



# **GREAT KINGSHILL**

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Church of England Combined School

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## Newsletter 29th September 2023

*aspiring to be our best with kindness, respect and faith.*

### Highlights & News

This week in school has been a busy one and there have been lots of interesting things going on. The children have been making their Christmas cards and the proofs should be with you in a couple of weeks' time. Our worship leaders have been leading spirituality sessions in class to help the children reflect on their ows and wows.

Sporting wise, our football team took part in an interschool competition at Hamilton School and, whilst they didn't win any of their matches, they did play very well and all the games were really close. Thank you to Mr Smith & O'Callaghan for taking them. See the game highlights section of the newsletter for a more detailed update.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Best

### Other Notices

#### Uniform

Please remember that as the weather is starting to turn colder and wetter, children need to come to school with appropriate clothing. We would also like to remind parents that children should be wearing school shoes and not trainers, unless it is their PE day. Please ensure all items of clothing are named as this will ensure that if they get lost, they can be returned to you.

#### Crossing the road

Once again, I feel compelled to write to parents to remind them that crossing in front of moving traffic is extremely dangerous. Each morning, we watch families racing across the road in an unsafe way. The road outside school is very busy with traffic often moving very fast, so please ensure you arrive in plenty of time to cross safely. I also would like to remind parents that they should not be stopping on the road or pulling up outside the front of school and letting their children out of the car, as this is very dangerous. I would also ask parents not to block pavements when parking, as children should not be walking in the road because they cannot get through - this is also very dangerous.

### **Applying for secondary school**

I want to remind parents of year 6 pupils that the portal for applying for secondary school is open until 31st October; please ensure that you complete your application before the deadline.

### **Open Morning**

Next week we will be hosting the first of our open mornings for Reception entry 2024. If you have a child who is due to start school next September, or friends looking for school places, please encourage them to come along. Our year 6 ambassadors are looking forward to showing them around.

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

On Monday, the staff held a coffee morning in support of Macmillan cancer charity. The baking and cakes on offer were amazing and the staff enjoyed working their way through them. They also raised £141.35 for the charity.

### **Parents Evening Booking**

All parents should have booked their slots for parents evening. It is an expectation that at least one parent attends parents evening. We have tried to make it as easy for parents as possible by facilitating attendance either in person or online. I know your child's class teacher is looking forward to sharing with you how your child has settled into the new school year.

### **Good Samaritan September Challenge**

Thank you to everyone who took part in the September challenge - the photos are on display in the main entrance. In next week's newsletter, we will be sharing details of the October challenge, and we hope that lots of families will take part.

Suzanne Best

Headteacher

## 500 Words Competition



BBC's 500 Words, the UK's most successful children's writing competition, has now opened for submissions and will run till Friday 10th November.

Since the competition was first launched in 2011 by Chris Evans on the Radio 2 Breakfast Show, it has received over one million stories from children throughout the UK. This year, the two age categories will be 5-7 year-olds and 8-11 year-olds.

Children of all abilities are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to write a story they would love others to read.

If this is something your child might wish to participate in, please visit the website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words> for further information, inspiration and submission details. If your child does enter, please also share their entry with their class teacher via a Class Dojo upload as we'd love to see them too!

Louise Hepworth

Teacher & Senior Curriculum Leader

## Forest School News

Another glorious week in the forest. We are so lucky to have this resource, and we fully embrace our outdoor learning skills. There are so many upsides to our Forest area, and our main aims are to give every child the opportunity to try things out first hand and explore their own creativity with nature. The other aims are to give them a space where they can be themselves away from a screen and play in the woods - just like many of us adults did when we were younger and iPads were just things that pirates wore! We are doing this in a safe and respectful way, whilst still learning about nature and growing resilience.

What did we do this week? Our focus was on tree identification for the older years where they had to find six trees that we had put some numbers on and use the sheets and books we have to identify them. They had to share resources, talk to each other and, of course, argue their point as to which tree they think it was. These are the sorts of skills that are absolutely essential as the children develop through their school life. They were excellent.



The younger years missed out on shelter building last week due to the wind and the rain, so we made sure that they could have a go. They did not disappoint. The year 1 children made some brilliant Leaning Dens, protecting themselves from the big bad wolf, whilst learning about gravity, construction, shape and space first hand. The Year 2s had a brilliant time forging those tricky free standing shelters.



The results were so magnificent that we left them standing for the reception children to play with and add to. If you would like your child to show you what they can do, I can thoroughly recommend Wendover woods for a walk, a coffee and a good couple of hours peace while they build away with the branches.

Over the next couple of weeks we are hoping to take some of the older children out to the woods at the back of the school to do some more learning on identification and have a wider, newer area to explore. We now have a merry band of parent helpers who we would love to take with us on some of these. We may well contact you soon.

We will also (at some point) be using our fire safety skills to have a campfire to end our half term. It is becoming a bit of a tradition! Please can you let the office know of any allergies that may have come to light recently, so that we can prepare for the ingredients we will need.

<b>Autumn 1 (Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September - Half Term)</b>		
<b>Day</b>	<b>AM</b>	<b>PM</b>
Monday		5H
Tuesday		4W
Wednesday	1T	2S
Thursday	Reception	3O
Friday		6L

Mr Smith and Mrs Little

## Football News

On Thursday, the Year 6 football team took part in the District Cup Qualifying tournament (a bit like the Group stages at the World Cup!) at Hamilton Academy.

The team had to play three twenty-minute games against some very good players and, although not quite looking the part (kit issues), they certainly matched them in effort, aggression, skill and determination.

Our first game against Ash Hill had a bit of a kit clash, and we went ahead through a lovely goal from Max, who was the engine of our team. We got to the final minute, and someone mentioned, "We might win this!" The commentators curse struck, and bang, bang; two goals went in. In the dying embers of the match, we had lost. But our fire had not gone out.

The next game required replacing some tired legs and giving everybody a chance to represent the school. Keegan played in goal, and was simply sensational. Bravery and good reading of the game epitomised the position. We were playing some silky football and came close on several occasions, but unfortunately, Hamilton, the hosts and eventual group winners, came through to beat us.

Our final game was against Manor Farm, and we matched them in every area of the pitch. Close shots, great wing play by Yusuf and Jake complimented the battering runs of Jayden up front. Chloe played really well, holding the ball up and laying it off to her teammates; some wonderful tackles and positional play from Ismael and Michael; great passing from Bradley, Will and Harry meant that we were drawing 0-0 half way through the second half. and we thought we might nick it. A change in formation meant that we could add a bit more attacking play to do this, but, we were caught on the counter attack and eventually lost again.

We are immensely proud of how the children kept going, showing determination, resilience and respect for the referees and opponents, doing the school and themselves proud. Thank you to all of

the parents who came to support the children - you were so positive and encouraging. That is exactly what school football should be about. We will be having another match soon and hopefully, our new kit will be returned or found so we don't have to wear those pesky bibs!

Thanks again, and well done everyone.

Mr Smith & Mr O'Callaghan

## GKRA Fireworks Tickets

### FIREWORKS



### & BONFIRE

Friday 3rd November 2023

Corner of Pipers Ln / Cockpit Rd

Gates open 6pm, bonfire lighting 6.30pm, fireworks 7pm

Tickets E5 from the Spar Shop or Cryers Hill Post Office Under 2s free

All under 18s **MUST** be accompanied by an adult

Enjoy a fireworks display and bonfire that you can walk to.

BBQ and refreshments available as part of a traditional celebration

We would appreciate some help — can you spare a couple of hours?

Please email [chairman@greatkingshill.org](mailto:chairman@greatkingshill.org)

## Open Days Reception 2024

If your child is due to start school in September 2024, we will be holding open days on the following dates:

**Wednesday 4th October at 10.30am**

**Tuesday 17th October at 2pm**

**Wednesday 15th November at 9.30am**

**Thursday 16th November at 5pm**

If you would like to attend, please email us at [attendance@gkcs.school](mailto:attendance@gkcs.school) and we look forward to seeing you there

## Collective Worship

### Collective worship

We began collective worship this week by thinking again about our current PSHE unit, 'Being Me in My World'. We reflected upon our first few weeks back at school and thought about the times we have been kind and showed love to others. The children showed a great understanding of this value and offered lots of thoughtful examples. We also thought about when someone had been kind or shown love to us and reflected upon how it made us feel.

We also listened to the parable of The Lost Sheep (Matthew 18:10 -14), discussing the love and compassion that God has for every person. We shared a poem that shows God loves each of us and that everyone is special to Him.

*If I lose something that doesn't matter to me –  
an old leaflet, a broken pencil, a toy I don't play with any more,*

*If I lose something that doesn't matter to me –  
it doesn't bother me much at all.*

*If I lose something that does matter to me –  
some money, my lunch, my favourite toy,  
If I lose something that does matter to me –  
I search and search and don't stop until I find it,  
or until I know it's really lost.*



*Jesus said that God looks for me like that  
 searching high and low  
 never letting go  
 making sure I know  
 that I'm so very, very special.*

*Gordan and Ronni Lamont*

Year 3 have been working very hard preparing for our Harvest Festival next week and we have all been working hard on our Harvest songs. The Harvest Samba and Cauliflower's Fluffy are favourites, you can practice using the following links.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqpkWsR6Yew> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRQEQgyGAGA>

Mrs. Gandini 😊

## Autumn 1 dates 2023

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September		School opens
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	15:20 – 16:00	'Meet the Teacher'
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September		Y6 – 11+ Practice
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September		Y6 – 11+ Actual
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	12:45 – 14:30	Y5 – Football Festival (Holmer Green Senior School)
w/c 18.09.23		School Values Mosaic Project (activities in school)
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	14:00 & 18:00	EYFS & KS1 Parent Reading Workshops
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September		5F – Swimming starts
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September		Individual & sibling photographs
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	09:00	Parents Evening booking opens
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October		Y3 – Trip to Iver Environment Centre
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	14:30	Y3 – Harvest Festival (Y3 parents welcome to attend)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	14:45 – 15:10	EYFS & KS1 Parent & child reading session
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	12:45 – 14:30	Y2 – Football Festival (Holmer Green Senior School)
w/c 09.10.23		School Values Mosaic Project (activities in school)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	15:30 – 18:30	Parents Evening
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	15:30 – 18:30	Parents Evening
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	12:45 – 14:30	Y1 – Multiskills (Holmer Green Junior School)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October		Y3 – Neasden Temple Trip
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October		Y4 – Trip to Verulamium Museum
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October		Year 5 Residential Liddington
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October		Y1 – Trip to Windsor Castle
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	12:45 – 14:30	Y6 – Tag Rugby Festival (Holmer Green Senior School)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	15:15	School closes for half term