

Curriculum Newsletter

Katherines Primary Academy – Spring Term 2026

We are Reception : Ellie Simmonds



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to an exciting new term! We hope you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to the learning journey ahead. Our first topic this term will be 'People Who Help Us', followed by 'Ready, Steady, Grow'. This term the children will build on their learning from the autumn term as they explore and develop further knowledge, skills and understanding of the world around them. If you have any questions or would like ideas to support your child's learning at home, please don't hesitate to speak to a member of the Reception team.

Important information for the term

Books Bags

Please continue to send book bags into school daily with your child's reading diary and reading book. This allows us to read regularly with the children and to note this in the reading diary. Please also use the reading diary to record reading you do at home. Kindly keep water bottles out of book bags, as they tend to leak and damage the reading books.

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 to make their decision for lunch easier. If your child brings in a packed lunch on any particular day, please can you ensure there are healthy choices with one small treat (remember we are a nut free school).

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. A bag of spare clothes in school is also helpful in case of accidents. Children will need to wear their PE kit on Wednesdays, our PE day. Please ensure they have a PE shirt to match their house colour. The house names and matching colours are: Darwin – yellow, Shakespeare – purple, Nightingale – red, Brunel – green, Pankhurst – blue.

Water Bottles

Please continue to provide water bottles daily so that children are well hydrated. Bottles need to be clearly labelled and have no juice please.

Reading practice and Phonics

Reception will continue to have a daily phonics lesson to teach the set 1 and then set 2 sounds. The children will learn to blend sounds to read words and sentences. Please support your child in learning to read by practising their reading at home as well. This has a huge impact as regular practice embeds learning and is much appreciated. Identifying beginning, middle and end sounds in words is also a valuable skill that we will practise in school.

Reading for pleasure

As well as teaching the skill of reading we want to encourage a love for it. To support this, the children take a book for pleasure home from our class library. This book is for an adult to read and share with them. Your child may find enjoyment and comfort from rereading the same story for a time.

Understanding of the World

This term the children will learn about winter and spring and how the seasons differ. They will explore how plants grow and investigate different materials in their environment. Across the term, they will develop their understanding of special events within other cultures including Lunar New Year, Ramadan and Easter. The children will learn more about people who help us, including doctors, vets, the fire brigade and police.

Maths

As mathematicians, reception will explore the concept of measures including capacity, mass, time and length. They will continue to develop their knowledge of number, counting, recognising and subitising numbers to 10. Time will be spent on each number to ensure a firm understanding of the 'numberness of a number', as well as its composition.

Writing and Mark Making

As writers, Reception will continue to develop correct letter formation daily. They will work on writing their name and then surname. Using the sounds they know, the children will write words and labels, and then captions and sentences. The children will be encouraged to use 'Fred talk' to sound out a word and then record each letter. They will learn the importance of finger spaces and to write some tricky 'red' words too: eg 'the' and 'I'.

Tapestry

Photographs of learning in school will be uploaded to Tapestry (our online learning journal) where you can make comments. Please also upload your own photographs of home learning and experiences. We encourage all parents to use Tapestry as a form of communication to share what the children are doing out of school. **Tapestry Tuesdays** will take place each week to share some of the posts from home with the rest of the class. This allows your child to share what they have been doing whilst their peers comment, this feedback is then added to the Tapestry post.

Notes ...

- Please remember that 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.