



Newsletter

Wednesday 10th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the current climate, I thought I would write a shorter, more regular newsletter to keep you up-to-date. We are now into the second week of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 returning to school and, so far, it couldn't have gone any better. The plans we had put in place are running smoothly, children have settled back into school life quickly and it's lovely to see the learning, playing and socialising.

We have been very pleased with how well the new Continuation of Learning videos and work has been received. Thank you for your positive feedback and comments. All households are different; it is obviously up to you how you structure the day but we would encourage a similar format each day, for example completing the work in the morning. Congratulations to Year 4 for spotting the 'deliberate' maths error on Tuesday's homework and well done to Year 3 parents who persevered and have now mastered subordinating and coordinating conjunctions! Quite a few of you have mentioned how much the videos have opened your eyes to the learning we do at school and how much you have learnt (or re-learnt) over the last few weeks.

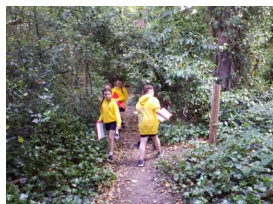
I would like to thank you – our parents—for all your support, understanding and communication during this time. I feel that school and home have worked incredibly well together over the last few months. It reinforces what we believe about the purpose of Kingslea. A school is much more than a building where information is imparted between 8.30am and 3.30pm. It is about community, doing the right thing at the right time with the ultimate aim of developing young people who will make our society a better place to live in.

Last week, we sent out a letter from nearly all the schools in Horsham. I'd like to clarify: we were pre-empting any government edict for teachers and support staff to work over the summer holidays. As you are aware, our staff have not been on holiday whilst schools have been closed to the majority of the pupils. All of our staff volunteered to work over the Easter holidays and May half-term, looking after the #kingsleacares children. Our staff did this unpaid (teachers and other school staff are not paid for the majority of the school holidays). However, our staff do need a break to recharge and prepare for September. If the government wants to run key worker childcare or run summer schools then they have my full support but they will need to commission others to do that. It is worth noting that I think—and these are just my own thoughts—that if there are summer schools running, they will be available only for children in receipt of free school meals, rather than the whole school.

Yesterday the government made the announcement that we were expecting, that the only option regarding the return of Y2/3/4/5 this term is to allow individual schools to make that decision. We believe we have a workable plan that would allow Y2 to Y5 to come to school from Monday 29th June, for two days a week for the last three weeks of school. The focus will be on pupils' emotional well-being. We will send out a questionnaire to gauge parent feeling about returning to school for this period of time—a return that would involve some adaptation to YR/Y1 and Y6 rotas. As with any proposal there are positives and negatives.

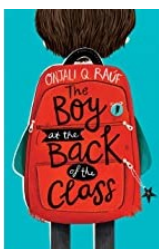
As with many jobs some days are easier than others. Whilst there have been some challenging days over the last few months the support we have had from yourselves has made it so much easier.

Alexis Conway

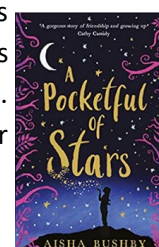
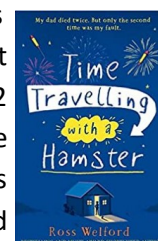


Diversity of Literature at Kingslea

At the start of this academic year we conducted an audit of the current books that we are using and teaching from in school to ensure that we are providing children with an accurate and well-rounded representation of the world that they are living in. We found that our books cover a wide range of issues including disability, family separation and bereavement, and also issues that may impact minority groups and those that have recently come to this country for whatever reasons. We have a wide range of books which have a BAME (Black, Asian, minority ethnic) central character and felt it was important for you to know that your children have access to many high quality books that deal with a wide range of issues and have varied central characters. For example in KS2 class libraries, children have access to books such as Time Travelling with a Hamster, The Firework Makers Daughter, Planet Omar, The Boy at the Back of the Class, My Name is



Not Refugee, Kick, A Pocketful of Stars, The Girl Who Stole an Elephant and many other books that have a BAME central character. In addition to this we have a vast range of non-fiction books that cover the lives and successes of many BAME people including Mo Farah, Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela. We will continue to purchase a broad range of books that represent our happy and inclusive community at Kingslea.



The Covid-19 Situation in Horsham

There is such a huge amount of information, data and analysis of the ongoing Covid-19 situation via the traditional media, social media and neighbours and family who have overnight become pandemic experts that it is difficult to know who or what to listen to. This is an interesting website that I've been looking at over the last few months.

https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/view/lga-research/covid-19-case-tracker-area-quick-view-1?mod-area=E07000227&mod-group=AllDistrictInRegion_SouthEast&mod-type=namedComparisonGroup

Car Parking - Nursery

Please can I remind everyone that the nursery car park is not to be used by Kingslea parents for dropping off at Kingslea. It is selfish and stops nursery parents parking close to the building with their young child. Please park in an appropriate place.

Transition for September 2020

It is the time of year that we start our plans for transition to the next year group. We have a full complement of staff for next year. Mrs Wenham will not be returning to school after her maternity leave. As she said, she'll miss laughing with the children but will return to teaching in the future. We wish her all the best. Class allocations will be announced at the end of June, and we hope to put in place a plan to allow children who are in school to meet with their new teachers in July. Your child's new teacher will meet with this year's teacher for a transition meeting in July. Reports will be sent out the week of Monday 13th July, either given directly to your child or via post. There won't be a parents' evening this term.

Outdoor learning

We are thinking creatively at the moment and wondered if anyone has access to or contact in the marquee business and would consider lending us or allowing us to hire a very large marquee at a discounted rate. Please contact the office if you have any ideas.