



GREAT KINGSHILL

Church of England Combined School



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Great Kingshill CE Combined School 12th
November 2024

Aspiring to be our best with kindness, respect and faith

[Welcome to Autumn 2](#)

The second half of the autumn term is well and truly underway. I trust that you all had an enjoyable half term break and are back into the swing of things!

Year 6 have had a busy start to the new term, visiting the Imperial War Museum in London last Monday, before leading the school in our Remembrance Assembly on Friday. The whole school observed two minutes of silence to pay their respects to those who have died in conflicts all around the world.



Not to be outdone, Year 4 have also been out and about: a netball festival in Holmer Green last Friday, followed by a trip to the Verulamium museum on Monday.

It is Anti-Bullying Week this week, and Mrs Marks spoke to the children about this year's theme 'Choose Respect' in today's Collective Worship. I'm sure your children will be coming home and talking about the topics they discussed.

To round off this week, York house will be holding a mufti day on Friday for Children in Need, and we will be putting on our dancing shoes for the Dance-a-thon! More information can be found later in the newsletter.

Thank you as always for your support.

Mrs Best

Parking

Unfortunately, we have had a number of incidents between parents and local residents at drop-off and collection times recently, resulting in complaints being made to the school.

We understand, and have communicated many times, that it can be very hectic around the school at these times of the day. It is however, completely unacceptable for anybody to be parking across residents' driveways or on other people's property.

We would ask all parents to please be respectful and considerate to the neighbours of our school at all times.

Thank you.

Mrs Best

PTA News

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to tell you about our plans in collaboration with the school for the upcoming festive period. Below is a taster of what is planned for the next few weeks.

Wreath Making Workshop - Wednesday 27th November

To kick off the festive period, we have organised a wreath making evening with a local business. Not only will you learn how to make a wreath, but you can take it home and start getting

festive! Tickets are £45 per person which includes refreshments and a £7 contribution to school fundraising. Spaces are limited. Please book your place now via [Wreath making registration](#)

Neon Disco - Friday 29th November

Date: Friday 29th November

Time:

Preschool and Reception: 3.15pm – 4.00pm

Years 1, 2, and 3: 4.15pm – 5.15pm

Years 4, 5, and 6: 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Cost: £4.50 per child

Includes a selection of tuck shop treats (vegetarian), drinks (squash and water) and neon glow sticks.

What to wear: Encourage your child to wear their brightest neon clothing and accessories.

What to expect: An afternoon of fun, music, and dancing! There will be a variety of games for all ages.



Get ready to glow!



Important information: No mobile phones

Payment and consent: Please use SumUp to book your child's place as no payments will be accepted at the door. Payment can be made via the following link pay.sumup.com/b2c/Q011DG70 - please remember to enter your child's full name and class in the name field, followed by any dietary requirements in the 'note to merchant' field.

Booking Deadline: Monday 25th November.

Thank you for your continued support. The GKCS PTA is proud to organise this event for our children and all funds raised will be invested back into the school, to enhance our children's education and experience at GKCS.

We look forward to seeing you there!

The GKCS PTA Team

Elfridges – Monday 9th December

Elfridges is back this year! For those who have not experienced this before, it is a feel-good event for children and parents. Our elves have sourced a variety of gifts for the children to choose from, which will be wrapped and sent home on Monday 9th December to put under the Christmas tree and be opened on Christmas Day. Gifts will be priced at £3.50 and this is payable in advance. More information to follow.

Christmas Raffle

The PTA team has been working hard for the Christmas Raffle and we've got over 40 great prizes. Raffle tickets will be sent home in the coming week to sell to family and friends.

The draw will take place on Thursday 5th December during the 'Carols Around the Tree' event.

Christmas jumpers donation and sale

Embrace a sustainable Christmas Jumper Day and help raise funds. We are looking for children's unwanted jumpers to be dropped off at school on the 22nd November. We will be selling them at the 'Carols Around the Tree' event on Thursday 5th December, for a nominal fee.

Carols around the Tree - Thursday 5th December

To support the 'Carols Around the Tree' event, the GKCS PTA has organised festive fun for both children and adults including games, craft activities, food trucks and much more. There will also be soft and alcoholic drinks to purchase whilst you enjoy the carols.

We will be trialing payments for events through our PTA SUM UP payment platform. Please make sure you follow instructions on how to complete payment to avoid any issues.

[How to get involved](#)

There are lots of ways to get involved and support the school. Can you donate a prize for the Christmas raffle? Can you spare some time to volunteer at one of the events? If so, get in touch by emailing pta@gkcs.school.

We hope you're as excited as we are about the festive period. Further information about the events will be sent out in the coming days, plus follow us on Instagram for regular reminders about what's on (@gkcs_pta).

Many thanks,

GKCS PTA

[BBC Children in Need Dance-a-thon at GKCS](#)

The Dance-a-thon is back on Friday 15th November! This is the annual York House Children in Need fundraising extravaganza.

Please go to <https://superkind.org/campaign/great-kingshill-ce-combined-school-gkcs-annual-danceathon> where you can donate online, or even get some sponsorship and pay via our Superkind Fundraising page. Minimum donation is £2.

You can also scan this QR code which will take you straight to the donate page:



This enables the money to go direct to the BBC Children in Need appeal, as well as enable Gift Aid donations (if you are eligible). If you would like this to count towards your child's Superkind targets, then please mention their first name and class in the donation comments.

Thank you for your support! Come to school dressed in yellow or spots (and be ready to dance) and let's have fun raising money for a worthy cause!

Keeeeeeep dancing and thank you in advance for your support!

York House

Black History Month



October was Black History Month in the UK, a time to recognise, reflect upon and celebrate the invaluable contributions of black people to society.

In the weeks leading up to half term, the children learnt all about the achievements of black men and women in the past and today. The theme for 2024 was 'Reclaiming Narratives' and the children found out more about the athlete and Olympian, Katarina Johnson-Thompson, who finally achieved her dream of an Olympic medal this summer at the Paris Olympic Games. In addition, each year group explored the achievements of different inspirational individuals including Rosa Parks, Katherine Johnson, Matthew Henson, Mary Seacole and Simone Biles. Finally, the children reflected on their own hopes and dreams for the world, referring back to Martin Luther King Jr's famous 'I have a dream' speech.

It is always really wonderful to see the children recognise the school values of **love, courage, forgiveness, hope, respect and truth** in the achievements of others during our Black History Month lessons.

Miss Hepworth

Football Tournament

Well done to the Year 6 footballers who put in a valiant effort at the District Cup tournament at Disraeli School. We had four matches against some very physical and tough opposition. To give our children credit, not once did their heads drop and they played with tremendous spirit

(despite broken boots, studded toes and knocks to arms, legs and knees). Having lost the first three games two goals to nil, we entered the final game against early favourites St John's. We went down a couple of goals from some quality finishing, but managed our first goal in reply. The ball was played out to our captain, Flynn, who sent their attacker to Tesco with a sharp dropped shoulder, and played a glorious through ball to James on the left wing, who beat his man and coolly slotted home past the near post. A great goal and huge smiles, but sadly only a consolation as a Beckham-esque shot from the ensuing kick-off looped over our 'keeper, and we lost 3- 1.

There were some exceptional performances. Heroic saves from Callum, who showed immense bravery, taking one ball in quite a painful area, but saving the goal. Zain made his debut, putting in some ferocious blocks and tackles, and we are so proud of him. Will reminded me of a young Ronaldinho jinking through the defence on mazy runs, whilst Archie played like Stuart Pearce, sliding through the opposition cleanly winning the ball each time (showing my age with these references). Kush showed great energy throughout, and played on through a toe injury, causing havoc in the midfield. His link up play with Aidan was lovely to watch and he showcased some deft touches. Nathan was unlucky not to score a couple and was taking up brilliant positions in attack. Hugo played really well in defence, reading the game well to break up the attacking play.

Well done to everyone who played and thank you to the parents who came to support us. It really means the world to the children and, as a couple of parents said, it is lovely to see them having fun with their classmates as they don't get to see it that often. Sadly, we did not progress to the next round, so our Saturday is free next week! Hopefully we will see you all soon.

Mr Smith

Collective Worship and November Superkind

We began collective worship this week by thinking about **Anti-Bullying Week**. Mrs Marks and our Head Pupils Eliza and James led Collective Worship and explained that this year's theme is 'Choose Respect'.

The children all enjoyed talking about ways in which we can be respectful both in and out of school, as well as being respectful to ourselves. The children were invited to imagine a world where respect and kindness thrive. This ties in perfectly with our current school value of RESPECT, as well as with November's SUPERKIND challenge. This month encourages us to think about ways in which we could support Anti-Bullying Week, and perhaps earn a poster maker, protester or awareness raiser award. This could be by making a poster to protest against bullying; promoting kindness and respect for everyone; or perhaps by thinking of ways to raise

awareness to educate our friends and family about Anti-Bullying Week. As always, don't forget to send me a Dojo message if you have taken action so that I can award certificates!

Mrs. Gandini 😊

Autumn 1 & 2 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)
Tuesday 10 th September	15:20 – 16:00	Meet the teacher
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
Friday 18 th October	14:00	'The Tiger Who Came To Tea' – Reception Tea Party to parents
Wednesday 23 rd October	15:15	School closes for half term
Monday 4 th November	08:30	School opens for autumn 2
Monday 4 th November		Year 6 trip to Imperial War Museum
Monday 11 th November		Flu vaccinations
Monday 11 th November		Year 4 trip to Verulamium Museum
Friday 15 th November		'Children in Need' – York House charity day
Monday 18 th November		Reception trip to Bracknell Lookout Centre
Friday 22 nd November		Year 6 heights & weights
Wednesday 4 th December	14:00	Preschool Christmas Performance to parents
Thursday 5 th December		'Carols Around the Tree' (timings tbc)
Friday 6 th December		INSET DAY
Wednesday 11 th December		Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch
Thursday 12 th December		Y5 Victorian Day
Thursday 12 th December		Reception Christingle (children only)
Friday 13 th December	am	KS2 Christmas Church Service (timings tbc)
Monday 16 th December	14:00	Year 2 Nativity to parents
Tuesday 17 th December	18:00	Year 2 Nativity to parents
Wednesday 18 th December	09:30 & 14:30	Reception Nativity to parents
Friday 20 th December	13:30	School closes for Christmas holidays

Please note that these dates, along with additional information regarding school events, can be found on our school website. More information will be added as the term progresses.