeing Warriors** marked World Mental Health Day, encouraging children to recognise their emotions, talk openly and seek support when needed. Our **Community Ambassadors** led a thought-provoking Harvest assembly focused on gratitude and community, inspiring an incredible response from families and supporting the work of Snodland Foodbank. Meanwhile, our **Diversity Ambassadors** delivered a powerful anti-racism assembly, leading the school in a united stand against discrimination and championing the values of inclusion, equality and respect.

Through their assemblies and community work, our ambassadors demonstrated confidence, maturity and a genuine commitment to making a positive difference within our school and beyond.





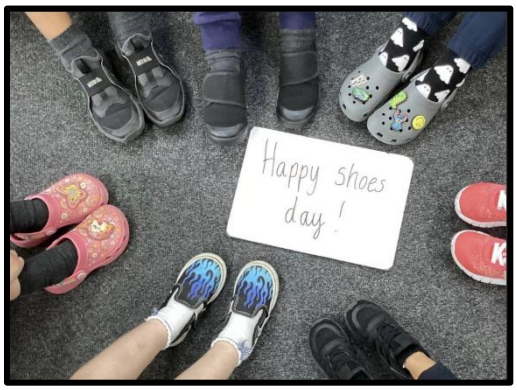




Pupil Voice: *"I love being a Wellbeing Warrior, and helping people understand more about mental health." (Darcy – Year 6)*

Happy Shoes Day

As part of World Mental Health Day, children and staff took part in Happy Shoes Day, wearing bright, colourful and unique footwear to celebrate individuality and spark conversations about wellbeing. Led by our Wellbeing Warriors, the day reminded us that it's okay to be different, that every feeling matters, and that talking about our emotions is an important part of looking after our mental health. The sea of happy shoes across the school created a powerful visual reminder that no one has to face challenges alone.



Podcast Crew Raring to Ride the Airwaves

Our newly formed Podcast Crew recently met with DJ Paul Edwards from Five Acre Wood Radio to discuss an exciting new project that will launch after half term. We are delighted to have secured a regular slot on the station, which broadcasts live to listeners across the local community.

This fantastic opportunity will allow our young broadcasters to share some of the very best moments from life at St Katherine's, while developing valuable communication, interviewing and media skills. From choir performances and poetry readings to pupil interviews and school news, our children will have the chance to reach audiences far beyond the school gates.

Maidstone Radiofawall
— five acre wood school —

To support the project, the school has invested in professional recording equipment, including a Tascam digital audio recorder, giving pupils hands-on experience and ensuring their broadcasts sound as good as they are engaging.



Watch this space as our Podcasters prepare to make their radio debut and bring the voice of St Katherine's to the wider community!

Pupil Voice: *"I am really excited to be on the radio because it's new. I think I will be perfect for the Podcasting group as I am confident. (Caroline – Year 6)*

Learning Through Doing

From Nursery children working together in parachute games to develop coordination, communication and teamwork, to Year 1 Forest School adventures and Year 2's immersive Great Fire of London workshop, practical learning is woven throughout life at St Katherine's. By learning through play, exploration and first-hand experiences, our pupils build confidence, deepen their understanding and develop skills that will last a lifetime.







Reading Raffle Winners

Congratulations to **Zuzia (Year 6), Zaire (Year 3) and Owen (Year 2)**, our latest Reading Raffle winners!

Each month, one child from every class is nominated for demonstrating our school values through their reading, showing **Excellence, Resilience or Responsibility**. Those nominations are then entered into our special reading raffle, with lucky winners earning the chance to choose a book from our much-loved book vending machine.





Well done to all of this month's nominees, and especially to Zuzia, Zaire and Owen. We hope you enjoy your new books and continue to inspire others with your love of reading!

Community News

Glow Disco

Our Glow Disco was a huge success and a real highlight of the term. The children looked fantastic and fully embraced the event, bringing energy and excitement to the evening. Thank you to our PTA for their hard work in organising the disco and to the staff and volunteers who helped supervise throughout. During our recent Parent Voice meeting, parents praised both the organisation of the event and the exemplary behaviour of the children. It was wonderful to share the experience with them and see so many smiling faces.







St Katherine's Top Tots

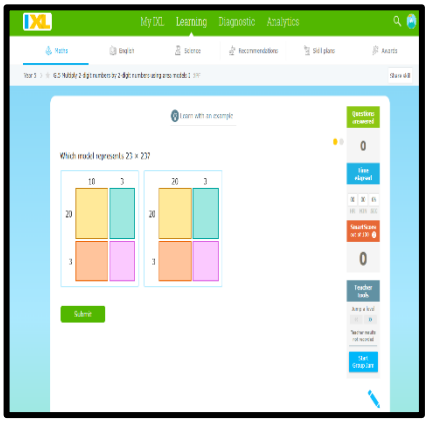
It was wonderful to welcome families from the local community to another Top Tots session this term. A special thank you to Helen from Musical Bumps, who led a fun-filled session of music, movement and singing. The children had a fantastic time, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back again next term, where the focus will be on Christmas messy play, **with a visit from a very special person in red!**



Learning Together Parent Workshop: IXL

Thank you to the parents who joined me for our recent IXL workshop. Following an introduction to the platform, parents had the opportunity to see its impact as both a diagnostic and teaching tool in real time by joining their children in a lesson.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many parents recognising the benefits of IXL and suggesting that the workshop be shared more widely so that other families could also benefit from the information and support provided. It was a fantastic example of how working together can help maximise children's learning both at school and at home.



SEND Coffee Mornings



Thank you to the parents and carers who joined us for our recent SEND Coffee Morning, which focused on our whole-school Zones of Regulation approach. The session explored how we support children in recognising, understanding and managing their emotions, as well as the practical strategies used consistently across the school to promote self-regulation and emotional wellbeing.

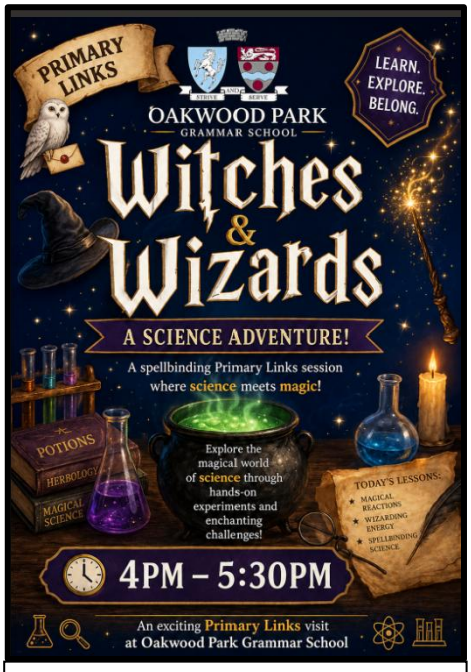
It was a valuable opportunity to share our approach, answer questions and strengthen the partnership between home and school in supporting every child's emotional development.

Local Events

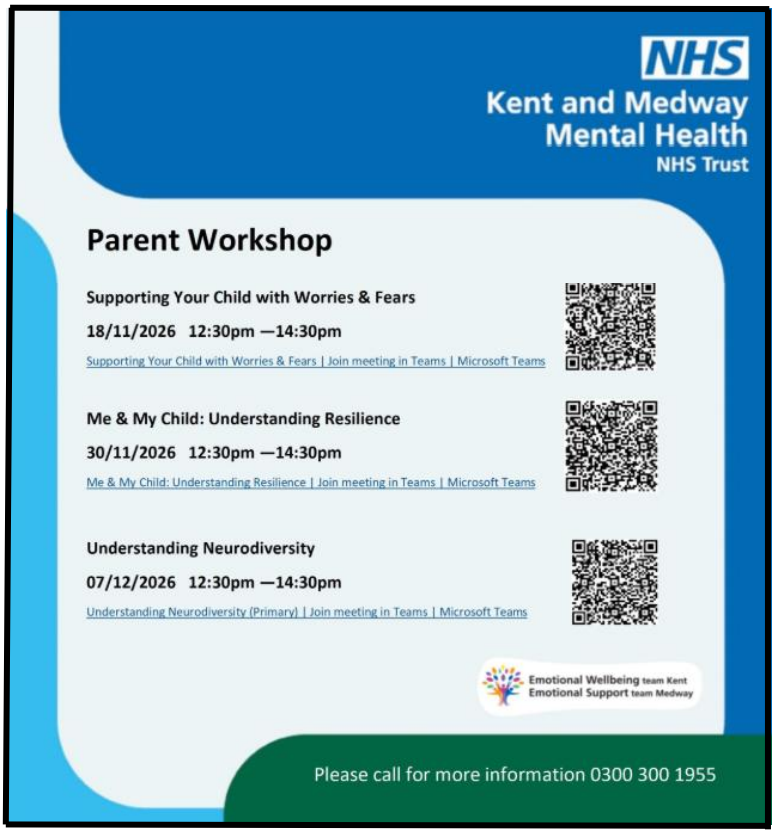








- For Years 4, 5 & 6.
- Tuesday 20th October.
- O reserve a place, please email office@opgs.org



Parent Online Support



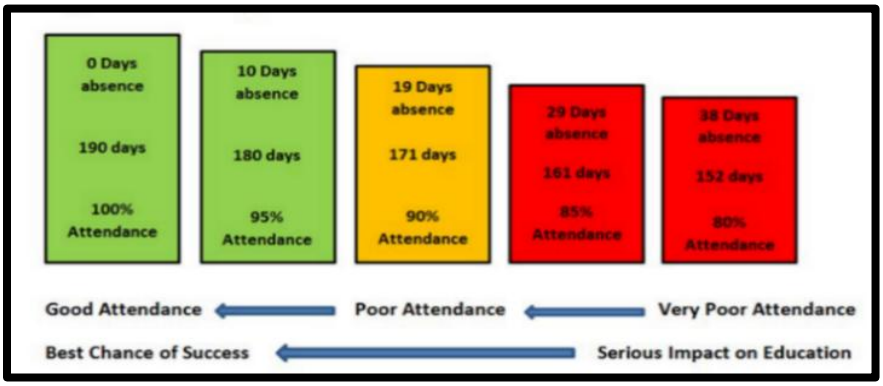
From deepfake videos and cloned voices to fabricated screenshots and fake accounts, it is becoming increasingly difficult to tell what is genuine online. This guide explores how AI-generated content, misinformation and impersonation can affect children and young people, while explaining why polished presentation, familiar voices and repeated claims should never automatically be taken as proof that something is trustworthy.

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 99.0%	
1	Peach 90.5%	Pear 91.2%	
2	Cherry 93.0%	Quince 94.3%	
3	Hazel 96.4%	Walnut 94.7%	
4	Spruce 92.8%	Fir 91.5%	
5	Cedar 92.8%	Mahogany 94.1%	
6	Ash 97.3%	Oak 95.65%	Elm 93.4%



School Target: 95%

Key Dates



Events – Autumn Term 2 2026	
EVENT	**DATE**
Start of Term	*Monday 2nd November*
New Year R *(Intake 2027)* Open Morning	*Tuesday 3rd November 9-10:30am*
Achievement Assembly	*Thursday 5th November at 9:15am*
PTA FriYAY	*Friday 6th November*
Remembrance Day Assembly Year 6 Leading	*Wednesday 11th November*
New Year R *(Intake 2027)* Open Evening	*Thursday 12th November 6-7:30pm*
Odd Socks Day and Anti Bullying Week	*Monday 16th November*
Individual Photographs	*Tuesday 17th November*
Anti-Bullying Week Workshops (Year 1-Year 6)	*Thursday 19th November*
Children in Need	*Friday 20th November*
Last Day of Term	*Friday 18th December*

Have a great half term!

Mr. Lang