

# Kingsclere CE Primary School Newsletter



February 2026 - Edition 7

## February 2026 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely half term break.

Over the past month, we have really enjoyed seeing the children's learning develop, particularly through this year's E-Safety theme: 'Smart tech, safe choices - Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.' The focus has been on helping children build the skills they need to use AI technology thoughtfully, safely, and responsibly.



We recently heard back from our 'Tesco Stronger Starts' grant application and, thanks to the wonderful support of our families and community, we were delighted to come second place and secure £1,000. This funding will go directly towards our trim trail project. We are continuing to meet with outdoor play providers to gather quotes and explore ideas for creating an exciting new play space for the children to enjoy.



Well done to our Year 5 Maths Challenge team on their recent competition at St Gabriel's. We are incredibly proud of the teamwork the children demonstrated and their determination to tackle such a wide range of mathematical challenges.

We are looking forward to seeing many Key Stage 2 children take part in the upcoming Cross Country West Berkshire competition next month and wish our pupils the very best of luck!



Kind regards,  
Jo Messenger  
Headteacher

# Thank you Friends of Kingsclere Primary School PTA!

Thank you to the PTA for organising the Valentine's Disco and staff and parents for supporting at the event. The children really enjoyed the party atmosphere, and there was certainly plenty of dancing! The school also loved taking part in 'Break the Rules Day' during the school day. We are very grateful for your generous donations and, across both events, an amazing £933.40 was raised. Thank you to everyone for your support.

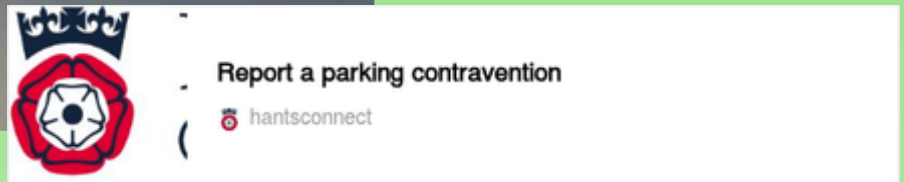


## Road Safety Outside Our School

It is really important that we keep the entrance to the school safe for children as they arrive and leave each day. Parking on the corner of the road or on the zig-zag lines is against road safety regulations and makes it difficult for children to cross safely.



The school kindly encourages parents to report any concerns regarding unsafe parking directly to the Police or to Hampshire County Council - see the link below:



You may have noticed that the road markings outside the school have begun to be refreshed, following our request to the Traffic Safety Engineering Team (Safer Roads - Traffic North). We have also received permission, further to our second application, to place temporary School Road Safety pavement signs on the public highway. Please do follow the guidance on these signs. **We are grateful to all our families who already support these safety measures so thoughtfully.**



As always, please take care not to block our neighbours' driveways or park on their grass outside their homes.

Thank you for your continued support and for working with us to keep our school community safe.



## School Apps including for Home Learning

A reminder that all children have log-ins for the learning apps we use in school. These include our reading, spelling and times tables platforms, which can also be used at home to support learning. Log-in details have been shared with families, and you can also find these in your child's home learning information on Seesaw. Please speak to your child's class teacher if your child does not have their log in details.

Alongside our online tools, we continue to provide weekly paper-based home learning, shared via Seesaw or detailed in the Home Learning Newsletter.

This half term, we are excited to launch our Home Learning Reward System to recognise children's commitment, effort and the work they complete and share. We look forward to celebrating their achievements throughout and at the end of term.



Program/App	Purpose
<b>Weduc / Reach More Parents</b>	All information for parents and carers about school trips, meals, events, activities, daily organisation, school newsletter.
<b>School Website:</b> <a href="#">  Kingsclere CE Primary School</a>	The school website has lots of information for parents and carers from curriculum information, lunch menu, handwriting font, calendar, wrap around care etc.
<b>Seesaw (Year 1 – 6)</b> <b>Tapestry (Year R only)</b>	Shows children's learning – for staff evidence and also to enable children to record their learning through different ways, e.g., not just always writing but videos, photos.
<b>TT Rock Stars</b>	Times tables practice
<b>Phonics and/or Spelling Shed</b>	Phonics or Spelling practice
<b>SORA – Reading</b>	Stories online – audio and to read



**Reading Morning -  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March for all  
parents and carers.  
Please join us!**

**We warmly invite all parents and carers to our Reading Morning on Tuesday 24th March.** Join us in the hall from 8:45am for tea and coffee and a short talk from the School Library Service about reading and the free resources available to families.

You will then be able to visit classrooms to see your child(ren) participating in their learning in a Shared Reading lesson.  
The event will run until 10:00.

We hope you can join us for this enjoyable and informative morning.



## **Roll Back the Stone Easter Celebration!**

Please join us for our whole school Easter Cantata, at St Mary's Church, Kingsclere,  
on Friday 27th March, 9:30 - 10:30am.

The children will be retelling the Easter story through readings and song, and it would be so great if they could share their performances with you.



## World Book Day – Thursday 5th March

World Book Day is nearly here, and we are looking forward to celebrating the joy of reading with the children. **On the day, children are invited to dress up as a favourite book character or wear a simple clue linked to a book they enjoy.**

They are also welcome to bring in a favourite book from home to share with a reading buddy from a different year group.

Children, on this day, will receive a paper token in school. These can be used to get a free World Book Day book or £1 off another book, until 15th March.

We can't wait to celebrate reading together!



### World Book Day at Kingsclere Library

Kingsclere Library is celebrating World Book Day with a special two-part event for families.

**On Thursday 5th March, children are invited to drop in after school wearing their favourite book-character costumes. They can have their photo taken and will receive a small goodie bag to mark the occasion.**

Throughout the whole month of March, visitors of all ages are also encouraged to pop in and share a few words about their favourite book and why they love it. These mini-reviews will be displayed in the library to inspire others with new reading ideas.

**As the school is also welcoming costumes on the 5th, the library event offers a fun extension of the day's celebrations - please do pop along on your way home if possible!**



### New village library hours!

From March, the village library will be open on **Thursday** in the morning.

If this is popular the village library will look at making this a permanent change.

Tuesdays 13:00 - 17:30

**Thursdays 10:30 - 16:30**

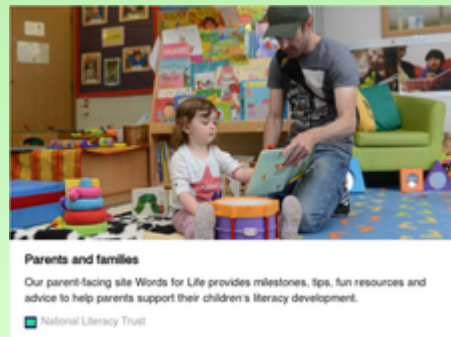
Saturdays 10:00 - 13:00

## The Importance of Reading

As we celebrate the National Year of Reading, it's a great reminder of just how vital reading is for children's development. The Department for Education describes reading as 'essential for children's success' and 'the gateway to learning...supporting progress in every subject as well as children's confidence, imagination and wellbeing'.

While this national focus is exciting, reading is something we promote every day in school. A few minutes of reading at home each day makes a real difference, helping children build strong habits that will benefit them throughout their education.

The link below supports guidance for reading and there is also a link to the 50 most recommended reads for children of all ages.



Year 4 spending time in our school library.

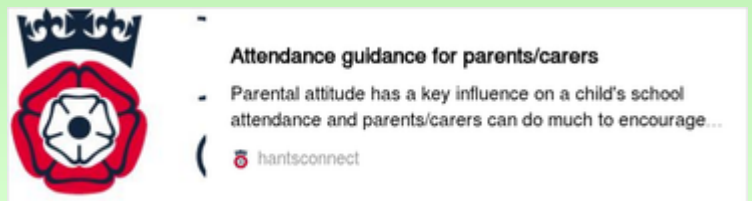
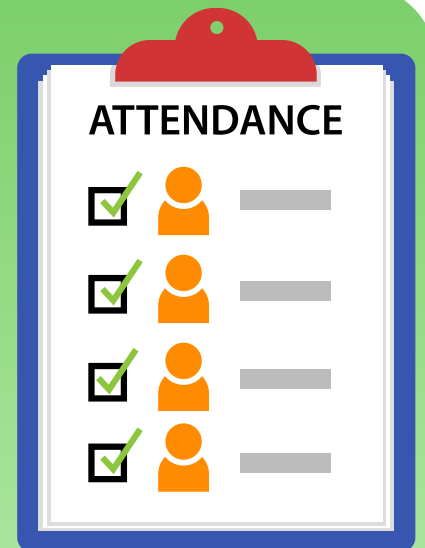


## The Importance of Good Attendance

Good attendance is essential for children's learning, progress and wellbeing. The Department for Education reminds us that 'pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education' and that even small amounts of missed learning can have a significant impact over time.

Of course, we fully understand that children become unwell, and when they are genuinely ill they need to be at home to rest and recover. However, we do ask that families avoid taking holidays during term time. Absence for holidays leads to gaps in learning and means children miss the routines, friendships and pastoral support that help them thrive.

You can find the DfE's guidance on school attendance on the embedded link. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child attend school every day and make the most of their learning.



## Karate Club

Friday Mornings - 08:00 - 8:45

There are still lots of spaces for any children that would like to join Karate Club.

Karate Club is available for Year R to Year 6.

Please contact [andy.hobday@hotmail.com](mailto:andy.hobday@hotmail.com) for further details.



## Awards and Celebration!!

Well done once again to the children from Year R, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 who received rewards in English, Maths, STEM, School Values, Arts and Sports this term. We are very proud of their achievements.



As part of our staff peer-coaching and learning walks, Senior Leaders and staff have been visiting classes to monitor the strong practice taking place and to identify next steps for continued improvement. It has been wonderful to see the children's work and to watch them contributing so confidently to their learning in lessons.

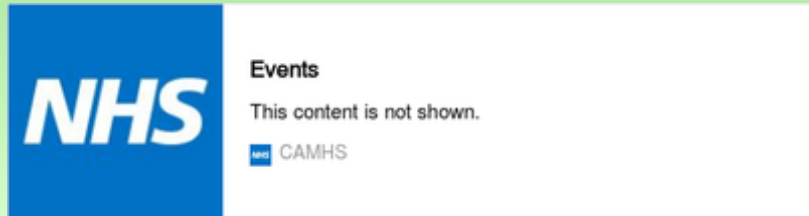
We have also been impressed by the number of children achieving Courageous Advocacy awards. These have included supporting the School Council's work on E-Safety, as well as helping to improve our school environment through litter-picking and other eco-initiatives.

We are excited to share that we have recently begun a partnership linked to Kingsclere Brook, which will offer opportunities for children to get involved in this important local river project. This will help promote children's understanding of river conservation and the wider importance of caring for our environment.



## CAMHS Support for Families

CAMHS are now running a range of helpful events for parents and carers across Hampshire, including P.A.C.E sessions, drop-in advice events, and workshops on topics such as anxiety, ADHD, trauma and autism. These sessions are designed to support families and young people, and some discretionary tickets are available. If you feel these events may be helpful, please contact CAMHS directly for booking information.



## Keeping Children Safe Online

A new national children's online safety website has been launched as part of a government campaign, and we wanted to share this with you. The aim is to support families in having regular, simple conversations with children about what they see online, for example, asking questions like 'Who shared this?' or 'Why was this posted?'

The website has been designed around the concerns parents say matter most and includes helpful guidance, tips and information to support safe online choices at home.



### Keep kids safe online

Find out the steps you can take to keep your child safe online. Get practical and trusted information to help you feel more confident.

 Kids Online Safety

## School Calendar Dates 2025 - 2026

Date	Event	What pupils should wear please or other information
Tuesday 3rd March	Year 5 and Year 6 Winchester Science Centre	
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day	
Monday 9th March	Year R - Autumn and Spring Births - heights, weights and hearing checks	
Wednesday 11th March	Grounds Day	Outdoor clothing, coat, wellies and trainers.
Tuesday 17th March	Parent/Carer Consultation 15:45 – 18:45	Dates to sign up will be sent out shortly.
Thursday 19th March	Parent/Carer Consultation 15:45 – 18:45	Dates to sign up will be sent out shortly.
Friday 27th March	Easter Service at St Mary's 09:30 -10:30	
Friday 27th March	Last day of Spring term	
Monday 30th April to Friday 10th April	Easter Holiday	
Monday 13th April	Children return to school	
Tuesday 21st April	Year 3 and Year 4 Greek Day at Ufton Court	Permission Deadline 31.3.26 Lunch order by 28.2.26
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday	
Wednesday 6th May	Book Fair after school	
Thursday 7th May	Class Photographs  Book Fair after school	
Friday 8th May	Book Fair after school	
Monday 11th to Thursday 14th May	Year 6 SATS week	
18th – 22nd May	Year 5 and Year 6 Residential	
Monday 25th – 29th May	Half Term	

Tuesday 2nd June	Swimming Begins	
Monday 8th – 11th June	Phonics Screening Checks	
Friday 12th June	Sport Day	
Friday 19th June	Back Up Sports Day	
Monday 29th June 2026	INSET Day	
Monday 6th July	Last week of school teacher led clubs	Fee paying clubs continue
Wednesday 8th July	Year 5 and Year 6 Performance at 13:15	Tickets on sale in June
Thursday 9th July	Year 5 and Year 6 Performance at 18:00	Tickets on sale in June
Monday 13th July	Year 3 and 4 Swimming Gala 10:00 – 11:30	Swimming kit and two towels needed
Tuesday 14th July	Grounds Day	
Wednesday 15th July	Year 5 and 6 Swimming Gala 10:00 – 11:30	Swimming kit and two towels needed
Wednesday 22nd July	Year 6 Leavers' Service at St. Mary's	
Wednesday 22nd July	Last day of the Summer Term before the Summer holiday begins on 23rd July	