



HELLO!

Royal Baby

COUNTDOWN

Once again, royal watchers, international photographers – and, most of all, the House of Windsor – are on high alert as they await the arrival of a new baby for Prince William and Kate! Here’s what we know so far about the happy couple’s third child



CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES



KATE'S

6

STEPS TO BABY BLISS

THE GREAT KATE
WAIT IS ON!
WE REVEAL
EVERYTHING YOU
NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT THE
PENDING ARRIVAL
OF BRITAIN'S NEW
LITTLE PRINCE
OR PRINCESS



Nanny Maria, Grandma Carole and Auntie Meghan will all provide love and support

1 BIRTH PLAN

Rumours abounded back in January that Prince William and Kate wanted to deliver their baby at their Kensington Palace home. It wouldn't have been a first, though,

since the Queen welcomed sons Charles, Andrew and Edward at Buckingham Palace and delivered Princess Anne at Clarence House. But it seems the parents of two have changed their mind, once again choosing the exclusive Lindo Wing of St Mary's Hospital in London – where Prince George, now 4, and Charlotte, 2, were born,

and where Diana, Princess of Wales, delivered William and Prince Harry. The private wing is known for its high-profile patients, with deluxe-room packages starting at \$11,200 including hotel-type amenities such as post-delivery champagne and wine list, afternoon tea, massages and a dedicated midwife.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: MARK CUTHBERT/GETTY IMAGES; MAX MUMBY/ND/GETTY IMAGES; SAMIR HUSSEIN/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; PETER MACDARMID/GETTY IMAGES; CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES

2 DEVOTED HELPING HANDS

No doubt, the baby will be adored by so many loving family members (including cocker spaniel Lupo!). After both of her deliveries, Kate retreated to her parents' mansion in Bucklebury, England, where mom Carole doted on her daughter and new grandchild, and Kate and her dad,

Michael, snapped delightful photos that were shared with the world. Once back home, the baby will be in the exceptionally capable hands of parents Kate and William as well as their beloved "super-nanny" Maria Turrion Borrallo, hired when George was eight months old. The kids are extremely close to their caregiver and already know many words in Maria's native Spanish, much to the delight of their parents. And with uncle Prince Harry and soon-to-be Auntie Meghan living in Kensington Palace, baby-sitters surely won't be hard to find!



3 THE GREAT KATE WAIT

The “no parking” signs have gone up outside the hospital (restrictions are from April

9 to 30 for an unnamed “event”), the iron railings in front of the now-famous Lindo Wing entrance have a fresh coat of paint and photographers from around the world have been given their positions. Now it’s just a waiting game! If Kate’s past deliveries are any indication – they’ve taken place five weeks into her maternity leave – the new baby could be

born somewhere between the Queen’s birthday on April 21 and William and Kate’s seventh wedding anniversary on April 29. The Queen will be notified first, then Kensington Palace will announce the news via social media. An official notice will be posted on a gold easel by the Buckingham Palace gates, followed by a royal 41-gun salute.



4 HOME AT LAST

Although Kate’s previous pregnancies have started with severe morning sickness that forced her into hospital, her deliveries have been fast and uncomplicated. If all goes as

before, William will bring George and Charlotte for a visit within hours of the birth and, soon after, the proud parents and their new baby will make their first public appearance on the Lindo Wing’s steps. Then William will buckle the baby into a car seat and, as is his preference, drive his wife and new child to their 10-bedroom home at Kensington Pal-

ace. There, the Queen and Prince Philip will meet their sixth great-grandchild, and Prince Charles will get to cuddle his third grandchild. Once Kate feels strong enough, they’ll likely venture to their country home, Anmer Hall, at the Queen’s Sandringham estate in Norfolk to acclimatize themselves to being a family of five.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: REY/SHUTTERSTOCK; BERETTA/SIMS/REY/SHUTTERSTOCK; HELEN MATHIAS/SPLASH NEWS; MAX NUMBY/INDIGO/GETTY IMAGES; KATHERINE BALMER/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK



6 KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

Kate was out and about five weeks after George’s birth, looking as slender as ever when she joined William in Wales on official duty. She took longer to emerge with Charlotte, as she focused on her family. This time, Kate isn’t expected to be back at work until the fall, using her time off to

celebrate her older children’s birthdays, enjoy their summer break and ease them into their first days of school come September. She will, however, make appearances at family events over the coming months, most notably at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s wedding on May 19, and Trooping the Colour (the Queen’s official birthday celebration) on June 9 and at the baby’s christening in a few months’ time. **H**

REPORT: SUZANNE WINTROB

‘Childhood is an incredibly important moment in our lives’ – KATE

5 SIBLING SWEETHEARTS

George and Charlotte’s new sibling will become fifth in line to the throne, moving Uncle Harry down a notch. If it’s a boy, Charlotte will make history within the British Royal Family by becoming the first girl to keep her rank rather than drop a place to a younger brother. The U.K. changed its 300-year-old succession laws before George’s birth in 2013 in case William and Kate’s first-born was a girl. As passionate advocates for the welfare of children, the proud parents will certainly encourage their baby to become independent and confident. “Childhood is an incredibly important moment in our lives,” Kate said in February during Children’s Mental Health Week. “It is the time when we explore our personalities, discover the potential that lies within us and learn how to be ourselves. Our experience of the world at this early stage helps to shape who we become as adults, how we begin to feel comfortable in our own skin.”

