

Newsletter

Friday 8th November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

During half-term I was reading the news and I always enjoy the top ten lists that are produced. I do often wonder about the accuracy of them but all the same they make me think as to whether I would be in agreement. Particular favourites were the best city breaks in Europe—Krakow (agree, a lovely city), most expensive pies at a 2018/19 Premier League football club—Fulham (not been to Fulham since January 1999 so can't comment), the best beach in West Sussex—Pagham (I actually quite like Ferring Beach), the top 10 songs ever—Bohemian Rhapsody - Queen (personally not my favourite but I can see why it made it to the number one position) and then I came across the a top 10 that really caught my eye.

It read 'Real Schools Guide 2019: Every primary school in Sussex rated and ranked'. Well obviously I had to take a look to see how our obsession with the ranking transferred to primary schools. I clicked on the link and there was the top 10, with Kingslea ranked as the number one school in Sussex (both East and West). This was obviously a pleasant surprise.

I then took a look to see what the criteria were. Was it our creative curriculum? The range of clubs? The engagement of our pupils? The sense of community? The hard work of the PTA? The happiness of the children? The quality of our macarena dancing at break-time? Or even the quality of the staff Christmas panto?

No. It was 44 data points and no visit to the school.

Whilst it's lovely that Kingslea is ranked as number one in Sussex, it saddens me that this has been done purely on data, data such as attainment, progress, attendance and staffing ratios. Schools are so much more than data, and whilst we may be the most oversubscribed school in West Sussex, when I ask parents who are looking round for a school place, data hardly enters the conversation. Of course they want their children to be literate and numerate but what comes out time and time again is current Kingslea parents saying to other parents how well their child is doing at Kingslea, the range of opportunities they have, the fantastic teachers, the strong relationships between parents and staff and how much they are progressing socially and emotionally. Whilst top 10s are of interest you can't judge schools in the same way.

And finally our harvest collection came to a massive 326.20 KG, which equates to 776 meals, which would feed a family of four for approximately 64 days. Thank you to all our families for your donations.

Alexis Conway



Governor Profile—Sarah Evans

I have been a Parent Governor at Kingslea since my daughter joined in September 2017. As a Governor it's our role to be a critical friend. We're there to offer support and be an advocate of the school, but also to challenge the school to meet its targets, ensure that every child has the chance to thrive, and to make sure the school is always improving.



The Governing Board works with teachers to set the aims and the ethos of the school and we track progress throughout the year. I am the link governor for the arts which means I pay particular focus to this area. We are there to make sure the strategies and policies of the school are being fairly implemented and are effective, in line with regulations and that they help pupils to achieve their best and enjoy their time at school.

Being a parent governor is a great privilege - when I visit the school I am always impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of teachers and how the huge effort they put in translates into good results and a happy learning environment. I have seen this not just in my daughter's experience at Kingslea, but throughout the classrooms I have visited where children are happy, confident and proud to share their work and their achievements.

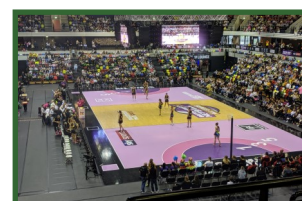
Remembrance

As many of you will have seen our poppy display has returned to the bridge over Harwood Road. This year there are an extra 60 poppies on the display, each one being made by our children in Reception. In assembly we read the book 'Where the poppies grow' and classteachers will be talking to the children about remembrance. On Monday 11th November we will be holding a one minute silence in assembly.



Netball at the Copperbox

A few weeks ago we travelled up to the Copperbox arena at the Olympic Park to watch Fast 5s Netball. For many of the children it was their first time at a major sporting fixture and seeing the speed, skill and resilience of the players has really inspired some of our children to further develop their netball, for example joining a local club.



Children in Need

On Friday 15th November it is Children in Need. As always we will be supporting this worthy cause and our Community Action Group will be talking to whole school in assembly on Monday about the events that go on and what the money is used for. This year the theme is 'hats'. The children can come to school in their own clothes and they can wear a hat of their choice be our homemade, practical or amusing, let's see how many different hats we can have in school! We ask for a minimum donation from each child of £1.00.



Gardening Club

Congratulations to our gardening club, ably led by Mrs Richmond who were invited to Newbridge Nursery to receive their first place certificate for the Horsham in Bloom competition. And thank you to one of our grandparents for a very generous donation which will allow us to buy a new greenhouse!



Parents' Evening - comments

Thank you to all the parents who commented on the 'Kingslea is a place where.....' and 'We are proud of our.....'. Your comments have helped us to understand what is important to you and your child regarding their education and how we can further develop as a school. Thank you for your contributions.



Christmas Run-Up

Events for the run up to Christmas are detailed on the back of this newsletter. Applications for tickets for Christmas productions will open imminently. As we have three KS1 performances and two Reception performances there are more than enough tickets for grandparents etc to come to the performances. On Tuesday 17th December the choir will entertain us at the Candlelit Service and on Thursday 19th December the Drama Club will be performing 'Mr Humbug Sees the Light'. All parents are welcome to attend these events, whether your child is performing or not.

As you can see from the calendar Christmas Dress up day is on Friday 6th December. Children can wear Christmassy colours, tinsel, dress up as elves, wear a Christmas jumper etc. We will be having our Christmas Lunch (crackers and hats included) on Thursday 19th December.



Parent Governor

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor. As a governing body we carry out an annual skills analysis of the body as a whole and we are looking for a governor with current safeguarding expertise. We have an Associate Governor in place at the moment who is part of the governing body (but without voting rights) with this skill set who is keen to take on the Parent Governor role however the position is open to all parents. If you feel you have this skill set and would like to know more about the vacancy please arrange to speak to Mr Conway by 15th November. If we have more than one nominee for this position a parents' election will be held.

Conkers

Well done to everyone who entered the conker competitions, we had two fabulous afternoons.



Reception Applications for September 2020

Applications opened on **Monday 7th October 2019** for children due to start school in September 2020. Applications close on **Wednesday 15th January 2020**. Application details can be found at www.westsussex.gov.uk. Even if you have a sibling currently at Kingslea you still need to apply. All parent tours for Reception intake 2020 are now full (we have even added four more dates).

Notes from the School Office

Please ensure you are registered and are successfully receiving ParentMail notifications. We are almost completely paperless in terms of routine communication with parents which is fantastic.

ParentMail Pointers for Parents

1. Ensure you have the ParentMail App installed on your smartphone—this way you will never miss a notification
2. In '**Settings**' select '**Email Preferences**' and ensure that notifications are switched on for '**New Events**', '**New Parents' Evening**', '**New Form**', '**Form Reminder**' and '**New Email**'
3. Please read all notifications carefully—we always try to make all emails as clear as possible, where we require a response from you we will send an electronic form, please respond to all forms in a timely manner.

Autumn Term 2019

Thursday 7th November	2.45pm Y1 Parents' Classroom Visit	
Friday 8th November	4.00pm Girls Football @ Tanbridge	Firework Night
Thursday 14th November	Big Draw	1.00pm Y6 Football @ Horsham RC
Friday 15th November	Children in Need 'Hats'	4.00pm Y5&6 Hockey @ Tanbridge
Tuesday 19th November	9.00am Governors Resources	
Wednesday 20th November	7.30pm KLAS AGM	
Thursday 21st November	2.45pm Y1 Parents' classroom visit	
Friday 22nd November	pm 5W Recording Studio Visit	4.00pm Girls Football @ Tanbridge School Discos
Tuesday 26th November	Y3&4 Badminton Festival @ Collyers	3S Last swim before Christmas
Thursday 28th November	7.45am Pupil Governors at opening of new Lidl	
Friday 29th November	pm 5K Recording Studio Visit	4.00pm Y5&6 Hockey @ Tanbridge
Monday 2nd December	Christmas Bazaar for pupils	
Thursday 5th December	Flu vaccinations—all year groups 2.45pm Y1 Parents classroom visit	Y3 Mayan Day 6.00pm Full Governing Body
Friday 6th December	Christmas Dress Up Day & Christmas Decoration Afternoon 4.00pm Girls Football @ Tanbridge	
Friday 13th December	pm Y5 to The Capital Theatre for pantomime	
Monday 16th December	2.00pm Y1/2 Christmas performance	
Tuesday 17th December	9.30am Reception Christmas performance 7.00pm Choir Candlelit Concert	2.00pm Y1/2 Christmas performance
Wednesday 18th December	9.30am Y1/2 Christmas performance	2.00pm Reception Christmas performance
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Lunch	7.00pm Drama Club performance
Friday 20th December	Last Day of Term	

Spring Term 2020

First Day	Monday 6 th January 2020	Last Day	Friday 3 rd April 2020
Half Term	Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February	INSET Days	Monday 24 th February 2020

Summer Term 2020

First Day	Monday 20 th April 2020	Last Day	Friday 17 th July 2020
Half Term	Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May	INSET Days	Friday 26th June 2020

