



GREAT KINGSHILL

Church of England Combined School



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Great Kingshill CE Combined School 30th
September 2024

Aspiring to be our best with kindness, respect and faith

[A wet couple of weeks!](#)

The rain has been seemingly relentless since last I wrote to you! If there were any lingering doubts, the weather has confirmed that we are well and truly into the autumn term. Lots of

great learning and exciting activities have been taking place over the past couple of weeks, and we've plenty more on the horizon, too.

Thank you to all of the parents who came to the 'Early Reading Workshop' delivered by Mrs Farmbrough. Learning to read is always a big challenge for our pupils in Preschool and Reception, and we're always striving to make the process as enjoyable and rewarding as possible - both for you and your children! The session was really well attended, so thank you again for your support.

The school was a very blue place last Friday...but for all the right reasons! We were dressed in all shades to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society (more information on this below); thank you for your kind donations for a very worthy cause.

The Year 5 & 6 football team travelled to Lacey Green for their first fixture of the season. I know that, in spite of the scoreline, Mr O'Callaghan and Mr Smith could not have been prouder of the way the boys conducted themselves whilst representing the school. In fact, one of the conceded goals came at a moment in which several GKCS players had stopped to help an injured player from the opposition. Truly a team of Good Samaritans!

We are all very much looking forward to Year 3's Harvest Festival performance this Wednesday; if you are able to contribute any items for the One Can Trust, all donations will be gratefully received. For more information regarding this, please see the Class Dojo post from Mrs Mahdavi and Mrs Scott.

Finally, a reminder that parents' evenings take place on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th October. If you are attending these in person, I look forward to seeing you then.

With my best wishes,

Mrs Best

GKCS PTA

Thank you to all of you who have provided feedback through our survey; it's great to read your ideas and views. For those of you who haven't had a chance to complete it yet, there is still time, so please click on the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/XEPg0FVV4N> <https://forms.office.com/r/XEPg0FVV4N>.

Come along to our next PTA meeting

In the survey, some of you mentioned that you were unsure about how you could get involved with PTA events. Now is your chance to find out! We are inviting parents to an informal meeting on **Monday 7th October at 7pm** at the Beech Tree pub in Terriers. We will discuss how parents can provide support - whether it's by volunteering at events, helping behind the scenes or speaking to local businesses about supporting initiatives.

Can't make it in person but still want to join?

We will also be holding this as an online Teams meeting, too. The link for the meeting will be shared this week by the Class Reps.

Follow us on Instagram

It's great to see so many parents following the PTA Instagram page @GKCS_PTA. We hope you like what you're seeing so far! We will be using this channel to keep you updated with information on events and fundraising initiatives, so make sure you give us a follow if you're not already.

We hope to see you at our catch-up next Monday.

The GKCS PTA

[Suitable snacks](#)

A reminder that children's snacks for break time should be a piece of fruit or alternative vegetable snack such as carrot sticks. We are seeing an increasing number of unsuitable snacks such as fruit winders, Cheesestrings and Pepperamis.

Please also remember that we are a nut-free school, therefore no nuts or products which contain nuts are permitted in school. This includes Nutella in sandwiches.

Thank you.

Stuart House Charity Event – Denim for Dementia



Following on from Friday's blue Mufti Day, Stuart House is very pleased to announce that we raised **£757** for the Alzheimer's Society. Dementia is the UK's biggest health and social care crisis and our donation will fund vital support and life-changing research to give help and hope to people living with dementia.

A huge thank you to all of our families who donated and supported the school's first charity event of the year.

Miss Hepworth

Forest School

Another week goes by, and the smiles just keep multiplying in the Forest School area. We have been focusing on tree identification over the last week; the children have had to show amazing teamwork to talk to each other and use a critical eye to identify some of the different trees we have in the forest. Looking closely at the shapes and the features can be quite a challenge, but so is finding the small tokens on the branches so they know which ones they are finding!





We have also had plenty of adventures climbing and digging around in Shrek's Armpit, and I must say, the year 5s and year 6s have done an incredible excavation job reaching the lining at the bottom. They even found a bit of treasure – if you can count an old trowel and a golf ball as treasure.

Preschool had, for some of them, their first outing into Forest School. Lots of rule learning, game playing and exploring this area that is new to them. We have had so much fun, and it is always a shame to take the puddle suits and boots off at the end when they have been so full of smiles. To be honest, a lot of the time has been spent investigating the composting toilet up there! Fascinating.

Due to timetabling and staffing, Oaks will be going to Forest School on a Friday and Willows will be going on a Monday. For those children that miss out, we will put them in with the other class where possible, as I do not want them to miss out. There are going to be occasions where it will not be possible to go to the woods due to circumstances in school, and we find that once it is

explained, the children are fine with it. This is the only way that we can work it fairly, and so far the children have been brilliant. Long may it continue.

Reception showed off their artistic skills by creating pictures of houses using natural materials. They have been very creative and have worked surprisingly well in small groups and individually. The conversations about chimneys, kitchens, door handles and gardens have been lovely.

Autumn 1 (W/c 16.09.245)		
Day	AM	PM
Monday	Pre School	5H
Tuesday	RDR 1 st , RBF 2nd	3S
Wednesday		2G
Thursday	1F	4P
Friday	Pre School	6H

See you all soon for more muddy fun.

Mr Smith and Mr Nixon

Collective Worship

During Collective Worship, we have continued to explore our school value of LOVE and thought about the times we have been kind and shown love to others. We also thought about times when someone had been kind or shown love to us, and reflected upon how it made us feel. The children showed a great understanding of this value and offered lots of thoughtful examples such as giving someone a hug, helping someone at home, or playing with someone different in the playground. Often, our smallest actions have a big effect when they are carried out in love.

We also listened to the parable of The Lost Sheep (Matthew 18:10 -14), discussing the love and compassion that God has for every person. We shared a poem that shows God loves each of us, and that everyone is special to Him.

If I lose something that doesn't matter to me –

an old leaflet, a broken pencil, a toy I don't play with any more,

If I lose something that doesn't matter to me –

it doesn't bother me much at all.

*If I lose something that does matter to me –
some money, my lunch, my favourite toy,
If I lose something that does matter to me –
I search and search and don't stop until I find it,
or until I know it's really lost.*

*Jesus said that God looks for me like that
searching high and low
never letting go
making sure I know
that I'm so very, very special.*

Gordan and Ronni Lamont

Year 3 have been working very hard preparing for our Harvest Festival next week and we have all enjoyed singing our Harvest songs. Harvest Samba and Cauliflower's Fluffy are firm favourites; you can practise at home using the following links.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqpkWsR6Yew> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRQE QgyGAGA>

Don't forget about our **September Good Samaritan litter picking challenge**. Please send in any photos/messages showing that you have been collecting litter and taking care of our wider community so that I can award your Dojo points!

Mrs Gandini 😊

Autumn 1 2024 Dates

Monday 2 nd September		INSET DAY
Tuesday 3 rd September		INSET DAY
Wednesday 4 th September	08:30	School opens for autumn 1
Tuesday 10 th September		11+ practice test (Year 6)
Thursday 12 th September		11+ test (Year 6)
Tuesday 17 th September		4W begin swimming
Tuesday 17 th September	14:00 & 18:00	EYFS & KS1 reading workshop for parents
Wednesday 18 th September		Individual photographs
Wednesday 2 nd October	14:30	Y3 Harvest Festival
Tuesday 8 th October	15:30 – 18:30	Parents Evening
Wednesday 9 th October	15:30 – 18:30	Parents Evening
Thursday 10 th October		Y3 trip to Henley River Museum
Wednesday 16 th – Friday 18 th October		Y5 residential to Liddington
Wednesday 23 rd October	15:15	School closes for half term

Please note that these dates, along with additional information regarding school events, can be found on our school website.