



Autumn Term 2 at Katherines

Head's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our Autumn 2 term, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our whole school community for another vibrant, busy and joyful half-term of learning and enrichment.

Our children in Years 1–6 enjoyed wonderful cinema trips, giving them the chance to experience stories on the big screen and build cultural experiences that will feed into their learning back in school.

A special highlight this term was our music assembly, featuring groups of children who have been taking part in Rocksteady Music sessions throughout the term. These pupils formed their own rock bands and performed to both parents and the whole school. The confidence, teamwork and creativity they showed were fantastic to see, and we are incredibly proud of each and every performer.

We were also delighted to welcome our local MP for Harlow, Chris Vince, into school. He spent time visiting classes, meeting members of Katherines Parliament, and taking part in lively Q&A sessions with our pupils. The children asked thoughtful, mature questions and gained valuable insight into democracy and public service.

To finish the term, our school community came together for a truly fabulous Christmas Fair, wonderfully organised by the Katherines Connected PTA. Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of everyone who attended, the fair raised an impressive £739.55. We are incredibly grateful for this support, which will directly benefit our pupils.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We wish all our families a peaceful, happy festive break and look forward to welcoming the children back in the new year on Tuesday 6th January.

Warm regards,

Mrs Harman

Across the school

Nursery- Alex Deans

During Autumn 2, we enhanced our understanding of the world as we zoomed off to the moon, learning all about space and where we live on planet Earth. The children enjoyed reading *Whatever Next*, discovering how Teddy created an imaginary rocket from a box and flew to the moon. Inspired by the story, the children created their own rockets and planets through junk modelling.

We strengthened and challenged our physical skills by balancing on obstacle courses and riding tricycle bikes. We also explored our outdoor environment by collecting fallen leaves and using them to support the development of our cutting skills.

Once we landed back on planet Earth, our next story was *The Gingerbread Man*. The children expressed their creativity by making a life-size gingerbread man. In Maths, we learned about repeating patterns using colours and objects, with children collaborating to predict what would come next. We also began identifying numbers 1–2, using our fingers to represent each number. A highlight for many was decorating their very own gingerbread man biscuit.

A very important focus throughout the term was learning the joy of working together through play and building strong relationships. We ended the year by practising for our singing Nativity and writing letters to Santa, finishing the term with lots of excitement and festive cheer.



Reception- Ellie Simmonds

Reception have had a very successful half term. The children have worked hard learning to write their names and to recognise Set 1 sounds in phonics. An important focus of phonics lessons has also been developing the children's ability to orally blend sounds to make words.

In English, the class enjoyed reading a range of new stories, with *Owl Babies* proving to be a firm favourite. In mathematics, the children have been practising subitising numbers to 5 and exploring the composition of the numbers 4 and 5. They have also been spotting 2D shapes in their environment and learning about the properties of circles, triangles and squares.

Developing friendships and learning to share has been a key area of learning this half term. It has been wonderful to see the children confidently exploring new activities in the classroom, whether through construction, role play, playdough creations or junk modelling.

Finally, the children made us all very proud during the Nativity performance, sharing the joy of Christmas through their enthusiastic acting and singing.

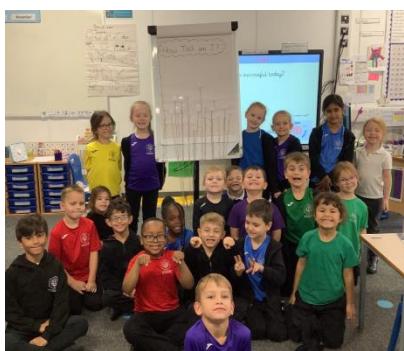


Year 1- Louis Braille

In English, we have explored 3 different texts: 'Oi Frog', 'Peace at Last' and 'The Jolly Christmas Postman'. We have been developing our writing skills by focusing on using capital letters, full stops, and clear finger spaces. We have also been exploring what it means to be a writer—editing our work, improving our ideas, and proudly publishing our finished pieces! This term, we published two wonderful stories: *Peace at Last* by Jill Murphy and *The Jolly Christmas Postman* by Allan Ahlberg and Janet Ahlberg. Furthermore, in Maths we have explored length and height, numbers to 20, both 2D and 3D shapes and position. The children have been working extremely hard and have particularly enjoyed engaging in practical, hands-on activities (especially our class height chart) that have helped to develop their understanding and confidence.

In Geography, we have been focusing on our school. The children have really enjoyed exploring what human and physical features are, the different modes of transport and the different routes we can take to school and around our school. In science, we carried on exploring materials to find out which materials were the strongest and what materials are best suited for an item. For DT, we will be making exploring mechanisms and making a moving storyboard! The children are excited to bring home their storyboards before the Christmas holidays!

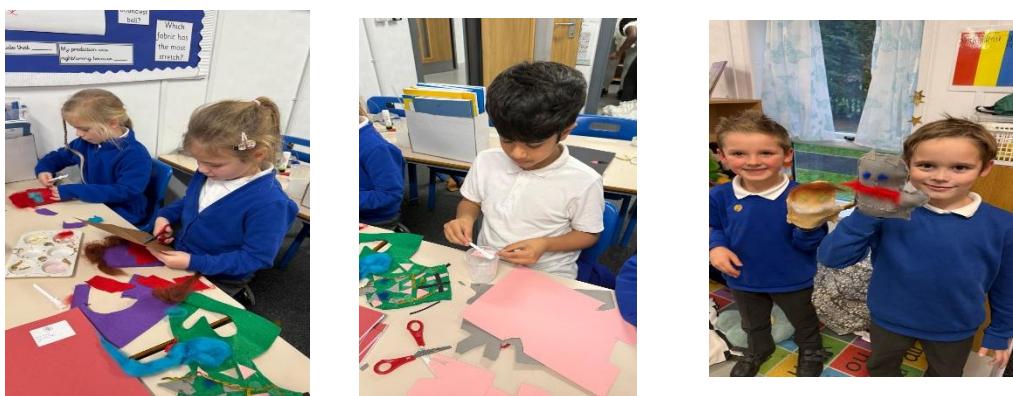
In RSE we have been discovering through oracy how to keep our selves safe, how to help ourselves when we feel poorly and how to cross the road safely. In Religion and World Views we have been exploring how a celebration can bring a community together, specifically Christmas and Eid. As the festive season draws closer, we have been practising for our nativity, and we cannot wait to share the cheer with you.



Year 2 Billy–Monger



In computing, we learnt all about the different types of information technology we use both inside and outside of school, and we explored how each one helps us in different ways —like using tablets to learn in class, traffic lights to keep us safe on the roads, and scanners to help shops work smoothly.



In DT, we had lots of fun designing and making our own puppets, choosing materials, adding creative details, and learning different techniques to stick and join the pieces together so our characters could come to life.



We have also been busy practising for our Nativity show, learning our lines, remembering our actions, and working together to make the performance special and full of Christmas cheer.

Year 3 -Boyan Slat

Boyan Slat class have had a fantastic and very busy half term. They have worked incredibly hard, and I am extremely proud of them.

In Mathematics, the children have been learning about statistics, including reading data from pictograms and bar charts. They have also been practising multiplication, which is a very important skill and learning about money, including how to add and subtract amounts and calculate change.

In English, we have been studying 'The Stone Age Boy' written by Satoshi Kitamura. Based on this text, the children have written diaries, poetry and information texts, demonstrating creativity and strong engagement with their learning.

It has been a very busy half term, and Boyan Slat class have consistently turned up ready to learn. We were delighted to win the attendance award and celebrate with a trip to the bowling alley. The children had a wonderful time, and it was thoroughly deserved.

I hope you all have a lovely winter break and enjoy a well-earned rest.



Year 4- Greta Thunberg

This half term, the children in Greta Thunberg Class have been wonderfully busy and enthusiastic in their learning. In maths, they have been working hard on their times tables in preparation for the Government Times Tables Check taking place in June — more information about this will be shared with parents soon.

In English, the children have produced thoughtful biographies about Dr Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks, two significant figures in the fight for racial equality. Alongside this, they have been focusing on grammar skills such as recognising regular and irregular past-tense verbs, choosing the correct pronouns, and using standard English accurately — especially avoiding common mix-ups like *was/were* and *did/done*. More recently we have written dramatic stories linked to the short story, The Ice-palace by Robert Swindells.

In Geography, the class has been learning all about the United Kingdom. They have explored the highest mountains, important cities and many well-known landmarks from across the nation.

The photos show our fantastic Caveman Day from the end of last half term. The children learned how to build dens, make fire and create artwork using natural materials — a brilliant, hands-on experience they will remember for a long time.

It has certainly been a busy few weeks. The children have worked incredibly hard and truly deserve a well-earned break. Well done, Greta Thunberg Class!



Year 4/5- Anne Frank



As we come to the end of this half term, we are delighted to share the wonderful learning experiences your children have enjoyed in Anne Frank Class. From the very start, the children have shown enthusiasm and creativity in all areas of the curriculum.

To begin with, in English, they have immersed themselves in the world of descriptive poetry. Using rich vocabulary and figurative language, they have worked hard to create vivid images in the reader's mind. After writing their own detailed poems, they are now looking forward to performing them with confidence.

Meanwhile, in Computing, the children stepped into the role of videographers. By planning shots carefully, experimenting with camera angles, and editing their recordings, they developed a range of technical and creative skills that brought their ideas to life. In addition, our Geography lessons took us on an exciting journey across Europe. The children explored important landmarks and learned about the continent's fascinating physical features.

At the same time, in Science, we ventured far beyond Earth to discover the wonders of space. Through lively discussions and thought-provoking questions, the children deepened their understanding of the solar system and the wider universe.

In Maths, we focused on practical concepts such as perimeter, area, and volume, applying these to real-life problems. Alongside this, the children explored square numbers, cube numbers, and prime numbers, strengthening their knowledge of number properties.

In our RWV lessons, we reflected on the question: Why should we be good? By considering ideas from philosophers and world religions, the children thought deeply about kindness, morality, and the importance of making good choices.

Adding to the excitement, in PE the children learned the Haka, a traditional Māori dance. They practised strong movements, rhythm, and teamwork, building confidence and coordination while exploring cultural expression through physical activity.

As we approach Christmas, the classroom has been filled with festive cheer. The children have decorated their Christmas tree and will soon enjoy seasonal activities, including making cards and joining in celebrations together.

Year 6 Malala Yousafzai

This half term has been a busy one for year 6 as the children have worked hard across the curriculum.

In English, the children have explored some fantastic texts. They began the term by reading and enjoying Kensuke's Kingdom and wrote a thoughtful newspaper report based in a child's disappearance. The children then read Alfred Noyes' poem 'the highwayman' and explored the language and characters in the story considering who they thought was responsible for Bess, the landlord's daughter's sad demise. Finally, in the lead up to Christmas, the children have taken on the role of Scrooge from Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' after reading the first chapter of the classic book then writing from his point of view.

In maths, the children have continued their coverage of the year 6 curriculum firstly establishing methods to calculate in all four operations including both long multiplication and long division the exploring fractions and how to add, subtract, divide and multiply them.

Year six have loved finding out about the Earth and space. They are fascinated with space and have had many questions when we were exploring our understanding of the solar system. Closer to home, the class have enjoyed learning about Europe - finding out about the human and physical features of the continent and exploring the differences between our European neighbours.

Whether making soft toys in DT, learning about website creation in computing, finding out what it means to be good in RWV not forgetting PE, music and all of the other areas of learning, year six have packed a lot in this half term!



Whole School: Neurodiversity

As part of our whole school learning about Neurodiversity, KS2 have been watching the Neurobears Cubs programme and increasing their knowledge about autism. Please do ask them to tell you about what they have been learning.



Mrs Harman with Santa before he delivered presents to the children!

Clubs

After School clubs, provided by CK Sports, will continue to run, Monday – Thursday. Book

online as per usual. Clubs will run from the week beginning 12th January and the last sessions will be on the week of 16th March.



Monday – KS2 Football
Tuesday- KS1 Multisport
Wednesday – KS2 Netball
Thursday - KS1 Multisport

Attendance Ladder

How close is your child to 100%?

0 days off school

100%

Perfection

Equates to 2 days off school each year

99%

Excellent

Equates to 5 days off school each year

97%

Good

Equates to 10 days off school each year

95%

Slight Concern

Equates to 20 days off school each year

90%

Concerned

Equates to 30 days off school each year

85%

Very Concerned

Essex County Council
Education



Here, every day, ready and on time

Minutes lost per day

5 minutes 10 minutes 15 minutes 20 minutes 25 minutes

equates to a yearly loss of:



Five minutes late per day adds up to three learning days lost in a school year

If 15 minutes late each day you will miss two full weeks of school in one year

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%.

ONLINE BULLYING

What is online bullying?

ONLINE BULLYING – ALSO KNOWN AS CYBERBULLYING – IS BULLYING THAT TAKES PLACE ON THE INTERNET OR VIA ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND MOBILE PHONES. IT CAN INCLUDE:

1. SENDING SOMEONE MEAN OR THREATENING EMAILS, DIRECT MESSAGES OR TEXT MESSAGES
2. HACKING INTO SOMEONE'S ONLINE ACCOUNT
3. BEING RUDE OR MEAN TO SOMEONE WHEN PLAYING ONLINE GAMES
4. POSTING PRIVATE OR EMBARRASSING PHOTOS ONLINE OR SENDING THEM TO OTHERS
5. CREATING FAKE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS THAT MOCK SOMEONE OR TRICK THEM
6. EXCLUDING SOMEONE FROM AN ONLINE CONVERSATION OR BLOCKING THEM FOR NO REASON

BE KIND ONLINE

BEFORE PRESSING 'SEND' ON COMMENTS, ASK YOURSELF THESE 3 QUESTIONS...

1. WHY AM I POSTING THIS?
2. WOULD I SAY THIS IN REAL LIFE?
3. HOW WOULD I FEEL IF SOMEBODY SAID THIS TO ME?

National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Why does it happen?

GOING ONLINE MAKES IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO SAY AND DO THINGS THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T DO FACE TO FACE. ONLINE BULLIES DON'T GET TO SEE THEIR VICTIMS' REACTIONS IN REAL LIFE, SO THIS CAN COCOON THEM FROM THE REAL DAMAGE THAT THEY ARE DOING. QUITE OFTEN, PEOPLE BULLY BECAUSE THEY ARE GOING THROUGH SOMETHING DIFFICULT THEMSELVES AND TAKING IT OUT ON OTHERS IS THE ONLY WAY THEY KNOW HOW TO GET CONTROL OF THEIR OWN EMOTIONS.

How does it feel to be bullied?

BEING BULLIED CAN IMPACT ON YOUR SELF-ESTEEM, CONFIDENCE AND SOCIAL SKILLS. BECAUSE IT HAPPENS ON YOUR PHONE, TABLET OR COMPUTER, IT CAN FEEL LIKE YOU ARE UNDER THREAT EVEN WHEN YOU'RE IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, SUCH AS YOUR BEDROOM. DON'T FORGET...IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT IF YOU'RE BEING BULLIED.

Am I an online bully?

SOMETIMES IT ISN'T OBVIOUS THAT WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS WRONG, BUT IF YOU USE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TO UPSET, ANGER OR EMBARRASS SOMEONE ON PURPOSE, THIS MEANS YOU'RE INVOLVED IN ONLINE BULLYING. IT MIGHT BE AS SIMPLE AS 'LIKING' A MEAN POST, LAUGHING AT AN ONLINE VIDEO, OR SPREADING A RUMOUR, BUT THE PERSON BEING BULLIED COULD FEEL LIKE THEY ARE BEING GANGED UP ON. THINK ABOUT HOW IT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL IF IT HAPPENED TO YOU. EVERYONE CAN MAKE MISTAKES, BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO LEARN FROM THEM – GO BACK AND DELETE ANY UPSETTING OR NASTY POSTS, TWEETS OR COMMENTS YOU'VE WRITTEN.

Who do I tell?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE BULLYING ON YOUR OWN. TALK TO AN ADULT THAT YOU TRUST – A PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR TEACHER. MOST WEBSITES, SOCIAL MEDIA WEBSITES AND ONLINE GAMES OR MOBILE APPS LET YOU REPORT AND BLOCK PEOPLE WHO ARE BOTHERING YOU. YOU COULD ALSO CONTACT CHILDLINE (www.childline.org.uk), WHERE A TRAINED COUNSELLOR WILL LISTEN TO ANYTHING THAT'S WORRYING YOU – YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO GIVE YOUR NAME.

How do I prove it?

WHEN CYBERBULLYING HAPPENS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO DOCUMENT AND REPORT THE BEHAVIOUR, SO IT CAN BE ADDRESSED – RECORD THE DATES AND TIMES WHEN CYBERBULLYING HAS OCCURRED, AND SAVE AND PRINT SCREENSHOTS, EMAILS, AND TEXT MESSAGES.

How can I stay safe?

MAKE SURE YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS ARE SET SO THAT ONLY PEOPLE YOU KNOW AND TRUST CAN SEE WHAT YOU POST. NEVER GIVE OUT PERSONAL INFORMATION ONLINE, SUCH AS IN PUBLIC PROFILES, CHAT ROOMS OR BLOGS, AND AVOID FURTHER COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE SENDING THE MESSAGES. KEEP AWARE OF FAKE PROFILES AND INTERNET USERS PRETENDING TO BE SOMEONE THAT THEY ARE NOT.

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.

Working in partnership with



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