



# **GREAT KINGSHILL**

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Church of England Combined School

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# Great Kingshill CE Combined School

## 28th March 2024

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

### News & Highlights

Dear Parents,

This term seems to have flown by! Sadly, spring has not yet decided to arrive, however, I am hopeful that the Easter break will bring us warmer weather when we return. The children in Year 1 shared a wonderful Easter Service this week - thank you to the staff who had prepared them, to the parents and grandparents who came to support them and the children for being so confident in delivering their lines.

As we reflect upon the term, I continue to be exceptionally proud of the whole school community; the staff and children have worked so hard and they have experienced many wonderful learning opportunities. A particular highlight for me has been accompanying the Year 6 pupils on their residential to Norfolk Lakes. The children conducted themselves impeccably, and they were praised for their knowledge, kindness and most importantly their behaviour and manners.

Easter is a time of forgiveness and an opportunity to look forward to a fresh start, with spring signaling new beginnings and opportunities. I hope that all our families have a restful Easter holiday and I look forward to welcoming you back for the summer term, which looks set to be just as busy and exciting for the children.

Happy Easter and best wishes,

Suzanne Best

### **Parking**

I am aware that you have already been written to this week about the parking changes that will be taking place in the car park at the White Horse Pub - these come into effect from 1st April, so the parking eye will be active when we return after the Easter holidays. Please do not park in the pub car park unless you are using the pub before pick up at the end of the day.

I understand that the mornings are busy and the parking around the school causes challenges. I once again must ask parents to please park considerately and with an awareness of our local neighbours. Surrounding the school, there are areas where you can park further away and walk and I would ask parents to consider using these. There are car parks at Widmer End and Hughenden which are only a 10 - 15 minute walk away and with the nicer weather in the summer term, it would be good to see more parents using these and thinking about park and walk.

### **Parental Conduct**

Sadly, a parent came to find me yesterday morning to inform me that another parent from school had parked in the car park outside the shop and had subsequently been rude and abusive to Dolly who owns the shop. When I went to speak with Dolly, she was visibly upset by the interaction. This is not acceptable. Dolly and Dev who own the shop are long standing neighbours and friends of the school, who run a small shop for the local community. The car park outside the front of the shop is there for their customers. Whilst they are happy for parents to use the car park if they are using the shop, you can not park their for long periods and they are asking that parents do not park there for longer than 15 minutes. They do not want to go down the same route as the pub and introduce parking eye, but ask that parents are respectful of these and do not fully block their car park and prevent their other customers from using the car park or the shop.

### **150th Celebrations**

2024 marks 150 years since the school was opened. This is a significant milestone in the life of the school, and we aim to celebrate this at the end of the summer term. We are collecting memories and old photos that parents and the community may have in the hope that we can put them on display around the school. During the week beginning 8th July, we will be holding a range of celebration events to mark the occasion. This will include an open air church service that parents will be invited to attend (weather permitting) and an open school event. We hope that many parents will be able to join us in celebrating our 'big birthday'. Miss Hepworth will be providing further details of the planned events at the start of the summer term.

## **Safeguarding**

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Whilst school will be closed during the Easter holidays, please remember that in the event of an emergency, you can contact the school via the [safeguarding@gkcs.school](mailto:safeguarding@gkcs.school) email address which is monitored daily. If you urgently need to speak to someone, you can call the emergency phone 07921394998. However, if you are concerned about the safety and welfare of a child you can call First Response between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday on 01296383962. The Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) can be contacted on 08009997677.

Suzanne Best

Headteacher

## Art Club Message For Parents

Dear Parents

A gentle reminder that on Tuesday 16th April, there will be a gallery-style art exhibition along the Yr1 corridor, showcasing the beautiful artwork from the KS2 Art Club. This exhibition coincides with the Open Classroom day.

Also, for any new members of Art club moving forward, our first club session will also take place on this day, the 16th April.

Thank you

Lesley-Ann Rebello

## Forest School

Spring 2 (W/c 25.03.24)		
Day	AM	PM
Monday		5F
Tuesday		4C
Wednesday	1F	2G
Thursday	Rec-Easter fun	Break Up!
Friday	Good	Friday

Summer1 (W/c 15.04.24)		
Day	AM	PM
Monday		5H
Tuesday		4W
Wednesday	1T	2S
Thursday	Reception	3O
Friday		6L

Enjoy the weekend and the Easter break, and we will see you next term.

Mr Smith

## Collective Worship

Collective Worship

This week we were very lucky to watch Year 1's fabulous Easter performance. The children did an amazing job of bringing the Easter story to life with their super acting and joyous singing, and we were all hugely impressed with their lovely loud, clear voices. In Collective Worship, we also

discussed some of the foods traditionally eaten at Easter time, and thought about the significance of these foods and how they remind us of the true Christian meaning of Easter.

We were also treated to another special collective worship, led by some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils and their parents who are currently observing the month of Ramadan. They taught us about the importance of Ramadan and about the Eid celebrations that follow. The children did a wonderful job sharing their faith with the school and we all learnt a great deal. We are very grateful to the children for giving up their time to lead our Collective Worship and to their families for helping them to prepare.

### **MARCH GOOD SAMARITAN CHALLENGE**

It is your final chance to take part in March's Good Samaritan Challenge - we would like you to think about any donations you may be able to make to support those in need. This could be donating clothes to a clothes bank, taking pre-loved toys to a charity shop, donating tins to a food bank or even donating your time to help others. Thank you to everyone who has already sent in their photographs - it is wonderful to see so many of you thinking about how you can support others. Please send in any remaining photos/messages about your donations so we can award your Dojo points.

In case any of you want to get started with **April's challenge** over the Easter break, we would like you to help save the bees. Bees play a critical role in pollinating trees and flowers and maintaining healthy ecosystems, which are essential for our food production. Bees love to live in natural green spaces, like meadows full of wildflowers and wooded areas. Some of these areas are being replaced by roads and buildings or are used for farming. This means that bees now have fewer places where they can make a home.

There are lots of fun ways we can help. For example, you could make a bee house or bee hotel, plant a bee garden, eat sustainable honey, help tired bees by feeding them sugar water, grow some fruit or maybe some bee-friendly herbs. The following websites have lots of suggestions for how we could help.

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/10-ways-to-save-the-bees>

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/bees-fun-facts-and-activities-children>

Please remember to send in any photographs via class Dojo to show us how you are helping to save the bees so we can award your Dojo points and print your photographs for our April display. 🐝

Mrs Gandini 😊

RE curriculum lead

Assistant Headteacher

**Happy Easter! See you on the 15th April.**