



NEWSLETTER



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The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are very pleased to announce that The Duchess of Cambridge is expecting their second child



Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge are expecting their second child, the royal family said on Monday morning.

"The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are very pleased to announce that the Duchess of Cambridge is expecting their second child," it said.

"The Queen and members of both families are delighted with the news that their Royal Highnesses are expecting their second child."

Kensington Palace said that - as when the duchess was pregnant with Prince George - she was suffering from very acute morning sickness and was being treated by doctors at the palace.

Prince William and Catherine's second baby will become fourth in line to the throne, behind older brother Prince George, who is 13 months old.

The palace said the Queen and both families were delighted with the news.

Prime Minister David Cameron, Labour leader Ed Miliband and the Archbishop of Canterbury were among those to offer their congratulations to the couple.....

The palace said the pregnancy had not yet reached the 12-week point, but the couple decided to make the announcement because the duchess was due to undertake a series of public engagements in the coming weeks that are now in doubt.

"There are a number of forthcoming engagements so we took the decision to be fully open about it at this point," the spokeswoman said. "One is the forthcoming visit to Malta and a decision on that will be taken closer to the time."



'Big brother'

The baby announcement came after the couple's first child, Prince George, had his first birthday on 22 July.

Prime Minister David Cameron said: "Many congratulations to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. I'm delighted by the happy news that they're expecting another baby."

Mr Miliband said: "Fantastic to hear that Prince George will soon be a big brother. Congratulations to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on their happy news."

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said the pregnancy was "fantastic news".

Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond said: "This is very happy news for any couple, and on behalf of the people of Scotland, I am delighted to send our best wishes to the countess and our hearty congratulations to the royal couple."

The duchess is known as the Countess of Strathearn in Scotland.

The child will be born fourth in line to the throne. As a sibling to Prince George, who is 13 months old, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's second child will not be expected to be crowned sovereign.

William and Kate's new baby will be a great-grandchild to the Queen and a great-great-great-great-great-grandchild of Queen Victoria.

Once he or she arrives, Prince Harry will shift down the line of succession to fifth in line to the throne, while the Duke of York will move to sixth place and princesses Beatrice and Eugenie to seventh and eighth.

The baby will be a prince or princess thanks to the Queen, who stepped in ahead of Prince George's birth to ensure all William's children would become HRHs with fitting titles.

The Queen issued a Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the Realm in December 2012 when Kate was just a few months' pregnant, declaring "all the children of the eldest son of the Prince of Wales should have and enjoy the style, title and attribute of royal highness with the titular dignity of prince or princess prefixed to their Christian names or with such other titles of honour".

Second-born royal children are often dubbed "spare to heir" but have on occasion ended up as monarch. The country's last king, George VI, only acceded to the throne when his older brother, Edward VIII, abdicated in 1936.

George VI's father, George V, was also not destined to wear the crown. But he outlived his older brother, the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, and became king in 1910.

God save the Queen.

