



Autumn Term 1 at Katherines

Head's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new half term at Katherines Primary Academy! It's been wonderful to see the children settling so confidently into their new classes. There's a real sense of focus and enthusiasm around the school, with pupils engaging in their learning and already achieving great things. We're especially proud of the respectful relationships being nurtured in classrooms and across the playground, helping to build a strong and supportive school community. It truly feels like we are rebuilding and reconnecting in the best possible way.

A huge thank you to all our families for your generosity during our recent foodbank fundraising efforts. Your kindness has made a real difference, and we're proud to be part of a school community that cares so deeply. A special congratulations goes to Boyan Slat Class, who raised the most—well done!

We'd also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Katherines PTA for organising such fantastic Halloween discos. They were incredibly well supported, brilliantly organised, and the children had an amazing time – it was a real highlight of the half term!

As we head into the half term break, we hope you all enjoy a restful and safe week. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 3rd November, refreshed and ready for more learning and fun ahead.

Mrs Harman

Across the school

Nursery- Alex Deans

This term, we welcomed our new friends into Nursery! We focused on settling into our new environment and routines, and on building strong relationships with our teachers and friends. We explored the change in seasons, noticing the fallen leaves and the beautiful variety of autumnal colours. For homework, we went on an autumn hunt and brought in conkers, leaves, and pinecones. We also received a ginormous pumpkin that weighed 38kg! In Maths, we compared the biggest and smallest pumpkins, using size language to describe and discuss what we noticed. We strengthened our fine and gross motor skills by tapping and hammering it and then investigated our pumpkins by scooping out the insides — we discovered that they felt sticky and slimy!

One of the highlights of this term was our **Mystery Mum** activity. After reading the book *My Mum is Fantastic!* We invited our lovely Mummies and Nanas to come and read a story and share their special hobbies with us.



Reception-Ellie Simmonds

What an exciting first half term it has been in Reception! The children in Ellie Simmonds Class have settled into their new environment beautifully, learning new routines and expectations with enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of the way they have embraced this new chapter.

The children have made new friends and are learning to explore and use the provision independently to support and extend their learning. They have shown great curiosity as they navigate their new classroom and outdoor environment.

This term, Reception has begun learning to read, starting with Set 1 letter sounds. They have been introduced to Fred the Frog, who helps them blend sounds into words – a key skill in early reading. Our class love stories and are always eager to take books home to share with their families. Our focus texts this term have been *Pumpkin Soup* and *The Paper Dolls*. The children have enjoyed retelling these stories orally using actions and character toys. They even had a go at changing the characters to create their own imaginative versions.

In maths, we've been exploring patterns and numbers to 3. The children have been busy spotting patterns in the world around them. Using paint and other materials, they were able to create simple AB patterns of their own.

During child-initiated learning time, we've seen amazing creativity and teamwork. The children have built trains, houses, obstacle courses – and even a nail salon – using the large construction materials. These opportunities not only develop problem-solving skills, but also support social learning, as the children practise taking turns, sharing, and making compromises.

It has been a fantastic start to the year, and we're so excited to continue our learning adventure in Autumn 2!



Year 1 - Louis Braille

This term, the children have worked extremely hard to write their own version of 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' and 'Mr Gumpy's Outing,' while exploring the importance of capital letters, full stops and finger spaces in their writing! In mathematics this term, we have been exploring place value and addition and subtraction to 10, learning about how to count and compare using a range of techniques as well as deepening our knowledge on numbers.

In computing we have been exploring how to paint using technology. Children have been learning about the different tools available as well as gaining inspiration from a range of different artists, to decide whether they enjoy painting using technology or not.

Additionally, in art we have been looking at different styles of drawing using a range of drawing mediums to create various art pieces.

For history, we have been learning about toys in the past and how toys have changed over the past 100 years! Children have been looking at the materials that toys were made from and whether they prefer toys from the past or present! In science we have been exploring what objects and materials are. We conducted a scientific experiment to see what properties the materials have! Alongside materials we have been exploring Autumn, children have been learning about the four seasons and what changes to our environment we find in Autumn.



Year 2-Billy Monger

What a wonderful beginning to the year it's been for Billy Monger Class! The pupils have adjusted smoothly to being back at school and have been putting in exceptional effort across all subjects.

This term, the children have been busy exploring creativity and technology. In art, they have designed their own maps showing their journey to school, experimenting with abstract map

designs to express their routes in imaginative ways. In computing, the class has been learning about information technology, discovering the different types of technology they see in everyday life outside of school and how it is used around the world.



Year 3-Boyan Slat

What a fantastic start to the year it has been for Boyan Slat Class! The children have settled back into school life brilliantly and have been working incredibly hard across all areas of learning.

In maths, we have been focusing on number and place value as well as addition and subtraction. The children have been practising the column method, making sure their columns are set out neatly and that they are exchanging where needed.

In English, we have been reading *Dougal's Deep Sea Diary* and using it as inspiration for our own writing. We've explored prepositions, expanded noun phrases, and speech punctuation, all leading up to writing our very own diary entries. The children have loved diving into Dougal's underwater adventures and creating imaginative stories of their own!

In history, we have travelled back in time to the Stone Age! The children have been exploring what life was like during the different eras of this period and learning about how humans lived, hunted, and built shelters. They have enjoyed comparing life in the Stone Age to how we live today and imagining what it might have been like to be a Stone Age child!

Thank you for your generous donations to the Harvest Festival! As a class, we contributed the most and won a special voucher from our PTA- Katherines Connected. Here are the wonderful books we chose to purchase! Thank you for your support.



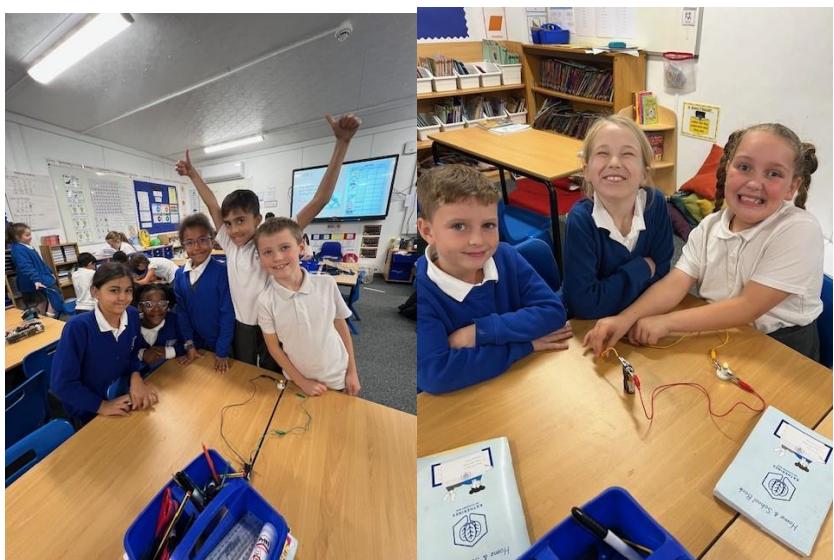
Year 4 –Greta Thunberg

The children in Greta Thunberg Class have settled brilliantly into the new half term, showing enthusiasm and curiosity in all their learning. A huge thank you to all the parents for supporting the children with their times tables — the hard work is really paying off as they continue to make great progress towards their formal check in June. Their determination shone through recently when we proudly won the *Times Tables Rockstars* Battle against Latton Green Primary! The teamwork and energy that day were simply fantastic.

In English, we've been busy writing a magical portal story, an informative explanation text, and even some imaginative poetry. Many children are now showing beautifully joined handwriting and are close to earning their Pen Licence — these will be awarded after the holidays!

Our history lessons have taken us back to the Stone Age, and we're very excited about our upcoming curriculum day at Thorndon Country Park, where we'll experience life as real cavemen for the day. In science, we've had plenty of "wow" moments while learning about electricity. The children have built circuits, explored how switches work, and discovered what happens when a circuit is broken.

It's been a busy and exciting few weeks filled with creativity, teamwork, and curiosity. The children have worked incredibly hard and are well deserving of a restful half-term break to recharge their batteries. Well done, Greta Thunberg Class — we're so proud of you!



Year 4 / 5-Anne Frank

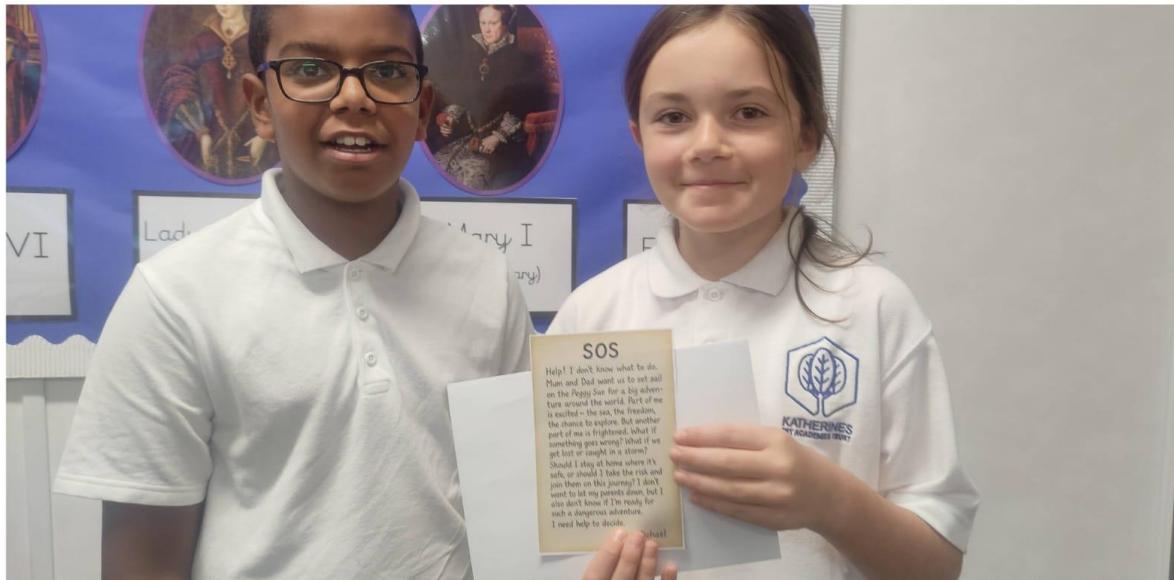


This half term, Anne Frank Class has been on a fantastic learning journey, filled with creativity, curiosity, and discovery! In maths, the children have mastered numbers up to one million and tackled challenging addition and subtraction of five-digit numbers, even when multiple exchanges made them think hard. In English, imaginations soared as everyone wrote their own magic portal stories, transporting readers to unique worlds full of adventure and wonder. They also became persuasive writers, crafting thoughtful balanced arguments to help a boy named Michael decide whether he should embark on an exciting voyage aboard the ship Peggy Sue.

For history, the class travelled back to the dramatic world of the Tudors, exploring the fascinating reign of Henry VIII and uncovering the stories of his six wives. During computing, they learned how to stay safe online and began an exciting video production project, experimenting with different camera angles and recording techniques to bring their creative ideas to life.

In RSE, the children took part in meaningful discussions about social media, thinking about how comparing ourselves to others online can sometimes affect our confidence and self-esteem.

Science has been especially exciting this term! The class has been busy investigating forces, carrying out fun and hands-on experiments to understand how friction, air resistance, and water resistance work. They tested how toy cars move on different surfaces, designed and dropped their own parachutes to explore air resistance, and even built boats of various shapes to discover which design travels most smoothly through water. Their curiosity, teamwork, and scientific thinking have truly shone through every investigation!



Year 6-Malala Yousafzai

Year 6 is an important year where children both prepare to succeed in their Sats tests whilst also preparing to make the step up to the next stage of their educational journey at secondary school. But that is all a long way off!

It's been lovely to see so many of the class applying for positions of responsibility with the successful candidates being appointed Pupil Advocates and play leaders and, after a democratic vote, class representative Members of Katherines Parliament.

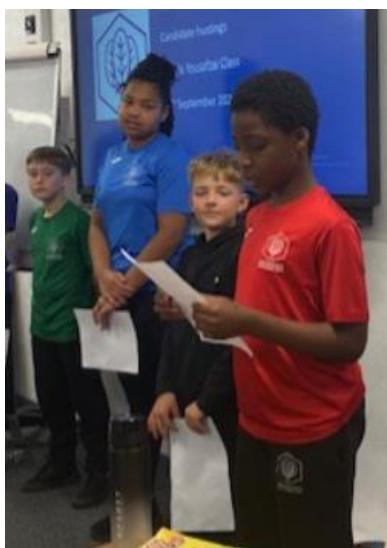
Learning-wise, Malala Yousafzai class have begun the year well and are developing their independent thinking skills. In maths, the children have been revisiting place value and are now working on strategies to help them answer questions using all four operations – especially long multiplication and long division!

In English, the children started the term investigating the life (so far) of Malala Yousafzai – who the class is named after – and writing a biography. We then enjoyed reading the classic book ‘The Wolves in the Walls’ and the children had great fun writing their own version of the story with their own choice of animal and location.

The children have enjoyed being historians learning about the Tudor period with a particular focus on Henry VIII who was famous for having six wives but there is so much more to his story than that as the children have been finding out. I don’t think he has made a favourable impression on them!

In science, we have been learning about forces. The children have enjoyed investigating friction and wind resistance through practical activities by dragging objects across different surfaces using a newton-metre and making and dropping parachutes.

They have made a great start to the year in the other curriculum subjects too – from PE to music – and will hopefully rise to the many challenges as they move through Year 6.



What to do

Advice on childhood illnesses

-  Go to school; if needed, get treatment as required
-  Some restrictions for school attendance
-  Don't go to school and see the GP

What it's called?	What it's like	Going to school	Getting treatment	More advice
Asthma flare up	Worsening of usual symptoms	 	Follow your care plan	Stay off school if feeling too unwell
Chicken pox	Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters		Pharmacy	Back to school five days after on-set of the rash, or when all lesions are crusted over
Common cold	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Conjunctivitis	Teary, red, itchy, painful eye(s)		Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading*
Flu	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache, body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene*
German measles/ Rubella	Fever, tiredness. Raised, red, rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards		GP	Back to school four days after the rash has started, if feeling well enough. Please let the school know, as pregnant members of staff may be affected.
Glandular fever	High temperature, swollen glands, sore throat; usually more painful than any before		GP	*
Hand, foot & mouth disease	Fever, sore throat, headache, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet)		GP	Attend school while monitoring symptoms
Head lice	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)		Pharmacy	
Impetigo	Clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness		GP	Back to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics
Measles	Fever, cough, runny nose, watery inflamed eyes, rash		GP	Back to school four days from on-set of rash, and if feeling well enough
Ringworm	Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy, rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty		Pharmacy	
Scabies	Itching rash, commonly between fingers, wrists, elbows, arm		GP	Back to school after first treatment
Scarlet fever	Fever, unwell, red tongue, sandpaper rash		GP	Exclusion period during first 24 hours of antibiotics*
Shingles	Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister-type rash		GP	Only stay off school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Sickness bug/ diarrhoea	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea		Pharmacy	Contact GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours
Threadworms	Intense itchiness around anus		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Tonsilitis/ Strep throat	Intense sore throat for more than 1 day		Pharmacy	See GP if temperature lasts more than 48 hours or cannot swallow. Only need to stay off school if feeling too unwell
Whooping cough	Violent coughing, with a 'whoop'		GP	Exclusion period during first five days of antibiotics
Covid				Visit www.nhs.uk for latest guidance

*Attend school while monitoring symptoms.

This information is a guide and has been checked by health professionals. If you are unsure about your child's wellbeing, we recommend you contact your pharmacy or GP to check.

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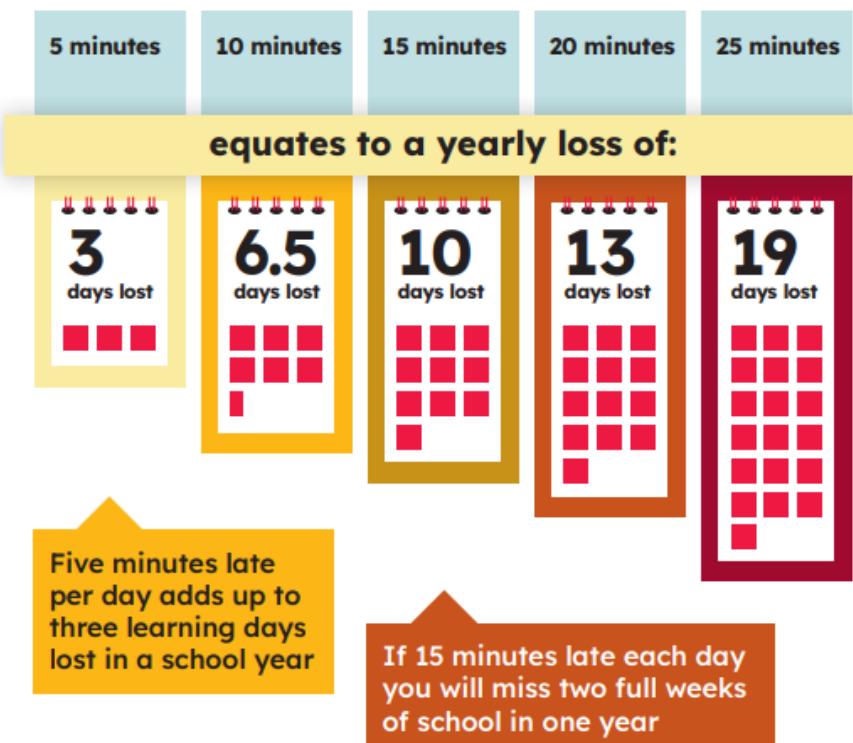
Should my child go to school/nursery today?
 Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together for further information
<https://www.hwehealthiertogther.nhs.uk/parentscarers>

HERO



Here, every day, ready and on time

Minutes lost per day



Poor timekeeping means less chance of success!

Attendance

Good attendance increases a child's academic success and improves their life opportunities.

Our whole school target for attendance this year is **96.5%**.