



Newsletter

Monday 1st November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you all for attending parents' evening just before half-term. I hope you found them useful and that you were able to get a good understanding of how your child is doing at school. We are aiming for the Spring 2022 parents' evening to be in person, so you can see the children's books and the school, but a decision will be made nearer the time.

Considering the challenges we have faced, I've been very pleased with how well this half-term has gone. Reception have settled in very well, the quality of learning has been impressive across the school and the teamwork from all Kingslea staff has meant that we have been able to teach every aspect of the curriculum at the level we wanted.

We had numerous visits including Horsham town centre, Brighton, Leeds Castle and Leonardslee Gardens as well as welcoming visitors in to the school. It's lovely to have the clubs back, we've started specialist dance teaching and it will be the turn of Y2 next half-term, Mandarin is starting for Y6 after half-term, a new outdoor learning lunch club has started, the conker competition saw the most smashed conkers than ever before and the playground markings in KS1 are being used well.

We have used some of our funding to employ our own speech and language therapist to support children with speech and language issues, one of the most common forms of special needs amongst young children, and one that with early intervention can be addressed relatively quickly for many. For the past year we have also employed our own counsellors to support children and parents; this is something we will be continuing with, as well as using our own learning mentors and emotional literacy support assistants to support individual children.

We continue to develop our curriculum, which is at the heart of everything we do. Whether is geography, art, science or history we aim to provide a wide range of opportunities for children to develop as independent, confident, successful learners with high aspirations who are able to make positive contributions to their community and beyond.

Alexis Conway and the Kingslea Team

Y4 Brighton and Horsham Visits

As part of their autumn learning journey, A Giant Tour of the UK, Year 4 visited both Brighton and Horsham on recent school trips.

The Brighton trip took place on a gloriously sunny day and the children undertook a variety of activities, including a trip to the Royal Pavilion, with some fantastic sketching of the iconic building by the children, a walk along Brighton's seafront which offered an opportunity to record the number and types of shops found there and finally a chance to play on the famous pebbled beach. It is probably fair to say that everyone's favourite part of the day was the delicious fish and chip lunch at Harry Ramsden's.

A week later, the year group participated in a walking tour of Horsham to allow them to compare and contrast the two locations. Horsham Museum has recently reopened and children were able to undertake a tour and see all of the changes that have been made to the building and exhibitions. In addition, they used West Street at the location for their shop tally, created exciting dinosaur photographs with our locally-discovered dinosaur Iguanodon and studied the buildings found on The Causeway which is arguably Horsham's most famous street.

The children are looking forward to using all of their recently acquired knowledge to complete their learning journey.



Year 6 Sussex Maths Competition

At the end of last month, four Year 6 children visited Windlesham House School to compete in the Sussex maths competition. It was the first competition of this style in over a year and our children certainly did us proud. Both pairs came in the top 5 and Kingslea were the only school to have two teams in the top 5 out of both state and private schools. Fantastic! We look forward to similar competitions later on in the year.



Online maths reminders

We have been really impressed with the level of engagement our children have with their online maths. Below are just a couple of reminders that we hope will be helpful, when you child finishes their online session.



For those children using *Numbots*, please remember that they need to log out when they have finished their session in order for work to be recorded.

MyMaths is similar in that the children need to remember to mark their work when they have completed their tasks. They then need to close the summary tab. It is also really useful when children 'rate' their homework (show how they felt about it). They can do this by clicking on the 'Scores' tab on their portal page.



Sports Update

We have had a brilliant start to PE at Kingslea this term. It's been great to see all the children applying such high energy, enthusiasm and teamwork to all lessons from Reception to Year 6. Lessons have included, yoga, team building exercises, hand-eye co-ordination to help with children's development, gymnastics, dance and football.

It's also been great to see clubs return this term. We were fortunate to be able to have more adults volunteer to help deliver sessions, and have therefore increased the capacity for lots of our sports clubs. Competitive tournaments have now started after 18 months. We've had football events from Years 3 to 6, with both Kingslea teams finishing in the highest positions we've had in recent memory. There are many more tournaments and festivals to come, including Girls Football, Netball and Badminton.

Covid Update

Over the past half-term, we have had 7 children and 3 members of staff test positive. Whilst this may seem like a relatively low number, it is important that we continue to work together to ensure that both children and staff are as safe as possible. We will continue to focus on ventilation—both natural and the HEPA filters—hygiene, staggered starts and end of the day and limiting large gatherings such as whole school assembly. As parents please continue to support us by testing if your child has symptoms or there is a positive case at home.

Please rest assured that the school is monitoring (daily) the transmission rate within school and the connectivity of the transmission that we are experiencing (isolated cases vs. cases that might be a result of in-school transmission). We already have some contingency measures ready to go after half-term should we need to step measures up within school. These may include restricting visitors into the school, reverting to year group bubbles, ceasing large gatherings, restricting the mixing at play and at lunch, reducing the number of children in the lunch hall at any one time and restricting the use of communal areas across the school.

Staffing capacity is the one area where we could face a challenge over the coming months. If a number of children are unwell across the school, then the school does have the capacity to continue to fully function safely. Unfortunately, if a number of staff are unwell across the school, we may not have enough teachers and support staff to safely provide an education to all classes. It is therefore essential that you continue to support us and ensure that when children have symptoms, and when there are positive cases in households, you follow our guidance:

- If your child displays any of the main three symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change of sense of taste or smell), keep them off school and book a PCR test.
- If a member of the household test positive on a PCR, please book PCR tests for the whole family and do not send children into school until a negative result has been returned.
- If a household member is positive and the child returns a negative PCR and returns to school, please lateral flow test on a regular (ideally daily) basis during the isolation period of the other household member.

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.

Safeguarding—Computer Games

As part of our curriculum monitoring we talk to children about their learning. Recently, we met with Y5 to discuss their recent e-safety lesson. These were some of their findings:



90% of children said they have their own tablet (we spoke about this is probably higher due to lockdown and getting tablets to support online learning).

75% of children play with friends online and between 30% and 50% of these children play with others they do not know. This equates to between 13 and 22 of the 60 children in the year group. Is one of these children yours?

33% of the year group explained they had received negative messages online but said that they do not tell a grown up because they are 'used to it'. They explained, 'We just accept it'. Only 2 children said they had told a grown up about a situation online! Is one of these children yours?

Roughly 50% explained they play games that are certificated older than their age. Many of these children said that their 'dads and brothers' have these games and so they are allowed to play the games too.

As a school we have seen the damage that excessive game playing, inappropriate game playing and communicating with unknown people online can do. Please reflect on what you are allowing your child to do.

In January, we have invited the Breck Foundation <https://www.breckfoundation.org/> in to speak to Y3/4, Y5/6 and deliver an evening online session for parents to address some of the issues that the above data indicates. Saying no to your child about inappropriate viewing and content is part of parenting.



Notes from the School Office

Lost Property

Despite recent reminders we currently have in lost property:

- 12 Kingslea Sweatshirts
- 5 Kingslea Cardigans
- 6 Kingslea PE Hoodies
- Numerous coats

***The thing all these items have in common? None have a name in.
Please clearly label all your child's belongings.***

Autumn Term 2021		
Thursday 4th November	Y6 Homefront Bus	Fireworks Night
Friday 5th November	Y2 Historical Walk	4.00pm Girls Football @ Tanbridge
Thursday 11th November	Y2 to Everyman Cinema	
Tuesday 16th November	Y3 to Everyman Cinema	
Friday 19th November	4.00pm Girls Football @ Tanbridge	
Tuesday 23rd November	Y3&4 Badminton Festival @ Collyers	
Friday 26th November	Y2 Rainbow Theatre Visit	Y3 Mayan Day
Wednesday 1st December	1.30pm Governors Curriculum	
Thursday 2nd December	9.00am Governors Resources	
Friday 3rd December	Christmas Decoration Afternoon	4.00pm Girls Football @ Tanbridge
Wednesday 8th December	Y5 to Pantomime @ Capitol	Y4 Church Visit (TBC)
Thursday 9th December	am Reception Christmas performance 6.00pm Full Governing Body	pm Reception Christmas performance
Tuesday 14th December	am Y1 Christmas performance	pm Y1 Christmas performance
Wednesday 15th December	am Y2 Christmas performance	pm Y2 Christmas performance
Thursday 16th December	Christmas Dress Up Day /Christmas Lunch	
Friday 17th December	Last Day of Term	

Term Dates 2021-22

Autumn Term 2021			
First Day	Monday 6 th September 2021	Last Day	Friday 17 th December 2021
Half Term	Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th October	INSET Days	Thursday 3 rd & Friday 4 th September Friday 22 nd October 2021

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 21st July 2022
Half Term	Monday 30 th May-Friday 3 rd June	INSET Days	Friday 24 th June 2022