

Newsletter

Friday 18th February 2022

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for your attendance at parents' evening over the last two evenings. Along with looking at the books and speaking to teachers, I hope you have a good understanding of the progress your child/ren has made since the Autumn Term. Across the school we have been very impressed with the quality of work the children are producing, not just in Maths and English but also in the wider curriculum including history, geography, music, art and PE. It was obvious from the conversations that we have had with you over the last two evenings that the relationship between home and school is strong at Kingslea. As I always say, children make great progress when parents and school work together. Those children that read with an adult every night, that have good attendance and where the school's and home values are in sync really do make great progress.



A few weeks ago, we invited in an independent school improvement partner to spend two days in school visiting classrooms, talking to children about their learning and talking to teachers about the subjects they lead. We did this because we wanted independent feedback about the culture and atmosphere in the school, the quality of learning, to challenge us to further improve and identify any blind spots. The key message that came out was that children at Kingslea are at the heart of what we do and why we do it. This may seem obvious, but it's key to what makes a school. Relationships across the school and the positive learning environment came out very strongly. The school improvement partner was impressed with how consistently well-engaged children were in lessons and in their work and that they were able to explain what they are learning. He also spoke about the quality of work displayed around the school and that the work in children's books is of a consistently high quality, with children taking pride in their work. Time was spent with some of our teachers talking about the curriculum, with staff having thought hard about what they want to achieve, by when and how lessons will be sequenced. All in all it was a positive experience which we will further build on.



I have had a look at next half-term's calendar and I'm genuinely excited about how much is going on. We've got the cross country competition at Christ's Hospital, 'survival training' in Leechpool Woods (for Y5 children not the staff!), a visit to Wakehurst Place, football cup competitions, a visit to the Forest school for a printing session, financial education lessons for all year groups, a visit to Horsham Park, the Rainbow Theatre visiting, a visit to Arundel Wetland Trust, the netball tournaments continue, a visit to Greenwich Maritime Museum and one of our favourite events of the year—the Welly Walk. I'd like to thank all the teachers for all the events that they plan to enhance the curriculum.



In a new initiative, our House Captains will be visiting other schools to see what it's like to be a child in those schools. They will look at the culture, the school day, what lessons are like and bring their ideas back to me to see how we can take great things from other local schools and implement them here. Have a lovely half-term. Alexis Conway and the Kingslea Team.

Amazon Wishlist

You may or may not be aware that we have an Amazon Wishlist which allows you to support the school to continue to provide a rich, wide-ranging curriculum and a high standard of education for your children. Over the last few years, numerous books have been bought by parents and other families members, which have then been read and used by the children.

Reading is a key driver of what we do at Kingslea and we are always looking to supplement the books that we have got. We therefore have a wish list of books that we would like to buy for the children and have put the wish list on Amazon, giving parents, grandparents and friends of the school the opportunity to support our children by buying a book or two.

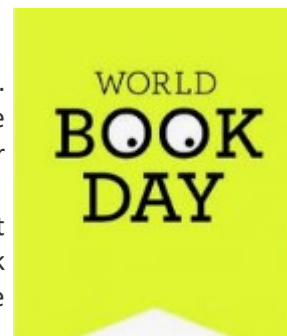
If you would like and are able to support the school and your child's education, please buy one of the books on the wish list. This will arrive at school, a few days later, and be added to the children's non-fiction book boxes or class libraries.

This can be accessed in a number of ways:

- 1) Click on the link <http://amzn.eu/hRlZqSB> to go straight to Amazon.
- 2) Click on the link to go via the Kingslea website <https://www.kingslea.w-sussex.sch.uk/wishlist.html>
- 3) Select the Parents/Carers tab on the Kingslea website and then 'Wishlist' from the drop down list
- 4) Choose the book you would like to purchase
- 5) If you would like to add a Gift Message so we know who the book is from, please do so

World Book Day

On Thursday 3rd March, we will be taking part in and celebrating World Book Day. During the day, we will be holding a whole school online assembly where we will be looking at everyone's hats, taking part in a reading quiz and sharing some of our favourite books. In class, children will be taking part in various reading activities. With the hat, you can make your own or adapt a hat you have at home to represent a character from a book or the book itself. KLASS are also putting together the book trail for everyone to take part in. Thank you to all the parents who have made something for the trail.



UKMT 25th Anniversary Challenge

This half term, the UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) held a one-off '25th Anniversary Challenge' that some of our Year 6s took part in. We often take part in their challenges in the summer term, which are designed for children in Key Stage 3 and offer awards if the children do well. The challenges encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. It's a real challenge for some of our experienced mathematicians and really gets them thinking. During this challenge, although there were no awards, as it was a 'one-off', we were especially proud of everyone who took part. Everyone scored on challenge – most above 10 – and we even had Khushi and Jamie who scored 19 out of 25! We are now looking forward to the summer challenges and have no doubt that our children will do well.

OUR HOUSE Have you sent in your photo of your family for our PHSE display celebrating all Kingslea families? As you know we are a diverse community with many different family structures and we would like to celebrate this. It is important children see their family represented in literature, displays, films, television shows and in their school community. It could be a family portrait, a photo of your family doing an activity you like to do together, a religious celebration, a family tradition or game. Share what makes your family unique. Email your family photos to wellbeing@kingslea.org.uk - photos must include your child's class followed by their full name in the subject field e.g. 5W John Smith by Friday 4th March.

Safeguarding



If you have any concerns about a child, be it in school or out of school, you are able to report your concerns to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads. These are Mrs Barrett, Mrs Howard and Miss Nicholls. You can either approach us directly or ask to speak to us via the office. Whilst something might seem quite minor to you, it could be one piece of information that is part of a bigger picture.

Covid Update

As per my email the other day, Covid cases amongst children at Kingslea are at the highest level we have seen at any point during the pandemic, reflecting the national picture amongst primary aged children. Covid cases per 100,000 of the population in Horsham are almost twice the national average and nationally, cases are highest in primary aged children with between 10-15% of primary aged children testing positive in the last few weeks in England, although I do wonder if all LFT tests are being reported, and if it could actually be higher.

At Kingslea this week, we had 15% of children off with Covid. The high rates amongst children are also impacting on staff, with over 20% of staff absent this week with Covid. This is obviously not a sustainable situation, either for the health and well-being of staff and children or for the running of the school. I understand that next week the government is sharing its plan for 'living with Covid'. I did contact the Education Secretary Nadim Zahawi to share my thoughts, but sadly he's not got back to me. It does seem to me that primary schools have been forgotten about / ignored with little useful support seen from the Department for Education.

Kingslea Figures: Autumn Term 57 cases in pupils

Spring Term (first half) 140 cases in pupils

Sports Update

It's all about good news in our sports update. Firstly, Mr Mothee is back! After being off for most of this term recovering from a knee operation, Mr Mothee walked/hobbled back into school on Monday to applause of children in the KS2 playground.

At Kingslea we are known for our participation in sporting events across Horsham. It's lovely to see so many competitions back on. Over the last few weeks we have attended the indoor athletics events at Millais and The Forest School with our Y5 team finishing second in this weeks competition, a great achievement after Y3's third place last month. Our New Age Kurling Team competed against other schools from the Horsham area, the netball league continues and we hosted, and won, the Horsham table tennis events here at Kingslea two weeks ago. As we look to next half-term, we've got the cross country event at Christs Hospital, netball and football cup competitions for Years 3-6.

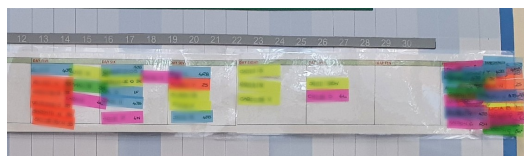


Notes from the School Office

Covid Central!!!

We would like to thank all the parents for their communication regarding Covid cases. It sometimes has felt like herding cats trying to keep a handle on who is in and who is out of school, but whether it has been by phone, email or ParentMail the pieces have eventually come together.

Mrs Hill has created her very own 'Covid Timeline' to plot which day each child (and member of staff) is on in their isolation period! We may be applying for a patent.....



Spring Term 2022		
HALF TERM : MONDAY 21 st —FRIDAY 25 th FEBRUARY		
KLASS BOOK TRAIL : Thursday 24 th -Sunday 27 th February		
Tuesday 1 st March	Class 3K First swimming @ Pavilions	1.30pm Cross Country @ Christs Hospital
Wednesday 2 nd March	Class 5W to Leechpool Woods	
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day	KLASS Pop Up Bookshop
Friday 4 th March	Y3 Wakehurst Place Trip	4.00pm Y6 Cup Football @ Tanbridge
Monday 7 th March	Year 5 to Forest School am/pm	Y3 Horsham Park trip
Wednesday 9 th March	Y1 Rainbow Theatre Visit Class 5H	Y2 Arundel Wetland Trust Visit
Thursday 10 th March	9.00am Governors Resources Committee	4.00pm Y5&6 Netball @ The Bridge
Friday 11 th March	4.00pm Y5&6 Girls Football Cup @ Tanbridge	
Thursday 17 th March	6.00pm Full Governing Body	
Friday 18 th March	4.00pm Y5 Cup Football @ Tanbridge	
Wednesday 23 rd March	Y5 Maths Competition @ Christ's Hospital	
Thursday 24 th March	4.00pm Y5&6 Netball @ The Bridge	
Friday 25 th March	4.00pm Y4 Cup Football @ Tanbridge	
Tuesday 29 th March	9.30am 4 x House Captains visiting Heron Way	
Wednesday 30 th March	Y5 to Greenwich Maritime Museum	
Friday 1 st April	School Discos	4.00pm Y3 Cup Football @ Tanbridge
Friday 1 st April	4.00pm Y3 Cup Football @ Tanbridge	
Friday 8 th April	Welly Walk	Last Day of Spring Term

TERM DATES 2021-22

Spring Term 2022			
First Day	Wednesday 5 th January 2022	Last Day	Friday 8 th April 2022
Half Term	Monday 21 st – Friday 25 th February	INSET Days	Tuesday 4 th January 2022

Summer Term 2022			
First Day	Monday 25 th April 2022	Last Day	Thursday 21 st July 2022
Half Term	Monday 30 th May-Friday 3 rd June	INSET Days	Friday 24 th June 2022