



Newsletter

Monday 30th January 2023

Dear Parents,

I'd like to start off this newsletter by congratulating a number of our pupils. Firstly congratulations to our new House Captains: Elspeth, Felicity, Mia, Nora, Eddie, Luke, Andrei and Stephi. They were elected by their Y6 peers to represent their house. Congratulations also to our table tennis team and to our KS1 New Aged Kurling team, both of whom represented the school recently. Finally, congratulations to the choir who had a fabulous evening singing at the O2 last week, singing alongside thousands of other children.

We are very proud of the curriculum that we offer at Kingslea, which is at the centre of everything that we teach. The National Curriculum provides the framework upon which we build our own bespoke curriculum.

The national curriculum for subjects such as history and geography is quite sparse. In fact the prescribed geography curriculum for Y1 to Y6 is written on just over 3 sides of A4. For those of you who are super inquisitive, you can find it here: [National Curriculum - Geography key stages 1 to 2 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

It takes a significant amount of thought, skill and experience to turn a national curriculum statement such as:

'Human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water'

into age appropriate, inspiring, relevant and interesting learning that is built on as the children go through the school.

Our curriculum team, our subject leaders, class teachers and specialist teachers spend a significant amount of time planning the high quality curriculum that your children are taught every day. Our curriculum encourages the children to question, investigate and evaluate - to be geographers, scientists, musicians, artists and historians.

We also audit what we teach at least termly by looking at books, observing lessons and speaking to the children about their learning experiences. We take this information and build it into our continually improving curriculum offer.

Examples of learning that we were very proud of last term include:

Reception: Celebrations – How people around the world celebrate festivals

Year 1: Comparing human and physical features of Horsham with places around the world

Year 2: Historical enquiry into chosen Victorian artefacts

Year 3: Design and Technology – from Bean to Bar - designing a chocolate bar

Year 4: Using taught field work skills in the school grounds

Year 5: Interviews with Greek Gods

Year 6: The quality of sewing when making bunting

A always than you for the support,

Alexis Conway and the Kingslea Team



Parking

Over the last few weeks, I've had communication from residents and the nursery about inconsiderate parking. Please put yourself in their position; as a resident, you really wouldn't want someone blocking you in, stopping you leaving your home. As a parent of a child - your child/ren were nursery aged once - imagine not being able to park close your child's nursery because someone with older children wanted to park a few minutes closer without a care for others.



KLASS Volunteers—Many hands make light work

KLASS is made up of parent volunteers - people just like you. Their aim is to run events that raise money which is spent on things that children across the school can enjoy, like the Wellbeing Walk, history timeline and learning resources for each year group. But their events are more than fundraisers; they are community celebrations that aim to be fun and affordable, and are a moment for our Kingslea community to come together.

KLASS have a small but mighty few who coordinate these events and they need your help! Next time you see a shout out for volunteers, please take a moment to see if you can lend a hand to keep making these events happen. Whether it's 30 minutes or more; many hands really do make light work and that warm fuzzy feeling from volunteering will help our community grow even stronger.

Whole Class Feedback

This school year, we have been using a new strategy to give feedback to children about their work. Children receive feedback about their work in lots of different ways: from marking, an adult talking to them, a peer checking their work or them checking their own work, to name just a few. Developing educational research suggests that feedback that is immediate, verbal and personal could be more effective than just marking books and children reading their comments a day or so later. Therefore, we have begun to use whole class verbal feedback as part of our lessons. This means that teachers look through children's books to see the work they have completed and make notes to feedback to the children, individually, in groups or as a whole class. Teachers may use quick codes and ticks to mark children's work and identify spelling mistakes but any feedback comments are given verbally in the next session. Often, there are key features that the whole class focuses on and improves together after the comments are given. Frequent spelling, punctuation and other errors can also be corrected after feedback to the class.

This means that you may notice fewer long written comments in children's books this year; instead you will see children making use of purple pens/pencils to show the corrections and changes they have made as a result of the whole class feedback.

'Free' school meals

Last term I wrote to you regarding the price of a school meal and the fact that Kingslea is now having to pay 30p from our education budget for each meal children have in Reception, Y1 and Y2. This may not seem like a lot but it adds up to over £10,000 per year - money that should be spent on your children's education, be it staffing, books, computers and the wider curriculum. It is just another cut to our education budget. After I sent out the letter, I was contacted by a number of parents who were surprised and shocked that this was the case and asked if they could make up the difference. Therefore each term, I will put something in the school newsletter informing you of the shortfall amount for the school meals for this period to allow you to make a donation to the school to make up the difference. Thank you to those parents who have already done this.

The cost for this term 57 school days x 30p = £17.10

You can help make up the difference and donate by logging into ParentMail Shop and selecting Kingslea School Fund, add the amount you wish to pay and check out in the usual way.

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 Mrs Payne. 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.

New Parent Governors

Katie Faulkner—who will be joining our Resources Committee.

Katie has a daughter in Year 1 and a one year old son and is originally from West Sussex. As a parent governor, she committed to supporting the school by acting in the best interests of the children and ensuring they get a well-rounded start in life. Katie aims to bring her strengths from her early career as a barrister to the role. She has a good understanding of governance through her current job, where she runs the governance function of a national regulator. Katie also has strong experience in senior management and strategic leadership, in developing policies and overseeing how finances and resources should be managed in an organisation. She is absolutely committed to helping all children have the opportunities they deserve at school.



Matt Malone—who will be joining the Safeguarding Committee

Matt has two children at Kingslea. Matt's skills and experience are in Special Educational Needs and safeguarding accrued over a 12-year career in education, during which he has held positions as a Teaching Assistant, Class Teacher, Key Stage lead, acting Special Educational Needs Coordinator and Maths Lead. Two years ago, he joined East Sussex County Council working with schools to support children with special education needs and continues to work in the area of Special Educational Needs as a Deputy Service Manager to provide strategic and operational support to teachers, to help ensure the children his team are responsible for receive the best education possible. Matt is also the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the service and is responsible for supporting 14 teachers to manage their safeguarding, as well as educational, responsibilities.



Notes from the School Office

ParentPay

- *We cannot emphasise enough how vital it is for you to activate your ParentPay account if you want your child to have/continue to have a hot school lunch after half term (from 20th February).*
- *You must activate your account and place your order for each day's meals (up to ten weeks ahead). Activation letters were sent out on 16th January from 'platform@parentpay' - please search your inbox*
- *The deadline for ordering meals for the first week after half term is midnight on **Thursday 9th February**, if you have not ordered by then, your child will not be provided with a meal for that first week back. Deadlines each week are midnight on the Thursday, ten days prior to the week you are ordering for.*
- *We will be unable to order for you if you have not done it.*
- *This new system applies to everyone who has a hot meal: KS1 who get free meals, KS2 whose parents pay as they order and those in KS2 who are eligible for free school meals.*

If you need any help in setting up your ParentPay account, please contact us in the School Office urgently.

