



**GREAT
KINGSHILL**

Church of England Combined School



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Newsletter 14th July 2023

Dear Parents,

What a week! There has been so much going on at school this week, it has been nonstop learning and fun.

Year 2 had a wonderful day at Whipsnade Zoo, where they walked thousands of steps and saw a wide variety of wild animals.

Reception performed a wonderful end of year assembly; it even brought a tear to my eye. They have all grown in confidence so much and we are all so proud of them.

Mrs Fabre organised a wonderful languages festival and the videos can be seen on Dojo.

Last night, Year 6 performed their end of term production of Shakespeare Rocks! The weather was kind to us, and the children's performance was excellent.

It was lovely to see so many of you at open classrooms on Tuesday and I hope you got a chance to say hello to your child's new class teacher.

Today Year 6 hosted the colour run which was a very soggy and colourful affair.

Thank you everyone and have a restful weekend - next week is going to be just as busy.

Suzanne Best

Attendance

The government has published new guidance on attendance and the requirements to ensure that children attend school as much as possible.

The current expectation is that school attendance is 96% our current attendance is 95% and the national average attendance is currently 93%. We are in the process of updating our attendance policy and this will be shared with parents in the new school year.

After the first half term if your child's attendance is less than 95%, they will be placed on a monitoring list, and you may receive a letter. Pupils are expected to attend school unless they are unwell. When you report your child's absence you will need to provide a full explanation as to why they are unable to attend school and not just say they are unwell.

Requests for absences for family holidays will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. The image below shows how many days can be lost due to non-attendance. There are only 9 children in the whole school who have achieved 100% attendance this year.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Don't miss out on the education you deserve.



Notices

Sending home work

At some point next week your children will be bringing home their school books. You may wish to send in a carrier bag for them to carry everything in.

Lost Property

Please check the lost property before Friday, if anything is not named, we will recycle it on Friday.

If your child is leaving school this year and you would like to donate any uniform to our preloved uniform shop, that would be great, just drop it off at the office. Please only bring uniform with logos, **we do not need trousers, skirts shirts etc.**

Good Samaritan Benches

This week we have installed 2 new "Good Samaritan Benches". One on the key stage one playground and other on the key stage two side. These benches were bought and paid for by the donation after the Oliver performances. They have both been dedicated to Joanna McDonald who was a parent, governor, and friend to many in the school community.

Joanna sadly passed away in December and we wanted to do something to honour her memory, recognise her contribution to our school and encourage the children to continue her working of being a Good Samaritan. Joanna was the ultimate Good Samaritan and provided a wonderful example of how we should live our lives. "Love your neighbour as yourself" John 10:27.

Thank you to everyone who contributed over the two nights.

Homework Club

Next term's homework club is already nearly full up, so if you know you want spaces please book them. A reminder that spaces must be paid for at the time of booking. Any bookings that have not been paid for will be deleted.

Club Lists 2023/2024

We are still waiting on confirmation from a few providers, so the club lists and how to book will go out next week.

Music Lessons September

Next week, we will send details of external music teachers, who come to school to teach children individual lessons.

School Holiday Tips

The school holidays will soon be here and for lots of families, 6 weeks can appear long and daunting. So, we thought we'd put together some helpful tips for you.

It's all in the planning

This does mean having a militant routine. But children like structure. Keep them informed with what is happening. Maybe use a timetable, this is much better than being asked 100 times before breakfast.

It's all about balance

It's not realistic to have a day out every day of the holidays; but it is nice to have a couple of special trips or adventures planned! It's a good idea to involve the kids in the planning of the days out.

Don't fear free play

Free play is a critical part of childhood. Nowadays our have less free-play than we had as they have so many entertainment options. But encouraging them to just play with toys, be around the house and in the garden and make their own entertainment actually teaches them much more than any structured activity! They learn to be creative, imaginative, independent, problem solve.

Set a screen time limit (and stick to it!)

Especially if you want them to get better at free play than you need to give the expectation and rule for screen time per day and be strict on it! We all know it's far too easy to be busy and getting on and the kids are quiet because they are on their devices so not giving you any bother. But actually, it's not doing them any good and is of very little benefit to them in both the long and short term. However, they don't have the ability to understand this and are just engrossed in their device/game/video.

Get the children to help with the house jobs

Holidays are often a time when parents are off work and also want to get jobs done around the house; some spring cleaning, sorting out clothes and chucking old winter clothes that are too small or tidying the toy boxes! So get the children involved; you can make it fun by giving them an age appropriate objective (for the young ones find all the socks that pair together, find all the trains in the toy boxes, for the older ones, go through the clothes and put to the side the ones that don't fit or organise the books into alphabetical order) Usually there is something fun that can be made out of jobs and especially if you put a timer on, some music, sing while you sort and have fun! And then have a treat together at the end whilst surveying the job well done!

Explore within your own square mile

We are so fortunate to have many wonderful places and open spaces to explore. You don't need to get in the car, find the great things to doorstep.

Appreciate the time

If you look at the big picture, there are not that many periods of time that you will have with your children to just enjoy being together in the holidays. Before long they will be teenagers and wanting to spend their school holidays with their friends or off doing their hobbies on their own! So, make the most of the time. Enjoy some Pyjama mornings. And don't worry about what you 'should be doing' do what you want to do!

These tips might help but please remember even in the summer holidays the emergency phone will be answered or you can leave a message. Please use it if you need us.

Keeping Children Safe Online

Keeping Children Safe Online

As the summer holidays are almost upon us and your children will have considerably more free time, I thought it was a good opportunity to share with you some information about keeping your child safe online.

Online Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at GKCS. Online Safety is taught to all pupils and our curriculum empowers students to understand and be aware how they can stay safe

and behave appropriately online but we can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you.

Your help is needed to talk to your children about how they can keep themselves safe and behave appropriately online. It's important that we are all vigilant when children are using the internet and act to ensure they are protected from people who may pose a risk to them. Children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to illegal, unwanted or unpleasant content, comments or activity online and there are steps you can take at home to minimise this.

Keep talking

- Ensure that your child knows that once a picture, video or comment is sent or posted online, then it can be very difficult to remove as other people can forward it and share it with others, without them even knowing.

www.childnet.com and www.thinkuknow.co.uk has some really useful tips and ideas for parents/carers about starting conversations about online safety

- Always ensure your child knows how to report and block people online who may send nasty or inappropriate messages or content. Encourage your child not to retaliate or reply to cyberbullying and to keep any evidence.
- Make sure your child knows it's important that they tell an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable.

Remember, the internet is an essential part of young people's lives and provides them with tremendous opportunities. The vast majority use it without coming to any harm so it's essential to be realistic: banning the internet or web sites often will not work and it can make a child feel less able to report a problem or concern, so education around safe use is essential.

Websites to visit for more information:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk – Visit the "Parent/Carer" Section and use the "Click CEOP" button to seek advice and report online abuse

www.childnet.com – Visit the 'Know It All' Section for an interactive guide about online safety

www.getsafeonline.org – Free up-to-date Security advice including using complex passwords and managing hacked accounts

www.internetmatters.org – Information from the four largest internet service providers (BT, Sky, Talk Talk and Virgin)

www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety - NSPCC's Share Aware campaign provides information for parents about popular social media sites, apps and games.

www.saferinternet.org.uk – Parents guides to safety tools on popular devices and signposts report mechanisms for some websites. <http://www.derbyshire.police.uk/Safety-advice/Cybercrime/Internet-Safety.aspx> -

If you are worried that your child is at risk of harm or criminal offence has been committed then you can report your concerns to the Police or Children’s Social Care. Please do not notify suspicious profiles of your actions, as this could enable them to delete material which might be required for any Police investigations. You can contact Thames Valley Police via 101 or 999 if there is immediate risk or CEOP by visiting www.ceop.police.uk and using the “Click CEOP” reporting button. You can also contact Buckinghamshire social care.

E safety leaders include - Mr Horton (computing leader)

All trained Designated Safeguarding Leads:

- Mrs Garner
- Mrs Marks
- Mrs Farmbrough
- Mr Hoddell
- Mrs Best

If you are concerned about your child's internet or social media use, please come and speak with us and we will try to help and support you.

This Week in Forest School

We have come to the end of Forest Master for this half term and have had an absolute blast with the children all achieving, progressing and showing their creative flair when it comes to thinking outside the box. Some completely forgot about the box! We have been very impressed with their teamwork and communication, watching them grow and try to outperform each other. Always in good spirit. Their resilience for when a task doesn’t quite go to their initial plan has been much improved. We are so proud of all of the teams in every year group.

This week, we lit a few fires and cooked quite a number of s’mores. It is always something that the children look forward to, and for some, a brand new experience. They have been amazing with their fire safety and even better when we had a little fire drill in the week.



We took the opportunity to build on their teamwork by playing some team-building games. We had linked children climbing through hoops, blind guiding through the trees, hide and seek and even an “electrified fence” (Not a real one!) The communication got better and they helped and encouraged each other through it all.

Next week, we are hoping for more of the same, so please remember Forest School kit on your day. We will let you know if plans change via Class Dojo. Please note that Year 5’s session is on Monday afternoon as Year 6 are taking on the seaside. Let’s hope they have sunny weather. On year 6, they have been incredible and we know they will look back fondly at the sessions we have shared. You will be wonderful at your next schools as you have shown us all year.

Next year, we are hoping to get more parents involved in the sessions, so if you are interested, please get in contact. A huge thank you to all of the parents who have volunteered their time this year. It has been lovely to see you getting involved and sometimes a bit muddy!

Have a lovely weekend, and we will see you for the last week of the year.

Mr Smith and Mrs Little

Summer Term Dates 2

Date	Time	Activity
Tuesday 23 rd & Wednesday 24 th May 2023	18:30	'Oliver!' Performances (Doors open 18:00)
Thursday 25 th May 2023	14:30	Year Group Assembly – Year 4
Friday 26 th May 2023		Mufti Day – Plants for Summer Fayre (Preschool – Year 3 children), Prizes for Adult Tombola (Year 4 – Year 6 children)
Friday 26 th May 2023	12:30 – 14:45	Year 6 Volleyball Festival – Holmer Green Senior School
Friday 26 th May 2023	15:10 – 15:30	Doughnut Sale
Friday 26 th May 2023	15:15	School closes for Half-Term
HALF TERM		
Monday 5 th June 2023	08:30	School re-opens
Tuesday 6 th June 2023	19:00	Parents Meeting for new Reception parents (children starting in September 2023)
Wednesday 7 th June 2023		Class photographs
Thursday 8 th June	14:30	Year Group Assembly – Year 5
Thursday 8 th June 2023	17:30	Sex and Relationship Education meeting for Year 5 parents
Friday 9 th June 2023		Mufti Day – Prizes for Children's Tombola
Friday 9 th June 2023		PTA Discos
Tuesday 13 th June 2023	09:00	Sex and Relationship Education meeting for Year 5 parents
Thursday 15 th June	14:30	Year Group Assembly – Year 1
Friday 16 th June 2023		Mufti Day – Lucky Bags for Summer Fayre
Tuesday 20 th June 2023	14:00	Teddy Bear Picnic (new Reception parents and children)
Wednesday 21 st June 2023	09:30-11:30am	Year 2 Mosque trip
Thursday 22 nd June 2023		Year 1 Trip to Mop End
Thursday 22 nd June 2023	14:30	Year Group Assembly – Year 3
Friday 23 rd June 2023		Cake donations for the Summer Fayre – no Mufti
Friday 23 rd June 2023		Year 2 Australia Day
Friday 23 rd June 2023	12:30 – 14:45	Year 3 Cricket Festival – Holmer Green Senior School
Sunday 25 th June 2023		Summer Fayre
Tuesday 27 th June 2023		Sports Day
Wednesday 28 th June 2023		Preschool Sports Day
Thursday 29 th June 2023		Reserve Sports Day
Friday 30 th June 2023		Windsor House Charity Day (Green Mufti)
Friday 30 th June 2023		Year 4 Netball Festival – Holmer Green Senior School
Tuesday 4 th July 2023		Transition Day
Tuesday 4 th July 2023	14:00 – 15:00	New Reception children 'Stay & Play' with parents
Wednesday 5 th July 2023	09:30 – 11:00	New Reception children 'Settling In' (no parents)
Thursday 6 th – Friday 7 th July 2023		Year 4 Residential – Woodrow
Friday 7 th July 2023		INSET DAY
Tuesday 11 th July 2023		Year 2 Trip to Whipsnade Zoo
Tuesday 11 th July 2023		Open Classrooms
Thursday 13 th July 2023	18:00	Year 6 Play – 'Shakespeare Rocks!' Arrive 18:00. Performance begins 18:30
Monday 17 th July 2023		Year 6 Trip to Littlehampton
Thursday 20 th July 2023	TBC	End of Year Progress and Values Assembly
Friday 21 st July 2023	12:00	Year 6 Leavers' Service
Friday 21 st July 2023	13:30	School Closes for Summer Holidays