

Curriculum Newsletter

Katherines Primary Academy - Autumn Term 2026

We are Reception : Ellie Simmonds Class



Dear Parents,

Welcome to our new Reception class. We are excited to be working with you and your child this new academic year. Our first topic is 'All About Me' where children will learn more about themselves, their feelings and their place in the world. This will be followed by the topic 'Celebrate good times and good people!' in Autumn 2. If you have any questions or need support with your child's learning, please speak to a member of the Reception staff.

Important information for the term

Books Bags

Letters for home will be shared via parent-mail, but occasionally letters will go home in your child's book bag together with their school reading book. Please check these regularly.

Uniform

Please make sure all your child's uniform is clearly labelled with their name. Children must also have the correct PE kit, with their PE top the colour of your child's assigned house. The house names and matching colours are: Darwin - yellow, Shakespeare - purple, Nightingale - red, Brunel - green, Pankhurst - blue.

Our PE days are Wednesdays. Please send children into school wearing their PE kit on these days.

Snack time and Lunchtime

We provide children with a snack every morning. 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 beforehand to make their decision for lunch easier. If your child brings in a packed lunch, please ensure there are healthy choices with one small treat (remember we are a nut free school). Children also need a labelled water bottle, this must only contain water.

Wellington Boots and Spare Clothes

Please send in a labelled pair of welly boots for your child to wear as they access their outdoor learning. These will stay in school. Children will also wear all-in ones to protect their clothes in wet weather. Please send in a set of **spare clothes** in a labelled carrier bag, to stay in school, including a t-shirt, bottoms, underwear, socks and shoes in case your child needs changing.

Phonics and Reading

This term we begin our daily phonics lessons. The children will be learning the structure and routine of a phonics lesson. We will teach one sound a day, practising letter recognition and formation.

Reading practice

Once the children are blending, we will provide them with a phonics book to teach reading. This book will be changed weekly.

Reading for pleasure

As well as teaching the skill of reading, we want to encourage a love of reading. To support this, children will bring home a book for parents to read to them. This book for pleasure can be changed when children are ready for a new story.

Understanding of the World

As young explorers, the children will be encouraged to question the world around them, exploring similarities and differences. This term, we will explore Harlow our local area, as well as seasonal changes. The children will also learn more about families and each other.

Maths

As Mathematicians, we will explore the concepts of sorting, matching and comparing with different objects. Within the environment we will investigate mass and capacity using vocabulary such as heavy, light, full and empty to compare. Children will also continue to develop their knowledge of numbers and counting.

Writing and Mark Making

As writers, we will encourage a range of mark making activities, including developing pencil grip and teaching letter formation. The children will be encouraged to attribute meaning to their marks and writing. They will be learning how to write their name, as well as learning to write a range of labels, captions and simple words such as 'mat' and 'bug'.

Tapestry

Observations of the children 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 to share what the children are doing both at home and in school. Each week we will take time as a class to look at the photographs and videos that have been shared.

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 ...

- Please remember that for Reception, school starts at 8.40 and ends at 3.40
- PE days are on a Wednesday. Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kits. Children should not be wearing any jewellery 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.