

Kingsclere CE Primary School Newsletter



June 2026 - Edition 11

June 2026 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

June has been a wonderful month of rich learning and enrichment at Kingsclere CE Primary School, with experiences that have supported pupils' curriculum progress and their wider personal development. Thank you for your continued support throughout such an active and rewarding half term.

Sports Day was a real highlight. Despite the changeable weather, the children took part with fantastic enthusiasm, and it was lovely to see so many of you there. Our sporting opportunities have continued throughout the term, with some of our Year 4 pupils training as Sports Leaders, new summer clubs in netball, athletics and rounders, and pupils proudly representing the school at the Newbury District Swimming Gala.

As a Church of England school, we were pleased to welcome our SIAMS inspection last Wednesday. We hope to receive the report shortly and share the outcome with you before the end of term.

We have enjoyed a wonderful range of visitors, including those who supported our STEM career workshops for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Parents and carers from a variety of professions generously shared their expertise, and the children asked a multitude of questions as they explored different vocations and future pathways.

We also welcomed Bishop Kelly, Reverend Pete, John Price and our Transforming Lives for Good mentors for a special visit. Bishop Kelly spent time in classrooms before joining us for a joyful whole school Collective Worship, filled with thoughtful questions for the Bishop, singing and vibrant Samba music.

Our Music Soirée was a delight, with children performing confidently despite the hot weather - from solos to choirs, Samba Band and a piano duet. Our Samba Band also performed brilliantly at the Kingsclere Music Festival at the Fieldgate Centre. Well done to all the children performing at each event!

Transition activities are now underway for our new Year R children, Year 6 pupils moving to secondary school, and all year groups preparing for September. We look forward to sharing further information with you this week.

Classes have also enjoyed enriching trips this month: Year 1 and 2 to Hillier Gardens, Year R to Wellington Country Park, and our Eco Warriors with Years 3 and 4 to Kingsclere Brook to test the river's health with Action for the River Kennet experts.

Finally, thank you for your support during the very hot weather. With adaptations in place, we were able to remain open safely, and your prompt responses to optional collection arrangements were much appreciated.

Kind regards,
Jo Messenger
Headteacher



Music Soiree

Sports Day



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Sports Day on Friday 12th June. The children worked incredibly hard to earn house points for their teams and showed great encouragement and support for one another throughout their field events and races.

We were fortunate that the weather held, even with the rather enthusiastic wind! The children approached every challenge with resilience and enthusiasm, which was wonderful to see.

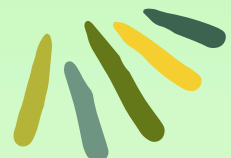
A huge well done also to all the parents and carers who took part in the races - your energy and willingness to get involved really helped reinforce our message about participation and community spirit.

After totalling all the house points, with Falcons taking first place in the Infants and Hawks securing first place in the Juniors, we combined the scores to find the overall results for Sports Day. We are delighted to share the final standings:

- 1st Place – Hawks
- 2nd Place – Eagles
- 3rd Place – Falcons
- 4th Place – Owls

This means Hawks will be awarded the House Cup for Sports Day this academic year. Well done to all our pupils for their fantastic effort and team spirit.

Thank you to our PTA - Friend's of Kingsclere CE Primary School, for your support during this day - providing refreshments and pre loved school uniform. Thank you also to The Hurst students and Mrs Randall-Bird for supporting Sports Day.



Swimming News

Well done to all our children who have taken part in swimming lessons this term. They have shown determination and bravery in developing their swimming skills and learning important water-safety skills. Please continue to share important water-safety learning with your child(ren) at home. Throughout the term, we have sent reminders and guidance via Weduc, and revisiting these together at home will help strengthen these essential safety messages.

We are also incredibly proud of the children who represented Kingsclere at the Newbury and District Swimming Gala. Regardless of their finishing positions, every pupil demonstrated brilliant effort, enthusiasm and team spirit - supporting one another and giving their very best. We look forward to hearing more about their progress in the next round of the swimming competition that takes place on Wednesday, 8th July.



WATER SAFETY

DROWNING IS ONE OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH IN CHILDREN IN THE UK. MOST INCIDENTS ARE PREVENTABLE.

Stay safe. Have fun. Enjoy the water. ♡

As the weather warms up, children and young people spend more time around water – at home, on days out or on holiday. Let's keep them safe.

Almost half of drownings occur during the summer months when temperatures are higher – especially when 25°C or above.

THE HSCP WATER SAFETY TOOLKIT FOR PARENTS & CARERS INCLUDES:

 EVERYDAY RISKS AT HOME <small>Including bath time safety and garden hazards.</small>	 STAYING SAFE OUTDOORS <small>Such as the beach, around rivers and in open water.</small>	 PRACTICAL SAFETY ADVICE <small>Including the Water Safety Code and how to "Float to Live".</small>	 AGE-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE <small>For babies, young children, older children and teenagers.</small>	 WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY <small>Including simple first aid steps and where to find further support.</small>
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Small actions, big difference ♡

- ✔ Keep children within arm's reach of water.
- ✔ Choose safe places to swim.
- ✔ Talk to your children about water safety.

Together, we can help prevent tragedies and keep our children safe this summer. ♡

For practical advice and resources, download the Water Safety Toolkit: www.hampshirescp.org.uk/parents-and-carers/water-safety/

Enjoy the water
Stay safe
Look out for each other

HSCP
Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
Safeguarding children together

KINGSCLERE BROOK YEAR 3, YEAR 4 AND ECO WARRIORS

Last week, our Year 3, Year 4 and Eco Warriors enjoyed a fantastic visit to Kingsclere Brook, supported by river experts from Action for the River Kennet. The children learned how to take water samples and identify the different creatures living in the chalk stream. They were fascinated by the huge variety of river life they discovered, including Blue-Winged Olives, Olives, Cased and Caseless Caddis, Freshwater Shrimp, Mayfly and Bullheads.

A highlight of the afternoon was seeing a deer quietly cross the river, adding a spiritual moment to an already memorable visit. The children (and adults) also loved standing in the cool water, working together to find and observe the creatures that help us understand the river's health.

The water sample results showed that Kingsclere Brook is thriving, with a rich range of wildlife - a wonderful reminder of how important it is for all of us to help protect our local chalk stream.



WELLINGTON COUNTRY PARK YEAR R TRIP

Our Year R children enjoyed a wonderful visit to Wellington Country Park in Riseley, Berkshire. The trip offered rich opportunities for learning across Personal Social and Health Education, Communication and Language, and Understanding the World.

During their visit, the children explored the beautiful natural environment and talked about the signs of summer, noticing how the plants, trees and wildlife change with the seasons. They held conversations with adults and peers, listened carefully, and shared their ideas confidently in small group discussions.



The children also spent time observing animals and plants around the park, drawing what they saw and talking about the differences between them. They used their growing knowledge of the natural world to make simple comparisons and ask thoughtful questions.



This hands-on experience supported their understanding of life cycles, seasonal change and the world around them - all while enjoying a fun, active day outdoors.

YEAR 1 AND 2 HILLIER GARDENS



The children had a wonderful time on their trip to Sir Harold Hillier Gardens.

They explored the life cycles of creatures in the gardens and used their knowledge of deciduous and evergreen trees to identify different species. They also learned about seeds and the conditions plants need to grow successfully.



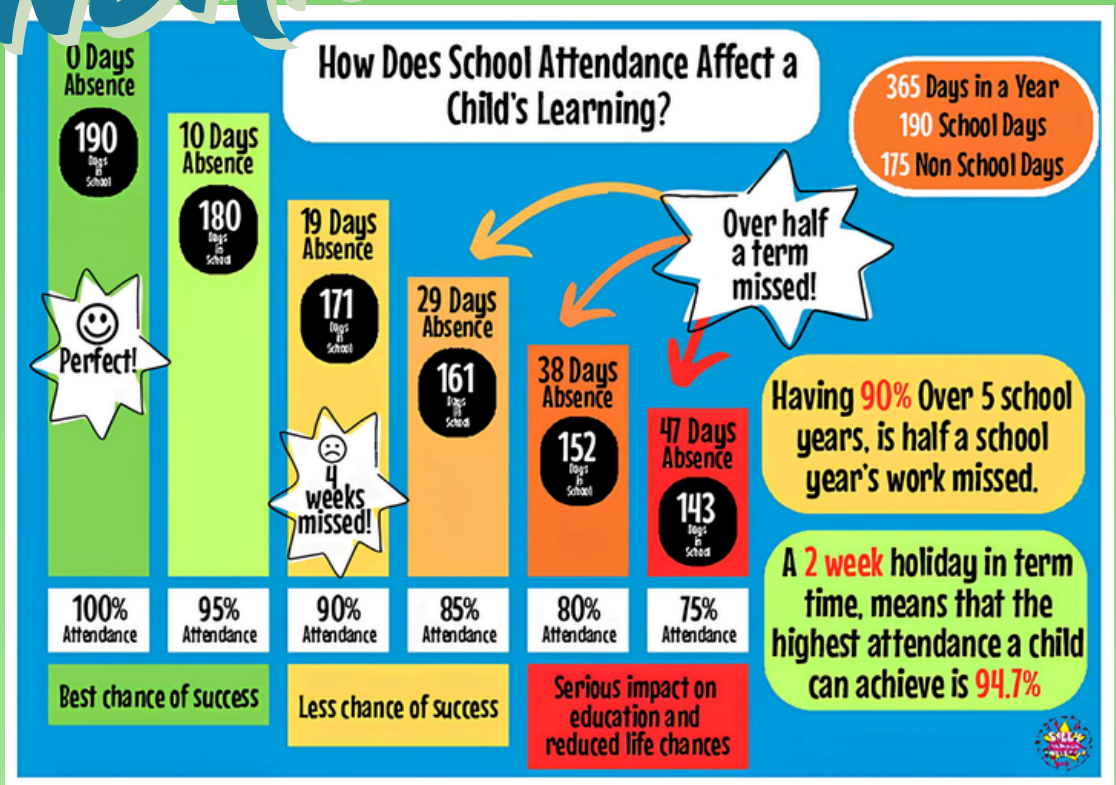
The Year 1 and Year 2 visit linked beautifully to our science curriculum, and the children thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful gardens and engaging outdoor environment.

A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who supported the trip - your help is greatly appreciated.

ATTENDANCE

Talk to us early if you are finding attendance tricky. We are here to help.

Together, we can make every session count



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

At Kingsclere, we want every child to have the very best chance to learn, grow and feel confident in school. Even small amounts of missed time can add up quickly and the latest national research shows that occasional absences, even just a morning or afternoon, can have a bigger impact than many families realise.

Every session counts

School days are made up of two sessions: Morning session and the afternoon session. Missing just one session means missing learning, routines, social development and confidence-building opportunities. When these sessions add up over the year, children can fall behind without anyone noticing at first.

What families can do?

Aim for 100% attendance wherever possible. Book routine appointments outside school hours or bring your child in before or after the appointment. Send your child in for the rest of the day if they feel better, even a short return makes a big difference.

Why short absences matter

The Department for Education's latest analysis shows that many children who miss one session for an appointment end up missing the whole day. Occasional days off for birthdays, events or 'just a day at home' can quickly add up to weeks of lost learning. Even small dips in attendance can affect progress, confidence and social development.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS
every school day counts.



DRUMMING AFTERNOON

It was wonderful to see Ben, Zac and our drum teacher, Chris, perform for the whole school on Monday 15th June. Their talent, skill and the discipline they bring to their practice were clear to see, and their performance was a real highlight of the afternoon. Well done to both pupils, and thank you to Chris for such a brilliant showcase.

Music Clubs and Lessons

If your child, next academic year is in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 and is interested in starting lessons with Good Vibes, you can sign up at:

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

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

All children are also warmly invited to join:

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

Please contact the school office if your child would like to join any of these groups

WELL DONE SAMBA BAND!

Well done to our Kingsclere CE Primary School Samba Band, who have performed brilliantly at a range of events - including for the Bishop during his visit, at our Music Soirée, and at the Kingsclere Music Festival.

The children have worked incredibly hard to secure their rhythmic parts: knowing exactly when to play, keeping in time, following whistle cues and responding confidently during call-and-response sections. Their teamwork, focus and musical energy have been wonderful to see.

As well as celebrating our current Samba Band, we are keen to continue growing the group. Please look out for club information for next academic year. Any child who enjoys music, rhythm and working as part of a team is very welcome to join and experience the joy of South American samba.



MOBILE PHONES

As a school, we already follow Department for Education expectations around mobile phones. Children are not permitted to use mobile phones during the school day; any phones brought in for safe travel to and from school are stored securely in class safes until home time.

To support a calm and safe environment for all children, we are now asking that **children's mobile phones are not used on the school playground before or after school.** We know many pupils need phones for their journey, and they are still welcome to bring them for this purpose - we simply ask that they remain out of sight and not in use once children have entered the school playground.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe, focused and welcoming environment for everyone. Your support makes a real difference to children's wellbeing and daily routines.



Phones for Travel Only Not for Use on the School Playground

Children may bring mobile phones to school for safe travel to and from school, but all phones must be handed to staff on arrival and stored securely during the day.

To help maintain a calm and safe environment, phones should not be used by children on the school playground before or after school please.



SCREEN TIME AND SUPPORTING HEALTHY HABITS



The Department for Education has recently shared updated guidance for families on screen time for younger children. The advice encourages a balanced approach, with screens used purposefully and alongside plenty of play, conversation and outdoor activity. For under-5s, the guidance suggests keeping screen use to short, calm periods and avoiding screens at mealtimes and before bed.

The links below share useful information for parents and carers linked to screen time:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-screen-time-guidance-for-parents-of-under-5s>
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69c53daf4a06660f085442a7/EYSTAG_report.pdf

Guidance regarding children's screen time for 5 - 16 years will be arriving soon:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/newguidance-on-screen-use-for-children-aged-5-16>



RSHE - RELATIONSHIP, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION

The Department for Education has recently updated the national curriculum requirements for Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), which will be statutory for all schools from September 2026. These changes form an important part of children's personal, social and health education.

Thank you to all parents who have taken part in our consultations about the updated RSHE guidance. Your support and feedback are greatly appreciated. The full details of the national updates can be found on the DfE website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

At Kingsclere, we will continue to use My Happy Mind, our NHS-approved wellbeing programme. We also intend to introduce My Happy Mind Plus, which offers additional high-quality resources to support children's learning linked to the updated RSHE curriculum. Further information about our programme can be found on our school website: <https://kingsclereprimary.com/relationship-sex-and-health-education/>

My Happy Mind is currently reviewing and updating its programme content in line with the new DfE requirements. These updates will be in place before the end of the school year and we will consult with you again regarding these updates before the end of term.

Thank you in advance for your time and feedback. It is greatly valued by our school community.



CLEAN AIR CHALLENGE

A huge thank you to all the families who supported the Clean Air Challenge this term. The event ran from Monday 15th to Friday 19th June, and it was wonderful to see children walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling to school.

By choosing active travel during the challenge week, you helped reduce air pollution and contributed to a healthier environment for everyone. We know mornings can be busy, and many parents have work and other commitments, so we really appreciate every effort made - whether that was walking the whole way or parking a little further from school and scooting the last part.

Thank you for supporting our healthy living initiative and helping us promote cleaner air and active lifestyles for our children.





The Big Future – National Survey for Children and Young People

We would like to share an important opportunity from the Children’s Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, who is inviting children and young people across the country to take part in a national survey called The Big Future.

The survey can be accessed here:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TheBigFuture/>

This survey gives children and young people the chance to reflect on their experiences, share what matters most to them, and express their hopes and ambitions for the future. Their voices will help shape national conversations and decision-making about children’s lives in the years ahead. To encourage participation, schools have been asked to share the survey with pupils and families.

- The survey is open to all children and young people aged 0–18, and asks about:
- what they enjoy
- the challenges they face
- changes they would like to see in their communities
- what they believe a good childhood should look like today

The findings will be published next year and will play an important role in shaping future decisions affecting children and young people.

Thank you, as always, for your support in helping our pupils have their voices heard.



Domestic Abuse Support

We want to ensure that all families in our school community are aware of the support available for anyone who may be experiencing domestic abuse or worried about someone else. Hampshire County Council has produced a range of helpful resources which you can view here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/domestic-abuse%20partnership/professionals/communications-campaigns>

Raising awareness helps people recognise the signs of abuse and access support at the earliest opportunity.

If you ever have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child or adult, please speak to the police, children's services and a member of our school's safeguarding team.



HAMPSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE PARTNERSHIP
Recognize it. Seek help.

Advice Line
03300 165 112

Children are victims too

Children who see or hear domestic abuse suffer devastating effects.

If you think something's wrong, **seek help.**

Get free, confidential advice and support by calling our advice line, or visit [hants.gov.uk/domesticabuse](https://www.hants.gov.uk/domesticabuse)

Available to all, including victims, survivors, family, friends and professionals.



Hygiene for Children

The NHS has asked us to share the link below to support parents in teaching children simple hygiene habits. Good hygiene helps keep children healthy, and it also supports their confidence and self-esteem. Young children don't always understand why hygiene matters, so it is helpful to talk to them about when and why they should wash their hands, face, body and hair.

The link below provides practical guidance to help you establish hygiene routines at home:

<https://www.cambspborochildrenshealth.nhs.uk/child-development-and-growing-up/hygiene/hygiene-for-toddlers-and-children/#brush-teeth>

Helping children build healthy habits from an early age will support them throughout their lives.



Date	Event	Additional information
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 on sale
Thursday 9th July	New Year R Teddy Bears Picnic from 2pm 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
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	16:00 - 17:00 Year R and KS1 17:15 - 18:15 Y3 and Y4 Disco 18:30 - 19:30 Y5 and Y6 Oscar's Evening Red Carpet, Presentations and Disco
Wednesday 22nd July	Last day of the Summer Term before the Summer holiday begins on 23rd July. Year 6 Leavers' Service at St Mary's Church - 9.30am. All parents and carers are invited to join in to cheer off Year 6 in the playground at 3pm.	
Wednesday 2nd September	First day of the new academic year	All year group families
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	