



GREAT KINGSHILL

Church of England Combined School



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Newsletter 8th September 2023

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

Highlights and News

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Great Kingshill!

It's our first newsletter of the new academic year, and all year groups are up and running with their new teachers and their new topics. It was lovely to see so many of you at open classrooms last night. If you want to keep up to date with the things your children are learning about, have look at the Curriculum Knowledge Organisers – these can be found on the school website, or on your Class Dojo page from next week.

As I'm sure you can imagine, we have an action-packed term with lots of exciting trips and activities planned for all year groups. An updated list of dates will be sent out along with next week's newsletter, and we'll be sure to keep you posted should there be any changes or additions.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Very best wishes,

Suzanne Best

New Term Staffing

We have a number of new faces around the school. We welcome Miss Chorley and Mrs Hughes who are new class teachers in Year 4 and Reception. We also welcome Mrs Franklin and Miss Callender, who will be working as LSAs. We would also like to send our congratulations to Mrs Rankin (Miss O'Gorman) who got married over the summer holidays.

This term I will be based at Great Kingshill on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I will be working at Waterside Primary on a Tuesday and Thursday.

Road Safety Notice

This week we received two calls from drivers that were coming down Cryers Hill and had to brake, as parents were crossing by Four Ashes Road with children. They were both really worried and we asked them to report these incidents to our local PCSO at Thames Valley Police.

This is extremely dangerous and we would urge parents to use the crossing that is further up the road. It make take a few moments longer but it is there for your child's safety.

Safeguarding

At GKCS we take safeguarding very seriously, all our staff are fully trained in this matter and we have 5 DSL's (Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy) at school.

Our DSLs are Mrs Samantha Garner (lead), Mrs Chloe Farmbrough, Mr Karl Hoddell, Mrs Best and Mrs Julie Marks.

If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child/children, please contact us (01494 713159) or First Response directly on 01296 383962 (Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm) out of office 0800 999 7677.

Collective Worship this week

Collective worship

In collective worship this week, we began by thinking about this half term's school value of LOVE. We made links to our current PSHE unit about 'Being Me in My World' which gave us an opportunity to reflect and think about something kind that we could do or say, and to imagine how these kind deeds would make other people feel.

We revisited our school story of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25 – 37) and considered what it means to 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. The children showed a super understanding of how this important story can help us to remember that we too can choose to help other people, just as the Good Samaritan did.

We also enjoyed singing our school song 'Cross Over the Road' and began learning the Makaton actions to accompany the song. If anyone would like some extra practice, please use this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQql7ISl8RU>

A huge thank you to Miss Marks for organising this.

SEPTEMBER GOOD SAMARITAN CHALLENGE!

To support our children in living out our values beyond the school, we are setting the children a monthly Good Samaritan challenge for them to do in the community. Many of the children kindly volunteer to use their break or lunchtimes picking up litter to ensure that we are showing respect to our school environment. We would like to help our community by extending our litter picking beyond our school grounds. If you would like to help your community and earn some Good Samaritan Dojo points, please send a photo via your class Dojo pages so we can see all your fabulous hard work!

Mrs. Gandini 😊

Homework Club

Homework club has got off to a flying start and the children have really enjoyed the support they have received from Mrs Gorton and Mrs Wright. There are still places available for next week and booking is also available on an adhoc basis. Please log on to Arbor to book your child's place.

Remember, homework club has been set up to support you in getting your child's reading, spellings and timetables done. If you are finding it tricky to get these things done at home then why not give homework club a try to see if we can help.

Aspiring to be our best!

This term we will see the launch of our Being our Best (BOB) Challenge. We have changed the way we will be awarding Dojo points and we will be linking them to our school rules and values statement. Dojo points will be awarding for the following:

- Trying my best
- Being kind
- Having respect
- Being a Good Samaritan

Across the academic year the children will be collecting Dojo points and when they reach identified milestones they will receive a recognition badge. The first badge is for 50 Dojo points and is our bronze award.

After School Clubs

Don't forget that school run after school clubs begin next week. Please check you have booked and the end time. Collection will always be via the front door.

Forest School

Welcome back to another year of Forest Schooling at Great Kingshill. We hope you all had a lovely summer break. It has been a very warm start to the year (Where was that all summer?) and we are very lucky to cool down in our shady forest area.

So, what's new? Not too much has changed in terms of the forest area, but we have now rejuvenated the pond at the back. It is going to make a huge impact on our sessions with possibilities for pond dipping, conservation, studying habitats and monitoring how wild areas grow and develop over time.

The pond is on two levels with a shallow edge of around 30cm depth. The central rectangle is 75cm depth and comes up to a year 1 child's belly button (We used string to show the depth, not an actual child!)

We have also been learning about water safety around our pond and how we can keep stable and dry when near the pond. The children know the "Respect" position that we use around the fire, and

we use that when near the pond's edge. To get close to the pond, we lay on our stomachs, because it is pretty challenging to fall over when you are already on the floor!

A huge thank you to yourselves and the PTA for generating the funds for the project, and with any luck, and lots of care, we will see the benefits for many years to come.



Just to remind everyone that clearly named Forest School kit should be brought in on the day of your child's session and should include:

- Long Trousers (Health and Safety)
- Long sleeved top (feel free to add more in cold weather)
- Boots or old shoes that you do not mind getting muddy
- Warm socks (Thick ones are better than two pairs)
- Warmer and waterproof clothes for cold or wet days.
- Hats, scarves and gloves will definitely be a good idea as we enter the cooler months

We only have a limited supply of spare wellies, waterproofs, gloves and hats and it does take a while to sort out these issues if lots of children have not brought in their kit. Plastic bags for muddy kit is also a good idea.

Please see the timetable for when your session takes place. Assume that it is taking place unless you have heard from us officially. Updates and photos will be put on Class Dojo.

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

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“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself”

Luke 10: 27