



Autumn Term 1 at Katherines

Head's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new half term at Katherines Primary Academy! It has been wonderful to see the children settling so confidently into their classes. There is a real sense of focus, enthusiasm and positivity around the school, with pupils engaging well in their learning and already achieving great things. We are especially proud of the respectful relationships being nurtured in classrooms and across the playground, helping to build a strong and supportive school community.

We are also delighted to announce that classes have voted for their MKP representatives to serve on the Katherines Parliament. We look forward to working with our newly elected members and hearing their ideas, opinions and suggestions as they represent the views of their classmates and contribute to the continued development of our school.

A particular highlight this half term was our Great Athlete Event, where we were fortunate to welcome former Commonwealth Games gymnast Steve Frew. Steve inspired the children with his achievements, determination and message about the importance of perseverance, resilience and leading a healthy lifestyle. Thanks to the incredible support of our families and wider school community, we raised an amazing £2,824 through sponsorship. This fantastic amount will be used to enhance PE provision across the school through the purchase of new resources and equipment, helping us to continue improving physical education opportunities for all our pupils. Thank you for your generosity and support in making the event such a success.

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 2nd November, refreshed and ready for another exciting half term of learning and achievement.

Mrs Harman

Across the school

Nursery- Alex Deans

This term in Nursery, we have had a wonderful start to the year as we welcomed our new friends and settled into our classroom routines. We have been busy building relationships with our teachers and friends while exploring our exciting learning environment. Our topic has been Autumn, and we have enjoyed learning about the seasonal changes around us. We observed how leaves change colour from green to beautiful shades of red, orange, yellow, and brown. We talked about the signs of Autumn and explored different leaves, noticing their colours, shapes, and textures.

In Literacy, our core text was *Incredible You*. Through this story, we learnt that we are all unique and special and that we can be anything we want to be when we grow up. The children enjoyed sharing their ideas about future jobs and talking about their own talents and interests. In Maths, we focused on sorting and grouping objects in different ways. The children sorted items by colour, size, shape, and type, developing their observation and reasoning skills through fun practical activities. We also enjoyed lots of exciting pumpkin activities. We explored pumpkins of different sizes, using mathematical language such as big, small, bigger, and biggest. We investigated what pumpkins looked and felt like inside and discovered that the flesh and seeds were sticky and slimy! One of our favourite experiences was making pumpkin soup together. The children helped prepare the ingredients and enjoyed talking about the smells, textures, and changes that happened during cooking. Throughout the term, we have continued to develop our fine and gross motor skills through a variety of hands-on activities, and we are very proud of how well the children have settled into Nursery and embraced new experiences. We look forward to another exciting term of learning and discovery!



Reception-Ellie Simmonds

We are very proud of the way the children have settled into their new class and adapted to the routines and expectations of Reception. Throughout the day, the children have plenty of opportunities to learn through play, alongside short, focused teaching sessions on the carpet. They have thoroughly enjoyed the stories we have shared and used as a basis for learning. *The Enormous Turnip*, *Owl Babies* and *Pumpkin Soup* have become favourites.



A key focus this half term has been learning the Set 1 phonics sounds. The children take part in a daily phonics lesson and have worked hard to recognise letter sounds and begin writing them. We practise holding pencils correctly and forming letters accurately, with support from adults when needed. Each session also includes oral blending activities with Fred the Frog, helping the children to develop their early reading skills.



In maths, the children have been learning to recognise quantities to four without counting, a skill known as subitising. They have also practised showing numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 quickly using their fingers. Each day includes activities to strengthen fine motor skills, as well as lots of opportunities for exercise and movement to support the development of muscles, coordination and overall physical wellbeing.



It has been wonderful to see the children make new friendships this half term and watch these relationships grow and develop. Our class has worked hard to learn the importance of sharing, taking turns and caring for the Reception equipment.



The Reception team could not be prouder of the progress the children have made in such a short time since starting school.

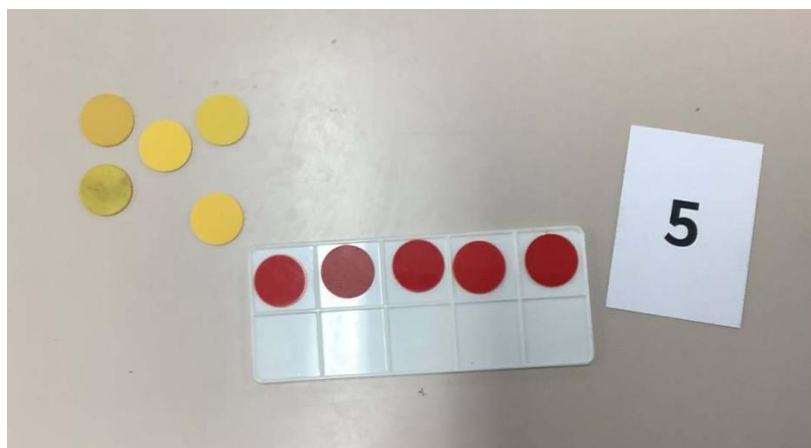
Year 1 - Louis Braille

What a fantastic start to the year it has been for Louis Braille Class!



In English, the children have worked incredibly hard to retell the stories *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* and *Mr Gumpy's Outing*. They have shown great enthusiasm and determination, carefully applying their capital letters, full stops and finger spaces to make their writing clear and easy to read.

In Mathematics this term, we have been exploring place value and developing our understanding of addition and subtraction within 10. The children have been learning to count, compare and represent numbers using a range of practical resources and strategies, helping them to deepen their number knowledge and build confidence in their mathematical thinking.



In Science, we have been exploring different objects and materials, learning to identify them and describe their properties. The children thoroughly enjoyed carrying out a scientific investigation to discover which materials were hard, soft, rough, smooth, waterproof and absorbent. Alongside our work on materials, we have been learning about the season of Autumn. The children have explored the four seasons and have been identifying the changes that occur in our environment during Autumn.



In Computing, we have been exploring how to create digital artwork using technology. The children have been learning how to use a variety of painting tools and techniques on a computer, experimenting with different colours, brushes and effects to create their own artwork. We have also looked at the work of a range of artists to inspire their creations and have been discussing the similarities and differences between creating art digitally and painting by hand.



In Art, the children have been exploring the unit "Make Your Mark", where they learned about different types of lines and how artists use marks to create pictures and patterns. They used these skills to create a beautiful sea-themed artwork, as well as completing an observational drawing and a still-life drawing.

In History, we have been learning about toys from the past and exploring how they have changed over the last 100 years. The children enjoyed sharing their favourite toys from home and comparing them with toys from previous generations. As part of our learning, we took part in an exciting History workshop with Harlow Museum, where we had the opportunity to learn about and explore a variety of toys from the past!



Year 2 – Billy Monger

What a wonderful start we have had to the school year in Billy Monger class! The children have settled in wonderfully and it has been a pleasure getting to know them all. In English, we have been reading *The Tunnel* and the children have absolutely loved the story. They have enjoyed exploring the characters, making predictions, and discussing what might happen next.

In Maths, we have been working hard on our number work. The children have been learning to find 10 more and 10 less than a given number and have been comparing numbers using the greater than and less than symbols. I am very impressed with the confidence and enthusiasm the children are showing as they develop their maths skills.

In Computing, we have been learning about Information Technology (IT) and exploring where we can find it in school and in our everyday lives. The children have been identifying different types of technology both inside and outside the school and have been fantastic at explaining how these devices help us.



In Art, we created maps to represent our journeys to school. The children showed great creativity and enjoyed thinking carefully about the different landmarks and features they see on their way each day. It was wonderful to see them sharing their ideas and creating such thoughtful pieces of work.



Year 3 Boyan Slat

This term, Year 3 have worked hard and shown great enthusiasm in all areas of the curriculum. They have settled well into new routines. In Maths, the children have focused on place value, developing their understanding of numbers up to the hundreds. They have learned to recognise the value of digits in different places, compare and order numbers, and use their knowledge to solve a variety of problems.

In English, Year 3 have explored expanded noun phrases, prepositions, and inverted commas to improve their writing skills. Our class texts, Dougal's Deep-Sea Diary has inspired diary writing, helping the children to develop their vocabulary, creativity and understanding of different text types

In Science, we have been learning about the human body, including how different parts work together. The children have investigated bones and skeletons, explored the importance of a healthy lifestyle, and learned about the different food groups and how they help our bodies stay healthy.

Our history topic has taken us back to the Stone Age, where the children have explored the different periods, including the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages. A highlight of the term was our visit to Thorndon Country Park for Caveman Day, where the children enjoyed hands-on experiences and brought their learning to life.



I am extremely proud of all the hard work, enthusiasm and progress Year 3 have shown this term and look forward to another exciting term of learning ahead!

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.

In English, we've been busy writing Character descriptions about the Three Fishing Brothers Gruff and characters of their own choosing. 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 Ancient Greece, where the children having been learning all about the ancient civilisation and its legacy. In science, we've had plenty of "wow" moments while learning about the human body and our teeth. The children have tested the effects of different drinks on our teeth by conducting an experiment on eggshells.

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 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.

In 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 5/6 Malala Yousafzai

We have had a busy first half term in Malala Yousafzai class. Children have settled into their new routines and we are incredibly proud of their hard work and achievements so far.

This half term, our writing has been inspired by *The Wolves in the Walls* by Neil Gaiman. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the mysterious and imaginative story, using it as a stimulus for their own version of the story.

In mathematics, we began the term with Place Value, developing our understanding of numbers up to ten million. The children practised reading, writing, ordering, comparing and rounding large numbers, while applying their knowledge to a variety of reasoning challenges.

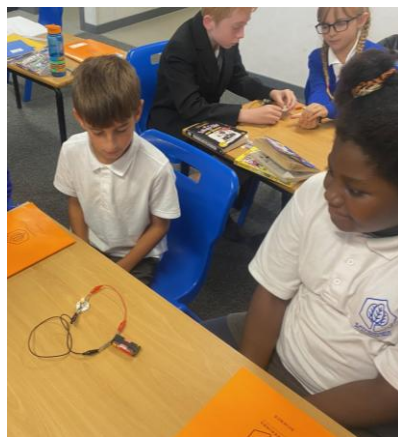
Following this, we moved on to the Four Operations. Pupils developed fluency with formal written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. A particular focus was placed on long multiplication.

Our science topic this half term was Electricity. Through practical investigations, children explored how electrical circuits work and what happens when you add more components and the effect of voltage on a circuit.

In computing, we studied Communication and Collaboration. Children learned how computers communicate across networks and how information can be shared digitally.

In history, we have been learning about World War II, with a particular focus on key events and life on the Home Front. The children explored significant events of the war, including evacuation, rationing and the Blitz. They investigated what daily life was like for people living in Britain during wartime and considered how communities adapted to the challenges they faced.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting term of learning.



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
Tonsillitis/ 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.

Working in partnership with

Should my child go to school/nursery today?

Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together for further information

<https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers>

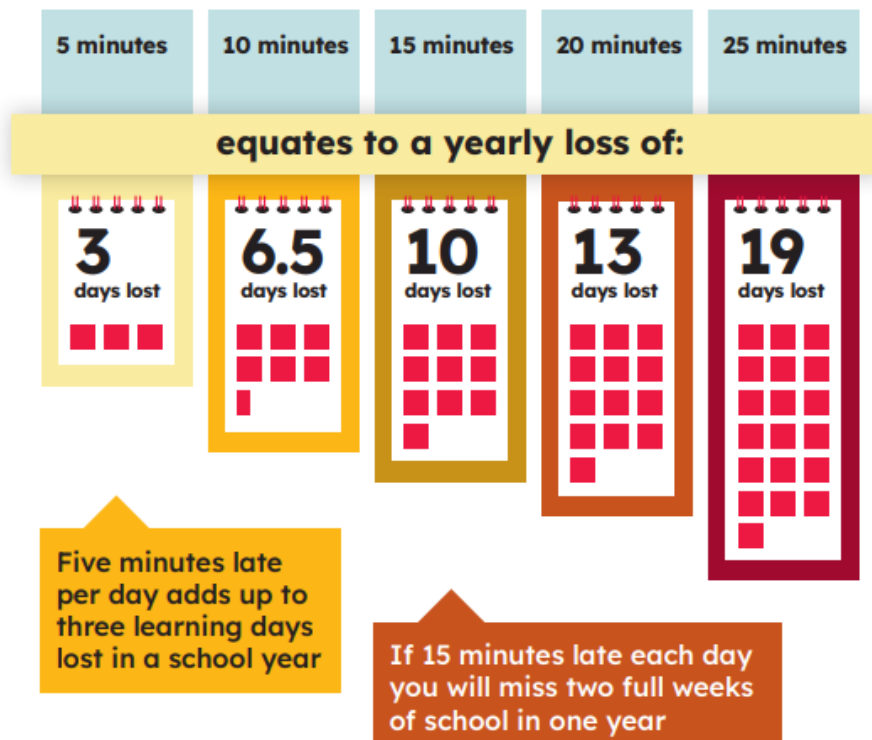


Essex County Council



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%**.