

Curriculum Newsletter

Katherines Primary Academy - Autumn Term 2026

We are Nursery: Alex Deans



Welcome to Nursery

Welcome to a new year at Katherines. We are very excited to be working with you and making this year as fun and successful as possible. Our new children are well on their way to being settled. Welcome back to our second year Nursery children. Welcome to all our new families that are joining us in Nursery this year. We are all excited to be working with you and making this year as fun and successful as possible. We have a fun-packed year planned with great topics, lots of creative ideas and opportunities for you to come and spend time in Nursery with your child.

Our topics for the Autumn term are 'All about Me' and 'Celebrations'. This is a lovely topic to learn all about the children and opportunities to share about family life and their own experiences. Later in the term we will be celebrating special festivals and learning about different cultures and people. We look forward to

The Nursery school day

Children are picked up and dropped off at Nursery gate. We kindly ask that parents say goodbye to the children at the edge of nursery gate to avoid congestion at the Nursery door; they can develop their independence of walking into the classroom. If parents have any messages for the teacher, please leave a message with the office and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Session times AM session: 8:35am - 11:35am.

PM session: 12:35pm - 3:35pm.

Full day: 8:35am - 3:35pm.

Snack and Lunch time

We provide children with a snack every day. The lunchtime menu will be shared with your child each day and it would be most appreciated if you could discuss the different food choices with your child to make their decision for lunch easier. If your child brings in a packed lunch on any particular day, please can you ensure they are healthy choices with one small treat (remember we are a nut free school). Please send your child in with a labelled water bottle, this must only contain water.

Starting Nursery

The first few weeks at Nursery are all about routine. The children will be learning how to take care of the learning environment and each other. They will begin to find their coat pegs and use their name card with picture to self-register. We will be working to develop their independence, confidence and their sense of responsibility.

Uniform

Please make sure all your child's uniform is clearly labelled with their name. If you have any queries about uniform please speak to a member of staff. If your child is not confident with using the toilet, please bring in a bag with spare clothes including shoes. Children must also have a correct PE kit. Please remember their PE top must be the colour of your child's assigned house (please see welcome letter for this information). The house names and matching colours are: Darwin - yellow, Shakespeare - purple, Nightingale - red, Brunel - green, Pankhurst - blue.

Wellington Boots

Throughout the term we will be using mud kitchens, water trays and sand trays and what with the unpredictable English weather- it will get messy. Please send in a labelled pair of welly boots for your child to wear.

Understanding of the World

Children will use their five senses to explore the natural world. They will learn about the autumn and winter seasons, celebrate a range of festivals, and talk about their family and past experiences.

Expressive Arts & Design

Children will develop their skills in using a variety of tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and stamps. They will create self-portraits, explore colour, and enjoy a range of mark-making activities.

Communication & Language

Children will develop their vocabulary through stories, books and discussions. They will learn new words and concepts, share their ideas and experiences, and build confidence in speaking and listening. Daily singing sessions will encourage children to join in with nursery rhymes, actions, and songs, exploring different pitch and tempo.

Physical Development

Children will develop their fine motor skills by practising the correct pencil grip during colouring and mark-making activities. They will also build their movement and balance skills through outdoor play, while being encouraged to develop confidence and independence in using the toilet.

Personal, Social and Emotional

We will learn the school rules; being kind, working hard and staying safe. Children will also have opportunities to develop their social skills within the setting by taking part in a variety of role play activities as well as day to day interactions with children and adults within the setting. We will support the children to share and take turns with others.

Phonics

We will be focusing on listening skills for this half-term. This will include identifying familiar sounds and playing games such as Chinese whispers and Guess the Sound. The children will learn listening skills to prepare them to learn phonics.

Literacy

This term we will be exploring sound and rhyme. We will be learning the different parts of a book and learning to create stories. We will also be acting out familiar stories and retelling them from memory.

Maths

Children will compare objects by size, using language such as *big*, *bigger*, *little* and *small*, and complete inset puzzles to develop problem-solving skills. They will also explore 2D shapes, talking about their sides and corners using both everyday and mathematical language. Colour and colour mixing activities will provide opportunities to observe, compare and describe changes.

Tapestry

Observations of your child throughout the week will be uploaded to *Tapestry* (our online learning journal) where you can make comments and upload your own observations. We encourage all parents to use *Tapestry* as a form of communication and would love to share what the children are doing at both home and at school. We will share some of the posts from home with the rest of the class throughout the week.

Please see the video (linked below) as a guide on how to upload observations, photos and videos from home.
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=espJ96TJHV8>)

Notes ...

- PE days are on a Wednesday. Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kits. Children should not be wearing any jewellery for PE including earrings, and long hair must be tied up.
- All hair accessories must be matched to hair colour or in line with uniform, which is blue.