



KINGSLERE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Edition 5 – Friday 6th October 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

Although it has been a 4-day week for the children we have achieved lots!

Teaching and Learning

Some of our staff team have been carrying out learning walks most recently linked to maths, writing and phonics. Learning walks involve subject leaders and me, visiting each classroom to observe what is working well to help children achieve high expectations and consider anything further we can do as a staff team to improve provision. Some of the strengths we have seen include:

- staff modelling new skills and strategies to children
- use of working walls to support children's learning
- additional scaffolding resources put in place to help children's learning, e.g., use of concrete resources in maths and use of sound mats and spelling mats in writing activities
- children highly engaged and enjoying their learning
- challenge tasks to support children working at Greater Depth
- bespoke feedback to pupils by the adults' teaching or supporting in the room to move children's learning forwards
- positive relationships between children and staff in lessons

We also have identified some areas to improve such as exploring teaching activities to help children identify the high frequency words they have misspelt and making sure all children are given the opportunity to follow up improvement points from marking feedback. It will be interesting to see what changes the children find most effective when we next visit.

Special Educational Needs Support

This week we have also had visits from the Speech and Language Therapist and Educational Psychologist to support our provision for individual children. The external expert advice from the therapist and psychologist is invaluable and enables us to ensure that the provision in place for our children is the best it can be. Also, this week, Mrs Anna Wickham Smith led an 'Advice and a Slice' meeting with parents/carers to discuss anything linked to Special Educational Needs. Please see details below in the notices section regarding the session.

School Census

Thank you for supporting us for our school census this week by encouraging your child to select a school meal. We will give children the option to choose the meal choices again on our next school census day on the 18th January 2024 too!

Please help support our readers

If any parents or carers would be able to hear readers at school, we would be so very grateful to hear from you. Reading is such a vital part of a child's development that we really want to maximise the opportunities for all our children. We already use our Reading Reward system to encourage children to read at home, we provide daily reading lessons and each class have a whole class reading book read to them throughout the week.

We would also love to give more children an opportunity to read independently (1:1) with an adult. It could be an hour in an afternoon or perhaps alternate weeks if that suits you better – evidence suggests that giving children an audience for their reading can be very effective in improving engagement so, if you think you, or a family member, could help please contact the school office.

Have a wonderful long weekend.

Kind regards,
Jo Messenger
Acting Head

Notices and Diary Dates

New Year R Tours and Visits for children starting school in September 2024

We would love for parents/carers of children, who will be starting school in September 2024, to visit Kingsclere CE Primary School and meet the staff team and see the school in action. Any parents/carers of children due to start school next academic year can contact the school via email: adminoffice@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk or on the school telephone no. 01635 298583 to arrange a visit. **The following open mornings or afternoons are available this Autumn Term:**

Friday 13th October at 09:30
Friday 3rd November at 09:30
Tuesday 12th December at 13:30

Advice and a Slice

Thank you to all parents/carers who attended the 'Advice and a Slice' in our nurture room yesterday. Anna Wickham Smith enjoyed meeting you all. Group discussions were held around uniform and the sensory issues around this. M&S and Asda both sell adapted uniform without seams which could be worth exploring if your child is having difficulties. Relating to bedtime, the story of *'The Rabbit Who Wants to Fall Asleep'* was also recommended and may help your child get to sleep at bedtime!

We will be looking to hold 'Advice and a Slice' sessions once a month. Please do join us at these sessions for any support or discussions around your child's SEN diagnosed or undiagnosed needs. Tea, coffee and cake will also be available!

Please also find below two links which offer advice and further signposting for Special Educational Needs (SEN) to support within Hampshire:

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/localoffer.page>

<https://www.hampshiresendiass.co.uk/about-us>

Ash Class Photographs – Year R

Our Year R children were photographed for the newspaper this week! The photo will appear in the Newbury Weekly News edition on the 2nd November. Here is a sneak preview...!



Great Coastal Birdwatch 2023

Bird Aware Solent is encouraging children to get involved in the **Great Coastal Birdwatch 2023**, taking place for two weeks, the week before and during half-term, 14-29 October.

This annual citizen science project raises awareness of the wealth of birdlife on the Hampshire coastline. It helps children understand the challenges faced by seabirds that migrate thousands of miles to spend the winter on our shores.

Children can use the specially designed **bird ID guide** to learn about local birds and to count how many different birds they see. Their bird count will make an important contribution to Great Coastal Birdwatch, now in its fifth year.

Visit the Bird Aware Solent website for:

- Downloadable **bird ID guides and counting sheets**
- Resources about why the Solent is internationally important for protected birds
- Resources on migration: **why birds migrate and the astonishing journeys they travel** to spend the winter on the Solent coastline.

The birdwatch is timed to coincide with the arrival of migratory birds which return every winter to the area.

In previous years, data has been provided by experienced wildlife observers as well as people trying birdwatching for the first time. Last year a total of 93 species were seen by members of the public taking part.

Attendance

This week's best attendance in Year R and KS1 was Rowan with 96.2% and for KS2 the best attendance was Chestnut with 94.3%. Thank you for supporting your child in attending school each day. We are reminding the children to wash their hands at school when required to ensure good hygiene so everyone stays well!

Artist of the Week - Next week we will be looking at the following artist:

Artist of the Week: Alma Thomas

American Painter
1891 – 1978



Resurrection, 1966



Interesting Fact:
in 1963, Alma developed two sketches and a finished painting, which inspired a U.S. postage stamp in 2005.



1963 March on Washington 37 USA

Best known for her colourful abstract paintings.



Kingsclere CE Primary School Calendar Dates 2023 - 2024

| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| Friday 13 October | New Year R Parents' Visit and Tour 9:30am |
| Wednesday 18 October | Year 5 and 6 Outcome Event 2:30pm |
| Friday 20 October | Bags to School Donations to school please |
| Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October | Half Term |
| Friday 3 November | New Year R Parents' Visit and Tour 9:30am |
| Saturday 4 November | FKS Fireworks Event – all families and community members welcome TIMINGS TBC |
| Tuesday 7 November | Parents consultations 3:45 – 6:45pm |
| Thursday 9 November | Parents consultations 3:45 – 6:45pm |
| Wednesday 15 November | Grounds Day or Half Day |
| Thurs 16 November | Football Festival Year 2 – Cheam 2:00 – 4:00pm |
| Friday 17 November | Children in Need Day |
| Tuesday 12 December | Nativity performance 9:30 – 10:30am New Year R Parents' Visit and Tour 1:30 – 3:00pm |
| Wed 13 December | Nativity performance 9:30 – 10:30 |
| Thurs 14 December | Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch. |
| Friday 15 December | Christmas Service at St. Mary's 09:30 – 10:30 |
| Monday 18 December – Monday 1 January | Christmas Holidays |
| Tuesday 2 January | INSET Day |
| Friday 19 January | Young Voices at the O2 - Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 |
| Monday 5 February | E safety week and Children's Mental Health Awareness Week |
| Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February | Half Term |
| Monday 19 February | NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Week + National Road Safety Week |
| Monday 1 April – Friday 12 April | Easter Holidays |
| Monday 13 May | Mental Health Awareness Week |
| Monday 20 May | Y5 and Y6 residential to Calshot Walk to school week. |
| Monday 27 May – 31 May | Half Term |
| Monday 3 June | INSET Day |
| Wednesday 24 July | Summer Holiday Begins |



Our Newsletter Club have put together a newsletter for the children. Please see their first edition below – well done Jake, Tom and Lilith! The children would like to contribute their newsletter to our community once a month.

Children's voice school newsletter



Homework

Please try to do 'Take your Pick' homework every 2 weeks so by Christmas you may have 6 pieces. Also practise reading 5 times a week for a reward. If not, you are welcome to come to Home Learning club every Thursday lunchtime.

Library

Our school library is open to KS2 every Monday lunchtime and our helpful librarians can give you a hand of trying to find a book. If you found an expensive book you would like to read but don't want to buy it, we may have it for you to read in our school library.

From the school newsletter club team: Tom D, Jake J and Lilith K

