

# Newsletter

Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the summer break, and a very special welcome to all our new families, whether you are starting in Reception or in other year groups. Every staff member has been able to return to work and we are all looking forward to having the children in and returning to a sense of normality.

As always it's been a busy summer at Kingslea. After waiting for a number of years we have had new boilers fitted—hopefully reducing maintenance costs and making us more energy efficient—Mr Richmond, our site manager, has been very busy refurbishing various rooms and the grounds across the school. I would like to personally thank him and his wife, with support from Mr Whiteley, for the pride that they take in ensuring that our school looks so welcoming and fresh. We've also refurbished the Y3 communal area—many thanks to Mr Bejer for his great work.

On Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September, all the teachers and support staff met for our INSET days. On Thursday, we reflected on last year and put together our priorities for this year. We reviewed our adapted day-to-day procedures for working in school in the current situation and refreshed our safeguarding knowledge and practice. Mrs Payne ran a session on retrieval practice and how we teach to ensure children retain knowledge over the long-term. Mrs Russell and Mrs Barrett led a session on wellbeing and how we can support children over the coming months. We are very clear that for the majority of pupils the best form of wellbeing is getting back into school routines and expectations, a bit of work on fractions, modal verbs, invasion games and coding does wonders for one's sense of wellbeing! School should be a safe place for our pupils and whilst we will acknowledge what has gone on over the last few months it will not constantly be brought up and discussed. In a nutshell, we are a trauma-aware not trauma-led school.

On Friday, Mrs Payne and Miss Finley reviewed how we benchmark children's reading, to ensure we are consistent across classes and that comprehension skills are consolidated. We then moved onto Maths with Miss Burnett and Miss Nicholls leading a session on our adapted planning to ensure that each year group fits in the learning that didn't take place in the summer term. Finally, Mrs Whiteley and Miss Hancock ran a session on the curriculum and ensuring that any skills not taught across subject areas like History, Geography, Science, Art and DT are taught this academic year. Mrs Russell and Mrs Barrett met with our team of teaching assistants to refresh how our interventions are delivered and assessed.

We are very fortunate to have an amazing team of teachers, support staff, office and premises staff. They work incredibly hard and do their very best to ensure that your children are happy, cared for, enjoy school and are making great strides with their learning. We look forward to another successful year and, with your support, I know we can achieve fantastic things for your children.

Please have a look at the date sheet on the back of the newsletter for dates up to mid-November.

Alexis Conway and the Kingslea Team



#### In summary:

- Children will spend the vast majority of time with their own class but may mix at certain times with the other class in their year group e.g. maths sets, phonics lessons, playtime and at lunchtime. When children are in their classrooms, social distancing is not a reality; where different classes mix indoors, as far as possible we will introduce social distancing between the classes .
- Each year group will be its own bubble. The bubbles will run as schools within a school.
- Different bubbles will have staggered break-times, lunchtimes etc.
- Bubbling as a year group allows children and staff to work across the year group and for maths sets to continue in Year 5 and 6.
- Staggered start (between 8.30am and 8.50am) and end to the day (between 3.10pm and 3.20pm) to decrease the numbers arriving / leaving at any one time.
- We will continue to teach the whole curriculum.
- Rocketeers will run. Children will be split into 3 bubbles, based in the main hall.
- Chartwells will be serving hot lunches to all of Reception, Year 1, and Year 2, and only children in Y3 to Y6 who are eligible for free school meals. **Everyone else in Year 3 to Year 6 will need a packed lunch.**

#### As a parent how can I help?

- Take your child's temperature before you come to school; we will only take temperatures if we have a concern
- If your child is unwell, keep them at home.
- Ensure your child has washed their hands
- Be on time and stick to your time for the staggered start to the day
- Socially distance from the teacher. School adults will not be routinely wearing face coverings
- Use the one way system—drop and go—and do not stop and chat in the playground or outside the gates
- Send any messages for teachers via the school office phone number/email rather than on the playground
- Use the KS1 gate as an entrance only; the KS2 gate will be used as an entrance and exit
- Meet older children away from school if you feel it's appropriate, as many do
- No rucksacks/large bags to be brought in, only books bags as cloakrooms are out of use
- Please do not send sweets/cakes etc. when it is your child's birthday, although they can still wear their own clothes
- Send your child to school in PE kit on their PE days

YR — Friday (from 02/10/2020)	Y2—Monday, Tuesday	Y4—Tuesday, Thursday	Y6—Monday, Friday
Y1—Monday, Thursday	Y3—Tuesday, Wednesday	Y5—Wednesday, Friday	PE kit to be worn on these days

#### Uniform

We are always very proud with how smart and well-presented our children are. Just a reminder that school shoes should be black and be shoes—not trainers and should not have flashing lights!!! Earrings must be studs and hair over shoulder length should be tied back with a green or black hair band. PE jumpers needs to be school hoodies or school jumpers.

### **Covid cases**

As I have said, we are fully prepared for opening. We are also fully prepared for dealing with suspected and actual cases of Covid. We have to accept the reality that there will be suspected cases of Covid-19 in all schools and there is also the risk of actual cases. I have attached Public Health England's Guidance for schools on procedures we would take with suspected and confirmed cases, for you to look at. I have also attached guidance for parents on what to do in various scenarios including if your child has symptoms, or if there is a case in the household.

### **Welcome videos**

Next week we will be uploading 'Welcome to Year X' videos that the teachers have put together. In the videos, the teachers from each year group will be telling you about the plans, expectations and learning for your child's year group. We will also be sending home the curriculum overviews so you can see what your child is learning this year.

### **Homework**

Next week we will send a letter home to Y1 to Y6 regarding homework. Please do take time to read it as you really do make the difference ensuring that your child is doing their homework and supporting them with it. We expect, and hope that children read at least five nights a week. For maths short bursts of daily practice are much more effective than spending hours once a week. Your praise and reminders, and you sitting down next to them, encouraging them and checking their work, will help them improve faster. If you have any questions, about homework please speak to the class teacher.

### **Volunteers meeting**

If you would like to volunteer in school on a regular basis we are holding our volunteers meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 2.15pm and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 9.30am. It is important that all volunteers, new and experienced attend the meeting. Many of our volunteers spend invaluable time reading with our children; however, if you feel you have a skill that would enhance education at Kingslea, for example sewing, IT skills, coaching qualifications, please do come and speak to us about voluntary work. Please contact Mrs King in the school office to book your place. If you have any questions about the meeting, please see Mrs Payne who is our lead for volunteers.

### **Books**

We are still missing hundreds of scheme books and chapter books that went home during the summer term. Please do have a look around your homes and drop them off at the office. We envisage some households have many books as children took more than usual.

### **How can I communicate with the school office?**

- For the safety of our office staff, we ask you to communicate with the office via email and phone, even if you are on the premises.
- All items required for the day should enter school with the child. Forgotten items should not be brought in and will not be accepted.
- If you do have to come to the office, only one person in the lobby at a time and please stand at least two metres from the office window.

## ***Notes from the School Office***

### ***Medications & Inhalers etc***

- *If your child regularly keeps an inhaler or other medication at school, please ensure that they are 'in date' and return to your class teacher/ teaching assistant on the first day of school.*
- *If your child requires a new medication that they have not had in school previously, please hand it in at the office and complete any necessary paperwork.*
- *If your child no longer requires a medication they have previously had in school please inform the office*

### Autumn Term 2020

Monday 7th September	First Day of term for Years 1-6
Friday 11th September	Y1 travelling to.....
Tuesday 15th September	am Y4 visiting Horsham
Wednesday 16th September	Reception start full-time                      2.15pm Volunteers Meeting
Thursday 17th September	9.30am Volunteers Meeting                      6.00pm Full Governing Body meeting
Monday 28th September	am Y3 visiting Mr Simms Sweet Shoppe
Wednesday 30th September	2.00pm-3.00pm and 6.00pm-7.00pm Reception Parents meetings
Tuesday 6th October	Y4 visiting Brighton
Monday 12th October	Y4 Mosque visit                      Y1 / Y2 Conker Competition
Tuesday 13th October	Y4 Mosque visit                      Y3/4/5/6 Conker Competition
Wednesday 14th October	Y2 Victorian trip
Thursday 15th October	Individual and sibling photos                      6.00pm Governors Curriculum meeting
Tuesday 20th October	Y6 Homefront Bus
Wednesday 21st October	2.20pm Reception Stay & Play                      3.30pm—7.00pm Parents' Evening
Thursday 22nd October	3.30pm—7.00pm Parents' Evening
Friday 23rd October	<b>INSET DAY</b>
<b>HALF TERM : MONDAY 26th OCTOBER –FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER</b>	
Monday 2nd November	Flu Vaccinations (all year groups)
Wednesday 4th November	9.00am Governors morning                      2.20pm Reception Stay & Play (then every Wednesday)
Thursday 5th November	Big Draw
Friday 6th November	Firework Night
Friday 13th November	Children in Need
Tuesday 17th November	9.00am Governors Resources meeting
Thursday 3rd December	Y3 Mayan Day
Friday 4th December	Christmas Decoration Afternoon
Wednesday 9th December	am Reception Christmas performance                      pm Reception Christmas performance
Friday 11th December	am Y1 Christmas performance                      pm Y1 Christmas performance
Tuesday 15th December	am Y2 Christmas performance                      pm Y2 Christmas performance
Wednesday 16th December	Y6 Greek Workshop
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Dress up day /Christmas lunch                      am Y6 WW2 Workshop
Friday 18th December	Last Day of Term