

Kingsclere CE Primary School Newsletter

December 2025 - Edition 5



December 2025 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas celebrations this year. From the infant nativity performance to the whole school Christmas Cantata at the church, it has been such a joy to come together as a community. We are so proud of the children, their enthusiasm and dedication in learning and performing dances, songs, solos, acting out nativity roles, and sharing readings was wonderful. The children told the Christmas story so well at this special time of year. We are also very grateful to all the volunteers who kindly supported and supervised the children during these events. Finally, a special thank you goes to Mrs Bowden (Music Lead) for her hard work in bringing these celebrations together, alongside the staff team.

We were delighted to see a full hall for Christmas Dinner, with the children looking wonderful in their festive jumpers. Thank you for supporting this tradition and helping to make the day so special. Today's Staff Christmas Pantomime was also enjoyed by the whole school, filling the hall with laughter and joy!

A huge thank you also goes to our PTA (Friends of Kingsclere CE Primary School) for organising so many fantastic events, including the Santa Fun Run (complete with Santa's Grotto and fair), the Christmas Gift Exchange, and the Film Night. These events not only bring our community together but also raise vital funds. We are thrilled to share that, thanks to events held just this term, we are very close to reaching our fundraising target for our new Trim Trail! Thank you for your generosity and to the whole FKS and staff team for their hard work in putting on these events.

We are very grateful for your swift response to collecting your child or arranging for another carer to collect your child during the emergency evacuation on Tuesday 2nd December. We were pleased to be able to work alongside contractors to ensure the school was up and running again so quickly following the flood. Thank you for your patience and support during that challenging time.

We look forward to seeing the children on the first day pack in the Spring Term on Tuesday 6th January at 8:45.

Thank you for your ongoing support this term. Wishing you a super Christmas with family and friends.

Kind regards,
Jo Messenger
Headteacher



We are delighted to share some learning updates from Year R through to Year 6 with you this December.

Learning in Year R - Ash Class

Over the past few weeks, the children have enjoyed a rich and varied learning journey. Year R began by exploring the celebration of Diwali, where the class learned about its traditions and created their own colourful diva lamps using clay and decorative materials. This linked beautifully to our work on 2D shapes, as the children identified and used circles, triangles, squares, and rectangles in their designs and in shape-based activities around the classroom.



Our learning question this half term has been 'Shall we go for a walk?' The children have practised following simple maps and created maps of places in stories. We shared and discussed books that involve walking, including 'Rosie's Walk' and 'On the Way Home', helping the children develop sequencing and prediction skills.

As we moved into the festive season, the class learned about the Nativity story and began practising the songs and dances for our upcoming performance. They showed great enthusiasm and growing confidence as they rehearsed together.

In Phonics, we continued with Phonics Shed, focusing on the remaining initial sounds, with the children becoming increasingly confident in recognising and using them. Finally, we explored the four seasons, discussing how the world changes throughout the year. Each group worked collaboratively to create a piece of season-themed artwork, proudly sharing their ideas and creativity.



Learning in Year 1 - Rowan Class

Year 1 have had a fun and exciting month learning. In maths, we have been exploring 2D shapes, finding half of shapes, and developing our understanding of number and place value up to 30. We have enjoyed using practical activities to support our learning.



In English, we have been focusing on sentence writing, remembering to use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We have also begun to include adjectives to make our writing more interesting. In Phonics, we have been learning a range of alternative graphemes from Phonics Shed - Chapter 4a, which has supported both our reading and spelling.

In Religious Education, we have been learning about the Nativity journey and why it was so important. We thoroughly enjoyed designing and creating our own nativity scenes using natural resources on Grounds Day, as well as making Nativity journey sticks. Please do take a look on Seesaw to see the children's wonderful creations.

In Geography, we learned about continents and oceans and compared different parts of the world. We have worked hard to develop our map skills.

To end a busy but exciting half term, we rehearsed and performed our wonderful Nativity. It was a lovely experience learning all the songs and wearing our costumes and the children were very proud of their efforts.



Learning in Year 2 - Willow Class

It has been a very exciting half term in Year 2. In Maths we enjoyed learning about the multiplication symbol and practised multiplication and division by grouping, sharing and using arrays with cubes and counters. In English, we read 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers and then innovated the structure of the story to create a different version with an animal of our choice. We made sure that we always used '5 STAR Writing' by including: capital letters, punctuation, finger spaces, neat hand writing and that we used our resources to check our spelling.



We have been reading 'Just So' stories in Shared Reading, like 'How giraffe became so tall' by Andrea Florens and practised making predictions through discussions with our friends.

In Design and Technology, we started learning to sew, and have enjoyed creating samples of running stitch - we have definitely developed our resilience! In Science we learned about fair tests and did some exciting experiments on materials to find out if they are absorbent or waterproof.

Finally, we worked very hard on our songs, words and acting to prepare our Nativity performance. It was a wonderful experience to get dressed up and put on a show for our families.



Learning in Year 3 - Holly Class

This term, the children have shown tremendous creativity, curiosity, and resilience across all areas of learning.



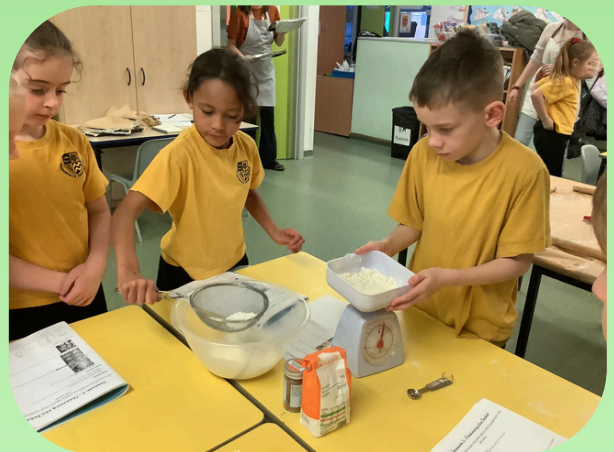
In Design and Technology, they embraced the festive spirit by designing, decorating, and evaluating their own Christmas biscuits, demonstrating thoughtful planning, attention to detail, and pride in their finished creations.

During our river fieldwork trip to Kingsclere Brook, the children impressed us with their enthusiasm for hands-on geography, carefully observing river flow, taking water samples, and asking insightful questions about the environment around them.

In Science, the children's understanding of electricity has grown brilliantly as they explored simple circuits, experimented with components, and worked together to problem-solve when things didn't go as expected.

Through PSHE, we have continued to highlight and celebrate their character strengths, such as love and kindness, teamwork and friendship and bravery and honesty, helping the children develop confidence and a positive sense of self.

We have enjoyed teaching the children this term and seeing the great progress they are making!



Learning in Year 4 - Maple Class

It has been an exciting term in Year 4 and the children have participated in a range of learning experiences.

In Design Technology we learned how to make Christmas biscuits by following a recipe carefully and thinking about hygiene and safety in the kitchen.



Our enquiry focus on 'Rivers' came to life during our trip to Kingsclere Brook. Through hands-on learning, the children explored the river up close, observing how water moves and collecting our own water samples for further investigation.

In Science, we learned about electricity by creating simple circuits. We identified the different parts of a circuit and discovered that a circuit must be complete for electricity to flow. Through hands-on investigations, we tested different circuits and found out that increased power affects how electricity flows.

During our writing lessons, we studied 'The Great Chocoplot', and learned how to write a news report. Using the story as inspiration, we imagined what would happen if chocolate suddenly disappeared! This activity helped us practise reporting skills, descriptive language and structuring a news article.



Learning in Year 5 and Year 6 - Hazel and Chestnut Classes

In Year 5 and 6, we have been enjoying some exciting learning experiences this month. In maths, we've been focusing on fractions, which sets the stage for more complex ideas such as decimals and percentages next term.



In English, we have been diving into narrative writing through the fascinating story of the Titanic. This project has sparked the children's creativity and boosted their comprehension skills. They've had the chance to express their imaginations while learning about storytelling structure. Crafting their own missing chapters has been a fun way to develop critical writing skills that are essential for their academic journey.

Our end-of-term assessments have helped to give us great insights into each pupil's progress, allowing us to tailor our teaching strategies to meet their needs.

In History, we've been exploring the Ancient Egyptian Civilisation, and in particular the role of the River Nile, which has helped Year 5 and Year 6 to understand historical contexts and why they matter today.

In Art, we have been inspired by the works of William Morris, linking the children's learning to themes from Victorian history.

Our discussions in Religious Education have focused on the concept of 'Warnings' through the role of the Magi in the nativity story. We have challenged common assumptions by looking back at what is written in the Bible and unpicked the symbolism associated with the gifts the Magi presented.



The Kingsclere Way - Behaviour Curriculum

At Kingsclere CE Primary School, we believe behaviour is something children learn, just like reading or maths. All staff support in explicitly teaching behaviour routines and expectations to all children who attend Kingsclere. This includes but is not limited to: focusing in lessons, lining up calmly, listening carefully, and moving safely around school. These skills help every child manage expectations and feel confident in their learning.

Our approach is rooted in our school values of Love, Courage, and Respect, and we revisit these routines regularly so they become positive habits. While all children are expected to meet the same high standards, we adapt our teaching for those with specialist needs, just as we do in the wider curriculum. This ensures every child is supported to succeed, feel included, and thrive as part of our school community.

Below are some of the Behaviour Curriculum posters linked to STAR behaviours and routines that we have been working on with the children this term, helping them to visualise and remember our shared expectations.



Sustainability Plan at Kingsclere CE Primary School

At Kingsclere CE Primary School, sustainability is central to our vision for a healthier future. Through our sustainability plan, we are committed to reducing waste, conserving energy, and encouraging children to make environmentally responsible choices. By embedding sustainable practices into daily school life, we aim to inspire lifelong habits that protect our planet and support community wellbeing.

Please see sustainability links supporting Smart Living here.



Plastics and packaging

Local government reorganisation Have your say on the Government's consultation

 smartliving_hcc



Tesco Tokens – Support Our School!

Our Tesco Tokens collection runs until mid-January 2026. Please keep popping your tokens into the box for Kingsclere CE Primary School at Tesco's Newbury Retail Park, or drop them off at the Front Office in school.

Every single token brings us closer to securing vital grant funding for our new Trim Trail - a fantastic resource designed to help children stay active, healthy, and happy.

We are so grateful for the support already shown by our families and community. Thank you for helping us make this exciting project a reality!

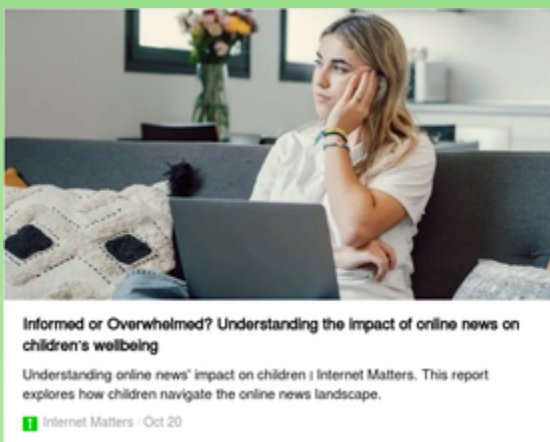


Safeguarding Information

At Kingsclere CE Primary our Personal Social Health Education and Relationship Sex Health Education curriculum contains learning linked to safeguarding including online safety.

The below links may be useful to support conversations with children. The links include:

- a report that explores how children navigate the online news landscape and highlights the importance of media literacy for navigating these spaces.
- the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (HDAP), which is a group of local services and agencies in Hampshire working together to provide help and support.
- Clear Minds Safer Homes is a campaign designed to raise awareness about the potential risks posed by parental cannabis use.



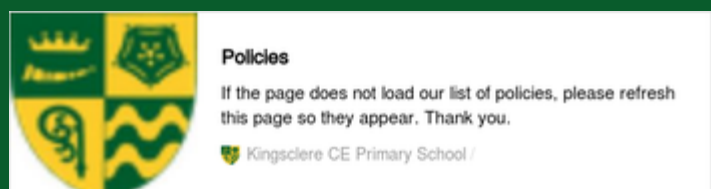
Autumn Term 2025 Attendance Updates

Thank you to everyone who has supported good attendance by ensuring your child arrives at school and on time.

Our whole-school attendance this term is 93.4%, which is 1.4% below the national average.

We have experienced a number of cases of chickenpox this term, and we fully recognise that sometimes children are not well enough to attend school. However, we encourage families to check the NHS guidance on school attendance, which can be found on the next page.

If you have any questions regarding attendance, please also see our school Attendance Policy, available through the link below. We truly appreciate your continued support in helping every child make the most of their learning by supporting good attendance and arriving punctually.





UK Health
Security
Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics 4 days after the rash first appeared
Measles	5 days after the swelling started
Mumps	they've had their first treatment
Scabies	
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek




SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

Available Now
**GUITAR
LESSONS**


Kingsclere CE Primary School
Ash Grove Kingsclere
Newbury
RG20 5RE

Limited
Availability

SOLO GUITAR LESSONS

ONLY 2 SPACES

AVAILABLE



<https://www.goodvibesmusicacademy.co.uk/kingsclere>

Scan to Book



Lessons are available for children in Year 3 to Year 6 - please scan the QR code to book. Thank you.

Pop Up Ensemble

FREE



Pop Up Ensemble LiftWinton, And over

JMSTtheatre, LiftWinton, London Road,
Andover, Hampshire, SP10 2PS
Sunday 18 January 2026 9.15 - 13.15

Beginner to Grade 4

**Back by Popular
Demand!**



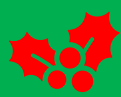
**Come and be part of a
'from scratch' orchestra!**

Scan the QR code to
register your place



Hampshire
County Council

Music Service



Support to help Young People with their Mental Wellbeing (including Bereavement)



Guidance, tools, and tips

[Crisis, Self-Harm and Suicide – CAMHS](#)

[Self-harm support hub](#)

[Mental Wellbeing Hampshire](#)

[Mind's Info for young people](#)

[Parent and Carer support – CAMHS](#)

[Autistica – Tips Hub app](#)

Kooth: [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com)

[ZSA suicide awareness training courses](#)

Support services

[NHS 111 Mental Health triage](#)

[SHOUT text HANTS to 85258](#)

[Help in a crisis:: Hampshire and Isle of](#)

[Wight NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[NE Hants: Get help in a mental health crisis : Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[Papyrus: Papyrus UK Suicide Prevention | Prevention of Young Suicide](#)

[Therapeutic support services](#)

[Cruse Support After Suicide Service](#)

[Project Iris: Project Iris: Growing Hope | Inclusion Education](#)

[ChatHealth: ChatHealth : Hampshire Healthy Families](#)

[Young Minds Parent Helpline: Parents Helpline | Mental Health Help for Your Child | YoungMinds](#)

[Children and Young People's Safe Haven – Havant & East Hants Mind](#)

[Sasha's Project: Facebook](#)

Events (in person)

[HowTo CopeWhenYour Child Can't Eve](#)

[nt – W i n c h e s t e r 2 0 2 6 – CAMHS](#)

Anxiety – understanding and strategies to help, Basingstoke: [Events – CAMHS](#)

Local online and in person events: [Local Support Groups and Events for Parents/Carers » Winchester](#)



School Calendar Dates 2025 - 2026

Date	Event	What pupils should wear please or other information
22nd December – 2nd January	Christmas Holiday	
Monday 5th January 2026	INSET Day	School closed.
Tuesday 6th January	All children back to school. School opens at 08:45.	
Friday 9th January	Deadline for application for school led teacher clubs	Confirmation will be sent by Thursday 15th January.
Wednesday 14th January	Year 3 and Year 4 Stone Age Visitor	Information regarding what to wear will be provided in the Year 3 and Year 4 weekly Home Learning Newsletter
Monday 19th January	School led teacher club restart	Please contact fee paying clubs to confirm start days, as this may be the week before.
Wednesday 21st January	Young Voices O2	
Tuesday 27th January	Year 6 SATs meeting for parents – 3.30pm in Chestnut	
Thursday 29th January	Year 1 and Year 2 Trunk Theatre – The Great Fire of London	
Monday 9th – 13th February	E Safety Week Safer Internet Day Tuesday 10th February	
Monday 16th – 20th February	Half Term	
Tuesday 3rd March	Year 5 and Year 6 Winchester Science Centre	
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day	
Wednesday 11th March	Grounds Day	Outdoor clothing, coat, wellies and trainers.
Tuesday 17th March	Parent/Carer Consultation	
Thursday 19th March	Parent/Carer Consultation	

Friday 27th March	Easter Service at St Mary's	
Friday 27th March	Last day of Spring term	
Monday 30th April – 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	
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday	
Monday 11th – Thursday 14th	Year 6 SATS week	
18th – 22nd May	Year 5 and Year 6 Residential	
Monday 25th – 29th May	Half Term	
Tuesday 2nd June	Swimming Begins	
Friday 12th June	Sport Day	
Friday 19th June	Back Up Sports Day	
Monday 29th June 2026	INSET Day	
Wednesday 22nd July	Last day of the Summer Term before the Summer holiday begins on 23rd July.	