

St Katherine's Church of England Primary School

Hilton Road, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 9QA

E-mail: admin@st-katherines.essex.sch.uk

Tel: 01268 685611

Head Teacher: Mrs A Taylor



Fax: 01268 685656

Deputy Head: Mrs P Everest

Newsletter 11, Friday 5th December 2025

'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12:31)

Dear Parents and Friends,

We hope you all had a lovely long weekend and enjoyed St Katherine's Day. It always feels like such a treat, particularly at such a busy time of the year.

Life at school continues to be very busy, especially with all of the preparations taking place for our Christmas celebrations and performances. Last week was also UK Parliament week and children across the school enjoyed taking part in various activities that helped them to learn a little more about what Parliament is. Our Year 6 class also visited the Houses of Parliament on Tuesday of this week and from what I have been told, it was an amazing day. They were even greeted by our local MP Dame Rebecca Harris and she gave them an additional session at the end of their tour, which was unexpected but extremely valuable. The children had some excellent questions for her, perhaps some future MPs in our midst!

On Monday of this week, we welcomed Bishop Guli back to St Katherine's. It was a very interesting session where Bishop Guli explained the symbolism behind each part of the clothing and accessories she wears. Well done to Riley for agreeing to be dressed as our very own St Katherine's bishop – you looked great!

On Tuesday of this week, we welcomed Richard Keeler, from Thundersley Congregational Church, back to lead assembly for children from Year 1 through to 6. Another very exciting worship that children as always thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to Richard for the time that he gives to the children of St Katherine's.

Tuesday was also the morning of our Reception phonics workshop. Parents were able to see a live phonics session take place and then take part in some activities following the session. Another extremely valuable session. Thank you to Mrs Hargis for her organisation of this event.

Our wonderful Nursery children performed to parents on Thursday and kicked off the Christmas celebrations with their wonderful songs. A very big thank you to Mrs Still and the Nursery team for their organisation of this event. It is always so lovely to hear Christmas songs being sung by our youngest children. I had a sneak peak on Monday of this week and I was amazed at how confident they were!

Following a shorter assembly for certificates this morning, children quickly returned to class for a live assembly presented from Antarctica! This was a once-in-a-lifetime live broadcast from Antarctica with Robert Swan OBE, and Jenny Cooke, co-founder of the 2041 school charity. Streamed 600 miles from the South Pole, Rob shared stories from the ice, the importance of protecting our planet's frozen continent, and inspired young people everywhere to become champions for Antarctica!

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12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

We are fully in the swing of our 12 days of Christmas attendance challenge! With prizes being given for each day of attendance, including house tokens, stickers, biscuits, no homework pass, sit next to a friend in class for the day, bring a small mascot for your desk etc. Lots to look forward to. If children manage all 12 days, there will be an extra special prize on the last day which will be communicated to parents nearer the time!

CHRISTMAS PHOTOS

The deadline for Christmas photos was 9am this morning, however, we will leave it open until 9am on Monday morning, at which point it will be removed from the school shop so I can start to send out the photos to everyone. Thank you for your support.

MESSY CHURCH

A reminder that it is Messy Church on Saturday with two sessions available. The first starts at 10.30am until 12pm. The second starts at 1pm until 2.30pm. All welcome.

SCHOOL TOURS

We are still offering individual school tours if you know of anyone looking for a school place for their child, either for Nursery or Reception. We also have some limited spaces in other year groups.

JOINT YEAR 5/6 SERVICE

On Friday 12th December, children in Year 5 and 6 will be attending a joint service at St Nicholas Church, alongside St Joseph's RC Primary School. It has been tradition for many years for our two schools to get together at this special time of year to celebrate the start of Christmas. Parents are invited to attend this service. It will start at 2pm and last for approximately 30-45 minutes. Children can be picked up straight from church by parents, however, any children not picked up, will promptly walk back to school.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOL - MESSAGE FROM SKAPA

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're always looking for simple ways to boost school funds, and EasyFundraising is one of the easiest! When you shop online through EasyFundraising, retailers donate to our school—at no extra cost to you. Some of the retailers which are on the platform, Sainsburys, Argos, Amazon, Morrisons & Boots to name a few.

*For example, Buying a Switch for Chrstmas from Argos, through this portal, St Katherines would receive up to a **£11.60 donation**.*

Its free to participate in this scheme, the link is below, please pass round your friends & family.

👉 Join here: <https://www.easypfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-katherines-parents-association>

Team SKaPA

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CHRISTMAS FAYRE – MESSAGE FROM SKAPA

Hello Everyone.

Christmas is soon approaching and as always, we can't wait to celebrate with you all.

This year the Christmas Fete will be held on the last day of term 18th December 3:20-5:30 When we're full of the festive spirit and ready to celebrate.

Please come support the School and your children.

Tickets to see Father Christmas are on sale now. But places are limited so please get booked asap.

With the ticket they see the big man, get to decorate a ginger bread man, check if they are on the nice list and get to make some reindeer food.

There will be all the usual games plus some new ones and great prizes for the children to choose.

Plus as always some delicious refreshments.

This is a cash only event!!!!

Thank you as always for your ongoing support. It is always so very much appreciated

SKaPA

USEFUL INFORMATION:

Online safety

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

CEOP

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Childline

Information for parents / families: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/home-families/>

FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY CHECK

Should your financial circumstances have changed recently, you may be entitled to apply for free school meals for your child. Should you feel you may be eligible, please complete the form which can be found on the following link

<https://www.stkatherinesprimary.com/free-school-meals/> . If you would like the school to complete the check on your behalf or you have any questions, please contact Mrs Dillway, our Pupil Administrator.

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SCHOOL DINNER MENU **WEEK BEGINNING 08.12.25**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pizza	PANTO DAY – LIMITED MENU Ham OR Cheese Baguette Bag of crisps	Gammon Roast	Meatballs	Fish Fingers
		Quorn Roast	Vegetarian Meatballs	Vegetable Nuggets
Pizza Toppings Seasonal Vegetables Coleslaw		Yorkshire Puddings Potatoes Seasonal Vegetables	Pasta Seasonal Vegetables	Chips Seasonal Vegetables
Jacket Potato check Eduspot for availability		Jacket Potato check Eduspot for availability	Jacket Potato check Eduspot for availability	Jacket Potato check Eduspot for availability
Brownies & Cream	Christmas Biscuit	Jelly & Cream	Muffins	Pancakes & Syrup

CALENDAR	WEEKLY ATTENDANCE 27 th November – 4 th December	
6 th Dec Messy Church	Reception	94.29%
9 th Dec Pantomime at Towngate – late return	Year 1	96.67%
11 th Dec Christmas Jumper Day	Year 2	96.21%
11 th Dec Mayor's Christmas Concert AM for Year 5	Year 3	93%
11 th Dec Christmas Production led by Year 3 with Years 1 to 6 singing 1.30pm	Year 4	94.38%
12 th Dec Christmas Production led by Year 3 with Years 1 to 6 singing 9.30am	Year 5	99%
12 th Dec Years 5/6 Ecumenical Service with St Joseph's at St Nicholas Church – parents invited	Year 6	97.5%
14 th Dec 6.30pm Carol Service at St Nicholas – choir to sing	Total for the school	95.97%
15 th Dec Reception Nativity at Church – parents Invited		
15 th Dec Years 4, 5 and 6 Carols at Church 2pm – parents invited		
16 th Dec Christmas Dinner Day		
17 th Dec Rocksteady Concert		
18 th Dec Christmas Fayre after school		
19 th Dec SCHOOL CLOSED		

I wish you all a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Mrs Anne-Marie Taylor