



KATE & WILLIAM Their New Life



THE FRESHLY MINTED PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES SETTLE THEIR FAMILY INTO A NEW HOME, NEW SCHOOL—AND HOTTER NEW SPOTLIGHT
By **SIMON PERRY** and **SANDRA SOBIERAJ WESTFALL**

Stepping Into the Future

William and Catherine arrive at Lambrook School, near Windsor Castle (inset), with George, Charlotte and Louis on Sept. 7. "They'll have a lasting impact on everyone they meet," Rev. Steven Bunting says of the couple.

in Windsor

FROM LEFT: JONATHAN BRADY/GETTY IMAGES; GETTY IMAGES

William and Catherine were making their first visit to Wales since becoming the Prince and Princess of Wales – vaunted titles bestowed by King Charles III upon Queen Elizabeth’s death – and the people of Swansea, on the Welsh coast,

made sure the Sept. 27 occasion felt more like a homecoming than a royal engagement. At St. Thomas Church, “God Save the King” rang from the belfry as locals took selfies with the future King (a protocol breach that royals normally don’t agree to). “It’s brilliant they’re here,” gushed Pauline Bushrod, 80, of the couple, who, as newlyweds, made their home in Wales. “Our future King and Queen. It could not be better that it’s them.”

William and Catherine’s visit to a place of personal meaning came just one day after the royal mourning period for Elizabeth ended and seemed a promising start to a modern royal era. But it was followed the next week by a reminder that the couple’s new roles bring an even hotter spotlight. As William and Catherine,

both 40, shook hands with a mostly friendly crowd in Northern Ireland on Oct. 6, Catherine made close contact with anti-imperialist opposition when one woman took the princess’s hand and told her bluntly, “Nice to meet you, but it would be better if it was in your own country.” Her smile unflinching, Catherine moved on as the woman called out, “Ireland belongs to the Irish!”

It’s a time of transition and testing as the Prince and Princess of Wales pivot from the personal grieving and global pomp over the Sept. 8 death of William’s grandmother, whom Kate affectionately called Grannie, and step into new landscapes at work and at home. With their three children—George, 9, Charlotte, 7, and Louis, 4—the family are freshly



Succession Secured
William and Charles (on Sept. 18, with Queen Camilla and Catherine) “are aligned in their vision of the future of the monarchy,” says Nicholl.



Scaling Down
William will not have a grand Prince of Wales investiture, as his father, Charles (with Elizabeth), did in 1969.

relocated from London’s Kensington Palace to Adelaide Cottage, a modest (by royal standards) four-bedroom home in Windsor’s Home Park, the private 5,000 acres surrounding Windsor Castle. The children are settling into a new school, Lambrook, where they began classes on the day the Queen died. A source close to the family acknowledges it has been a stressful time, especially for Catherine, the first Princess of Wales since William’s mother, Diana, held the title. “Things were very tense that week; it was not exactly the settling-in period they had hoped for,” says the source. But the couple, following the lead of William’s father and Queen Camilla, are intent on showcasing stability and unity. As if to prove the point, Buckingham Palace released a portrait on Oct. 1 of the four-some. “That was a very important image of what the modern monarchy and reign of King Charles will look like,” says Katie Nicholl, author of *The New Royals*. “They represent the future House of Windsor.”

‘They are young enough to understand modern-day Britain and what it needs’

—DIANA AWARD CEO TESSY OJO ON WILLIAM AND KATE

While Catherine’s popularity soared in the transition, she now faces inevitable comparisons with Diana, the best-loved royal in modern history. Like the woman whose iconic sapphire engagement ring she wears every day, the new Princess of Wales has undertaken ambitious projects throughout the United Kingdom on child development, mental health and family well-being. As for Diana’s legacy, palace sources say that Catherine “appreciates the history associated with this role but will understandably want to look to the future as she creates her own path.” Adds Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton, William’s former private secretary: “She will do so with humility and by acknowledging

Their SWEET HISTORY in WALES

The couple made their first family home in Anglesey in 2011



First Royal Duty

In February 2011—two months before they wed—Kate “did the fun bit,” as William said, as she christened a new lifeboat in Anglesey.



Seaside Treats

At Joe’s Ice Cream Parlour in the South Wales resort of Mumbles in February 2020, William declared himself a “chocolate man.”



Holiday Memories

On a Royal Train tour of the U.K. during the pandemic in December 2020, they toasted marshmallows with students in Cardiff.



Surprise Family Outing

Echoing William’s first official trip to Wales at age 8, the couple brought Prince George and Princess Charlotte to Cardiff in June.

