# Royal Family Attends Royal Ascot; Senior Members Missing, Japanese Emperor Plans UK Visit



**Senior Royals Attend Second Day of Royal Ascot, Missing Key Members**

On June 19, 2024, members of the British royal family gathered at Royal Ascot for the second day of the renowned horse racing event, held in Berkshire. Queen Camilla led the royal procession in a carriage, with notable absences, including the Princess of Wales, Kate Middleton, and King Charles III.

The event saw the attendance of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, who were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary, along with their father, Christopher Rhys-Jones. Princess Anne, alongside her daughter Zara Tindall and her husband Mike Tindall, mingled with other family members in the parade ring. The York family was represented by Princess Beatrice with partner Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi and Princess Eugenie with her spouse, Jack Brooksbank. Sarah, Duchess of York, made a rare public appearance as well.

Prince William accompanied Queen Camilla in the carriage and was seen interacting with family members. Kate Middleton's parents, Carole and Michael Middleton, marked their return to public events since Kate's announcement of her chemotherapy treatment following a cancer diagnosis. King Charles, also undergoing cancer treatment, was working in London and had earlier met with Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema at Buckingham Palace.

**Japanese Emperor Naruhito's Upcoming Visit to the UK**

Emperor Naruhito of Japan announced on June 19, 2024, his upcoming visit to the United Kingdom from June 22-29, marking the first state visit since his ascension in 2019. This long-awaited trip, initially planned for 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the visit, Naruhito and Empress Masako aim to strengthen ties with the British royal family, including King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

The emperor's itinerary includes a visit to Oxford University, where he studied in the 1980s, and various official engagements, such as laying flowers at the tombs of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip and visiting the Thames Barrier. The trip acknowledges the long-standing relations between Japan and Britain, which have developed across numerous sectors.

Naruhito also expressed his appreciation for King Charles accommodating the visit despite ongoing recovery from cancer treatment. The royal couple’s connections to the UK include past educational experiences and familial ties dating back three generations.