



Summer Term 1 at Katherines

Head's message

As we move through a busy and exciting Summer Term, I would like to take a moment to share some of the many highlights taking place across the school.

It has been wonderful to see the continued success of our *Mastering Number* workshops. These sessions have provided valuable opportunities for parents and carers to gain a deeper understanding of how mathematics is taught in school and how they can support their children at home. Thank you to all who attended and engaged so positively.

This term also saw Reception and Year 3 pupils enjoy a well-deserved bowling trip as a reward for their excellent attendance. Their commitment to being in school every day is something we are incredibly proud of, and it was lovely to celebrate this achievement together. Well done to all involved!

I would also like to commend our Year 6 pupils for their hard work and resilience during their SATs assessments. They approached the week with maturity and determination, and we are extremely proud of the effort they have shown throughout the year leading up to this point.

We are delighted to begin our programme of class assemblies over the term. These are always a highlight, offering pupils the chance to share their learning and achievements with families and the wider school community. We look forward to welcoming many of you to these special moments.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight that we currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our Governing Body. This is a fantastic opportunity to become more involved in the strategic leadership of the school and to contribute to its ongoing development. If you are interested, please contact the school office for further information.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. We look forward to seeing you after the half term break on Monday 8th June.

Warm regards,

Mrs Harman

Across the school

Nusery- Alex Deans

We have had a very busy and exciting term in Nursery!

In *Understanding the World*, we explored the life cycles of a butterfly and a frog. The children were delighted to welcome our little creatures into the classroom and were fascinated as they observed and investigated their growth over time. We also learned about different habitats, where the children created their own environments for wild animals using a range of resources and enjoyed sharing their favourite species. They expressed their love for animals through creative activities, including making animal art using handprints.



To enrich our learning about the natural world, the children were introduced to Sir David Attenborough as we celebrated his 100th birthday, inspiring their curiosity about wildlife and the environment. We also planted sunflower seeds, and through this, the children began to understand how to care for the natural world.



We observed the seasonal change from spring to summer, and despite some rainy weather, the children eagerly put on their puddle suits and wellies, splish-splashing with great enjoyment!



In *Maths*, we focused on the concepts of “more” and “fewer” and introduced the children to 2D and 3D shapes. The children worked hard to name the shapes and began to recognise the properties and dimensions of 3D shapes.



In *PE*, we concentrated on fundamental movement skills, helping the children to build core strength through activities such as hopping and jumping.



Throughout our daily learning, we also supported the children’s *Personal, Social and Emotional Development* by linking it to our school values. With gentle encouragement, the children consistently demonstrated their understanding of being kind, staying safe, and working hard.





Reception- Ellie Simmonds

There has been great learning in Reception over the first summer half term. In phonics, the children have begun to learn their set 2 sounds and are able to read a growing number of words. They are also working hard at reading exception words by sight. Phonics lessons continue daily with opportunities to learn a new sound, practise spellings and read a book matched to their sounds level. We are also very proud of Reception as they begin to record simple sentences using the sounds they know. The children are showing some lovely handwriting as they think about how to hold a pencil correctly and how to form letters.



Reception has also had some visitors as the children learn about life cycles. They have taken very good care of our caterpillars and tadpoles, watching for changes in these animals daily. The class were very excited as the caterpillars began to make chrysalises this week.

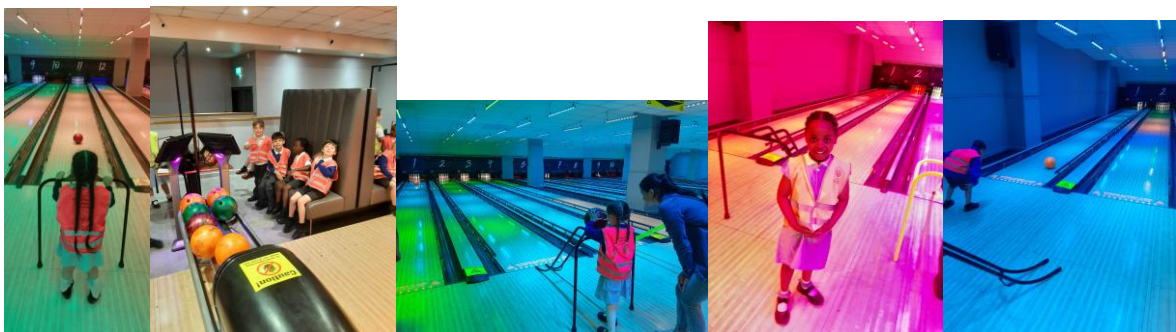


During child-initiated learning, Reception continues to use their imagination in their play, constructing elaborate ramps for their cars, structures for houses or amazing animal parks. The children also learn to be good friends, taking turns and working as part of a team. The children really

enjoyed our focus texts this term, and their play was often linked to the books we are reading. 'Dear Dinosaur', 'The Train Ride' and 'The Lion Inside' also gave children opportunities to learn more about dinosaurs, trains and African animals.



Going bowling was a wonderful experience for Reception. They loved learning to bowl the balls along the lanes and sharing the outing with their friends. It was a special reward for having excellent attendance and we thank parents for sending the children into school every day.



Year 1- Louis Braille

It has been a busy and exciting term in Year 1, and we are delighted to share some of the learning your children have been engaging in!

In English, the children have been learning how to write a set of instructions. We wrote two pieces of instructions: 'How To Make A Disgusting Sandwich' and a set of instructions of their choice. We have also been focusing on the story *Where the Wild Things Are*. The children have loved exploring the characters and setting and have been developing their storytelling skills by innovating the story where they change parts of it to create their own imaginative versions. They have shown great creativity and enthusiasm in their ideas and storytelling.

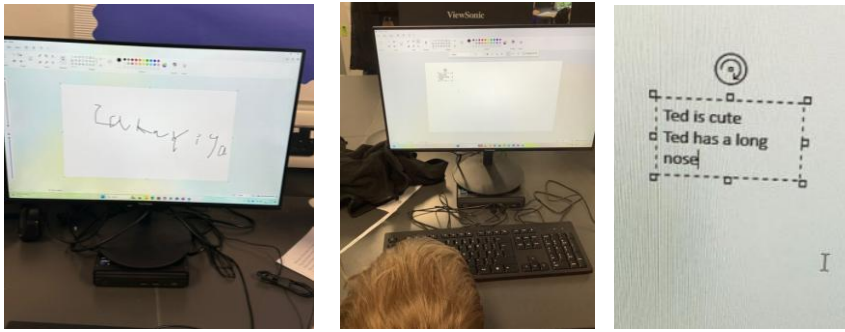
In Maths, we have been learning about fractions, focusing on halves and quarters. The children have been identifying and finding half and a quarter of shapes and quantities, using practical resources to support their understanding. We have also been working on place value up to 100. The children have been exploring tens and ones, counting forwards and backwards, and representing numbers in different ways. They are becoming much more confident with larger numbers and explaining their thinking.

In Geography, we have been exploring *Our World*. The children have been learning about the seven continents and the five oceans, and they have done a fantastic job remembering their names. We have also been discussing what it might be like to live in different continents, thinking about climate, animals, and ways of life. The children particularly enjoyed trying different food and looking at different clothing / items that can be found around the world.



In Science, we have been learning about plants. The children have learning about the different parts of a plant and tree, we have explored what each part does and what are the similarities and differences in plants and trees. We have also begun to look at different types of trees and how to identify them. The class have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm, especially when observing plants in our outdoor environment. We are excited to explore this further next term.

In Computing, we have started learning how to use a keyboard. The children are becoming more confident in locating letters, using the space bar, and typing simple words. This is an important foundation for developing their digital skills, and they have been enjoying practising through fun activities. We are excited to continue this after half term!



In Art, the children have been exploring paint. They have learned how to mix primary colours to make secondary colours and have enjoyed experimenting with different shades and learning about different artists!



Year 2 -Billy Monger

In Science, we have been learning about plants and investigating the different stages of a plant growing. The children planted pea seeds and explored the conditions plants need to grow well, including sunlight, water and soil. We are excited to observe the changes over the next few weeks!



In Maths, we have been learning how to tell the time. The children have been practising reading o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to times using both clocks and practical activities.



In Computing, we have been using ScratchJr to develop our programming skills. The children have enjoyed learning how to change the background, move sprites and add speech to create their own simple animations and stories.



Year 3 -Boyan Slat

It has been a busy and exciting time in Year 3. In English, we have been learning how to write playscripts. The children have practised using stage directions written in brackets, placing colons after a character's name, and starting a new line for each speaker. They have really enjoyed performing their own short plays and bringing their writing to life.

In Maths, we have been focusing on time. This has included reading time on both analogue and digital clocks, understanding am and pm, and finding durations by working out how long events last. We have also been comparing different times and converting between seconds, minutes, and hours. The class has made great progress in developing confidence with these important skills.

In History, we have been learning about the Romans. The children explored the structure and strength of the Roman army and learned about Boudicca and her rebellion. We also discussed how the Romans have influenced our lives today, including their impact on roads, buildings, and laws. The class showed great interest and curiosity throughout this topic.

We also enjoyed a fantastic bowling trip. Everyone had a brilliant time, showing teamwork and encouraging one another. It was wonderful to see so many smiles and celebrations throughout the day.

Thank you for your continued support.



Year 4- Greta Thunberg

What a whirlwind of a half term. Coming back to teach year 4 has been brilliant, I have enjoyed every moment with the children. They are incredibly resilient and are so passionate about their learning.

We have been super busy this half term. We have been attending swimming at Stewards on a Wednesday morning which the children have absolutely loved. A big thank you to Mrs Philps for coming with us and being the additional adult.

In Maths, we have been focusing on money and time. The children have been developing their understanding of pounds and pence by adding and subtracting amounts, finding change and solving real-life money problems. In our work on time, we have practised reading analogue and digital clocks looking at both 12 and 24hr time. The children have shown great enthusiasm and are becoming much more confident in applying these skills.

For English, Year 4 have been exploring instructional texts and balanced arguments. We have been learning how to write using imperative verbs, time conjunctions and organised steps. The children have also begun to look at their persuasive writing skills by presenting balanced arguments. I have been imploring the children to include reasons and viewpoints to support their ideas. We have been linking the learning to targets such as writing in paragraphs, using appropriate grammar and punctuation and expanding our vocabulary choices. A big focus this half term has also been on editing and improving our work as this is a skill.

In PE, we have been doing athletics and cricket. The children are super competitive and love the competitive side of sports. We are looking forward to the upcoming sports days after half term.

Finally, we are fast approaching our MTC. The children have been working tirelessly on their times tables, and this has reflected in their scores. We have had some incredible progress; we will continue to push this as we are testing for this on our first week back after half term. If you could please, support us by encouraging your child to keep playing and keep practising their times tables over the half term to ensure they are as prepared as can be for what is to come.

Thank you as always for your support and for your kind words about me returning to teach Greta Thunberg for the summer term.

Year 4/5- Anne Frank

This half term has been incredibly busy and engaging for Anne Frank's class, with children demonstrating enthusiasm and curiosity across all areas of the curriculum.

In Maths, pupils have been building confidence with fractions. They have learned how to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions, developing both their fluency and problem-solving skills. They have shown great perseverance when tackling more complex calculations and have worked hard to explain their reasoning clearly.

In English, the children have explored a range of writing styles. They produced thoughtful balanced arguments, learning how to present different viewpoints clearly and respectfully. They also wrote diary entries inspired by *Henry's Freedom Box*, writing in role as Henry. This linked closely to their History learning, allowing them to express emotion and deepen their understanding of significant events through writing.

In History, the class has been studying slavery, including the transatlantic slave trade, and making links to modern slavery today. Pupils explored different forms of slavery that still exist, including those in the UK, and engaged in meaningful discussions about fairness, freedom and human rights.

In Science, pupils have been learning about living things and their habitats, focusing on life cycles. They have particularly enjoyed observing real-life examples in the classroom, including the butterfly life cycle and tadpoles developing over time. They have also learned about reproduction in plants and animals, exploring fascinating examples such as seahorses and penguins.



In Art, the children created self-portraits, carefully observing their features and experimenting with different techniques to produce detailed and expressive work.

In Religious Worldviews, the class studied Hinduism, focusing on the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and exploring different paths to enlightenment. Pupils developed their understanding of values such as peace, non-violence and respect for others.

In RSE, the children took part in the Safety Essex road safety training, learning how to walk safely near roads and developing their awareness of traffic, crossings and how to keep themselves safe in real-life situations.



As we approach the final half term, Year 5 pupils are beginning to prepare for their transition to Year 6, focusing on increasing independence, resilience and readiness for the challenges ahead. Year 4 pupils are continuing to practise their multiplication skills in preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in June. Over the half term break, we encourage regular practise of times tables to help build confidence and fluency.

Year 6 Malala Yousafzai

In Year 6, the first half of the Summer Term is spent in final preparations for the Sats tests that took place between the 11th and 14th May. Together with year 6 children across the country, the class took national tests in spelling punctuation and grammar, reading comprehension and maths.

After an intense few weeks of working on how to answer typical Sats questions by reviewing past papers and honing their skills in SPaG, reading and maths, the children were ready to tackle the real thing!

On the first day, the children were all in bright and early for their Sats breakfast and were ready to start. Once they had completed the fifty question short answer paper, had a break and then were given the spelling test, Monday's testing was over. Tuesday and the reading paper: three texts ending with the story of Amelia Earhart, the American record-breaking pilot. On Wednesday, they started with most people's favourite – the arithmetic paper – then following a break, the first of the two reasoning papers. And finally, on Thursday the tests were completed with the second reasoning paper.

The children worked really hard and were a credit in the way they conducted themselves throughout what is always a nerve-wracking week. Well done!

Now that Sats week is over, we are making more of a focus on writing to make sure that the children have the opportunity to show what they can do with a pen. We will also be concentrating on other areas of the curriculum and thinking about the end of term, transition to secondary school and all that we can achieve before then!



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

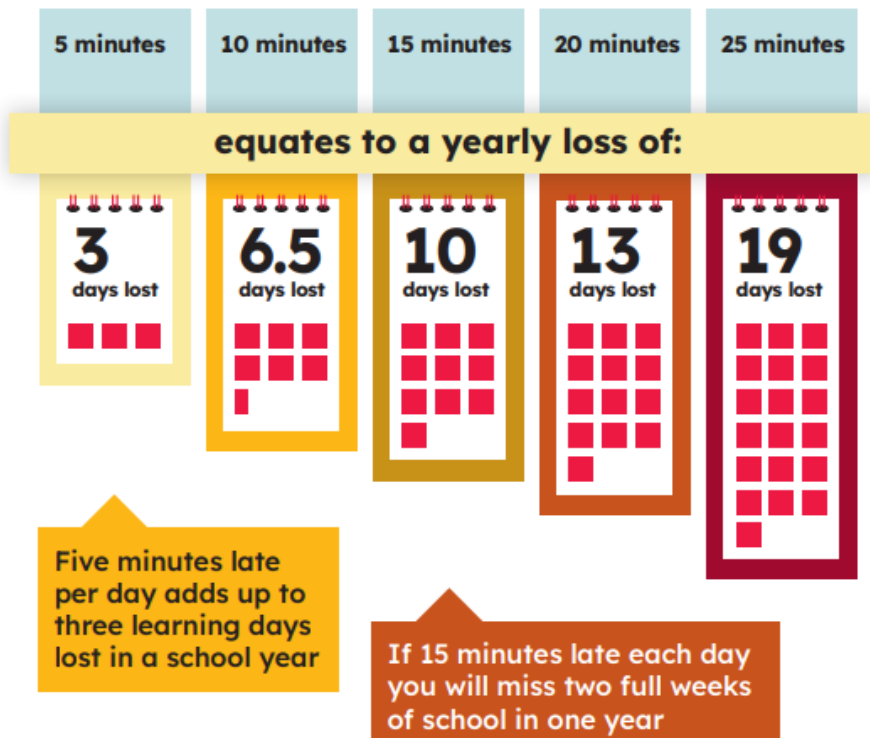
Should my child go to school/nursery today?
Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together for further information
<https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers>





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%**.