

# Curriculum Newsletter

Katherines Primary Academy - Summer Term 2026

We are Reception : Ellie Simmonds



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the summer term! We hope you enjoyed a lovely Easter break and look forward to working with you and your child in the term ahead. Our topic this half term is 'Little Stompers', followed by 'Catching Waves' next term. Literacy lessons will focus on a quality text for two weeks and other learning will be linked to this theme. We start the term by reading 'Dear Dinosaur' by Chae Strathie with learning linked to dinosaurs. Our next book will be 'The Train Ride' by June Crebbin, with lots of opportunities to link learning to trains, journeys and places. This summer term, the children will continue to build on their previous learning and develop their skills and understanding. We also begin to prepare them for the transition to Year 1. Excitingly, we will be visiting Lee Valley Animal Park on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June as our EYFS excursion. More details will follow soon. 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. We appreciate the support we receive from parents and thank you for all the ways you support your children's learning.

## 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.

As the weather becomes warmer, please ensure your child has a hat to help to protect them from the sun. You may wish to apply sunscreen before school as well.

### 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 consolidate the set 1 sounds and then to teach the set 2 sounds. The children continue to learn to blend sounds to read words and sentences, with a focus on developing some fluency as they read. Please support your child by practising their reading at home. Regular practice helps to reinforce learning at school and makes a real difference.

### 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

As young explorers, the children will be looking closely at different animals. This will include learning about different habitats and lifecycles. We also introduce simple map making skills and teach children to identify their town and some local landmarks around them. There will be opportunities to consider the past and how things may have changed over time.

### Maths

As mathematicians, reception will learn to name common 3d shapes and to identify their faces. They will develop an understanding of numbers beyond ten to twenty. This will remain practical, considering how the teen numbers are made up of 10 and another number. Time will also be spent working on sharing and grouping numbers.

### Writing and Mark Making

As writers, reception will continue to have a handwriting lesson daily to develop correct letter formation. The children will work on writing words, captions and sentences using the sounds they know. The children will be taught to use 'Fred fingers' to help them to spell words. Each week, the children will have opportunities to write linked to our focus text. They will also be encouraged to mark make and write as part of their play.

### Tapestry

Photographs of learning in school will be uploaded to Tapestry (our online learning journal) where you can make comments. Remember you can 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. At the end of the day, we share some of the posts from home with 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.