

Curriculum Newsletter

Katherines Primary Academy - Autumn Term 2026

We are Year 1: Louis Braille



Welcome to Year 1

We would like to warmly welcome you back to the start of a new academic year; it is lovely to meet all of the children and to start to get to know them! We are sure it will be a very productive year for every child and look forward to working closely with you and watching them grow and learn over this time!

This is an important year for the children as they transition from Early Years to Key Stage 1; adjusting to a new environment, with new routines and with the same high expectations for work ethic and perseverance.

Children will continue to develop their reading with daily reading lessons, explore new texts including fiction and non-fiction and continue to develop their number fact knowledge in maths lessons.

What are we learning this term?

Home reading

Please continue to read regularly with your children at home and record this in their Home School Reading Diary. Every time they read, they will gain a star on their card in the front of the diary and when it is full, they will be rewarded for their effort with a prize from the Head teacher.

Your child should bring in their Home School book **every day**. We will be changing books once a week, however they are welcome to read their own book from home and to choose a reading for pleasure book from school.

Topics we will be studying this term...

History - Toys

Geography - My School

Science - Seasonal Change / Everyday Materials

Computing - Creating Media

Art - Make your Mark

D.T. - Making a moving card

R&W - How does a celebration bring a community together?

RSE- My Happy Mind

Music - Writing Music Down

PE- Fundamentals, Target Games, Gymnastics, Dance

English

As writers, this term we will start by focusing on our transactional skills alongside retelling our texts 'The Tiger who came to Tea', by Judith Kerr, 'Mr Gumpy's Outing' by John Burningham and 'Dogger' by Shirley Hughes and 'Peace At Last' by Jill Murphy. Year 1 will also explore rhyme while reading the book 'Oi Frog'.

We will continue with handwriting lessons to ensure that children form their letters correctly. Grammar and spelling will be taught daily too.

Maths

As mathematicians, we will begin with place value, focussing on numbers to 10 and then extending this to numbers to 20. We will practise addition and subtraction through a range of hands-on activities, helping children to solve problems and explain their mathematical thinking. Children will also learn key number facts and begin to recall these quickly and accurately to support their fluency in calculation. We will further the children's understanding of length as well as 2D and 3D shapes.

Children will continue to have a weekly mental maths test and daily fluency practice enabling them to strengthen their number knowledge and develop efficient calculation strategies.

RWV/ RSE

As theologians, in RWV we will explore the question, 'How does a celebration bring a community together?' with a focus on the Christian and Muslim religions. In RSE, lessons will be taught through My Happy Mind. This term our topic is called 'Meet Your Brain' where children will learn children will learn about their brain, how it helps them think, learn and feel emotions, and ways to keep their minds happy and healthy.

History

This term in History, the children will be studying Toys. We will be learning about the toys we play with now days and the toys our parents and grandparents played with. Children will compare toys from the present and the past.

Science

In Science, the children will study everyday materials. They will explore the materials in their environment, naming them and discovering their properties. Year 1 will investigate which materials are strong and which are waterproof. Lessons on seasonal change will be taught throughout the year. This term children will observe changes as autumn progresses.

P.E.

As athletes, there will be a focus on fundamental PE skills this term, developing children's running, jumping and skipping. Children will also practise their throwing and catching skills. Later units of work will include gymnastics and dance. PE days are **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays** and all lessons will be taught by a specialist PE coach. Children should wear their PE kit to school on PE days, but earrings and other items of jewellery must be removed and long hair should be tied back.

Geography

As geographers, the children will explore our school grounds, looking for human and physical features. They will make simple maps and show routes they take to get to school as well as around the school.

Computing

As technicians, the children will explore the tools used to create digital pictures using ipads and the paint programme. They will consider if they prefer the picture they created digitally or with paint and crayons. The children will also use the Ipads to support learning number facts through Numbots and other online maths programmes.

Art/ DT

In Art, the children will explore mark making and line, working and experimenting with different materials through observational and collaborative pieces. For Design and Technology, they will design and make a card with moving parts, while learning about simple mechanisms.

Notes ...

In Year 1, homework will be set online. There will be no homework books. Our homework focus this year is **consistently reading five times a week** at home as well as accessing:

Numbots - please aim for 3x per week www.numbots.com

Mathseeds - homework is set fortnightly

Spelling Shed - weekly www.edshed.com

Logins are now in the Home School book for all three websites.

Children should practise their spellings online, ready for a spelling test on a **Friday**.

Please ensure your child has a water bottle in school every day - filled **only** with water!