



# Newsletter

Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was lovely to see you all at parents' evening. I hope you got a chance to look at your child's books and after speaking to the class teacher have a good sense of how your child is doing at school. In the summer term, we are planning on having an open afternoon where you will be able to look at books, walk the school and meet your child's new teacher.

Thank you to all of you who came to the parent workshop entitled '*Supporting your child to grow and flourish*'. and the classroom visit. The feedback was very positive and I know you valued the time speaking to other parents about the highs and lows of parenting. Your next opportunity to visit school will be for the Day of Art in the summer term, when you'll be able to spend the afternoon working with your child on a piece of art/craft. Dates will be shared before the end of the term.

Earlier this term we had a quality assurance visit from our West Sussex school improvement partner. All schools in West Sussex have a school improvement partner who spends time in the school and makes a judgement as to the quality of education, standards of teaching and learning, safeguarding practice, strategic planning and other areas. They spend their time in classrooms, speak to staff and governors, and look at books and documentation. West Sussex have graded Kingslea as a Category 1 school (the highest possible) with sustained exemplary practice and secure and consistent evidence across all aspects of school effectiveness.

Below are some extracts from their report:

- The success of the curriculum and high standards in teaching are demonstrated in consistently strong national statutory assessment outcomes for phonics screening and reading, writing and mathematics at the end of key stages and progress by the end of Year 6
- The school has maintained its exemplary practice throughout the year striving for continuous improvement
- Leaders have been more involved in school support and have shown the capacity and expertise to support other schools on their improvement journey
- The school is committed to continuous improvement and professional development of all staff
- Priorities are clearly based on rigorous monitoring, assessment information and a thorough knowledge of school context
- Education principles are firmly grounded in research and the development of the curriculum has been carefully considered to ensure that it is broad, aspirational and bespoke to the school context

As you can see it is an exceptionally positive report. The area that West Sussex would like us to work on is in supporting other schools to develop their practice and educational standards to the quality that is provided at Kingslea. So far this academic year we have worked with a number of schools supporting them in areas such as Early Years and Maths.

In my next newsletter I will be sharing the parent questionnaire results with you and giving you more context to some of the ways in which Kingslea works.

As always thank you for your support,

Alexis Conway and the Kingslea Team.

## Tax Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) is a childcare top-up for working parents. It can be used to help pay for accredited holiday clubs, childminders, or sports activities. TFC enables parents and carers to access childcare during the school holidays, saving them money. It is estimated that there are 1.3 million working families who are eligible for TFC in the UK, however only a small percentage are making use of the scheme. Around **75% of families are losing out** on this support.

TFC is available for children aged up to 11, or 17 if the child has a disability. You can use this link to see if you are eligible [Childcare Choices](#). You can find out more about the scheme [here](#).

Many parents don't realise that TFC can be saved up on their accounts. Even if childcare is not required throughout the school terms, there is still the option to save up funds which could be used for holiday clubs or out of school care. As Easter approaches, we thought it would be a good opportunity to remind families of these schemes so you can plan for the upcoming holidays.

## Outdoor Learning

At Kingslea we are incredibly lucky to have the most amazing grounds which can be enjoyed all year round. Over the last 5 years we have developed our use of the wooded copse area to ensure we utilise the outdoor learning opportunities to benefit the children's learning experience.

We have invested in more puddle suits for the Reception children and the children have racks for their wellies outside the classrooms so they can go outdoors in all weathers. Thanks to KLASS, we have a tented canopy and a storage shed.

The Year 1 – 6 class teachers work in collaboration with our Outdoor Learning Leader to plan exciting lesson opportunities across the whole curriculum which can be taught in an outdoor setting. Year groups have enjoyed many activities including: orienteering, shelter building, making bug hotels, surveying the flora and fauna as well as logging the animals and birds which live in our environment, pond dipping and fire making.

Additionally, we run sessions for those children who need support with communication and language to learn to interact with their peers in a stimulating and active way. We have also set up a lunchtime club so, throughout the year, every year group has the opportunity to spend time in the copse particularly with the chance to practise more general forest-schools style skills.

We are pleased to offer experiences beyond the 'norm' of what takes place within the classroom. This would not have been possible without the expertise of Mr Borley who has been with us for 4 years at Kingslea. He is moving on to a new role in another organisation so we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his development of outdoor learning with the Science and Outdoor Learning co-ordinators Mrs Wingfield and Miss Miksaite. We are looking forward to continuing this development with Mr Gear (pictured right) who joined us on Monday.



## Key Stage Two Playground

Over half-term we built a path to the wooden gazebo from the KS2 playground. The gazebo can now be accessed all year round. In assembly, we spoke to the children that it can be used for reading or drawing. Children can bring their reading or colouring books to the gazebo and we will provide the colours. This means the children have a quite area to go to if they so wish.

Our MUGA is well used, with each of the KS2 year groups being allocated a day when they can play football on there at lunchtime. Just before half-term we made the Friday a mixed-year group, girls only session and the uptake was phenomenal. We will be keeping Fridays as girls only, football or basketball session, for the rest of the term.

## 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.

## Creative Arts

Last half-term our children took part in two fantastic events. The choir sang at the O2, along with thousands of other children, in front of an audience of thousands of parents at the Young Voices Concert. The choir had been learning the songs at school and then travelled up to the O2 to rehearse with a hundred or so other schools prior to the spectacular evening show.



Our two dance squads had also been practicing since the Autumn Term and performed at the Horsham Schools Dance Festival at Tanbridge House School, along with other schools, to parents. It was a fantastic evening with great choreography, team work, energy and enjoyment from all involved.



## KLASS PTA

We are gearing up for our annual World Book Day pre-loved book-sale. It's a fun school-day event where each child can bring-in some money to shop for books. We need lots of book donations for all year groups, and particularly chapter books - please drop them to the school-office between Wednesday 28 Feb - Friday 1 March. On the day itself, please send your child to school with a named carrier bag and some coins in a named purse.

Dates for your diary:

- Thursday 7th March - World Book Day Sale
- Wednesday 20th March - AGM and social
- Thursday 28th March - Welly Walk
- Friday 19th April - School disco featuring local legend DJ Steve
- Sunday 5th May - Circus comes to Kingslea

## World Book Day—Thursday 7th March

Just a reminder that you can use your book tokens to exchange for the World Book Day books or a £1 voucher off a book of your choice. On Thursday 7th March we will be doing various activities in school related to reading as well as dressing up, the theme being 'Where has a book taken you?' We look forward to seeing your creative and imaginative ideas on the day.



### Spring Term 2024

Friday 23rd February	9.00am Y3 to Horsham Park	4.00pm Y6 Cup Football @ Tanbridge
Wednesday 28th February	Y3 trip to Wakehurst Place	1.00pm Y4 Maths Competition
Thursday 29th February	<b>4.00pm B Team Netball @ The Bridge (rearranged date)</b>	
Friday 1st March	4.00pm Y5&6 Girls Cup Football @ Tanbridge	
Monday 4th March	9.00am YR Stay & Play	12.30pm Y3&4 Football Festival @ Heron Way
Wednesday 6th March	2.15pm YR Stay & Play	
Thursday 7th March	<b>World Book Day &amp; Book Sale</b>	
Friday 8th March	9.00am YR Stay & Play	4.00pm Y5 Cup Football @ Tanbridge
Monday 11th March	12.30pm Y2 Football Festival @ Leechpool (selected team)	
<b>Last Week of Clubs</b>	<b>1.30pm Class 6W to Horsham Park</b>	
Thursday 14th March	Y2 Trip to Arundel Wetlands	
Friday 15th March	4.00pm Y4 Cup Football @ Tanbridge	
Monday 18th March	12.30pm Y5&6 Football Festival @ Heron Way	
Thursday 19th March	<b>1.30pm Class 6C to Leechpool Woods</b>	
Tuesday 19th March	<b>3.20pm Y4 Indoor Athletics Team Training</b>	
Wednesday 20th March	10.00am Y4 Indoor Athletics @ The Bridge	
Friday 22nd March	4.00pm Y3 Cup Football @ Tanbridge (selected team)	
Monday 25th March	<b>1.30pm Class 6W to Leechpool Woods</b>	
Wednesday 27th March	Y5 Trip to Greenwich Maritime Museum	
Thursday 28th March	Last Day of Term	Welly Walk

### Easter Holiday : Friday 29th March—Friday 12th April

#### Kingslea Holiday Club: Tuesday 2nd, Wednesday 3rd & Thursday 4th April

Saturday 13th April	<b>3.00pm Kingslea Day at Horsham Football Club</b>	
Thursday 18th April	<b>Y4 visit to St Mary's Church</b>	
Friday 19th April	<b>KLASS School Discos</b>	
Thursday 25th April	<b>12.30pm Y3&amp;4 Girls Football Tournament (selected team)</b>	
Tuesday 30th April	<b>6.00pm Y6 Swanage Trip Parents' Meeting</b>	
Wednesday 1st May	<b>1.30pm Governors Curriculum</b>	
Thursday 2nd May	<b>Class &amp; Y6 Individual Photos</b>	
Sunday 5th May	<b>1.00pm KLASS Circus</b>	
Monday 6th May	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	
Tuesday 14th May	<b>Reception trip to Bocketts Farm</b>	
Wednesday 15th May	<b>Y1 trip to Arundel Castle</b>	
Wednesday 22nd May	<b>Y3 Bronze/Iron Age Workshop</b>	
Thursday 23rd May	<b>Governors Resources</b>	
Friday 24th May	<b>Y2 Bee Day</b>	<b>Y4 Camping Night on the Field</b>

### Half Term - Monday 27th—Friday 31st May

#### Kingslea Holiday Club : Tuesday 28th, Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th May

### Summer Term 2024

<b>First Day</b>	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	<b>Last Day</b>	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May-Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>INSET Days</b>	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024 Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July & Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July