

Friday 8th March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to everyone for completing the parent questionnaire at parents' evening. You can see the results over the page.

Whilst the 'strongly agree' / 'agree' percentages are incredibly high, it is the comments that I find very interesting as they are often insightful, thoughtful and balanced. It is quite refreshing to have a parent body that have high expectations of the school whilst at the same time are supportive and understanding of the context that schools have to work under. For example, the regular changing of Education Ministers (9 since 2014, including one in post for 36 hours!), budgets that in no way reflect actual reality and cuts to services beyond education that schools, families and children rely on.

So in this newsletter I thought I would answer some questions that you may want answers to.

Is Kingslea still oversubscribed?

Yes, although pupil numbers in Horsham have been falling for the last few years, so we envisage that we will take more children from outside of our catchment area in the future.

I understand Kingslea supports other school?

Yes, over the last few years we have supported other schools in developing their early years, their maths curriculum, their wider curriculum, leadership of the school and development of teaching through coaching.

I've been told that the progress children make at Kingslea is amongst the highest in West Sussex.

That's right. Last year our Y6 children made the highest academic progress across reading, writing and maths in West Sussex. Why? Because of the high quality learning year in, year out.

Many schools offer 5 or 6 clubs a week, how does Kingslea offer so many?

Because we have the most amazing team of teachers and support staff that run the clubs.

Why does Kingslea pay for it's own Speech and Language Therapist; shouldn't that be provided by the NHS?

Yes, it should be, but the NHS are unable to recruit SALTs which means our children are missing out on vital, early intervention. We have therefore recruited our own SALT at a significant, but worthwhile cost.

Why does Kingslea pay for it's own Family Worker; shouldn't that be provided by the West Sussex Children's Services?

For many years West Sussex Children's Services have not provided adequate support to children and families, with the threshold for providing support to children and families being very, very high. There is a gap for parent/family support when issues first develop. We have filled this gap and in the last 12 months have supported numerous families with issues around anxiety, sleeping, emotional dysregulation, etc showing that there is a real need for this level of support.

I don't know of any other schools that have an outdoor learning teacher, specialist language teaching (Spanish and Mandarin) and a PE Coach.

We believe that our curriculum should be as engaging and wide ranging as possible and one of the ways to do this is to employ specialist teachers. This costs, but it's absolutely worth it.

I've noticed that many schools have lots of supply/cover teachers. I've not heard of any at Kingslea, why is this?

We have the most amazing team of teachers and support staff. If a teacher needs covering for absence (and our absent rate is way below the national average) or if they are carrying out a leadership role, our teaching assistants cover the class. Our TAs know the children, know the expectations and know the learning, which leads to a better standard of provision than is often the case with supply teachers.

All in all, it is our teachers and support staff that allow us to provide the high standards, wide and varied curriculum and community focus that we are known for.

Alexis Conway and the Kingslea Team

Sports Update

It has been another busy term for sport, including after school clubs.

One of the first events of the term was Year 2 children taking part in a New Age Kurling Festival. The children loved the new experience of being able to take part in a sporting event, playing against children from other schools. We then turned to the competitive side of sport and our Year 5 & 6 Indoor athletics events. Both teams were brilliant and showed great enthusiasm and encouragement throughout both events. Year 4 had their first taste of a high five netball festival, getting them ready for the competition next year. We've also played in numerous netball and football fixtures. We also entered a Dodgeball tournament for the first time and it was a fantastic learning experience and lots of fun!

We are very proud of our Cross Country teams, with Year 3&4 and Year 5&6 participating in the Horsham wide event at Christ Hospital. Year 3&4 ran 1.2km and every single runner gave it their all. We came second in both the girls' and boys' events and a special mention must go to Finley in Year 4 who won the race and received his first ever 1st place medal. Year 5&6 ran 2km, a longer distance than usual, and each runner ran their hearts out! Kingslea came 4th in both the girls' and boys' events and we had 6 children qualify to represent Horsham at the Sussex Finals.

Plenty more to come later this year!

Parent Questionnaire Results

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		
My child is happy at Kingslea	81%	19%	0%	0%		
My child feels safe at Kingslea	87%	13%	0%	0%		
My child is doing well at Kingslea	80%	20%	0%	0%		
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the school year (eg curriculum meetings, overviews etc)	80%	19%	1%	0%		
The school has high expectations for my child	71%	28%	1%	0%		
The school is led and managed effectively	88%	12%	0%	0%		
The school makes sure pupils behave well	75%	25%	0%	0%		
The school lets me know how my child is doing	72%	28%	0%	0%		
There are a wide range of clubs and activities at Kingslea	83%	16%	1%	0%		
The school supports my child's wider personal development	70%	30%	0%	0%		
When I have raised concerns they have been dealt with properly	I have not raised any concerns 60%		Yes	39%	No	1%
			Give example			
Does your child have special educational needs?	No		Yes			
If yes, my child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed	76%	15%	9%	0%		
I would recommend this school to another parent	94%	6%	0%	0%		

Safeguarding



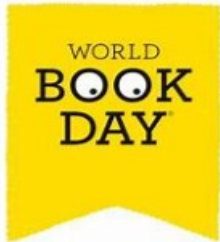
If you have any concerns about a child, be it in school or out of school, you are able to report your concerns to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads. These are Mrs Barrett, Mrs Howard and Miss Nicholls. You can either approach us directly or ask to speak to us via the office. Whilst something might seem quite minor to you, it could be one piece of information that is part of a bigger picture.

Free Tickets for Horsham FC v Cray Wanderers—Saturday 13th April

On Saturday 13th April Kingslea families are invited to watch Horsham FC v Cray Wanderers. Free tickets will be available from school nearer the time. For those of you that haven't been before, on the previous occasions when we've been invited, it's been an excellent day out for the whole family with a wide range of refreshments and a family friendly atmosphere. The football can be pretty good as well! The team are currently in the play-off positions and pushing for promotion. We will let you know when tickets are available.



World Book Day



Phones—Smart or Otherwise

Our school rule regarding children and phones is that we do not want to see them in school. If they are seen/used on school grounds they will be confiscated. We've had this rule for many years and it seems to work very well.

We do however have to deal with issues regarding children communicating on social media, outside of the school day, and viewing inappropriate content usually without parental knowledge. As much as we try to inform parents about the dangers and addictive nature of what children are accessing on smartphones, in our opinion many parents underestimate the negative impact that the content children are accessing has on their behaviour, enjoyment of other activities and view of the world until it is too late.

This is an interesting campaign that you might want to look into <https://delaysmartphones.org.uk/about/>

Notes from the School Office

Second Hand Uniform : Thank you to everyone who has brought in donations of second hand uniform to sell—before donating items please:

- Check they are in **good condition**, without holes or rips and not too faded or discoloured— ask yourself would you buy it? If not please send to the clothes bank
- Please remove your child's name from the items, either cover it with marker pen or cut it out.

Second hand uniform will be sold at parent's evenings, however if you require something at other times please contact the School Office by email and we can check what we have in stock.

Spring Term 2024

Monday 11th March	12.30pm Y2 Football Festival @ Leechpool (selected team)
Last Week of Clubs	1.30pm Class 6W to Horsham Park
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 1.30pm Class 6C to Leechpool Woods
Tuesday 19th March	3.20pm Y4 Indoor Athletics Team Training
Wednesday 20th March	10.00am Y4 Indoor Athletics @ The Bridge
Friday 22nd March	4.00pm Y3 Cup Football @ Tanbridge (selected team)
Monday 25th March	1.30pm Class 6W to Leechpool Woods
Tuesday 26th March	9.30am Y1 Horsham Tudor House Walk
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	3.00pm Kingslea Day at Horsham Football Club
Thursday 18th April	Y4 visit to St Mary's Church
Friday 19th April	KLASS School Discos
Thursday 25th April	12.30pm Y3&4 Girls Football Tournament (selected team)
Tuesday 30th April	6.00pm Y6 Swanage Trip Parents' Meeting
Wednesday 1st May	1.30pm Governors Curriculum
Thursday 2nd May	Class & Y6 Individual Photos
Sunday 5th May	1.00pm KLASS Circus
Monday 6th May	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 14th May	Reception trip to Bocketts Farm
Wednesday 15th May	Y1 trip to Arundel Castle
Wednesday 22nd May	Y3 Bronze/Iron Age Workshop Y1 Day of Art
Thursday 23rd May	Governors Resources
Friday 24th May	Y2 Bee Day Y4 Camping Night on the Field

Half Term - Monday 27th—Friday 31st May

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

Monday 3rd June	Y6 Residential Trip to Swanage (Return Friday 7th June)
Tuesday 4th June	3.45pm & 6.15pm New Reception Intake Parents Meetings
Thursday 6th June	Y2 Trip to Drusillas Y4 Trip to Goodwood
Friday 7th June	Y6 Return from Swanage
Tuesday 11th June	6.00pm Full Governing Body
Thursday 13th June	Y2 Day of Art
Friday 14th June	Y6 Day of Art
Saturday 15th June	1.00pm Big Kingslea Picnic
Friday 21st June	INSET DAY
Tuesday 25th June	am Sports Day
Wednesday 26th June	Y3 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm Reception Day of Art
Monday 1st July	Y3 Day of Art
Tuesday 2nd July	Y4 Day of Art
Wednesday 5th July	Transition Day—Reception New Intake Visits Y6 to secondary schools