

Kingsclere CE Primary School Newsletter



May 2026 - Edition 10

May 2026 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

May has been another wonderfully busy month at Kingsclere. Our Year 5 and 6 children returned today from an exciting residential week at Calshot in Southampton, where they took part in a wide range of activities and team-building challenges. The children embraced every opportunity, from climbing and skiing to archery, as well as visiting Calshot Castle. A huge thank you to our dedicated staff team - Mrs Verney, Mrs Dudman and Miss Williamson and volunteers - Mr Lennon and Mr Steadman - for giving up time with their own families to support the trip. I hope you all enjoy a very well-deserved rest over half term after the late nights and busy days!

This term we have also welcomed a number of visitors into school. This has included sessions led by Action for the River Kennet (ARK) river experts, who provided engaging learning experiences for pupils, as well as a visit from John Price, who worked with the children to explore persuasive language. Our Year R children visited the Citizens Club at the Fieldgate, providing an entertaining afternoon of singing, playing games and getting to know one another.

Our Eco Warriors and School Council have been active in representing pupil voice, contributing to discussions about conservation, school lunches and setting 'dream goals' linked to our My Happy Mind programme, which supports children's resilience and wellbeing.

We are also incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils, who completed their SATs assessments in reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar, and maths (arithmetic and reasoning) this half term. Their effort, determination and progress from their individual starting points have been outstanding. While tests do not define any child, they do help us understand the progress pupils have made and we know there is so much more to each child than a SATs result. We are however proud of everything they have learned in preparing for these assessments.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this busy half term. I hope you all enjoy a restful and happy break.

Kind regards,
Jo Messenger
Headteacher



Please do join Mrs Khawaja and Mrs Messenger at Advice and a Slice on Thursday 4th June from 09:00 - 10:00.

Find out about strategies to support pupils with neurodiversity. The session will also provide an opportunity to hear about and discuss the new Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum and meet with other parents over tea or coffee and cake!



Book Fair Thank You

Thank you for supporting our Book Fair. The sales that we made will enable us to buy some additional books for our library for the children to enjoy. Thank you for your support.



Year 5 and 6 Residential

Year 5 and Year 6 children enjoyed an action packed week, taking part in up to seven activities each day. These ranged from climbing, skiing and snowboarding to exploring Calshot Castle, visiting the beach, shooting, initiative challenges, giant swing and low ropes, alongside many more exciting experiences.

Throughout the week, the children developed their teamwork skills, supporting one another to persevere, show resilience and overcome challenges to achieve their personal best. For many, this was their first time away from home, and they managed this exceptionally well.

The weather was changeable, so activities took place both indoors and outdoors.

Mealtimes were enjoyed together as a whole group, with plenty of choice available, including chicken fajitas, roast dinners, lasagne, as well as a salad bar, jacket potatoes and pasta throughout the week.

Please do take a moment to enjoy some of the photos from this fantastic experience on the next page.

The view from Houston House, where we stayed, was beautiful, with sea views stretching out in every direction.

Year 5 and Year 6 Parents - Thank you for all your support in preparing your child for this week's residential - and for all the packing (and unpacking and washing!) that comes with it! We are quite sure the children will all sleep very well at home tonight.

Year 5 and Year 6 Residential



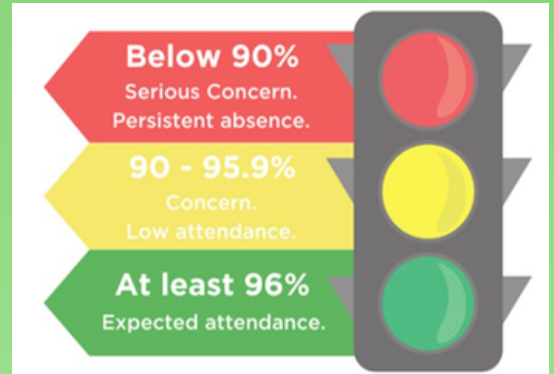


Thank You for Supporting Excellent Attendance

We want to say a huge thank you to all our families who help their children arrive at school every day and on time. These positive routines make such a difference as children grow, learn and feel settled in school.

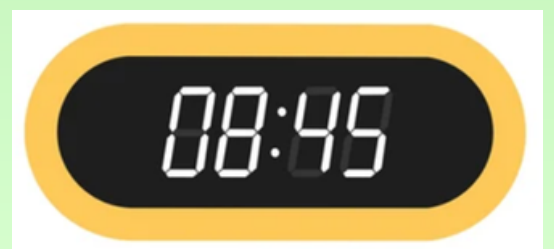
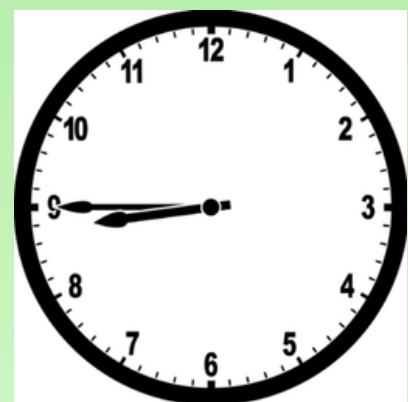
If you are experiencing anything that might be affecting your child's attendance, whether it's tricky mornings, illness, worries about school, or challenges at home, please get in touch with us.

We are here to listen, to work in partnership with you, and to support both you and your child so they can feel confident and ready for each day.



Punctuality Matters

Every school day matters, and every minute helps your child learn. Please make sure your child is in class at 08:45.





Instrumental Lessons Available for Year 3 to Year 6

If you want to start lessons with Good Vibes, please sign up at <https://www.goodvibesmusicacademy.co.uk/kingsclere>

Lessons are available in guitar, ukulele, piano and drum kit.

All children are also invited to join the:

- Year R, 1 and 2 school choir
- Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 school choir
- Samba Band



Please do contact the school if your child is interested in joining any of these clubs.

Design Technology

Year 3 and Year 4 have very much enjoyed their textile projects this term, creating their own colourful felt monsters. The children designed their monsters, thought carefully about which sewing techniques to use, and then evaluated their finished creations with pride.

A big thank you to the volunteers who were able to help on the day and afterwards - your support made a real difference and helped the children bring their imaginative designs to life.



Eco Warriors News

Our Eco Warriors have been busy this term and have shown great enthusiasm in learning about Kingsclere Brook and the risks it faces.

At our first Eco Warriors meeting at school, the children were amazed to discover that Kingsclere has one of only 224 chalk streams in the UK, and that there are just 260 in the entire world. These are incredibly rare habitats, and we are fortunate to have one right on our doorstep.

We were also delighted to welcome ARK - Action for the River Kennet, our local river experts. Year 2 to Year 5 Eco Warriors, along with our Year 3 and Year 4 classes, took part in engaging workshops. The children learnt about how Kingsclere Brook connects to other rivers, the dangers it is currently facing, and the impact this has on the wildlife that depends on it. They explored how we can save water, what lives in our stream, and why pollution and building on flood plains can be so harmful.

This week, our Eco Warriors - Eden, Evie, Jake, Evelyn and Florence — spoke confidently at the Fieldgate to members of the local community about the importance of looking after Kingsclere Brook and using water responsibly. Well done, children - you represented the school brilliantly!

We are looking forward to continuing our work with ARK, Southern Water and Greener Kingsclere as we support this important mission to protect and restore Kingsclere Brook.



STEM day at Cheam School

Eight of our Year 4 children were invited to a STEM day with Cheam school and had a fantastic time at the STEM Experience Day. The whole day was filled with excitement, curiosity and hands-on learning linked to the theme of transport.

Working in mixed teams, the children took part in a brilliant range of activities. They tackled maths challenges, carried out eye-opening science experiments (including some very impressive chemical reactions), enjoyed outdoor engineering tasks, and got creative in DT by designing and building vehicles capable of carrying a tennis ball. The buzz of teamwork and problem-solving was wonderful to see.

A huge thank you to Cheam School for their warm welcome and generosity.



Mental Health Awareness

Last week we celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week, linking our learning to My Happy Mind and exploring how we can calm the 'storms' that sometimes appear in our minds. We also reflected on the Bible story 'Jesus Calms the Storm', thinking about how important it is to talk to a safe adult when we feel worried, and also how we can use simple strategies to help ourselves feel calmer and more in control.

The children practised a range of helpful techniques, including Happy Breathing, getting regular exercise, setting small achievable goals, and noticing what helps them feel settled when emotions feel big.

We continue to use the Zones of Regulation across the school to support children in recognising and managing their feelings. Families can also access a wide range of helpful resources through the My Happy Mind App, which offers child-friendly tools to build confidence, resilience and emotional awareness.

Together, we are helping children understand their feelings, talk openly and develop healthy habits that will support their wellbeing as they grow. The below link is also good to use for ideas to support positive mental health: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/mental-health-awareness-week>



The advertisement for the myHappyMind Parent App features the app's logo at the top, followed by the text "Download your FREE myHappyMind Parent App". Below this, three smartphone screens display the app's interface, including a "Zones of Regulation" wheel and various resource cards. A QR code is provided for downloading the app. A descriptive text states: "...An online resource to support you and your family to learn more about how you can use myHappyMind to support your child." At the bottom, there are three colored boxes: a green box for "myHappyMind for Parents" (exclusively for parents with children at a myHappyMind School or Nursery), a red box showing a smartphone, and a purple box with the text "Learn all about what your children are learning in school" and the myHappyMind Parent App logo.



Zones of Regulation Strategy



A chart titled "What Zone Are You In?" showing four zones: Blue Zone, Green Zone, Orange Zone, and Red Zone. Each zone contains two cartoon faces representing emotions, with labels for those emotions. Below each zone is a "What can I do?" section with specific strategies.

Blue Zone	Green Zone	Orange Zone	Red Zone
SAD, HURT	HAPPY, FOCUSED	SURPRISED, CONFUSED	ANGRY, RAGING
SICK, TIRED	CALM, EXCITED	WORRIED, SALTY	TERRIFIED, ANNOYED
REST	GO	SLOW DOWN	STOP
Take a drink, Ask for help, Talk to someone, Jump up and down 1 x, Look after...	Think happy thoughts, Finish my work, Help others, Share ideas, I can do it...	Take some breathers, Talk to someone, Go for a short walk, Count to ten, I can do it...	Take a time out, Run a lap, Squeeze a stress ball, Drink water, I can do it...

If you are a parent of a child at the school, please contact the school for the authenticator code if you do not already have this App to use.

Date	Event	Other details
Monday 1st June	Summer Term 2 starts. Swimming this half term starts - please see the swimming rota sent out. Children to remember the following on their swimming day: swimming suit, towel, flipflops/crocs needed please. Please ensure you have completed the swimming permission form to allow your child to take part and wear goggles. We would also be very grateful for any voluntary contributions for the half term of swimming sessions. Thank you for your support.	
Wednesday 3rd June	Year 6 'Moving Up' Photo	Newbury Weekly News - Year 6 children should wear their school uniform to school on this day. They will need to bring their swimming kit in a bag to change into for their lesson and may bring their PE kit to change into afterwards if they prefer not to return to wearing their school uniform. after swimming.
Thursday 4th June	Advice and a Slice - 8.45 to 10am	Please see attached poster in today's newsletter
Friday 5th June	Year R Trip to Wellington Country Park	Please complete the form on Reach More Parents - information sent on 27th March 2026
Monday 8th June	Year 3, Year 4 and Eco Warriors River Trip - morning	ARK River School Workshop at Kingsclere Brook
Friday 12th June	Sports Day	Year R + KS1 Sports Day @ 10am then picnic lunch at 12:00 followed by KS2 Sports Day @ 13:00
Thursday 18th June	New Year R Parents Information Evening - 6 to 7pm	Information sent to parents of new children starting in Reception in September on 20th April 2026
Friday 19th June	Back Up Sports Day	We will only need to use this day if it is raining on Friday 12th June
Thursday 25th June	Music Soiree	All Samba Band, School Choir children, instrumentalists and vocalists. Children to wear school uniform please.
Monday 29th June	INSET Day	

Monday 6th July	Last week of school teacher led club	Fee paying clubs later
Wednesday 8th July	Year 5 and Year 6 Performance - 1.15pm start	Tickets will be on sale in June
Thursday 9th July	New Year R Teddy Bears Picnic from 2 to 3pm	Information sent to parents of new children starting in Reception in September on 20th April 2026
	Year 5 and Year 6 Performance from 6.30pm	Tickets on sale in June
Monday 13th July	Year 3 and Year 4 Swimming Gala - 10.00 - 11.30am	Swimming kit and two towels
Tuesday 14th July	Grounds Day	Outdoor clothing, coat, indoor shoes and outdoor shoes/wellies and trainers
Wednesday 15th July	Year 5 and Year 6 Swimming Gala - 10.00 - 11.30am	Swimming kit and two towels please
Friday 17th July	FKS PTA Discos for all year groups and Disco and Oscar's Evening – Year 5 and Year 6	DISCO 16:00 - 17:00 Year R and KS1 Disco 17:15 - 18:15 Y3 and 4 Disco DISCO and OSCAR'S NIGHT 18:30 - 19:30 Y5 and 6 Oscar's Evening Red Carpet, Presentations and Disco

Wednesday 22nd July	Year 6 Leavers service at St Mary's Church - 9.30am	Year 6 parents and carers only please due to limited space.
	Parents join in to cheer off Year 6 in the playground - 3pm	All year group families
	Last day of the Summer Term before the Summer holiday begins on 23rd July	
Wednesday 2nd September	First day of the new academic year	
Tuesday 1st September Thursday 22nd October Friday 23rd October Monday 4th January 2027 Monday 28th June 2027	INSET Days in the new academic year 2026 - 2027	