



Spring 2 at Katherines

Head's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy Spring Term at Katherines, it presents a great opportunity to reflect on the many exciting events that have taken place.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Art Solutions, who worked with a range of year groups to create artwork that is now displayed across the school. We also had a visit from Essex Cricket, who led sessions with some of our KS2 year classes, providing valuable coaching and encouraging participation in a sport that many hadn't previously encountered. Another highlight was World Book Day, where the children dressed up as their favourite book characters and enjoyed a day of reading based activities.

It was lovely to see so many of you at Parent's Evening. I'm sure you were pleased to hear about all of children's achievements this year and enjoyed tasting some of the new school menu items that will be available from the start of next term.

I wish you all a peaceful and restful Easter break. I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on **Tuesday 22nd April**, for what promises to be an exciting Summer Term.

Across the school

Nursery

In Nursery, the children have been learning all about spring flowers and how plants grow. They planted cress seeds and observed their growth using magnifying glasses, before making egg salad with the cress they had grown. Some children even tried an egg sandwich for the first time! The children also investigated wildflowers and examined bulbs, planting them in soil to watch their growth over the coming months. This topic also presented the children with the opportunity to improve their cutting skills by carefully cutting the stems of a daffodil.



Reception

In Reception, the children have really enjoyed engaging in the environment and are growing in confidence on a daily basis. The most popular areas are currently the construction zone and the mark making station. The class were pleased to welcome our first mystery reader who joined us to share a story with the class. We hope to invite another person in soon...



Year 1

In Year 1, the children have been incredibly busy, in a term filled with learning opportunities. The class have worked incredibly hard to improve their phonics knowledge and are now reading with a greater degree of independence and fluency. World Book Day was a wonderful celebration of reading, with the children having an opportunity to read with some of the older pupils in Year 3/4.

The children particularly enjoyed their computing topic where they learnt to program simple instructions into a floor robot and then tested their predictions of where the robot would go based on the information they provided.

The adults in Year 1 are very proud of the children for the progress they have made this term and were so impressed with their collaborative working during our whole school art project.



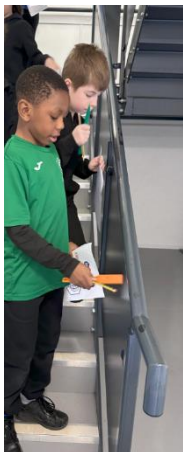
Year 2

In Year 2, the children have been incredibly busy and managed to fit in lots of fun-filled learning activities. They enjoyed an exciting trip to the Duxford War Museum, where they explored fascinating history of flight. During Science Week, the children took part in a variety of hands-on activities, including a water experiment where they filled three glass cups with different amounts of water and tested the sounds they made when tapped. As part of their science topic, they also created models of animals from various parts of the world and discussed how these animals adapt to different climates and habitats.



Year 3

In Year 3, the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring forces and magnets in their science topic. They discovered how magnets attract and repel, and investigated which materials and objects around the school are magnetic or non-magnetic.



Year 3 / 4

In Year 3/4, the children were thrilled to be visited by a coach from Essex cricket who helped them develop their coordination as well as their throwing and catching skills in a fun and engaging way.

Other highlights of this half term included World Book Day and a fabulous trip to Verulamium Museum where the children explored lots of Roman artefacts and discovered what life was like during this time.



Year 4 / 5

In Year 4/5, the children have been very busy taking part in a range of events, including Red Nose Day. They raised money for this fantastic charity and even played cricket while wearing their red nose outfits. We were also thrilled to participate in the recent whole-school art project and are proud of the contribution we made to help make our new school building a colourful place to be.

In maths, we have been focusing on the concept of time. We started by learning how people in ancient times told the time using a sundial. The children made their own sundials in class and observed how the shadow moved around the 'clock'.



Year 5 / 6

In Year 5/6, the children have been exploring their musical creativity by writing their own compositions and playing them on the glockenspiel. The class also enjoyed taking part in an art workshop, creating their own versions Monet and Van Gogh pieces.



Year 6

In Year 6, students celebrated their love of reading by dressing up as their favourite characters and sharing stories with classmates as part of World Book Day celebrations. During Science Week, the class delved into the fascinating world of animals, sorting them according to their adaptations. This hands-on activity helped them better understand how different species are uniquely suited to their environments.





We've been very lucky to have the support of the Mental Health Support Team in school again this term. Louis Braille and Billy Monger classes have been learning about their emotions and how to regulate them through Brain Buddies and Emotion Explorers sessions. Parents and carers were invited to join us to hear from their children about their learning and some very brave and fun parents joined in. It is Anne Frank class turn next term so the date will be coming out for your diaries very soon after the Easter break. Thanks to the parents who attended our workshop on Positive Relationships. Now that we have space, parent workshops will be held each term. Please do come and join us and meet other parents, your children love to see you in school. Next term, we will be focusing on Autism and hoping to share this with our whole school community so please do come along if you can – dates to follow.



Clubs



Sports clubs will continue to run next term at Katherines.

Please click the link below to see what is on offer and make your booking.

<https://sporting4schools.classforkids.io/term/28>



Attendance

Good attendance increases a child's academic success and improves their life opportunities.

Our whole school target for attendance this year is **96.5%**.