



St Katharine's Knockholt Church of England Primary



Newsletter 6 September 2022

I am delighted to welcome you all to a new academic year at St Katharine's!

It has been lovely to see our youngest children settling in to the newly refurbished Hedgehog classroom that Miss Luckham-Down worked so hard to prepare over the summer holiday and bringing in their teddies for a picnic was a highlight this term.

At the other end of the school, both Badger and Otter classes have been on residential trips this term, giving the children opportunities to stretch their minds and bodies and achieve things they didn't know they were capable of. They came back bolder, braver and walking a little taller and we are very proud of all their accomplishments.

The fellowship that being part of our school brings, is extremely important to us and on Monday, we came together as a school community for our Harvest Festival act of worship. The service provided us with an opportunity to remind ourselves that we have so much to be thankful for and to consider those who are less fortunate than us.



As part of our commitment to ensuring that children at St Katharine's have deep and meaningful connections with different cultures, Year 4 have become pen-pals with a primary school class in Lamin Toube, Gambia. The school is supported by Mrs Bennett's charity, The Children of Gambia Services (C.O.G.S). We look forward to hearing the latest news when Mrs B returns from her annual visit next month.

National Poetry day gave years 1 to 5 the opportunity to learn and recite a poem. There was a wide range – from the silly (Ning, Nang, Nong!) to the profound (The Road Not Taken) and it was wonderful to hear the children's confidence as they performed to the school.

With so much learning going on, the children will be ready for their break and I wish you all an enjoyable holiday and look forward to seeing them back in school ready for another exciting term!

Best wishes Miss Tormey

Hedgehog Class

Hedgehogs have settled in beautifully into life at St. Katharine's in their newly prepared classroom and outside area. We have had lots of fun so far but our most memorable activity this term was our Teddy Bears' Picnic! The children brought in their teddies and toys. We played games, shared a story and, of course, had a picnic! We have also been very active in our PE sessions and we're are loving being

adventurous in Forest School!



Robins Class



Term one provided our Robins Class a fantastic transition from EYFS to key stage 1, learning through a guided play activity carousel each day. They have thrived while learning to be

successful at each activity, working as a team as well as independently.



During poetry week, our Robins presented their first poem recitation. They sang a song 'have patience'. They were truly confident and melodious!



Our Robins are enjoyed exploring mathematical concepts through engaging hands-on. These experiential activities help develop a robust conceptual foundation in place value, addition and subtraction.

budding mathematicians who have

In art, this term children have developed drawing, colouring and printing skills. Their art pieces show their creativity and unique styles.



In computing, this term Robins class learnt the meaning of the word technology and how to use the mouse pad and keyboard to draw, drag and type their names. In

history, children sorted the new and old toys and created a museum of toys. They then touched each toy to understand the material it is made from and to give evidence why they think it is a new toy or from a long time ago.



Phew! We have learnt a lot this term!

Squirrels Class

What a busy term our new Squirrels have had! We are loving our topic of seashores and have virtually visited the beautiful beaches of Cornwall and also weathered a fierce storm (complete with squirry rain!) to help us build a bank of adjectives for our story, The Storm Whale.

In history, we travelled back in time to compare activities and experiences at the seaside over the past 150 years. We loved watching Punch and Judy and in design and technology, we designed and made our own seaside finger puppets.



We learned how to write instructions and turned our classroom into a beach to practise building the perfect sandcastles!



Our writing is developing beautifully and we are all expanding our vocabulary by using wonderful synonyms to create interest in our work. As a reward, we created useful synonym swirls and also made our own edible versions – yum, yum!



Rabbits Class

What a busy term it has been for our Rabbits! We have been busy learning about the Stone Age, from the Ice Age to when Britain became an island, what animals existed in those days, observing tools, understanding how people survived and explored Stone Age cave paintings. We have loved the story of Stone Age Boy and retold our own version as a class.



In science, we have enjoyed studying rocks and using chocolate to model how they form.



In RE, we have explored the story of Noah and showed we could be very sensitive and insightful.

There have been so many changes and challenges for the children moving into Key stage 2. We are delighted of how well they have stepped up, showing us how resourceful, reflective

and resilient they can be. They should be very proud of what they have already achieved.



Owls Class

This term, Owls have been learning about The Romans and Sound. As part of our Roman topic we looked at Pompeii and volcanoes and really enjoyed making our own mini volcanic eruptions. We have also looked at The Roman Army and created a BIG BOOK of our Roman Army reports.



To add to the excitement of the term's activities, we have been lucky this term to start learning the Ukulele, which we are really enjoying.

We are also thrilled to have written letters to the children in The Gambia and we are looking forward to hearing back from them when Mrs Barker and Mrs Bennett return from The Gambia after half term. We have also had a great term finding out about sound. We have learnt about how sound is made and how we hear it. Mrs Follett did a science experiment with the children last week where they made string telephones and tried to send messages to their partners. We used our science knowledge to work out how the string telephone works! Well done scientists!



Otters Class



In Year 5 we have enjoyed learning about Vikings, writing Norse sagas (very gory!) and creating dragon eyes out of clay.

The class poem for National Poetry day was The Road Not Taken, by Robert Frost, which linked to our PSHE learning about the importance of our choices, both big and small, as they shape our journey through life.



Undoubtedly, the highlight of the term was the overnight trip to Bowles Rocks where, in two days, we packed in skiing, low-ropes, climbing, raft-building (and racing), a treasure hunt, team-building games and a campfire with lots of singing! Many thanks to Mrs Walter and Mrs Bennett for coming with us and joining in the fun!



Badgers Class

In Badgers' class we have had a busy start to the year. The children settled into the new routines quickly and have been setting a stellar example for the younger year groups.

We have been exploring the history of Victorian Britain and discussing how social change has varied their lives to those of the children of the era. The children were fascinated when trying to climb through a corrugated cardboard "chimney". Especially as they realised that many Victorian sweeps would have worked in 10-inch chimneys from as young as 7 years old.

In science we are exploring the theory of evolution and inheritance, which matches nicely with our RE topic of Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?

The big excitement for this term, however, was our excursion to Hilltop in Norfolk. The children (and some willing adults) enjoyed a week of High Rope challenges, night time games and delicious food. What a fabulous week it was.



Club News

Gardening Club - Year 1 and 2



Our budding gardeners have been cleaning up the autumn leaves and have planted fenugreek and parsley seeds as well as garlic bulbs. They have observed that each week there was a need to weed their garden so our plants grow well and thrive. They also enjoyed sharing foods with each other that they have grown in their own garden!



Zentangle Club

Miss Tormey's zentangle club is an oasis of calm on Tuesdays after school, where children create miniature abstract works of art by a collection of patterns. We've certainly got some budding artists at St Katharine's!

Cookery Club Year 4

This term cookery club have been focusing on correct and safe cutting of ingredients and have created delicious apple crumbles, couscous salad, flatbreads and biscuits. Parents and siblings seem to have enjoyed the hard work of the club too!



House News

Congratulations to our new Year 6 House and Sports Captains:

Bumble Bees House Captain - Emma

Sports Captain - Dexter

Carder Bees House Captain - Amelie

Sports Captain – Owen

Honey Bees House Captain - Margot

Sports Captain – Charlie

Mason Bees House Captain – Lily B

Sports Captain - Ethan

The House and Sports captains will be planning events and competitions for the whole and we look forward to reporting on these in forthcoming newsletters.



Sports News – there's lots of it!

Football Tuesday 27th September was our first game of the season after only 2 training sessions! We were expecting 2 matches, but one was cancelled as a school had pulled out of the league. With nervous anticipation, we played against Shoreham. We took a total of 9 players and, as each team has 7 players, both our subs got a game. The team quickly gained an early lead in the first half and with growing confidence we scored a second goal. We had a couple of nervous moments, but our goalkeeper kept out the opposition shots. At the final whistle, victory was ours! Well done to the team on their first outing of the season! Thanks to our supportive parents and carers for their encouragement. We will continue to train hard to maintain our record! Mr Nation

Netball We have only had one game this term but our team, which was made up of Year 5s and 4s (because our Year 6s were at Hilltop) of Lauren, Ava, Kitty, Layla, James and Ella were very nervous when they stepped onto the court to play against Weald, particularly as we are a very new team. Despite losing the first match they did an amazing job and in the second game the team managed to hold Weald to just 4 goals. The team were learning all the time and were very excited by the whole experience.



We are now working on our skills and, along with our returning Year 6s, we are looking forward to our match in November.

Aqua Splash! 6 children from Year 3 and 6 from Year 4 had a great time at Sevenoaks School last week. The Aqua Splash afternoon introduced them to how swimming galas are run. Well done to Tabitha - 1st in her race and David - 3rd in his. The children also got to try water polo and other water-based activities and a great – if wet – time was had by all. Thanks to Mrs Calafati and Mrs Brooker for accompanying them.

Swimming After the disappointing news in the summer term about the demise of our pool, we are delighted that our Year 5s will start swimming in November in the 25-metre pool at the Sennocke Centre (Sevenoaks School). We are sure they will enjoy their lessons in this impressive facility.



Forest School Year 2 were excited to be the first class to venture back into Forest School this year with Mrs Wilson. It certainly looks as if they were enjoying their learning!





Tag Rugby

Last week, Charlie, Mattie, Dexter, Toby, Jacob, Ethan, Owen, Heidi, Poppy and Margot represented St Katharine's in the Sevenoaks Partnership Tag Rugby Tournament at Knole Paddock. We were placed in Group 1 with four other teams and quickly warmed up and prepared for the first match of the afternoon vs Edenbridge. The children immediately showed their pace and skill quickly accelerating to a 4-0 lead. Subs were made and a short period of readjustment allowed Edenbridge to score quickly: 4-1. However, St K's soon returned the favour and re-established their 4 point buffer. As the clock went into the red,

Edenbridge managed to score via their rapid winger to finish a great match 5-1 to St Katherines. A quality match played with the right spirit and no shortage of skill. St Katherines used this momentum in their next two matches, winning 4-3 against Shoreham and 3-2 against St Johns.

In the final group match we came up against local favourites, Amherst. St K's performed amazingly and held the game to 0-0 for the opening few plays. Finally, the breakthrough came for Amherst with 2 quick tries for their speedy centre. They didn't let this get to them and quickly replied with some dancing feet from Mattie and Toby before the score to close the gap to one. Unfortunately, this inspired Amherst to score twice more before a final try from St K's brought the game to an end at 2-4 in Amherst's favour.

The result placed St Katherine's in 2nd place for Group 1 and into the Ball Trophy last round. Our opponents: Otford and Chevening. First up, Otford. The game started and quickly one player for Otford stood out. The speedy winger scored 3 times in quick succession to the awe of the spectators. Despite valiant defence from the St K's team, a fourth score soon followed. 0-4. However, some strong running and silky passing showed the talent in St K's squad. 1-4, was the comeback on?

Strong defence forced the turnover and St Katherine's scored again. 2-4, the spectators were starting to believe. Another try, 3-4. The children played their hearts out but unfortunately couldn't do enough to rein Otford back in and they scored once more on the whistle to finish the match 3-5 to Otford.

With no time to reflect, the children stepped up and showed their positive spirit by taking on the challenge of Chevening. A fantastic match of back-and-forth rugby left the game 3-3 with one minute to go and the ball in St Katherine's hands. Brilliant running and positive passing got the team to within a few metres of the try line as the clock ticked into the red. A strong run and dive to the corner looked as though the game had been won... Unfortunately, the player had fallen into touch and the try didn't stand. The final score 3-3. Our hopes for the trophy were gone.

At the awards ceremony St Katherine's and Chevening drew again. Joint 5th in a tournament of over 20 teams. Our only two loses of the day went to the overall champions, Amherst, and the Ball Trophy Champions, Otford.

A huge well done to the whole team on a colossal effort and for playing in the right spirit.

For any children interested in starting rugby outside of school, the local sides of Westcombe Park (Orpington) and Sevenoaks, are always looking for players. Have a look on their websites and you should find the contact details for the appropriate age groups.

Mr Freeman

PTA News

Our PTA Committee had an outstanding year last year, offering St Katharine's some wonderful events for the children to enjoy. In the process, and with your generous support, they raised £8609.78 to benefit all the children at the school today, and in years to come. Alongside welcoming our new Chair of the PTA, Fay Hill, we would like to thank Louise Dancy for her brilliant work and dedication to the role over these last four years.

At their first committee meeting the PTA discussed lots of exciting festive events to incorporate both children and families alike for the up-and-coming Christmas period. Fay's main aim is to fundraise, whilst reigniting the social family element of our school, which was dented during Covid. Along with the PTA, Fay would love to welcome anyone who would like to join them, either as a fully-fledged committee member or simply as a 'friend of the PTA' to help out at the occasional event. If you feel that you can offer a little of your time, please do contact them via stkpta@gmail.com



We love working with you to give our children the best possible educational experience and, in particular, are looking for "Reading Champions" – volunteers to come and hear children read 1:1. If you would be interested in doing this – training can be provided - please contact Mrs Veneziani on xantheveneziani@knockholt.kent.sch.uk

Dates for your diary ...

Date	Event
Thursday 20 th October	Last day of term 1
Friday 21 st October	INSET day – staff training
Monday 31 st October	First day of term 2 Year 6 Bikeability Training
Tuesday 1 st November	'Flu vaccinations Year R-6
Wednesday 2 nd November	Parent meetings
Thursday 3 rd November	Parent meetings
Monday 7 th November	Year 5 swimming at Sevenoaks School (10 weeks)
Wednesday 9 th November	2.45-3.20pm Phonics/early reading presentation for Year R and Year 1 parents/carers
Wednesday 23 rd November	Year 3 Stone Age Day at Museum of Kent Life
Monday 7 th December	Pantomime – Jack and the Beanstalk
Friday 16 th December	Last day of term 2
Tuesday 3 rd January	INSET day – staff training
Wednesday 4 th January	First day of term 3 – children in school

St Katharine's Knockholt CEPS

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