



**GREAT  
KINGSHILL**

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Church of England Combined School

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# Great Kingshill CE Combined School

## Newsletter 15th September 2023

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

### Highlights and News

Dear Parents,

It has been another busy week. I think it is fair to say that everyone is well and truly back in the swing of school. This afternoon, Year 5 visited Holmer Green Senior School for the first sports festival of the year. Throughout the school it is clear to see that the children have all settled into their new classes with their new class teachers. They have all been working hard and giving their best, a special mention goes to our Year 6 pupils who sat the secondary transfer test this week.

"All you need is love" has been the music for this week's collective worship and I hope that this message travels out to families across the weekend. I find that a little bit of love goes a long way.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Suzanne Best

### Notices

#### Smart Watches

This is just a reminder to parents that children should not be wearing smart watches in school, specifically those that have a camera function or recording function.

#### Uniform Reminders

There is still a large amount of uncollected new uniform in the entrance foyer, please come and check if your order is there.

We already have a building lost property mountain, so if your child has already lost some of their uniform , please come and have a look to see if you can find it.

A reminder to all children with shoulder length hair or longer - it must be tied back, if your child comes to school with their hair loose, we will provide them with a hair band to tie it back.

No jewellery should be worn in school with the exception of small stud earrings.

We also ask that children do not wear nail varnish to school, children wearing nail varnish will be asked to remove it.

Final reminder that socks and tights should be grey or black or red (tights only).

### **Lunch Ordering**

We understand that there were some issues with ordered meals going missing off the system, we apologise for any upset and inconvenience this may have caused and have spoken to the catering supplier.

Suzanne Best

Headteacher

## **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

## After School Clubs - Teacher Lead

There are still places left on the following clubs:

Stay & Play - Wednesdays 3.15 to 4.15pm

Lego Construction- Wednesdays .3.15 to 4.15pm

Board Games - Wednesdays 3.15 to 4.15pm

Recorder - Fridays 3.15 to 4pm

If you want to sign your child up to these clubs, they are available to book on Arbor.

## Forest School News

Another week has come and gone, and we are pretty much settled in the forest with routines and rules. Our adventures can continue.

This week we have been getting up close to the pond, regarding the safety rules and starting to explore the area a bit more. The younger years have been investigating objects from the forest that will float or sink. The predictions and results surprised them quite a bit, and quite a lot of children continued with their investigations. This will lead them on to what the older years have been doing, which was trying to get a stone to float. They had to use their knowledge of mass, surface area and buoyancy to create rafts. All of them floated, but some tipped over, releasing the pebbles into the pond. All good lessons. Some very impressive designs, too!





A massive thank you to all of the year 6 children who helped out with Reception on Thursday. You were amazing, respectful, and so enthusiastic.

We introduced Reception to the digging area this week and they have been busy conducting themselves correctly and using the shovels safely. We have been very impressed by their willingness to just get busy. They are also much quicker at getting changed. Well done all!



Looking ahead to next week, the weather is going to turn rather wet. We do suggest wellies or waterproof boots and waterproofs to combat soggy bottoms. If they are named, it does make returning them to the correct person a lot easier.

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

Have a look on Dojo for footage of a rabbit that I spotted at lunch time – some of the children managed to see it, too. Keep your eyes peeled, and have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Smith and Mrs Little

## Collective Worship

Collective worship

This week in collective worship we have continued to explore our school value of LOVE, as well as considering the importance of helping each other through our understanding of the Good Samaritan. Well done to all our Good Samaritan certificate winners this week, it is wonderful to hear about your selfless acts of kindness.

We considered the second part of 'Love your neighbour as yourself' and thought about how we should be kind and loving to ourselves too, as a starting point from which we can love and care for others. We discussed some simple ways to support our own wellbeing, and shared moments of quiet reflection to consider how we can love ourselves a little bit more, leading us to be even better placed to show love and kindness to others.

We continued to enjoy singing 'Cross over the Road' as well as beginning to learn a new song called 'Chain of Love' <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/primary-school-songs-assembly-collective-worship-chain-of-love/z6dvp4j>

Don't forget about our **September Good Samaritan challenge**. We have already had some fabulous pictures showing many of you collecting litter and taking care of our wider community. Keep up the super work!

We are all looking forward to next week when David Bowers from Mosaic Madness is visiting us to work with years 2, 3 and 4 to create some wall murals based around our six school values - love, courage, forgiveness, hope, respect and truth. He will be back later this term to work with Years 5 and 6 and reception to create a mural based on the Good Samaritan.

Mrs. Gandini 😊

## Prayer Group

Did you know that GKCS has a prayer group? We're a group of parents who meet to pray each week on alternate Mondays & Wednesdays in the school. We meet just after drop off in main reception to chat & pray till about 9.15/30.

If you're interested in coming along we will be having a coffee morning on Monday 25th September at Hughenden Village Hall just after drop off.

If you'd like to know more, please chat to Amanda (Y6 parent) on 07791930562 or Sarah (Y2 & Reception parent) on 07792973167

Dates that we will be meeting in school this term are:

**Wednesday 20th September**

**Wednesday 4th October**

**Monday 9th October**

**Wednesday 18th October**

**Wednesday 1st November**

**Monday 6th November**

**Wednesday 15th November**

**Monday 20th November**

**Wednesday 29th November**

**Monday 4th December**

**Wednesday 13th December**

**Monday 18th December (tbc)**

## **Adult Helpers**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are pleased to be able to welcome parent helpers back into school this year. This role will involve reading with children or going on school trips.

If this is something that you are interested in, we are planning some safeguarding training for you to complete before you'll be able to volunteer. This training is for all volunteers including parents who volunteered last year. Some of the training can be completed at home. We will forward you the link to the training that can be completed at home. The school based training will be on Tuesday 19th September, Thursday 28th September at 2.30pm or Monday 25th September at 9am (you only need to attend 1 session), unfortunately, younger children will not be able to attend this training with you. The children you'll be reading with will be from reception and KS1 but not your child/children's year group. Reading in school will take place daily at 2.30pm, please don't feel you have to volunteer for everyday.

If you are interested in taking part in the training, please message me on class dojo and let me know when you'll be attending the training.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Julie Marks and Samantha Garner

## 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)
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