



Summer Term 2 at Katherines

Head's message

As we reach the end of another busy and successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our pupils, families, staff and the wider school community for their continued support.

The second half of the summer term has been filled with memorable experiences and achievements. Our annual Sports Day at Longwood Primary School was a tremendous success, with pupils demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the day. We are extremely grateful to Longwood Primary for allowing us to use their wonderful facilities. Our Nursery Sports Day was equally enjoyable, and I would like to thank our fantastic Pupil Advocates, who supported the event so confidently and responsibly, proving once again what excellent role models they are.

We are also delighted with the continued strong outcomes across the school. Our Reception children have achieved a strong Good Level of Development, Year 1 pupils have performed exceptionally well in their Phonics Screening Check, and our Year 4 pupils have achieved excellent results in the Multiplication Tables Check. These achievements reflect the hard work of our children, the dedication of our staff and the support of our families.

This term has also seen a wealth of enriching experiences beyond the classroom. Pupils have enjoyed exciting visits to Old MacDonald's Farm and Lee Valley Park, while our Year 6 pupils created lasting memories during their residential visit to PGL Liddington, where they showed resilience, independence and teamwork throughout their stay.

A huge thank you must also go to our wonderful PTA for their ongoing support. This term they organised a special Male Day workshop, which was greatly enjoyed by the children, as well as another highly successful Summer Fair, which brought our school community together and raised valuable funds for the school.

Finally, we say a fond farewell to our Year 6 pupils as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journey. They have been fantastic ambassadors for Katherines, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved. We wish them every success and happiness in their new schools and know they will continue to make us proud.

I hope you all have a restful, safe and enjoyable summer break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.



Mrs Jeannette Harman
Headteacher

Across the school

Nursery- Alex Deans Summer 2 has been super-hot and super exciting in Early Years!

In Understanding the World, we learned all about sea creatures and practised identifying them from pictures, helping to expand our vocabulary. The children learned about eels, crabs, turtles, walruses, sharks, and an incredibly interesting deep-sea creature called the anglerfish, which has a light that helps it attract its prey. In Talk for Writing, one of our focus stories was *The Rainbow Fish*. Through this story, we explored what it means to be a good friend, the importance of sharing, and how kindness can bring joy to others.

The hot weather gave us a great opportunity to explore Science concepts such as freezing and melting. The children discussed what happens when water freezes and what happens when ice is left in a warm environment. This helped them develop an understanding of how materials can change when their temperature changes. We explored the question: "Would you rather go to the zoo or the beach?" The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their opinions, drawing on their own experiences, and explaining the reasons behind their choices.

In Maths, we learned about number composition, which helps children understand how numbers are made up. For example, the children discovered that 5 can be made from 4 and 1, or 3 and 2. Through hands-on activities, number games, and counting songs, the children developed their understanding of numbers. We also explored what comes before and after a number, building confidence with counting and number recognition.

We made the most of the warm weather with lots of water play, helping us stay cool while developing our learning through play. The children especially enjoyed our annual Water Day, which was full of laughter and fun. We also had a wonderful time during our visit to Lee Valley Farm, where the children enjoyed meeting the animals and exploring the farm environment. They also gave their very best effort during Sports Day, showing fantastic determination, teamwork, and enthusiasm.

We are now looking forward to our Graduation Celebration, where we will celebrate the children's achievements and their exciting move on to Reception. We are incredibly proud of all the children and wish them every success as they take their next steps in their learning journey.



Reception- Ellie Simmonds

The children in reception have worked very hard over the last half term and enjoyed their learning. We are also very proud of the way the children play together with their friends, taking turns, sharing and creating imaginative games. The children make the most of their learning opportunities, whether in lessons or in 'COOL' time. Our core texts have been 'The Snail and the Whale', 'Tiddler' and 'Bog Baby' with learning linked to these stories. The children have enjoyed creating oral stories and role play with an underwater theme. In phonics lessons, the children have begun to learn the set 2 sounds. These include the sounds ay, ee, igh, ow and oo. These sounds enable the children to read a greater range of words and we are very proud of the progress the class is making in their reading. Reception has also practised writing simple sentences dictated by the teacher, and are gaining confidence in writing their own sentences. Their progress from their starting points is amazing.

Highlights of this term have been the very successful trip to Lee Valley Adventure Park and also our wonderful sports day. The class were very well behaved on both occasions and lots of fun was had by all.





It is very hard to say goodbye to Ellie Simmons class as they move to Year 1. The staff will miss the children very much as they have been a pleasure to teach. We also want to say a huge thank you to parents for your support working with us this year. We wish you a lovely summer break.

Year 1- Louis Braille

As we come to the end of a fantastic year in Year 1, we are incredibly proud of everything the children have accomplished. They have worked extremely hard throughout the year, it has been wonderful to see how much they have grown in confidence and independence, and how they have truly flourished both academically and personally.

This term in English, we have enjoyed exploring the text *Knuffle Bunny*, from this the children have been writing their own versions of a *losing story*. They have worked hard to develop their ideas, use interesting vocabulary and create engaging narratives. It has been wonderful to see their creativity shine through in their writing.

In Maths, we have been learning about money, recognising coins and notes and beginning to solve practical problems involving them. They have also been learning to tell the time, identifying o'clock and half past times and developing their understanding of how we measure time in everyday life.



In Science, we continued our learning about plants. We carried out an experiment to investigate how plants grow. Although our experiment did not go quite as planned, it provided a great learning opportunities and we discovered that roots grow first.

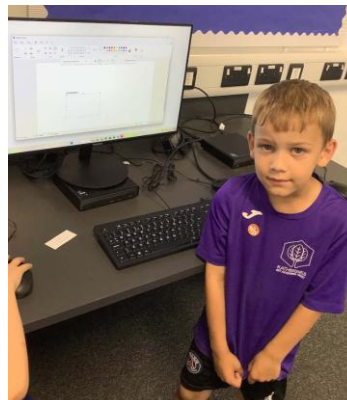
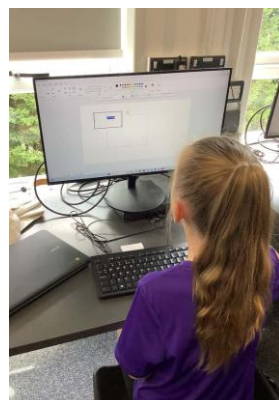
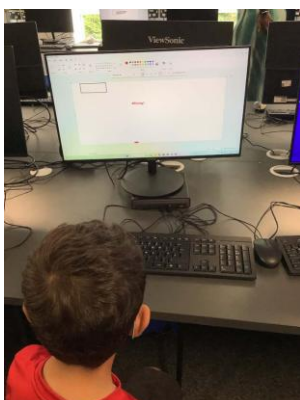


In Geography we have been learning about the seaside. The children enjoyed learning and comparing the seaside from today and from 100 years ago. A highlight of this topic was our beach trip, where the children had a wonderful time exploring the seaside first-hand and bringing their classroom learning to life.



In Religion and World Views, we have been learning about Shabbat and its importance to Jewish people. The children explored how Shabbat is celebrated and why it is a special time for rest, reflection and family.

In Computing, we have continued to explore digital writing. They have learned how to use a keyboard to type words and simple sentences, identify letters and keys, and make changes to their work using the delete, undo and space bar keys.



I hope you all have a wonderful, restful summer break and I wish the children every success as they move on to Year 2.

Year 2 -Billy Monger

Year 2 have worked incredibly hard this term and have enjoyed all their learning. One of our favourite subjects has been Design and Technology. We investigated different types of structures and explored which shapes and designs are the strongest and most stable. We thought carefully about balance, strength and stability before designing and making a chair for Baby Bear. The children showed fantastic creativity, problem-solving skills and teamwork throughout the project, and they were very proud of their finished chairs!



In Geography, Year 2 have been learning about different types of weather around the world. We explored the weather found in the rainforest and compared it with the weather we experience here in the UK. The children also used maps to locate the world's rainforests and discovered where they are found. They enjoyed learning about the hot, wet climate of the rainforest and how this helps plants and animals to thrive.



Year 3 -Boyan Slat

It has been a busy and exciting Summer Term 2 in Year 3 Boyan Slat Class.

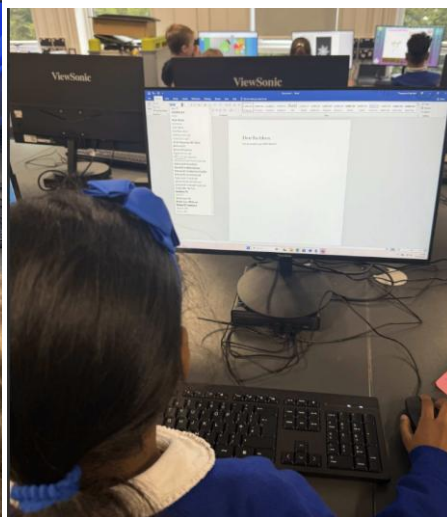
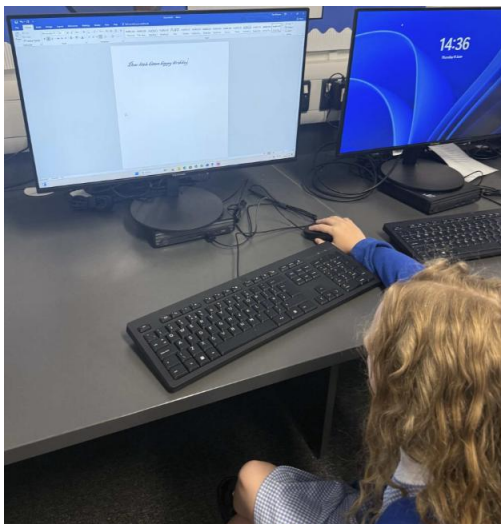
In English, we have been exploring *Escape from Pompeii*. The children have used the story as inspiration for their writing and have been learning how to write balanced arguments. They carefully considered different viewpoints and debated whether people should stay in Pompeii or flee the city before the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The class worked hard to present reasons for both sides before reaching their own conclusions, developing their persuasive writing and critical thinking skills.

In Maths, we have been focusing on measure. The children have explored length using metres, centimetres and millimetres, as well as learning how to convert between different units of measurement. They have also practised measuring accurately using rulers and tape measures, developing their precision and confidence



when solving practical problems.

In Computing, we have been learning how to use Microsoft Word. The children have developed important digital skills, including typing, formatting text, changing fonts and colours, and inserting images. They have enjoyed creating and editing their own documents while becoming more confident and independent computer users.



We also took part in a very special session with Year 5, learning about CPR and how to respond in an emergency. Using training dummies, the children were introduced to the basic steps of performing CPR and learned the importance of acting quickly to help others. This was a valuable life-skill experience that the children approached with great maturity and enthusiasm.

Thank you for your continued support throughout Summer Term 2. We are very proud of all the hard work, resilience and progress shown by the children this half term.



Year 4- Greta Thunberg

What a whirlwind of a term! Being back for a short time and spending time with such amazing children has been a real blessing. We have worked hard on our comprehension from the start of term, and I am really pleased with the progression made with inferencing across the class. We have had a push on ensuring reading aloud has been a priority, and our fluency has improved greatly. In maths, we have covered some tricky concepts such as time and statistics. The children loved playing battle ships to master co-ordinates.

In English, we have been studying a book called 'Our Tower' which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. We have been creative and imaginative with this, and the children have written their own short stories. The children have worked extremely hard in trying to meet year 4 targets in their writing and they should be proud of the efforts they have put in.

In Geography, we have been learning about the equator and time zones. The children took a particular liking to learning about the tropics and how the weather conditions in these locations differ and the reasons why. We explored several tasks in this learning, such as creating informational leaflets, double page spreads and fact files.

Lastly, with the weather we have had over the last month, the children have dealt with this admirably. They have shown maturity and resilience to continuously persist with their learning during this time. I hope you all have a wonderful summer break, and I wish the class all the best as they move up to year 5.

Year 4/5- Anne Frank

As we come to the end of the final term of the school year, it is hard to believe how quickly the time has gone! It has certainly been a full-on term, packed with exciting learning opportunities, memorable experiences and lots of hard work. The children have shown enthusiasm and resilience throughout, and they should be incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.



In English, we studied Henry's Freedom Box, making links to our History learning about slavery. As part of our history learning, we extended our understanding by exploring the important issue of modern slavery, investigating real-life cases that have occurred in the UK and discussing themes of freedom, human rights and justice.

In Mathematics, we developed our understanding of decimals, fractions and percentages, learning how to convert between them and apply our knowledge to increasingly challenging reasoning and problem-solving activities.

In Geography, we completed a comparative study of Japan and England. The children enjoyed exploring the similarities and differences between the two countries, learning about their climate, physical features, culture and ways of life.

In Science, we learned about *Living things and their habitats*, with a particular focus on plant and animal reproduction. A highlight of the term was our visit to Old MacDonald's Farm, where the children were able to observe animals and their young firsthand, bringing their classroom learning to life.



We also studied *Animals Including Humans*: learning about the human life cycle and the changes that occur during puberty, developing their understanding of how our bodies grow and change throughout life.

Although this last term has been incredibly busy, it has also been filled with exciting learning, valuable experiences and wonderful memories. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. I am very proud of all children in Anne Frank's class and wish them a restful and enjoyable summer break.



Year 6 Malala Yousafzai

This is not just the end of the school year; it is also the end of the children's time at primary school. While they are excitedly looking forward to the opportunities and challenges that will open out to them when they begin secondary school in September, it is also a time to look back on the successes and enjoyment they've had at Katherines – they have come such a long way since they started in reception seven years ago!



Following Sats, we concentrated on writing and introduced the children to Shakespeare and the play Macbeth. The children brought together all of the writing skills they have been working on to create a re-telling of the opening scene when Macbeth meets the three witches on the barren heath. In maths, having completed the Year 6 curriculum, we have had a look at some areas of maths that are taught in KS3 such as probability and binary numbers.



In science we have been investigating evolution and inheritance finding out more about how living things on earth have changed over time. In History we have been learning about slavery and how this is still a problem in today's society even though it is now illegal in every country world-wide. And as the World Cup is currently being played out, in art we have been creating works based on football.

For those of the class who went, the residential trip to PGL in Liddington was a great success – the children had a great time, pushing themselves to take part in the activities and supporting each other as a group. For everyone else, we've had a number of fun events to finish the year – they've have had a trip to the park, enjoyed their Prom and the Year 6 end of year production is almost ready to be performed! Well done Year 6.



Explore Culture in nature this summer with your family!

All of these spots are free or low cost and have been tried and tested by local families with children aged 0-7yrs. Scan the code for more info on each place.



Ambresbury Banks

Jack's Hill Car Park
B172, Theydon Bois,
Loughton IG10 2NY

Connaught Water

Connaught Water Car Park
Ranger's Rd, Loughton, E4 7QH

Harlow Town Park

School Ln,
Harlow CM20
2QB

Saplings

Culture & Creativity
in Nature

Gibberd Garden

The Gibberd Garden,
Marsh Ln, Harlow
CM17 0NA

Strawberry Hill Ponds

Earl's Path Car Park
Earl's Path, Loughton IG10

Harlow Museum

Muskham Rd, Harlow
CM20 2LF

Parndon Mill

Parndon Mill Ln, Harlow CM20 2HP

Bell Common

Forest Side Car Park Theydon
Rd, Epping CM16 4DU

Parndon Wood

Parndon Wood Rd, Harlow
CM19 4SF

Explore these lovely places with your little ones. Tried and tested by local families!

Ambresbury Banks

Paid parking via RingGo app.

No toilets

Pushchair friendly but can get a little muddy.

Ancient Iron Age Earth Works still visible today with information board for grown ups. All a gentle 15 minute walk from the carpark. For more Iron Age information, why not visit Harlow Museum!

Connaught Water

Paid parking via RingGo app.

Toilets a 30 minute walk at Epping Forest Visitor Centre

Pushchair friendly.

Walk around the beautiful pond, say hello to the water birds and see if you can spot all of the Brambley Hedge Mice! These sculptures go right round the lake and up to the Visitor Centre. Plenty of benches too.

Strawberry Hill Pond

Paid parking via RingGo app.

No toilets

Pushchair friendly but can get a little muddy.

Just a few minutes walk from the carpark and on the right of the main path is a flat area looking over the pond. Perfect for picnics and playing among the tree roots.

Bell Common

Paid parking via RingGo app.

No toilets but a pub 5 minutes walk away.

Pushchair friendly but can get a little muddy.

Lots of logs, stumps and den building possibilities within sight of the main path. Look out for holly leaves on the ground and wear closed shoes. It can get prickly!

Harlow Town Park

Pay and display parking

Toilets between Pets' Corner and Playground.

Pushchair friendly.

So much to explore! Meadows, trees for shade, Ducks, a lovely little stream near the bandstand. Free zoo at Pets' Corner. Two amazing playgrounds, sensory garden, willow circle and a cafe. Plus sculptures to spot and a free paddling pool. Come every day for a week and do something different every day!

Parndon Mill

Free parking for anyone visiting the gallery.

No public toilets

Pushchair friendly but can get a little muddy.

Small friendly gallery with new artworks by local and national artists. Walks via Parndon Mill Lock along the River Stort or through the water meadows. Check Parndon Mill website for gallery opening times, community days and family activities.

Parndon Wood

Free parking.

Toilets in visitor centre.

Pushchair friendly but can get muddy.

Willow hut and sculptures to play in, den building area, HUGE bug hotel and a storytelling area. Plus birdwatching hides and clear paths in a beautiful woodland on a manageable scale. Check Parndon Wood webpage for seasonal opening times.

Gibberd Garden

Free parking.

Toilets in visitor centre.

Pushchair friendly but can get muddy.

Entry fee applies - Open Saturday and Wednesday.

Amazing sculpture collection housed in Frederick and Pat Gibberd's beautiful gardens. Lovely lawns and lots of secret spots to discover. Plenty of shady areas too. Check website for special events.

Saplings

Culture & Creativity
in Nature

www.sallyhardcastle.com

Museum

Free parking behind Museum.

Toilets by reception.

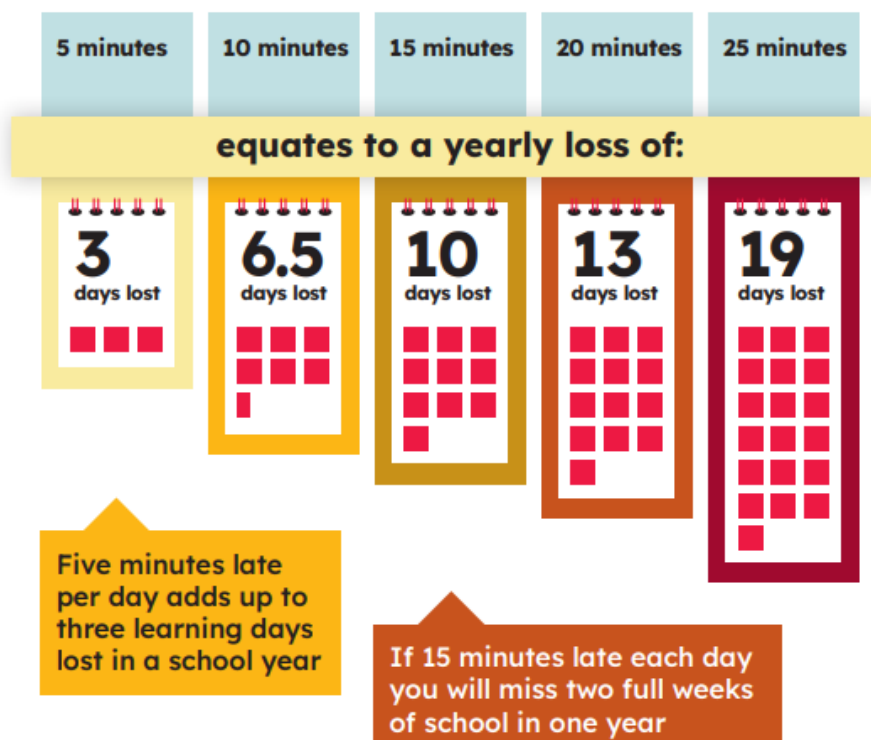
Pushchair friendly and not too big. Open Tues, Thurs, Sat.

Beautiful walled gardens with lawns, flowers, fruit trees and benches. Picnics welcome. Borrow magnifying glasses, binoculars and scavenger hunts. Lots to see and do inside too. Dress ups, sand trays for digging, a greengrocers shop for small shopkeepers and craft table. Check website for regular free and low cost family activities.



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%**.