



Spring Term 1 at Katherines

Head's message

What a vibrant and inspiring start to the Spring Term it has been at Katherines! Our children have thrown themselves into every opportunity with enthusiasm, creativity and determination, and I am incredibly proud of all they have achieved so far.

One of our standout moments this term was our school choir's unforgettable performance at the O2 Arena as part of *Young Voices*. Singing alongside thousands of pupils from across the country, our children shone as they performed songs from *Wicked* with confidence and joy. It was a truly magical experience—one they will remember for many years to come.

We also extend a huge congratulations to Year 4, who triumphed in the NET Trust first round of the Times Tables Rock Stars MTC Tournament! Their hard work, quick thinking and team spirit led them to a fantastic victory, and we are excited to see how they progress in the next stage. Well done, Year 4!

Another highlight this term was our energetic and highly successful Speedstrike football fundraiser. The children showed incredible effort and sportsmanship throughout the event. We are currently awaiting the final total raised and look forward to sharing this with you soon. Thank you to everyone who supported the day—your encouragement and generosity make events like this possible.

As always, I am grateful for the ongoing support from our families and wider community. Together, we are ensuring that every child at Katherines thrives.

Warm regards,

Mrs Harman

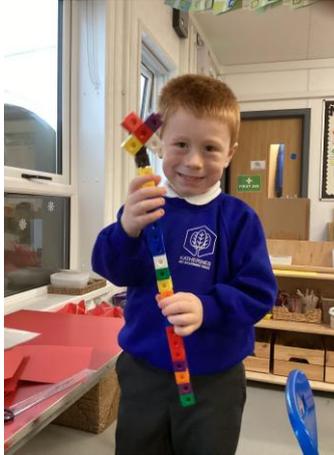
Across the school

Nursery- Alex Deans

This half term in Nursery, our topic was *People Who Help Us*. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about the special people in our community who care for and support us, including police officers and firefighters. We also explored the important roles our own parents and carers have, such as plumbers, hairdressers and construction workers. It was wonderful to welcome some of our parents into Nursery to share their real-life jobs. The children loved listening, asking questions and making meaningful connections to their own experiences. In Maths, we continued developing our counting and subitising skills (3–5). The children applied their learning through play, including counting birds they spotted using binoculars, which created lots of excitement and curiosity. In Understanding the World, we explored habitats in colder countries and learned new vocabulary such as Antarctica, iceberg, and the North and South Pole. The children enjoyed exploring different textures through messy play and fine motor activities, including threading painted pasta. They also worked collaboratively when building structures and creating artwork together.

We had lots of fun celebrating Chinese New Year, learning about traditions, tasting new foods and making beautiful lanterns. Our focus text, *Emergency!* inspired fantastic role-play and storytelling. It has been lovely to see the children's confidence and communication skills continue to grow.

It has truly been a busy, engaging and exciting half term in Nursery!



Reception- Ellie Simmonds

This half term has been full of exciting learning experiences in Reception. The children loved exploring our focus story *Supertato*, enthusiastically retelling the tale using vegetables as props and keeping a careful lookout for the mischievous villain—the Evil Pea! Another class favourite was *Mog and the VET*, which inspired a wonderful transformation of our role-play area into a busy vet's surgery. The children demonstrated great imagination as they bandaged animals, administered pretend medicine, and took on the roles of caring vets.

Across our provision, the children have continued to develop both their gross and fine motor skills. They have worked collaboratively to build impressive trains, cars, homes, and tracks, showing creativity, problem-solving skills, and fantastic teamwork.

We are so proud of the progress the children have made this term. Many are now confidently writing their names and reading words containing "special friends." We have also seen children increasingly making marks in their play—an important early step in becoming early writers.

In our materials topic, Reception learned to identify common materials and investigate their properties. The children were especially engaged in practical experiments, discovering which materials float or sink, which are strong, and which are magnetic. These hands-on investigations sparked curiosity and encouraged thoughtful questions about the world around them.

We are very much looking forward to the next half term as we continue to build strong foundations in Reception.





Year 1- Louis Braille

This term, we have enjoyed a productive and exciting journey of learning, filled with curiosity, creativity, and wonderful progress from every child!

In English, we explored two wonderful texts: *Beegu* by Alexis Deacon and *The Three Little Pigs*. The children in Louis Braille class have worked incredibly hard to apply their “All the Time” toolkit in their writing and impressed us with their creativity when they wrote their own innovative versions of *The Three Little Pigs*, changing the villain to create exciting new twists in their stories!

In maths this term, we have explored weight, addition and subtraction within 20, and place value to 50. The children have shown great determination and confidence, building on their learning from the Autumn term and developing their skills as successful young mathematicians. We also loved celebrating Number Day, where we created beautiful flowers to represent our number bonds to 20, proudly showing our growing confidence with number facts.

In geography this term, we have been exploring the UK, learning about the four countries and their capital cities, the surrounding seas, and even discovering some fascinating facts along the way! Did you know that there are more sheep than people in Wales?

In computing, we explored how to programme a robot using simple algorithms, focusing on giving clear and precise instructions to Bee-Bots to help them move accurately to their destination.

For science, we have been exploring the topic *Animals Including Humans*, where the children have been learning about the different ways animals can be grouped and identifying the features that help us classify them. We will be exploring this topic further next term!

We finished the term with art, where we created our beautiful 'Tree of Life' sculptures. Children explored new techniques, developed their creative skills, and grew in confidence as young artists.



Year 2 Billy –Monger

This term in Computing, Year 2 have been learning all about photography and how to take a good picture. The children have explored how to use a camera safely and confidently, learning how to take clear photos and edit them afterwards. We have looked at different types of shots, including landscape and portrait, and discussed when each one is most suitable. The children have also practised thinking carefully about lighting and how it can change the look of a photograph. They have worked hard on keeping their subject in the centre of the shot and making sure it is clearly visible. We have been very impressed with their creativity and the thoughtful choices they have made when taking and editing their pictures!

In geography this term, Year 2 have been learning about Sydney and London. They used maps and globes to locate both cities and explored their physical features, such as rivers and coastlines, as well as human features like buildings and all the famous landmarks in both cities.



Year 3 -Boyan Slat

What a wonderfully busy half-term it has been! We've had such fun diving into the world of Ancient Egypt in preparation for our exciting Egypt Day. The children have absolutely loved learning about the afterlife, the River Nile, and Howard Carter's incredible discovery — their enthusiasm has been brilliant!

We also celebrated Number Day, which was filled with problem-solving, board games, and a very energetic TTRS competition... and we were the second highest scoring class! How amazing is that? So many children have made fantastic progress with their times tables, and we are incredibly grateful for all the hard work and support at home.

In addition, we have been super lucky this term because Holly from 'Mind' has been visiting us for Brain Buddies! We've explored the different Zones of Regulation, talked about how each zone might feel, and discovered lots of brilliant strategies to help us manage our emotions. We've had so much fun learning how our brains and bodies work together!

The children have put in so much effort this last half-term, and I hope they enjoyed a well-deserved rest. We're all looking forward to another half-term of fun, learning, and exciting new adventures!



Year 4- Greta Thunberg

The children in **Greta Thunberg Class** have had another busy and successful half term. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of formal written methods for multiplication and short division. The children have also been learning how to calculate area by carefully counting squares and using length and width measurements to find answers accurately. We also thoroughly enjoyed NSPCC Number Day, where the children worked together to solve clues and tackle a range of mathematical problems.

In Writing, the class has produced some fantastic work. They have written their own version of the Egyptian Cinderella story and created a detailed set of instructions titled *How to Make Papyrus*, carefully focusing on clear steps and precise language.

In History, we have loved learning about the Ancient Egyptians. The class was especially fascinated by the gory business of mummification and were keen to share their new knowledge and interesting facts.

We are incredibly proud to say that we were triumphant in the TT Rockstars competition against other schools across the trust. The children showed fantastic determination and teamwork, and we are very much looking forward to competing in the final after the holidays.

To celebrate completing our hundred square challenge, we made and enjoyed our own pizzas on the final day of term — a well-deserved treat after all their hard work.

Well done, Greta Thunberg Class — you continue to impress us with your enthusiasm, resilience and effort!

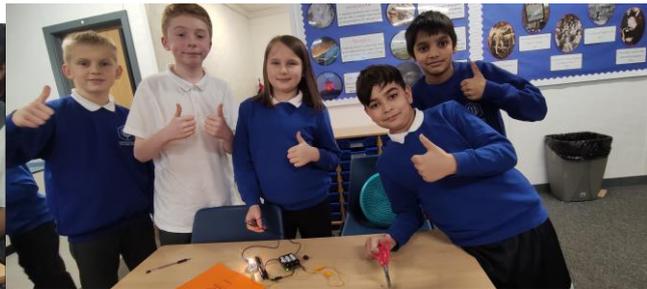


Year 4/5- Anne Frank



In Anne Frank's class, we've had an exciting and productive few weeks of learning! In English, the children have been hard at work crafting their own adventure stories and writing detailed explanation texts about their imaginative "Teacher-Pleaser" machines.

In maths, they have taken on the challenge of multiplying 3-digit by 2-digit numbers and have been exploring division with remainders, including how to express those remainders as decimals and fractions.



Our computing lessons have been buzzing with creativity as pupils begin programming LED lights and motors in preparation for designing their very own fairground rides. We also celebrated Safer Internet Day by discussing the role of AI, online safety, and how to recognise and prevent cyberbullying—important conversations that the children engaged with brilliantly. In science, we have been exploring the properties of materials—investigating whether objects are magnetic, whether they act as electrical conductors, and whether they are opaque, absorbent, or possess other useful characteristics. The children have loved testing different materials and using evidence to classify them.

In history, we've stepped back into the Victorian Era to learn what life was like during that time, including home life and education. In RWV, the children are comparing different disciples' accounts of the Easter story to understand similarities and unique perspectives.



In PE, we took part in the Speedstrike fundraiser, helping raise money for our school through fantastic teamwork and enthusiasm.

Finally, a huge shout-out to our amazing Year 4s for winning 1st place in the TTRS semi-finals against all NET schools—bring on the final round in the first week back!

Year 6 Malala Yousafzai

The new year started off with a reminder that as next term will bring with it the Sats tests, we will be working hard to prepare for them over the coming months to ensure that the children achieve results of which they can be justifiably proud.

We have been working hard going over the grammar that they have learned throughout their time at primary school, using Sats style questions to help. We have also started to use past papers to support preparation for the reading paper – the children have been applying the key skills they have learned in talk for reading sessions to help them answer Sats questions.

We have continued to write and this half term we have based our writing around the book “Street Child” by Berlie Doherty. This is a book set in Victorian times that imagines the life of Jim Jarvis – the real-life inspiration for Dr Barnardo who set up his children’s homes to help those who found themselves in circumstances like Jim. We have written a variety of texts inspired by this book: a balanced argument, an informal letter and a new chapter for the book.

In maths, we have explored percentages and worked hard to successfully calculate percentages of amounts using different strategies. We have now moved on to geometry, using the four quadrants to translate and reflect shapes. Alongside our main maths lessons, we have continued to practise arithmetic, and the children are really seeing the benefits of solving arithmetic problems daily and explaining how to do them.

The children have really enjoyed learning about the Victorian period in history although they have been shocked by the treatment of the poor during this time. We have learned that the industrial revolution caused great change across the country and that while the lives of the rich became easier, for the poor this was most definitely not the case. Although the lives of poor children at the beginning of the nineteenth century could be incredibly harsh – especially if they worked in a factory – with the advent of compulsory schooling, their prospects would slowly begin to change for the better.

In addition, we have continued learning across the curriculum – science, art, RSE and PE to name a few. Well done Malala Yousafzai class, keep up the hard work!



Clubs

After School clubs, provided by CK Sports, will continue to run, Monday – Thursday. Book online as per usual. Clubs will run from the week beginning 12th January and the last sessions will be on the week of 16th March.

CK Sports
Coaching



Monday – KS2 Football
Tuesday- KS1 Multisport
Wednesday – KS2 Netball
Thursday - KS1 Multisport

Be smart on the internet



 **Childnet**
International
www.childnet.com

S

SAFE

Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.



M

MEETING

Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time.



A

ACCEPTING

Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!



R

RELIABLE

Someone online might lie about who they are, and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows.



T

TELL

Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

You can report online abuse to the police at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

**THINK
U
KNOW**



www.kidsmart.org.uk

KidSMART



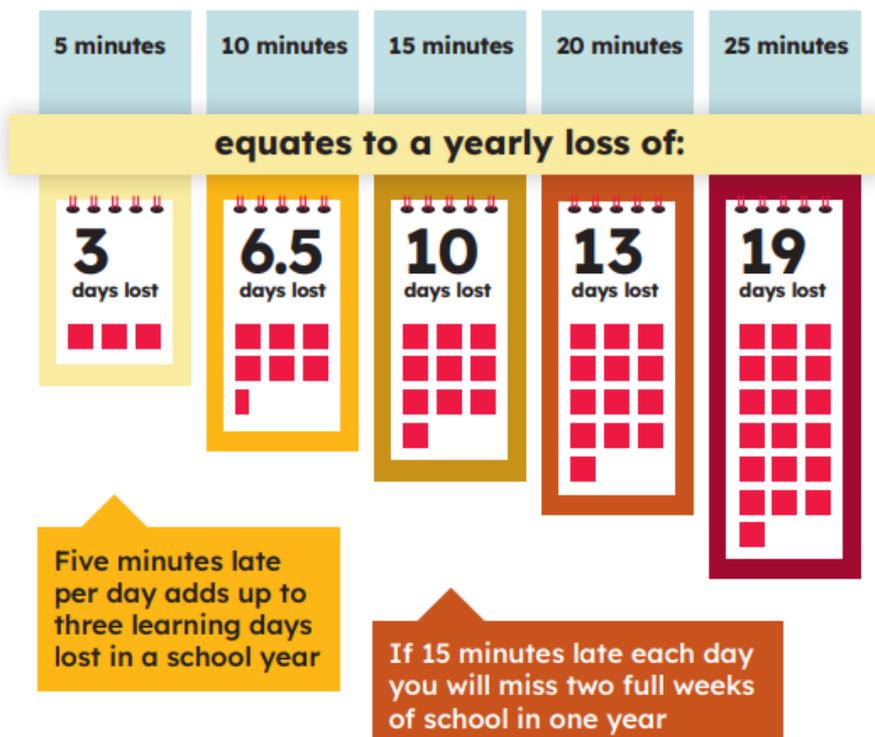
Visit Childnet's Kidsmart website to play interactive games and test your online safety knowledge. You can also share your favourite websites and online safety tips by Joining Hands with people all around the world.





Here, every day, ready and on time

Minutes lost per day



Poor timekeeping means less chance of success!

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%**.