



# **GREAT KINGSHILL**

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Church of England Combined School

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# Great Kingshill CE Combined School

## 12th July 2024

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

### News & Highlights

Dear Parents,

The penultimate week of school has been truly amazing. The children and staff have experienced a week full of joy and new experiences. A huge thank you goes to Miss Hepworth who has co-ordinated this event, and to all the staff for embracing the activities this week.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our thanksgiving service on Wednesday; the children were a credit to the school and delivered the service exceptionally well. I have received many messages from both invited guests and parents of how impressive our children were and I have to agree.

We hope you will be joining us later after school to continue the celebrations. For those of you who were unable to attend Wednesday's service, I have included the words I had written for my speech at the end:

#### **Reflection at the end of the thanksgiving service**

Being a headteacher is such a privilege and it is moments like this that you realise you are only ever a custodian of the school for a short period of time. The 150th celebration is a momentous occasion and it is hard to believe that there has been a school on this site for 150 years. During that time the world of education has transformed far beyond what anyone could have imagined in 1874.

However, the school to this day remains rooted in its core purpose - to provide an education to the children in the local area that is founded on a Christian vision. Our children today have things and experiences a long way removed from the children who walked through the doors 150 years ago.

We are exceptionally proud of our school; it is a place where both children and adults flourish, where kindness is valued beyond all else and where fun, laughter and joy are common place. The school is more than the building or the education it gives. It is a safe haven and a place where children, staff and families feel at home, and feel loved, cared for and are respected for the amazing humans they are. They are encouraged to dream and aspire to be their best.

GKCS is and always has been so much more than just a school; it is a family. The fact that so many of our staff have been here for such a long time, some even attending the school as pupils themselves, we also have parents who have chosen to send their children here having once been pupils. It shows you that once you are a member of the GKCS family, you will always have somewhere you belong.

I am not the first the headteacher of this wonderful school and we are joined today by two previous headteachers and I would like to thank both of them for the roles they have played in the school's past and present.

I would like thank Jo Garlick, Anthony Kent and the board of trustees at Kings Education Trust for allowing us to be who we are and celebrating the school for its own individuality. I would also like to thank Ryan Savage and our local academy committee for the work they do in supporting us to grow and move forward. I am grateful everyday for my wonderful staff team, who make the school the amazing place it is and work tirelessly to ensure that our children have the best possible opportunities and experiences. The community around our school including Helen and Keith from St Michael's and All Angels for supporting the school and coming each week to share worship with us. I am always grateful for our parent body; without trusting us and sending your children through our doors everyday there would be no school! Thank you for putting up with the random requests and the support you give your children and the staff team. As many of you will be aware, I have spent a significant time away from school this year supporting other schools and being a Good Samaritan. In my absence, I have been so thankful for the work that Mrs Garner and the SLT team have done in ensuring that the school continues to move forward. I am however, looking forward to coming back to school full time in September. The final thank you has to go to the children; for me and the team it is and always has been all about the children. Our roles in school are a gift and providing education in the widest sense in a safe and loving environment is the greatest gift you can give a child. With love in their hearts, kindness in their minds, respect in their actions, a determination to be their best and the knowledge that they have a responsibility to be Good Samaritans and be a force for good, who knows how far the pupils from Great Kingshill can go and the difference they can make.

Thank you for being part of the school's story so far!

### **Colour Run**

Next Thursday afternoon, we will be holding our annual Colour Run. Year 6 will be setting up an obstacle course across the field, and spraying the children with water and covering them in colour. Please remember to sign your child up via parent pay; if your child is not signed up they will not be able to take part. This year we are also asking the children to collect sponsors to take part in the run. All the money raised from the sponsorship will be going towards the refurbishment of the Muga, which we hope to be able to complete early next year, but we still have a little way to go to reach the total cost.

Please send your child's sponsorship form and money into school by Wednesday 17th July. Please put the money in an envelope with the sponsorship form.

Best wishes,

Suzanne Best

Headteacher

## 150 Year Celebration Party

**Friday 12th July – School Birthday Party. After school until 6:30pm.**

To round off our week of celebrations, we will be having a Birthday Party event after school on **Friday 12th July**. The party will take place on the school field with entry via the main school entrance.

In order to allow time for staff to set up this event, we will be aiming to start the festivities on the field at about 4pm. Families are welcome to go home to change, drop off school bags and collect picnic blankets for the evening ahead. If families would prefer to stick around and come straight from pick up, there will be a history and art display in the hall (created by the children) to enjoy until the party events begin.

During the party, there will be a number of fun stalls and games available for everyone to enjoy, alongside music and a BBQ. Please start to put aside some coins for our stalls as this is a cash-only event and we will have limited change available.

Pre-orders for BBQ food is now available on ParentPay. Please could orders be placed by 12 noon on Monday 8th July.

This event is open to everyone, and we hope many of our families and local community will join us.

## Preloved Uniform Donations

Elaine will kindly be selling Preloved Uniform at the 150th Year celebration later today.

If parents have any donations for Preschool, Reception or Year 6 uniform, then please leave them with the office.

We only need uniform with our school logo on please.

Thank you.

## Summer dates 2024

|  |               |   |
|--|---------------|---|
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June                            | 08:30         | School opens for Summer 2                 |
| Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June                         |               | Class photographs                         |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June                          |               | 4W begin swimming                         |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June                          | 14:15         | Year 4 Class Assembly to parents          |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June                            | 12:15 – 14:45 | Year 6 Volleyball Festival – Holmer Green |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June                         | 14:15         | Year 3 Class Assembly to parents          |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June                           |               | Year 2 trip to Whipnade Zoo               |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June                           | 12:15 – 14:45 | Year 3 Cricket Festival – Holmer Green    |
| Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June                           | 14:00         | New Reception 'Teddy Bears' Picnic'       |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June                         | 14:15         | Year 2 Class Assembly to parents          |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June                           | 15:15 – 16:15 | EYFS & KS1 Disco                          |
|  | 16:45 – 18:15 | KS2 Disco                                 |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June                           | 09:30 – 11:30 | Year 2 trip to Wise Masjid Salam Mosque   |
| Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June                          | 09:30 – 11:30 | Sports Day – Key Stage 2                  |
|  | 13:30 – 15:00 | Sports Day – Reception & KS1              |
| Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June                        | 13:30 – 14:30 | Sports Day – Preschool                    |
| Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June                           | 12:15 – 14:45 | Year 4 Netball Festival – Holmer Green    |
| Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July                           |               | Transition Day                            |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July |               | Year 4 Residential – Woodrow              |
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July                            |               | Year 1 trip to Mop End                    |
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July                            |               | Year 3 Ancient Egypt day                  |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> July                            |               | INSET DAY                                 |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July                         | 18:30         | Y6 Play - performance to parents (field)  |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July                         |               | 4W last swimming session                  |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July                         | pm            | Colour Run                                |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July                           | 12:00         | Y6 Leavers' Service to parents (field)    |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July                           | 13:30         | School closes for summer holidays         |