



Spring Term 2 at Katherines

Head's message

What a wonderfully busy and uplifting half term it has been at Katherines. Our pupils, staff and families have taken part in a fantastic range of activities that truly reflect the spirit, curiosity and community of our school.

Some of Year 5 had a brilliant time completing their Bikeability sessions. The instructors were hugely complimentary about the children's attitude, focus and determination. They developed not only their cycling skills but also their confidence and road safety awareness.

A huge thank you to our PTA, who planned and delivered a truly special "Special Ladies' Day" event. Children had the opportunity to choose a gift for mothers, grandmothers, aunts and the important women in their lives. The smiles on the children's faces said it all—your hard work made the event both meaningful and memorable.

We also enjoyed an amazing Science Week, themed around *curiosity*. Pupils took part in exciting investigations, and a real highlight was the Sublime Science workshops, where children had the chance to make their own slime—an unforgettable hands-on experience that captured their imagination. Our afterschool class workshops were equally successful, and it was wonderful to see so many parents engaging directly with the science activities their children have been exploring in class.

Our pupils have also benefited from some fantastic curriculum visits and themed learning experiences this half term. Year 1 visited Duxford, where they learned about the history of flight and explored how the first aeroplanes were developed—an inspiring start to their topic. Year 3 and 4 enjoyed an immersive Egyptian Day in school, bringing history to life as they explored ancient artefacts, beliefs and daily life. Our Katherines Parliament had the incredible opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament, gaining first-hand insight into democracy, debate and how laws are made. They represented the school brilliantly.

Our Reading and Phonics workshops for Reception and Year 1 were extremely well attended. We greatly appreciate the support of our families—working together makes a real difference to children's early reading success, and it was lovely to see such strong participation.

Finally, as you know, we recently welcomed Ofsted into school. I want to thank our entire community—pupils, staff and parents—for their support and positivity throughout the process. We look forward to sharing the report with you in due course.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break when it arrives, and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mrs Harman

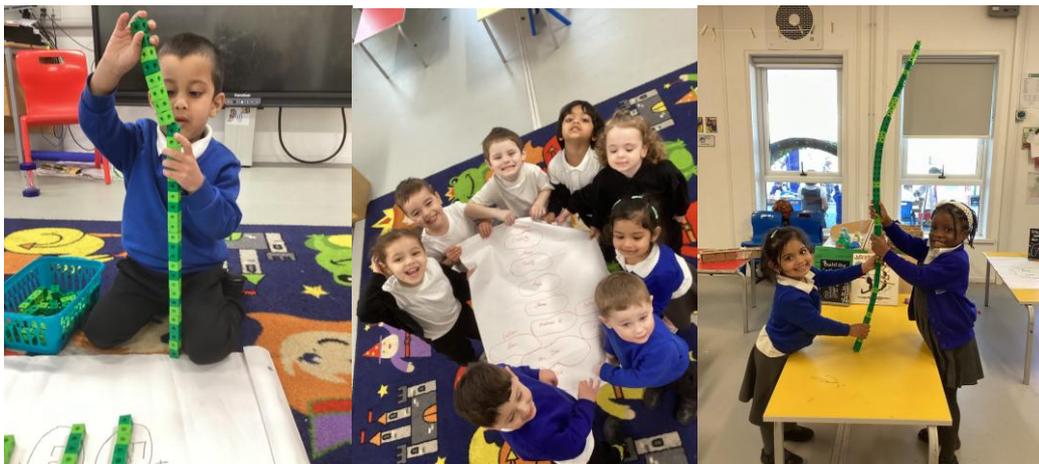
Across the school

Nursery - Alex Deans

This term the children went on a Bear Hunt adventure! They explored a variety of sensory textures linked to the events in the story. In Talk for Writing, the children learned to retell the story in sequence and practised using new vocabulary such as *snowstorm*, *trip-tap*, *tiptoe* and many more!



In Maths, we learned about the number 6, as well as height and length. The children were challenged to build the tallest beanstalk using green multilink cubes, and we even measured our shoe sizes!



In mark making, we practised drawing vertical lines, helping the children develop their early pre-writing skills.



In Understanding the World, we learned about the life cycle of a daffodil and noticed the signs of Spring in our environment. We also made Mother's Day cards and created our own Bear Hunt maps!



The children independently express their love for reading and will often ask their teachers to read a story with them each day.



Reception- Ellie Simmonds

Reception has been working hard this half term, making the most of all learning opportunities. Learning has been linked to the stories of The Little Red Hen, Jack and the Beanstalk and Oliver's Vegetables. These texts have provided lots of opportunities for the children to use their imagination, retelling and acting out the stories. This included making delicious bread like the Little Red Hen.



In maths this term, the children have learnt more about the numbers 7, 8, 9 and 10; comparing them and finding ways to make them from their parts. They have also begun to find number bonds to 10 and to develop their understanding of length and height.



Reception have been learning about healthy eating, and have tried beans, peas and spinach as part of healthy snack times. They know that fruit and vegetables keep us healthy.



Reception continues to learn through their play as they explore and discover new things. We are very proud of the friendships the children are making, learning to share, take turns and to begin to make compromises too. We look forward to continuing their learning journey next term and thank parents for all their support.



Year 1- Louis Braille

This term has been full of exciting activities, the children have loved learning through practical, hands-on experiences. As well as a trip to Duxford and Science workshops!

In Maths we have been investigating capacity and beginning to explore multiplication. The children have enjoyed using a variety of manipulatives to build their understanding through hands-on learning.



In English we have explored one fiction text and one non-fiction text. The children have really enjoyed developing their writing skills this term, especially when creating their own characters and innovating our model texts to make the stories their own.

In Science we have been continuing our work on Animals Including Humans. The children have loved discovering the different parts of the body and investigating how our five senses help us understand the

world around us. We also celebrated Science Week, where our main highlight was melting crayons and the Science workshop where we got to find out and make slime!



In RSE, we have been learning about different types of relationships, the many ways we can greet people, how families can look different, and what it means to be a good friend. In RWV, we have been exploring the creation stories found in both Hinduism and Christianity.

In History, we have been learning about The Wright brothers and First Flight. Children especially enjoyed our trip to Duxford and having the chance to see a range of transport up close—even some from long ago! The visit helped us learn even more about the Wright Brothers and their remarkable achievements. We even got to go inside the Concorde!



In DT we also had great fun tasting different fruit and vegetables and making our own smoothies!



Year 2 -Billy Monger

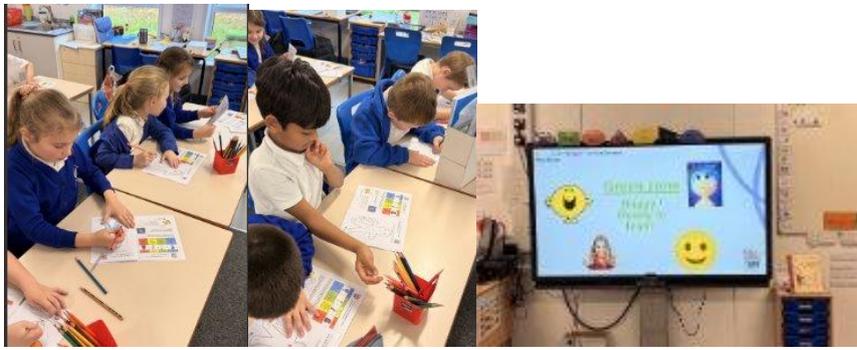
As part of our science learning about habitats, Year 2 went on a rainy-day adventure to observe snails in their natural environment. Science Week linked perfectly to this topic, as we explored habitats further by creating our own bird nests and thinking carefully about the materials animals use to survive.



In computing, the children really enjoyed exploring how photographs are taken. They loved experimenting with ways to improve their photos, learning how small changes can make a big difference, and discussing why choosing the right format matters for sharing and keeping their images.



We also enjoyed the wonderful Emotional Explorers sessions, where the children had the chance to learn more about their emotions and how these can be regulated in different situations. They loved taking part in the activities, sharing their thoughts and feelings, and adding their ideas to our Class Calm Kit!



In maths, the children had great fun learning about fractions and discovering how to find a fraction of an amount. They enjoyed using the strategies taught in class to work out $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of different amounts, and loved putting their new skills into practice with exciting problems and challenges!

Year 3 -Boyan Slat

We've had a wonderful and busy half term, and I want to say a big thank you to all the pupils in Boyan Slat for always coming into school with a smile on their face and a positive attitude, ready to learn! Your enthusiasm and kindness make every day a joy.

In English, we have been reading the traditional story *Robin Hood* and using this text to write persuasive letters. We focused on including powerful adjectives, a range of conjunctions, and even hyperbole to really get our points across. The children then applied these skills to write a persuasive letter on a topic of their choice—and they were brilliant!

In Maths, we have been working on short multiplication and division before moving our learning on to fractions. We have added and subtracted fractions, explored thirds, and investigated equivalent fractions. The children have shown great resilience and progress throughout.

In Geography, we have been learning all about Egypt. We created weather reports based on Egypt's climate, learned about important landmarks, and discovered why the River Nile is so significant.

We also had a wonderful Ancient Egyptian Day, where the children took part in a variety of activities in a bustling marketplace, helping them understand daily life in ancient Egypt. They even attended a royal feast, where they performed and enjoyed food fit for the royal family! The children thoroughly enjoyed the day, and it really helped consolidate their history learning from earlier in the term.

We have accomplished so much, and it has been wonderful to see the children learn, grow, and approach everything with such enthusiasm.

I hope you all have a wonderful and restful Easter break and we can't wait to see you in the summer term!



Year 4- Greta Thunberg

Year 4 have had another busy term full of learning. In English, we have been studying *The Three Fishing Brothers Gruff*. The children have enjoyed getting to know the characters and have been busy writing their own detailed character descriptions, using adventurous vocabulary and descriptive language to bring their ideas to life.

In maths the children have been deepening their understanding of decimals and exploring how they link to fractions. They have been comparing and ordering decimals, recognising the relationship between tenths and hundredths, and using their fraction knowledge to help them make these connections. The children have shown fantastic focus and enthusiasm as they build their confidence with these new concepts.

In Geography, our learning has focused on Egypt. The children created weather reports based on Egypt's climate, learned about its famous landmarks, and discovered why the River Nile is such an important part of life in the country.

We also enjoyed a brilliant Ancient Egyptian Day. The children explored a lively marketplace filled with themed activities and took part in a royal feast, complete with performances and treats fit for royalty. This immersive experience really helped them understand daily life in ancient Egypt and deepened their history learning.

In Science, we took part in an exciting workshop where we investigated different materials and made our very own slime. We had great fun experimenting with textures and observing how materials can change, helping us understand states of matter in a hands-on way.

Well done to Year 4 for another fantastic few weeks of learning!



Year 4/5- Anne Frank



In English, the children have created their own scientific reports based on newly invented species. They worked carefully to use formal scientific vocabulary, relative clauses and brackets to add extra detail. They also explored poetry by changing the endings of traditional tales and nursery rhymes, adding imaginative twists while focusing on rhyme and storytelling techniques.

In Maths, pupils have strengthened their understanding of decimals by comparing, ordering and rounding them to the thousandths. They then applied their knowledge in statistics, learning how to read tables and draw line graphs to present data accurately.

In History, the children have been studying the Victorians. They explored what daily life was like, including food, working conditions, child labour and schooling. They also learned about Ragged Schools, which were established by Lord Shaftesbury to provide free education for children living in poverty.

In Geography, our focus has been natural disasters. The children have learned about tectonic plates, the Ring of Fire and different types of plate boundaries—destructive, constructive and conservative. They now understand how earthquakes form, how the Richter scale is used and how to stay safe during such events. We also examined real-life examples of earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions.

In Science, pupils investigated a range of materials and their properties, exploring whether they were magnetic, conductive, absorbent, opaque or transparent. They also studied reversible changes (such as melting chocolate or freezing water) and irreversible changes (such as burning wood or mixing vinegar and bicarbonate of soda).

In Computing, the children have been learning to programme LED lights, a motor and wheels. They will use these skills to design and construct their own fairground ride at the end of the unit.

The class also attended a performance of Grease at Stewards Academy, which they found engaging and inspiring.

Finally, several of our Year 5 pupils completed the two-day Bikeability Level 2 course. This programme, delivered by Safer Essex instructors, teaches children how to cycle safely on the road, develop strong control and build confidence when navigating real traffic situations.



Year 6 Malala Yousafzai

This has been a busy half term for Malala Yousafzai class.

There's no getting away from it: Sats are getting closer! In order to prepare themselves for the tests, the children have been working hard, practising reading comprehension, learning ways to answer punctuation and grammar questions and honing their arithmetic skills.

In maths, we have continued to cover the year 6 curriculum, focussing on geometry including finding the area of rectangles as well as triangles and parallelograms and the exploring the properties of triangles and quadrilaterals.

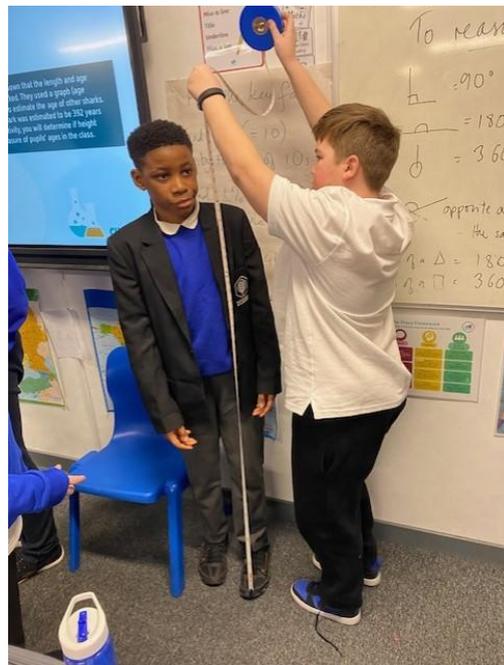
In English we have used the book 'War Horse' to write a setting description of the moment in the story when Joey – the horse – takes part in a cavalry charge against the enemy, challenging the children to bring it to life thinking about the sights, sounds, smells and how it would have felt for him to take part.

The class have enjoyed learning about natural disasters in geography – finding out about the way the Earth is made up of layers and how the crust is broken up into plates which are the cause of both earthquakes and volcanoes. As scientists, we have been exploring materials as well as enthusiastically taking part in science week where the class investigated questions.

The children visited the Latton Bush Centre to take part in Harlow Council's annual Crucial Crew event to help prepare them for the coming years as they become more independent.

Malala Yousafzai's two elected Members of Katherines Parliament joined me on a trip to the Houses of Parliament at the invitation of Chris Vince MP to have a tour around where he works following his visit to Katherines earlier in the year; they had a great day out.

When we return we will be making the final push to help the children attain the Sats marks they deserve!





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 27th April and the last sessions will be on the week of 6th July. Clubs will be as follows:



Monday - KS2 Dodgeball

Tuesday - KS1 – Multisport

Wednesday - KS2 Multisport

Thursday - KS1 Multisport

What to do

Advice on childhood illnesses



Go to school; if needed, get treatment as required



Some restrictions for school attendance



Don't go to school and see the GP

What it's called?	What it's like	Going to school	Getting treatment	More advice
Asthma flare up	Worsening of usual symptoms		Follow your care plan	Stay off school if feeling too unwell
Chicken pox	Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters		Pharmacy	Back to school five days after on-set of the rash, or when all lesions are crusted over
Common cold	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Conjunctivitis	Teary, red, itchy, painful eye(s)		Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading*
Flu	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene*
German measles/ Rubella	Fever, tiredness. Raised, red, rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards		GP	Back to school four days after the rash has started, if feeling well enough. Please let the school know, as pregnant members of staff may be affected.
Glandular fever	High temperature, swollen glands, sore throat; usually more painful than any before		GP	*
Hand, foot & mouth disease	Fever, sore throat, headache, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet)		GP	Attend school while monitoring symptoms
Head lice	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)		Pharmacy	
Impetigo	Clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness		GP	Back to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics
Measles	Fever, cough, runny nose, watery inflamed eyes, rash		GP	Back to school four days from on-set of rash, and if feeling well enough
Ringworm	Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy, rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty		Pharmacy	
Scabies	Itching rash, commonly between fingers, wrists, elbows, arm		GP	Back to school after first treatment
Scarlet fever	Fever, unwell, red tongue, sandpaper rash		GP	Exclusion period during first 24 hours of antibiotics*
Shingles	Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister-type rash		GP	Only stay off school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Sickness bug/ diarrhoea	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea		Pharmacy	Contact GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours
Threadworms	Intense itchiness around anus		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Tonsillitis/ Strep throat	Intense sore throat for more than 1 day		Pharmacy	See GP if temperature lasts more than 48 hours or cannot swallow. Only need to stay off school if feeling too unwell
Whooping cough	Violent coughing, with a 'whoop'		GP	Exclusion period during first five days of antibiotics
Covid				Visit www.nhs.uk for latest guidance

*Attend school while monitoring symptoms.

This information is a guide and has been checked by health professionals. If you are unsure about your child's wellbeing, we recommend you contact your pharmacy or GP to check.

Working in partnership with

Should my child go to school/nursery today?
Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together for further information
<https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers>

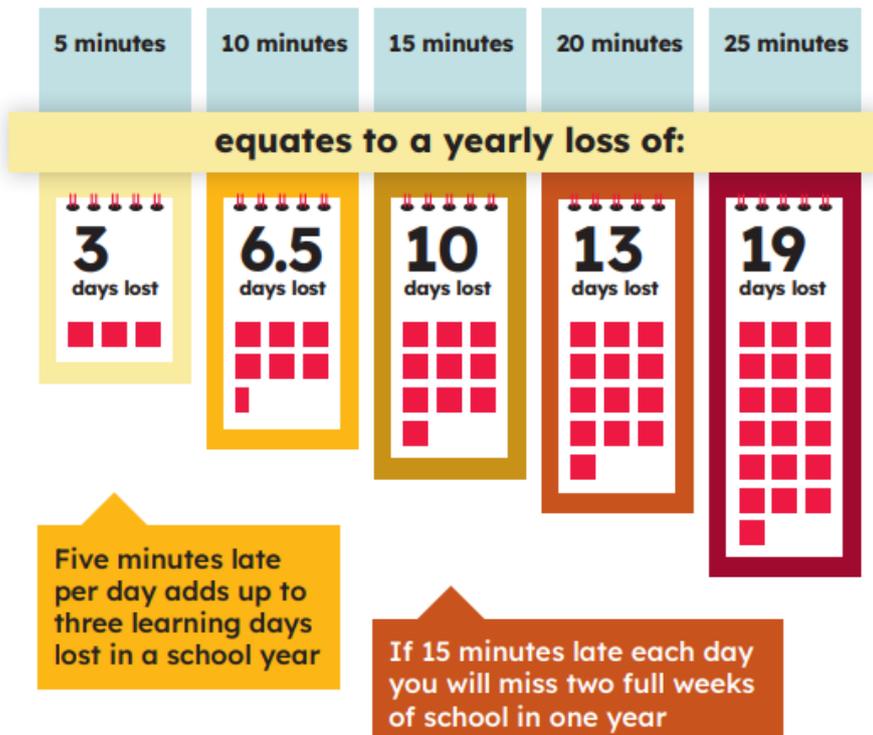


Essex County Council



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%**.