



Summer 1 at Katherines

Head's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the first half of the summer term, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy and rewarding few weeks here at Katherines. There have been many highlights this term, including our VE Day commemorations and the impressive way our Year 6 pupils approached their SATs with resilience and determination. Another highlight was the fantastic support for our recent book fair, which raised hundreds of pounds for exciting new books. Thank you for your generosity that made this possible.

I'd also like to express my gratitude to those parents who have taken the time to send positive messages about their children's experiences at Katherines. Our staff work hard to provide the best possible education and care for every child. While this is never done for recognition, hearing your kind feedback really does make a difference.

Looking ahead to the final half term, our Year 6 pupils will soon head off on their residential trip, and several other classes have educational visits planned. We are also looking forward to Sports Day, which will take place at Longwood Primary School on Wednesday 3rd July. It promises to be a great way to round off the school year.

I wish you all a peaceful and restful break. I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on **Monday 9th June**, for the final 6 weeks of the academic year.

Across the school

Nursery

Nursery have been busy this term strengthening their fine motor skills by cutting a variety of materials, including leaves, straws, and, more recently, magazines. They have also enjoyed experimenting with spray painting and learning about the contemporary Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, who is famous for her polka dot artwork. This linked beautifully to their Maths learning, helping them understand repeating patterns and practise predicting what comes next.

The children have loved getting hands-on with different textures—digging for bugs in the mud and painting with their hands were definite favourites!

A real highlight this term was making fruit kebabs, thanks to a generous donation from Tesco, who provided a delicious selection of fruits and kebab sticks. Inspired by *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, the story they have been reading, the children made their kebabs independently using the fruits from the book.



Reception

The highlight of Reception's learning this half term has been our work based around the story 'Dear Dinosaur'. As storytellers they learnt the story from memory, drew story maps, wrote letters and even wrote their own facts about dinosaurs. The children relished the chance to look at real life fossils and then create their own using salt dough. What a totally roar-some half term it has been!



Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about the primary colours and how they can be mixed to create secondary colours. The children created beautiful number paintings using a mixture of both primary and secondary colours. In science lessons, the class have been exploring trees and plants. They made sketches of trees and took rubbings of different tree trunks, observing the various ways in which trees can differ. Another highlight of the term was making healthy smoothies, although some fruit and vegetable combinations proved more popular than others.



Year 2

Year 2 have taken part in a variety of exciting hands on activities this half term. As part of their Design and Technology topic, they created their own healthy wraps, and in Science, they planted seeds to explore how plants grow. The children thoroughly enjoyed these practical lessons and demonstrated fantastic teamwork and listening skills throughout.



Year 3 & Year 3 / 4

Year 3 and Year 3/4 enjoyed an incredible Viking Day, packed with exciting activities such as axe throwing, spear fighting, and practising their shield wall in preparation for battle. This immersive experience truly brought their History topic 'Anglo-Saxons and Vikings', to life in a fun and memorable way. The children deepened their understanding of who the Vikings were, where they came from, and how they lived, all while having a fantastic time!



Year 4 / 5

Year 4/5 thoroughly enjoyed a variety of engaging activities this term. As part of our VE Day celebrations, we embraced the spirit of the era by digging for victory and planting seeds in the planters on our classroom windowsills. We planted lettuces, radishes and courgettes, and we are excited to see how much they will have grown after the holidays. They are already looking very impressive.

A particular highlight was our VE Day tea party. We tucked into more cake and biscuits than we usually eat in a whole week. It was a fun and memorable occasion for everyone.

During Autism Awareness Week, we explored how people with autism experience the world. We read books, watched short films, and learned how we could support others who may see and respond to things differently. One of our favourite activities was a sensory trail, where we explored different textures and sensations and described how they made us feel.

In art, we learned all about mark making. In one lesson, we ventured outside to explore the school grounds and collected natural materials to use for painting. The artwork we created was incredibly imaginative and showed just how creative we could be when we thought outside the box.



Year 5 / 6

Year 5/6 have had an exciting and action packed few weeks full of creativity, discovery, and celebration! They have been budding engineers, designing and programming their own mechanical marvels from speedy cars to thrilling fairground rides using motors, sensors, and a lot of imagination. In Science, they became shadow detectives, investigating how different materials opaque, translucent, and transparent affected light and shadows, sparking plenty of “aha!” moments. Meanwhile, the classroom has been filled with the joyful sounds of music as the children rehearsed enthusiastically for the upcoming Harlow Music Festival at Henry Moore School. To top it all off, they celebrated VE Day in true 1940s style, with a delightful tea party and traditional games, giving everyone a chance to step back in time and honour the past. It has been a fantastic term of learning and fun!



Year 6

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their SATs. Alongside their studies, they marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a series of activities that deepened their understanding of this important historical event. The children also enjoyed a hands-on Science project where they designed and created periscopes, exploring the principles of light and reflection.



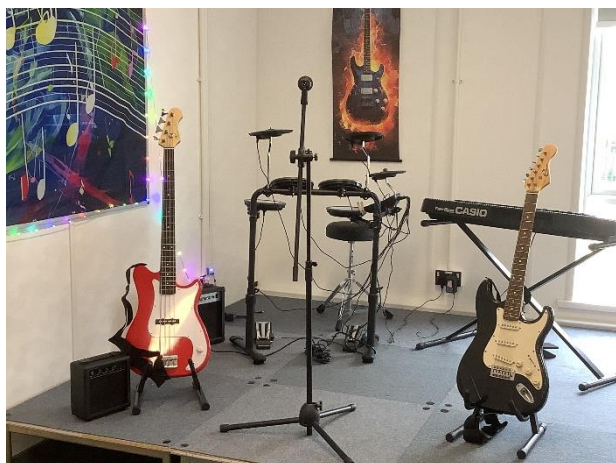
Library

This term we have added the final pieces of furniture and storage to the school library, to further develop our pupils' love of reading and provide some additional space for both classes and small group work. The incredible artwork was created by our pupils as part of the Art Solutions project, mentioned in the previous newsletter.



Thank you!

Thank you all for your donations for our 'Music dress up day' which raised hundreds of pounds for the children at Katherines. The money raised was put towards the purchase of some additional items for our music room which is now complete. Also awarded on the day were certificates for children's active participation in music sessions.



New building update

I'm sure you will have been pleased to read this week that our new permanent school will be complete and ready to open in September 2028. Of course as and when further updates are available they will be communicated to you in a timely manner.

10 Years of NET

On Friday 16th May, we were delighted to host the tenth anniversary celebration of NET Academies Trust here at Katherines. We were joined by the five other schools in our Trust, along with special guests including the Rt Hon. Robert Halfon, former MP. It was a fantastic opportunity for our school community to come together, and we were especially proud of our Year 5 and 6 pupils who confidently showcased their musical talents as part of the celebrations. As a proud member of NET Academies Trust, we are pleased to share in its continued growth and success. It was a wonderful afternoon that reflected the strong sense of community, collaboration, and creativity we value so highly at Katherines.



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/69>



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%**.