Newsletter

Friday 25th September 2026

A message from one of our Co-Chairs of governors, Matt Malone.

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to Kingslea for the new academic year from both myself and my Co-Chair, Ross Higginson. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer, and I would particularly like to welcome those families who are joining the Kingslea community for the first time.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank Mr Conway and the entire Kingslea team for the enormous amount of hard work, care and commitment they continue to give to the school and our children. Last year gave us a great deal to celebrate, not least the excellent OFSTED outcome, which recognised the high quality of teaching, and placed Kingslea's outcome within the top 10% of schools nationally. It was thoroughly deserved recognition for the work that takes place across the school every day, and something of which the whole Kingslea community can be proud.

For those less familiar with us, the Governing Body works alongside the school's leadership team to help set Kingslea's strategic direction, support its continued development and provide appropriate challenge and oversight. Governors bring a range of professional and personal experience to that role, but we share the same goal: helping Kingslea continue to be a happy, ambitious and supportive school in which every child has the opportunity to thrive.

I'm therefore delighted to welcome four new members to our Governing Body this year:

Matt Peel – Parent Governor. Matt is a Kingslea parent with extensive experience in social housing, spanning frontline services, operations, strategy and transformation. He also coaches junior football and brings a strong interest in creating supportive environments in which children can thrive.

Jamie Atkins – Co-opted Governor. Jamie is a Kingslea parent and former primary school teacher who now works in senior people leadership, with particular expertise in learning and development, recruitment, organisational culture and strengths coaching.

Clare Stallard – Local Authority Governor. Clare brings experience in leadership development and coaching alongside her current work as a Family Safeguarding Social Worker. She is also a trustee of a local homeless charity and has a strong commitment to supporting her local community. Clare will be taking on the role of Safeguarding Governor.

Jamie Mackie – Co-opted Governor. Jamie is a Kingslea parent who works in IT security, governance and operational risk. He brings particular expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, resilience and ensuring technology is used safely and effectively.

They add a fantastic breadth of skills and experience to an already committed Governing Body, and I'm very pleased to have them joining us.

As governors, we are looking forward to another busy and exciting year, and to continuing to work closely with the school team, families and wider Kingslea community. Most importantly, we look forward to seeing the children continue to learn, grow and enjoy everything that makes Kingslea such a special place.

Matt Malone
Co-Chair of Governors and SEND Governor

Meet the Staff

Our Teaching Assistants are a key element in the success of our school; without them, your children wouldn't receive the quality of education they receive. I asked Mrs West, an 18 year veteran at Kingslea to write about a typical school day. (Please note, I have had to shorten what she initially wrote by 50%, indicating how much is done in a day!)

The job description for my role is infinite. I must be able to turn my hand to any challenges that come my way, from pupils or colleagues!

On arrival at school, I check the classroom is prepared for the day's activities, including milk for children, preparing resources, speaking to colleagues about the activities and their expectations for my support during the day, for themselves and the pupils.

8.40am, my favourite part of the day, not just the meet and greet of pupils for the day, but also I officially start getting paid! A lot can be gleaned from the 'Good Morning' reply given to you by the children. I follow up any pupils that need some extra support, before entering the classroom. During lessons, I will support whole-class learning as well as individual pupil learning throughout, to complete the key outcomes.

I also read all the class's comments for the week, from their Reading Diaries. I love to read about the variety of books our pupils read, their ideas about the characters and plots. They are often so proud that they will ask, "Have you read my comments this week, yet?" or " I would recommend you read my book."

During the children's playtime I ensure that resources are in place for the next lesson or catch up with colleagues across the school, to answer any questions that have arisen.
As the children settle in for the next lesson, I complete any first aid required from playtime, follow up on any playtime issues and inform any pupils, who have been absent, of anything they will need to know for the next lesson.

Lunchtime for the pupils, but not for me. Another playground duty awaits but at least, by doing this, I get paid again. My lunch will be squeezed into the twenty minutes after my duty ends and the afternoon sessions begin.

In the afternoon, I might listen to individual pupils and support them in their reading, run an intervention programme or support in class.

At the end of the day, it's about supporting the teacher to ensure the children leave safely and they have taken home what they brought to school!

3.20pm: End of my 'paid' day but not the end of my time at school. There might be my after-school art club to run, along with another colleague. This is a great time for us all to try new techniques and practices, learn about different artists and use a selection of different resources with a group of like-minded pupils. Planning for art club happens in the comfort of my home, surrounded by lots of ideas and research and, of course, a cup of coffee.

I might need to do some marking and note-taking from my afternoon interventions, update information and liaise with colleagues about the future intervention lessons I will be undertaking.

5.00pm: Phew, that is about it. Any day can be challenging, but they are all enjoyable. My day is made by the pupils and colleagues that support and surround me. I am proud to be part of the Kingslea Team.

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.

House Captains

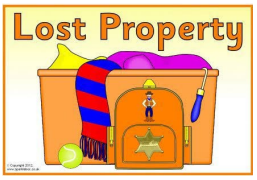
Every term, children in Year 6 are given the opportunity to apply to be a House Captain, with two house captains chosen for each house. The children present to the rest of the year group, who then vote to elect the representatives for the term. The House Captains are role models around the school, help at events, represent the school on Remembrance Sunday and count house points each week. I would like to say how impressed we are with everyone who stood. To stand in front of your peers and to subject yourself to a vote takes courage and we are very proud of all who stood and congratulate the eight who were elected.

Congratulations

When we see our ex-pupils doing well, we are very, very proud. Last term, Forest held their Year 8 'Oscars' with the three top awards all going to ex-Kingslea pupils. Congratulations to Kheilan, Harrison, and Bailey who received their awards and to all our other ex-pupils who are doing so well at secondary school and beyond.

Notes from the School Office

Name everything……



- For those parents of children who started in Reception in the last few years, you will member the mantra repeated frequently in the Parents' Meeting: "Name everything!"
- There are 423 children currently in the school wearing the same thing—please ensure that if items come to school they are clearly marked with your child's name. This includes uniform items, shoes, coats, water bottles, PE kits, snack and lunchboxes.
- Lost items will be returned if they have a name on.
- Approximately 50% of all the items sold at our second-hand uniform sales are unnamed items from lost property. Uniform is expensive enough—you do not want to buy it twice.
- Please check all your items coming to school and…….. **NAME EVERYTHING!**

AUTUMN TERM 2026-27	
Friday 25th September	2.00pm YR Parents Meeting 4.00pm Y5&6 Football League @ Tanbridge
Monday 5th October	12.30pm KS1 Conker Competition
Thursday 1st October	Aspirations Afternoon
Friday 2nd October	4.00pm Y3&4 Football League @ Tanbridge
Monday 5th October	Y3 Mayan Day
Tuesday 6th October	Individual & Sibling Group Photos 1.00pm KS2 Conker Competition
Wednesday 7th October	9.30am Y3 to Original Sweet Shop
Thursday 8th October	Y1 African Drumming
Friday 9th October	Y2 Rainbow Theatre Victorian Workshop 4.00pm Y5&6 Football League @ Tanbridge
Wednesday 14th October	1.30pm Governors Curriculum
Friday 16th October	Y4 Maidstone Museum Trip 4.00pm Y3&4 Football @ Tanbridge
Monday 19th October	3.40pm Parents' Evening & Book Fair
Wednesday 21st October	12.20pm Y4-6 Hockey Festival @ Millais (selected children) 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 6th November	Horsham Museum Visiting Y2 4.00pm Y5&6 Girls Football @ Tanbridge
Tuesday 17th November	12.15pm Y3&4 Badminton Festival @ Collyers (selected children)
Friday 20th November	9.15am Governors Resources 1.30pm Y4 Ancient Egyptian Wksp (online) 4.00pm Y5&6 Girls Football @ Tanbridge
Monday 23rd November	2.15pm YR Stay & Play
Tuesday 24th November	Y5 Greek Workshop
Wednesday 25th November	2.15pm YR Stay & Play
Friday 27th November	1.30pm Y4 Ancient Egyptian Wksp (online) 2.15pm YR Stay & Play 4.00pm Y5&6 Hockey League @ Tanbridge
Tuesday 1st December	12.20pm Y4-6 Girls Basketball Festival @ Collyers
Wednesday 2nd December	1.30pm Pupil Governors visiting Foodbank
Thursday 3rd December	9.20am KS2 New Age Kurling @ Boccia Festival @ Millais
Friday 4th December	1.30pm Christmas Making Afternoon 4.00pm Y5&6 Girls Football @ Tanbridge
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	
Monday 4th January	INSET Day
Tuesday 5th January	First Day of Term