St Katherine's School & Nursery

Parent Newsletter

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Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was wonderful to welcome our school community back to St Katherine's following the two-week break. I hope that families were able to enjoy some quality time together, make lasting memories, explore beautiful places or simply take the opportunity to slow down, relax and enjoy a few well-earned lie-ins!

We have an action-packed term ahead, with a wide range of exciting and enriching experiences planned for our children. From memorable learning opportunities and enrichment activities to opportunities for families to come together, there is certainly plenty to look forward to.



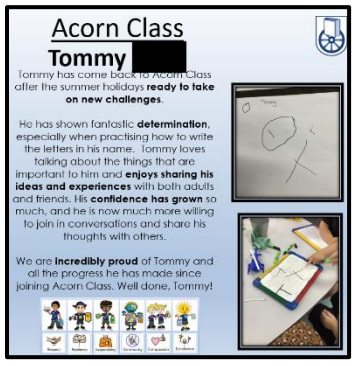
And, whisper it quietly... Christmas is not too far away! Before we know it, we'll be entering the festive season and welcoming families into school for a variety of joyful celebrations and events. It is always a special time of year at St Katherine's, and we look forward to sharing many festive moments with you over the coming weeks.

Awesome Achievement

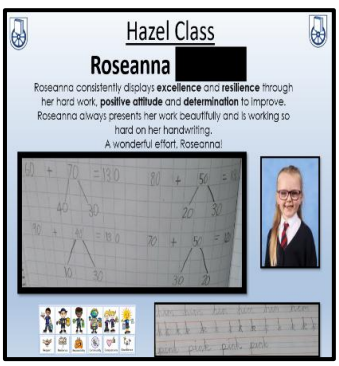
Our recent Achievement Assembly was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our children and welcome families into school to share in their success. It was a chance to recognise not only the achievements of our pupils, but also the invaluable support that parents and carers provide behind the scenes.

Whether children had demonstrated **Excellence** through their learning, shown **Resilience** in overcoming challenges, or embodied **Community** by giving back more than they take, each award reflected the values that make St Katherine's such a special place. The assembly was a reminder of just how much there is to be proud of in our remarkable children.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who gave up their time to attend. Your presence sends a powerful message to your children that their efforts matter, and it helps make these celebrations even more meaningful. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support. Below are some example slides from the presentation.









Pupil Voice: *"I was a little nervous but also excited to show my maths book. I always try hard to make my calculations neat and tidy." (Roseanna – Year 3)*

A Library to Inspire a Lifetime of Reading



At St Katherine's, we know that fostering a love of reading is one of the most important things we can do for our children. Our library is a treasured space at the heart of the school, providing children with opportunities to escape into stories, discover new interests and develop a lifelong passion for books. Thanks to a very generous **£5,000 donation from the PTA**, we have been able to significantly enhance our library provision and continue developing this much-loved learning environment.

Over the half-term break, our library benefited from a major physical refresh, with many new books arriving and hundreds more being unpacked, labelled, sorted and shelved ready for the children's return. A huge thank you to Mrs Wright and Mr Young, whose organisation, dedication and considerable muscle power helped bring everything together. We are also incredibly grateful to our PTA for their continued commitment to the school. Excitingly, they have pledged further funding this year to support the next phase of the library's development, ensuring that this special space continues to inspire generations of young readers to come.



Pupil Voice: *"I really like how the books are displayed and organised and I will try my best to keep it that way!" (Mason – Reading Ambassador)*

Opening our doors to Future Families

This week, we were delighted to welcome a large number of prospective families to our Open Morning as they explored what St Katherine's can offer their children at the start of their primary school journey. It was a pleasure to meet all of the families, especially the children, who were fully of life and curiosity!



Our fantastic School Ambassadors represented the school brilliantly, presenting the school through their own eyes, and confidently leading tours with pride. We were incredibly proud to receive so many positive comments about our learning environment, the excellent learning behaviours of our children and the warm, positive culture that makes St Katherine's such a special place to belong. We look forward to welcoming many more families over the coming weeks.

Pupil Voice: *"I loved talking to the adults. They were very interactive and I was able to tell them about how much I have changed because of my experiences at St Katherine's". (Oliver – School Ambassador)*

Curriculum News

Our teachers continued their professional development this week, working alongside our **STEM specialist** as we further refine our science curriculum through the principles of **Talk for Science** and scientific enquiry. Our aim is simple: to develop curious, active and articulate young scientists who question, explore and make sense of the world around them.

During the training, staff explored new resources and practical strategies to bring scientific concepts to life through discussion, movement, actions and hands-on enquiry. As the photograph shows, there is certainly no shortage of enthusiasm! There is a real buzz around our classrooms when science is being taught, and we look forward to continuing our work with our STEM specialist to ensure that science at St Katherine's remains engaging, practical and inspiring for all of our budding scientists.









Community News

Remembering and Reflecting



As Remembrance Day approaches, our school community has been taking time to reflect on and honour the sacrifices made by those who gave their lives in service to our country. Our Community Ambassadors have been selling poppies at the school gates each morning, and we have been overwhelmed by the support shown by families, with many flocking to purchase poppies in remembrance of those who served.

This year, we are particularly excited to open our Year 6 Remembrance Presentation to the wider school community. Our pupils have been working hard to prepare a thoughtful and moving tribute, and we look forward to sharing this important occasion with families as we come together to remember, reflect and give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy today.



Community Offer – Lower Grange Farm

We are delighted to have established a partnership with Lower Grange Farm, where our children will support conservation projects on the site in the spring term. As the venue for our Year 6 residential visit, we felt it was important that our pupils not only benefit from the opportunities the farm provides, but make a meaningful contribution in return.



This initiative reflects our commitment to our value of Community and our belief that we should leave places better than we found them. By contributing to the upkeep of the farm and its grounds, our children will make a positive impact beyond the school gates while developing a greater sense of responsibility, stewardship and pride in their local community.

A Shared Love of Art



At St Katherine's, we share **Mood Lift Cafe's** passion for celebrating creativity and the arts. We are incredibly grateful for their generosity in providing us with our very own **St Katherine's Wall Gallery**, creating a dedicated space within the café for our children's artwork to be enjoyed by the wider community.

The gallery will be refreshed throughout the year, showcasing a range of pieces that reflect the imagination, talent and hard work of our pupils. Having their artwork displayed in a local venue provides an extra source of motivation and pride for our children, helping them to see themselves as artists whose work deserves to be seen and celebrated.

A huge thank you to Mood Lift Cafe for supporting our school and strengthening the connection between our children and the local community. We look forward to sharing many more wonderful creations with visitors over the coming year.

Sports News



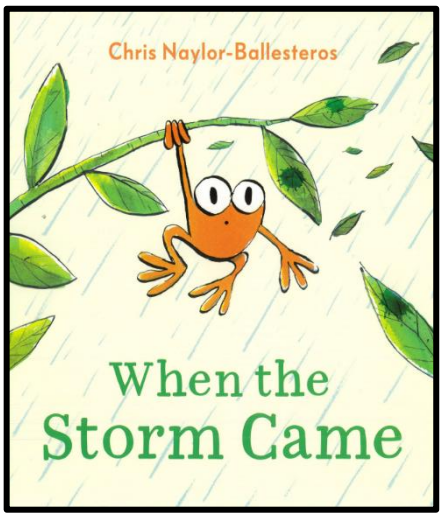
Congratulations to our Boys' Football Team, who recently reached the final of a local competition after a series of impressive performances. The team demonstrated excellent skill, teamwork and determination throughout the tournament, making the entire school community incredibly proud.

In a closely contested final, the boys narrowly missed out on lifting the trophy against Loose Primary School, one of our fellow Coppice Partnership schools. While the result did not quite go our way, the players represented St Katherine's with outstanding sportsmanship and resilience. Reaching the final is a fantastic achievement and one that they should all be immensely proud of.



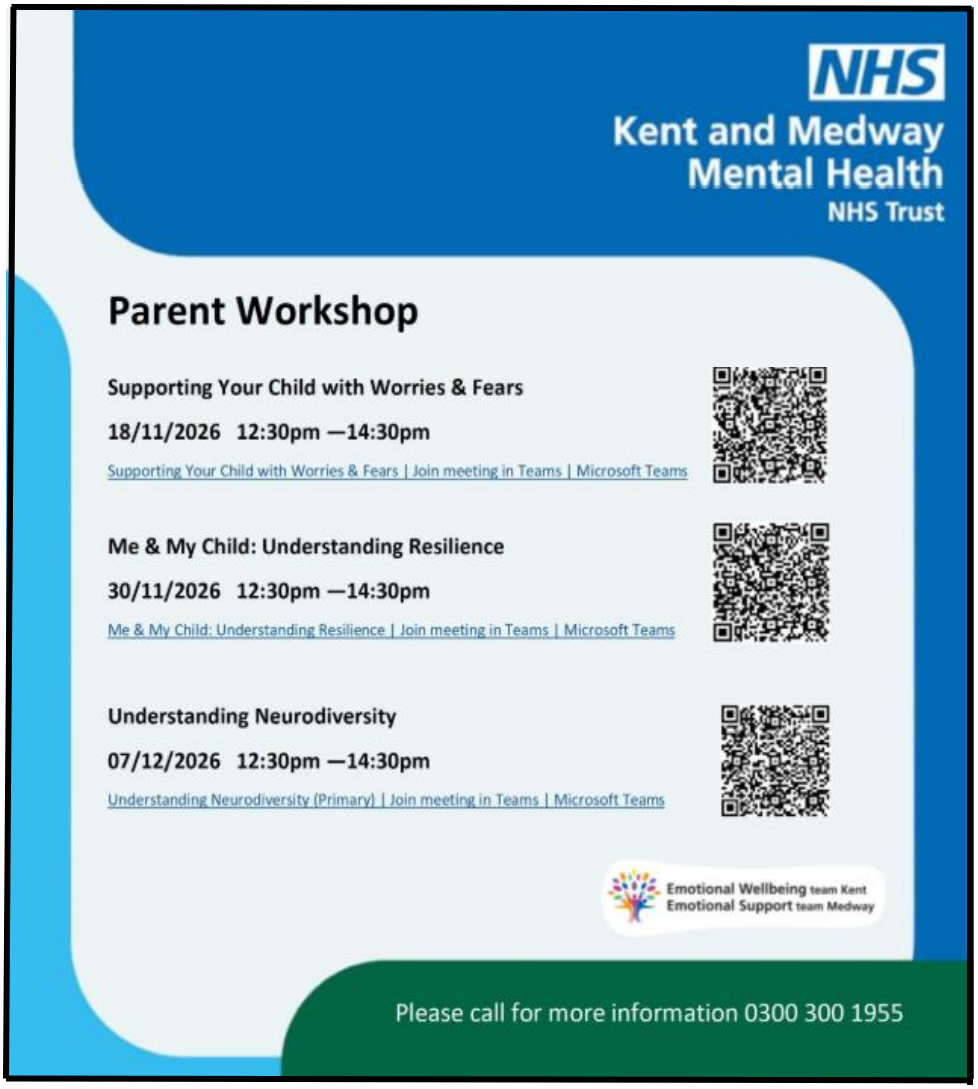
Reflection

In this week's assembly, we explored the wonderful book *When the Storm Came* by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros. Through the story, the children reflected on how easy it can be to make assumptions about people who seem different, and how understanding grows when we choose kindness, curiosity and acceptance over fear.



The assembly linked closely to our school value of **Community**. Together, we discussed how our differences make us stronger and how a thriving community is built when everyone feels welcomed, valued and included. It was a powerful reminder that, just like the characters in the story, we all have something unique to contribute and that we achieve far more when we work together than when we stand apart. Please click on the **link** to access the assembly.

Local Events



Parent Online Support



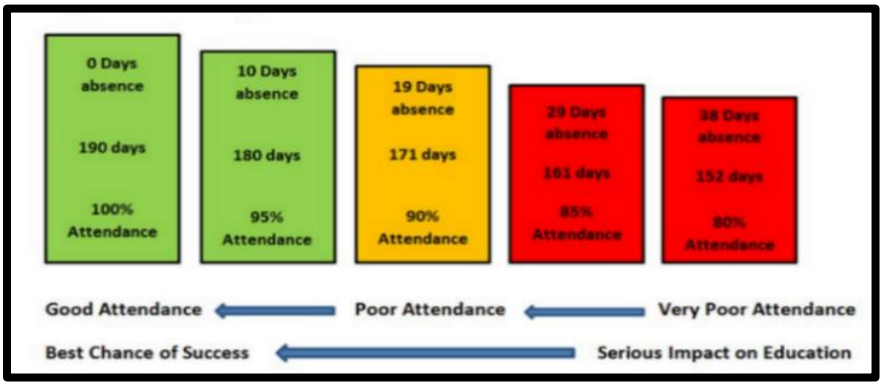
Our Wake Up Wednesday guide explores the risks of advertising aimed at children, including misleading claims, unrealistic beauty standards, inappropriate promotions and pressure to make purchases. It also offers practical advice for parents and educators on helping young people recognise sponsored content, think critically about marketing messages, avoid unintended spending and develop healthier relationships with online advertising.

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 100%		
R	Bramley 100%	Gala 95.5%	
1	Peach 95.2%	Pear 94.8%	
2	Cherry 96.7%	Quince 97.1%	
3	Hazel 91.3%	Walnut 98.0%	
4	Spruce 94.5%	Fir 92.3%	
5	Cedar 91.6%	Mahogany 91.3%	
6	Ash 96.1%	Oak 92.2%	Elm 88.8%



School Target: 95%

Key Dates



Events – Autumn Term 2 2026	
EVENT	**DATE**
Remembrance Day Assembly Year 6 Leading	*Wednesday 11th November*
New Year R *(Intake 2027)* Open Evening	*Thursday 12th November 6-7:30pm*
Children in Need	*Friday 13th November*
Odd Socks Day and Anti Bullying Week	*Monday 16th November*
Individual Photographs	*Tuesday 17th November*
Drama4All Workshops – Blossom Class & Year R children	*Wednesday 18th November*
Anti-Bullying Week Workshops (Year 1-Year 6)	*Thursday 19th November*
Be Bright Be Seen – Road Safety Week	*Monday 23rd November*
Scholastic Book Fair *(Run by Reading Ambassadors in the Library)*	*Monday 23rd – Thursday 26th November*
New Year R *(Intake 2027)* Open Morning	*Thursday 26th November 9-10:30am*
Alvin – Magistrate Talk Year 6	*Friday 27th November -AM*
Snodland Christmas Shed *(Snodland Christmas Fair)*	*Saturday 28th November - 12-5pm*
Snodland Lantern Parade *(Snodland Christmas Fair)*	*Saturday 28th November - 4:30pm*
New Year R *(Intake 2027)* Open Afternoon	*Wednesday 2nd December 1:30pm-3pm*
Christmas Fair	*Saturday 5th December 11-2pm*
Christmas Church Service KS1& KS2 at Christ Church (Children & staff)	*Tuesday 8th December AM*
Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch	*Friday 11th December*
EYFS (Nursery & Year R) Christmas Concert	*Friday 11th December 9:15am*
CRIBS Theatre Performance for EYFS, KS1& KS2	*Monday 14th December 1:30pm & 2:15pm*
KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Christmas Performance	*Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th December*
Christmas Church Service for Parents at All Saints Church	*Tuesday 15th December 6-7pm*
Nursery Christmas Crafts Session with Parents	*Wednesday 16th December 10:45-11:45am*

Have a great weekend!
Mr. Lang