Newsletter

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We look forward to welcoming everyone back tomorrow after the summer break, and extend a very special welcome to all our new families, whether you are starting in Reception or in other year groups.

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, all staff were in school taking part in training and preparing for the new academic year.

One of the sessions I led was on our successes last year. Whilst there are obviously things we can work on and improve, it is essential that we are clear about what works and why, and that we embed our successes even further into our culture and everyday practice. Successes last year included the feeling around the school, the embedding of the CORE 4 values, our above-average academic results in all areas that the government measures—end of Reception, Y1 phonics, Y4 multiplication test and Y6 SATS (see more about the SATS over the page), the wide range of experiences our children took part in, the high quality day-to-day teaching as recognised by OFSTED and the OFSTED outcome that was in the top 10% of schools in the country.

Mr Richmond, our Premises Manager, has again been very busy over the holidays ensuring that the school is ready for the new academic year. There is a new fence along Kings Road and a new gate by the main office (both paid for by West Sussex), we have new toilets in Y3 and Y4, the school office and Y4 classrooms have been painted, and trees in the woods have been cut back following our tree survey. As always, I'd like to personally thank Mr and Mrs Richmond, for the hours they spent working over the summer and the pride that they take in ensuring that our school looks so welcoming and fresh.

Over the last two days, our INSET has included discussion around what makes us a successful school, we've reviewed our teaching of reading and maths, and updated our safeguarding knowledge. We renewed training in relation to Benedict's Law, to ensure the systems we have in place to respond quickly and effectively to allergic emergencies are appropriate.

Over the page, you can see the KS2 SATS results for our previous Year 6 pupils - results that are again well-above national average. Based on 2025's results, they would be in the top 10% of West Sussex schools. This is down to the high quality teaching and learning that goes on in every year group, day in, day out, our wide, varied and exciting curriculum, the additional opportunities children have at Kingslea and your support.

Please remember the morning bell is rung at 8.40am, this is the latest you should be in the playground. As soon as your child enters the classroom, learning starts. If your child arrives at school at 8.50am each day, as opposed to 8.40am, they miss out on almost an hour of learning each week, which equates to 32.5 hours - or a week's worth of learning over the course a school year!

Looking forward to an excellent year,

Alexis Conway and the Kingslea Team.

SATS Results

At the end of Year 6, all children in England take a series of tests: maths, reading, grammar, punctuation and spelling. These assessments are taken under test conditions and are externally marked. There is also a writing assessment with the children's most recent work graded by their class teachers.

KS2 SATS Results 2026	Kingslea Expected	National Expected	Kingslea Greater Depth	National Greater Depth*
Reading	90%	75%	61%	33%
Writing	85%	73%	20%	13%
GPS	90%	74%	66%	30%
Mathematics	90%	75%	36%	26%

* 2025 results. 2026 yet to be published.

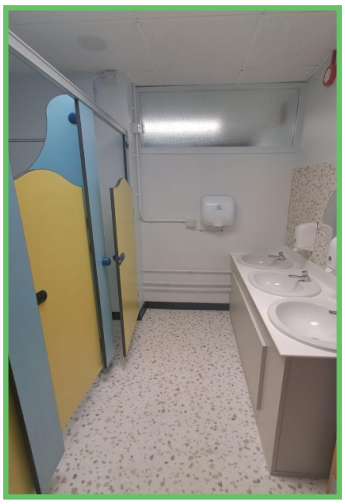
The table above shows the percentage of children who achieved the national expectation in these subjects, at Kingslea and nationally. The fourth and fifth columns show you the percentage of children that achieved greater depth (working approximately two years ahead) compared to national.

As you can see, Kingslea children performed significantly higher than children nationally, with almost every child achieving expected in reading, maths and GPS, compared to around three-quarters of children nationally.

These results are not a one off, they build on the strong academic results we have had since Covid. This positive picture is also reflected in the percentage of children who achieved greater depth, with far more children achieving greater depth at Kingslea, in the tests, than nationally.

Toilets

We have completely refurbished the Y3 and Y4 toilets over the summer, and they look amazing - the photo really doesn't do them justice. Having visited Japan over the summer I think our new toilets are up there with Tokyo's finest toilets (minus the heated seats and the squirty bit). On a more serious note we know that some children (and adults) do get anxious about toileting outside of the home in public places. We've tried to make the toilets as welcoming, clean and safe as possible to try and decrease any anxiety around toileting. We now need the children to treat them respectfully. Ask your child about the Golden Toilet seat next week!



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.

Smart Phone Free Childhood

Kingslea continues to be a smartphone-free community. This means no child has a smartphone on site, and we have been pleased with the support from parents to delay buying a smartphone even for home until children have left Kingslea. The number of online incidents we have managed as staff has dropped, and those we have encountered have been when children have been given a smartphone with group messaging facilities, or have had extended unsupervised time on other devices. If your child is bringing a retro phone or tracker to school this year, please register it on this form.

Conker Competition

The tenth annual Kingslea Conker Competition is returning on Monday 5th October for Y1 and Y2, and Tuesday 6th October for Y3/4/5/6. Bring along a conker on a string (with a very big knot on the end) on the day and competition will commence at lunchtime.

Morning Start

Please remember that classrooms doors open at 8.40am and we would like all children to be here for that time, as that is when learning starts. *If you need to speak to the teacher please make it brief in the morning as they have lessons to start.* If it's a longer conversation please arrange a time after school to see them.

Notes from the School Office

Just a few reminders for the new year……

- **Please, please, please name all items that come to school-uniform, water bottles, PE kit, hats coats etc, etc. There are over 420 children in school all wearing the same uniform-please make sure we are able to return lost items to their owners. Names marked in pen will fade after a few washes-name labels or laundry markers are recommended**
- **Medicines, etc. Any inhalers, medications, etc that your child regularly has in school can be returned directly to your new teacher or TA-they will be expecting them. If your child requires any new medication in school, please bring it to the office so we can log it on our Medical Tracker system.**
- **Any children who arrive at school through the office after the gates are locked at 8.50am are marked as late on the register (L code); later arrivals will be marked as a (U code) unauthorised.**

AUTUMN TERM 2026-27	
Tuesday 1st September	INSET Day
Wednesday 2nd September	INSET Day YR Home Visits
Thursday 3rd September	First Day of Autumn Term (Y1-Y6) YR Home Visits
Friday 4th September	YR Home Visits
Monday 7th September	YR First Day
Tuesday 8th September	Class 3S First Swimming Lesson
Wednesday 9th September	6.00pm Full Governing Body
Thursday 10th September	Y6 World War II Workshop 3.20pm Y5 Play Leaders Training (selected children)
Monday 14th September	Autumn Term Clubs Start
Thursday 17th September	Y5 Blackland Farm Trip
Friday 18th September	Flu Vaccinations (All Year Groups)
Friday 25th September	2.00pm YR Parents Meeting
Monday 5th October	12.30pm KS1 Conker Competition
Thursday 1st October	Aspirations Afternoon
Tuesday 6th October	Individual & Sibling Group Photos 1.00pm KS2 Conker Competition
Thursday 8th October	Y1 African Drumming
Wednesday 14th October	1.30pm Governors Curriculum
Friday 16th October	Y4 Maidstone Museum Trip
Monday 19th October	3.40pm Parents' Evening & Book Fair
Wednesday 21st October	3.40pm Parents' Evening & Book Fair
Friday 23rd October	INSET Day
HALF TERM MONDAY 26TH—FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2026	
Tuesday 3rd November	1.00pm Governors Afternoon
Thursday 5th November	6.00pm Kingslea Fireworks Night
Friday 20th November	9.15am Governors Resources
Tuesday 24th November	Y5 Greek Workshop
Friday 11th December	9.30am Y2 Christmas Production
Monday 14th December	2.15pm Y1 Christmas Production
Tuesday 15th December	9.30am Reception Christmas Production 2.00pm Y2 Christmas Production
Wednesday 16th December	9.30am Y1 Christmas Production 2.30pm Reception Christmas Production
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Dress Up Day & Christmas Lunch TBC
Friday 18th December	Last Day of Term
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Monday 21st December 2026–Friday 1st January 2027	

Autumn Term 2026			
First Day	Thursday 3rd September 2026	**Last Day**	Friday 18th December 2026
Half Term	Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2026	**INSET Days**	Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd September Friday 23rd October 2026

Spring Term 2027			
First Day	Tuesday 5th January 2027	**Last Day**	Thursday 25th March 2027
Half Term	Monday 15th – Friday 19th February	**INSET Days**	Monday 4th January 2027

Summer Term 2027			
First Day	Monday 12th April 2027	**Last Day**	Wednesday 21st July 2027
Half Term	Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June	**INSET Days**	Friday 25th June 2027