



GREAT KINGSHILL

Church of England Combined School



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Great Kingshill CE Combined School 20th
December 2024

Aspiring to be our best with kindness, respect and faith

2024 is all wrapped up!

We have reached the end of the Autumn Term, so all that is left to say is...Merry Christmas!

And what a term it has been! Incredibly busy as always, with plenty of activities, experiences and trips to go alongside all of the brilliant learning that has taken place in the classrooms.

I would firstly like to take this opportunity to thank my fantastic staff team for their continued hard work. Their diligence and commitment to giving their all for the benefit of the children at GKCS is relentless, and I am truly appreciative of all that they do.

Secondly, a thank you to you - the parents. Your continued support for us and everything we do here really is valued, and it has been wonderful to see so many of you in school recently - whether at the 'Carols Around the Tree' service, or at one of the fantastic nativity performances (well done to Reception and Year 2!)

Finally, a thank you to the children; the reason we are all here. Visitors to our school are always so quick to comment on how well behaved, courteous and considerate our children are. As well as this, they are kind, they are respectful, and they try their best; our school rules really do shine through in all that they do, and they make our school a wonderful place to teach and learn.

Have a restful, relaxing break, spending quality time with family and friends. For those of you who are celebrating Christmas, I hope you have a wonderful time, and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 6th January.


With season's greetings and my warmest wishes,

Mrs Best


Thank you to the PTA!

A massive thank you to the PTA and all of the parent volunteers this term. The events that have taken place since September, such as 'Carols Around the Tree', the discos, wreath making and 'Elfridges' have been amazing! The children and other parents have loved them, and it has been wonderful to see the community spirit of the school on display.

PTA Newsletter



GKCS PTA



Dear parents and carers,

As 2024 draws to a close, we reflect on what has been a jam-packed term of activities, kicked off with Wreath making, then neon disco, Carols around the Tree and finally Elfridges. We've really enjoyed running these events and we hope you all agree that the children have had a lot of fun too.

A massive thank you

We would like to say a huge thank you to each and every one of you who has taken part in the events this term. We also thank all the volunteers and teachers who have helped support us in their own time and make the events a huge success.

Tell us your feedback

As we look to 2025, we would like to hear your thoughts about the events we have delivered so far. Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey to give your feedback so we can continue to shape these events. [Events Survey](#)

We've already started planning our activities for the new year and can't wait to share more with you soon.

Want to get involved?


Our first PTA meeting of the New Year is taking place on 9th January at 7.30pm at the [Beechtree pub](#) to discuss and decide on the following:

- Use of funds
- Calendar of events for 2025

We hope to see you there.

Have a lovely festive break and best wishes for 2025.

The GKCS PTA



https://www.instagram.com/gkcs_pta

You know where to find us!

The Christmas period can be challenging for families for many reasons, and we wanted to remind parents that there are always places you can reach out to for support.

Our safeguarding email is monitored throughout the holidays, and if you need to contact the school urgently, please use safeguarding@gkcs.school

Alternatively, you can call the emergency phone number on 07921 394998, or the wraparound care phone number on 07936420074.

Both phones will be manned, and we will do our best to provide or signpost you to support.

SuperKind

It's been a long-standing Christmas tradition at Great Kingshill that we take a collection after each of our Christmas celebration events, including each Nativity and Carols Around the

Tree. Last year, the money we raised was shared between Crisis at Christmas and the school MUGA redevelopment fund. This year, we intend to share the funds raised again. We thought long and hard about the charity that we would like to support this year, but it was actually a Facebook advert that prompted us to want to select The Florence Nightingale Hospice. [Christmas Appeal - Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity](#)

The words that have been used during their Christmas campaign this year come from Craig McDonald. The McDonalds were a part of the GKCS family, with Joanna serving as one of our foundation governors. Sadly, Joanna passed away in December 2022, but the family were supported by Florence Nightingale Hospice and were able to make Christmas memories before Joanna was too ill. A gift of £25 could pay for an hour of a nurse's time over the Christmas period. A gift of £15 could pay for an hour of an art therapist's time, helping families connect and make memories whilst creating something precious. A wonderful gift of £40 would pay for a visit with a nurse and health care assistant to a patient's home for one hour. If you are able to give a little, I know that it will go a long way! As well as raising funds for Florence Nightingale Hospice, we are also on the final push to raise the funds for the MUGA redevelopment. We have placed the order for the 3G surface and new match play surface on the lower playground, but still have some fundraising to do.

If you still wish to make a donation, the link is below:

[Christmas Collection | SuperKind](#)

The cash that has been donated is being counted and is currently over £500; it will be banked and sent to Florence Nightingale Hospice in due course.

Forest School News

We have come to the end of another year in Forest School, but a new one awaits, full of the bounties of Spring – eventually! It has been lots of fun with the children thoroughly engaging in all of the activities, games and skills. They also may have enjoyed a few s'mores along the way!

Some of the highlights have been the climbing and swinging equipment that we made in the summer; these have proved a real hit, with the children challenging themselves to make it all the way across the rather tricky monkey bars. Some have defied convention and gone across the top, some the more conventional way, and certain individuals have turned it into a bed! We have played lots of team games where the children have had to think carefully about tactics and each other in order to succeed; Drum Stalker has been a favourite across all year groups.

The children have been very safe when we have had fires, and the more we do it, the more chance there is that they will remember the safety tips. Next term I think we will have another

go at making Popcorn. It always amazes them when the kernels start to explode. It also teaches them patience and irreversible changes from a science point of view.



'Shrek's Armpit' is being dug out, little by little, but then getting flooded each week by the rain and the decomposing leaves. We will keep going, and hopefully turn it into something a lot more useful and less smelly.

Next term, we are planning on working through knots, tying things together and with any luck, some children may get more proficient at tying their laces; a skill that is essential as they move up the school. We will also be looking at creating some items with the ropes. Year 6 will be continuing with their mallet making, and hopefully, they will be finished soon.

Thank you to everyone who has made this term a success, and we hope you are all still enjoying your time in the woods. The volunteers keep coming back for more, the children are always smiling, and Mr Nixon keeps arriving each day, so I think we are doing something right. Have a wonderful break, and we will see you all again soon.

I have attached the timetable for the Spring Term, so please make sure you have the correct kit in on the day. It is always a particularly chilly one once we get back after the break, so thick socks, gloves, hats and warm coats will be essential. I would advise, especially for the younger ones who come in the morning, to have a spare coat, as the forest school one will undoubtedly get covered in mud and water. Charity shops or car boot sales would be a good place to start so that any new coats can be kept clean!

Mr Smith

| Timetable for SPR1 | | |
|--------------------|------------|----|
| Day | AM | PM |
| Monday | Pre School | 5H |
| Tuesday | Reception | 3S |
| Wednesday | | 2G |
| Thursday | 1F | 4P |
| Friday | | 6H |

School Travel Plan

Last week, I was invited to attend the Great Kingshill Residents Association traffic and travel meeting. The meeting was well attended by members of our local community; Stan Jones and David Carroll were also present from Hughenden Parish Council and Buckinghamshire County Council. Paul Nichols, who is the chair of the group, wanted to gather views from local stakeholders to help create a plan to put forward to Buckinghamshire Council.

Key areas of concern that were identified were:

Speeding in many areas in and around Great Kingshill, including around the routes to school;

Walking routes;

and unsurprisingly, parking in the immediate vicinity of the school.

The residents from Four Ashes Road and Cryers Hill Lane shared their frustration, challenges and concerns about the parking around the school. In recent weeks, I have been provided with numerous photographs of dangerous parking. I have written directly to many of the parents individually to request that they park in alternative locations and with consideration. However, these are being ignored and the photos I have been provided with this week include people who have already been spoken to. This is a personal plea from me: please do not park on the junctions or leave your car sticking out on the main road. Any further occurrences will be reported to the police.

Paul Nichols has collated all the responses and is formulating a plan to put forward; the plan will look at improving walking routes, potential traffic calming measures and the introduction of double yellow lines in key areas. The school are keen to work closely with the local community to support their plans and will update parents further in the new year.

We have also been working with the residents from the lower part of Cryers Hill to support their campaign to reduce the speed limit on Cryers Hill from 50mph to 40mph. They have raised a petition and have asked for support from the school community. I have included the link below and it would be wonderful if all parents could sign it. If there is support for this, we may be in a position to apply for a 20mph school time speed limit outside of school as well.

<https://buckinghamshire.moderngov.co.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=120>

In the new year, we will be sharing with parents a range of initiatives that we would like to implement to support safe and considerate travel to school.

Wrap Around Care

Thank you to everyone who has used wrap around care this term. Since the beginning of the academic year, there have been over 10,000 sessions booked!

I just wanted to share some practical information about booking for next term. The final banking reconciliation for tax free child care vouchers has been carried out today, there won't be another reconciliation until we return on 6th January 2025. Please ensure that you make your bookings whilst your account is clear.

Booking can only be put on a monthly payment plan at the time of booking; if you do not add a payment plan at the time of booking, then you will need to clear the whole balance or your account will be overdue and this will prevent you from being able to book other things on Magicbooking.

Thank you to the team that have supported the set up of the after school provision, and thank you for your support. Breakfast club will reopen again on the first day of term in January.

St. Michael's and All Angels Church - Christmas Services

Please see below the dates for the Christmas services taking place at St. Michael's and All Angels Church in Hughenden. Keith and Helen look forward to welcoming you!

Next Sunday:
22 December : Fourth Sunday of Advent
 9.00 am Matins (Sung) (BCP)
 11.00 am Family Communion
 3.00 pm Carols at Naphill Village Hall
 6.00 pm Nine Lessons & Carols

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17 & 18 December – Carol Singing Please join us for Carol Singing in the parish! Tuesday 17 December 8.00 pm at the Harrow, Hughenden Valley - please congregate in the smaller left hand bar; Wednesday 18 December 8.00 pm at the Wheel, Main Road, Naphill.

24 December – Christmas Eve
 2.00 pm – Crib Service
 3.30 pm & 5.00 pm – Family Carol Services
 11.15 pm – Midnight Communion

25 December – Christmas Day
 9.00 am – Choral Communion
 11.00 am – Family Communion



Dates - Spring Term

Below are the dates for the first half of the Spring Term. Please note that these may be edited, and more dates added, as the term progresses.

| | | |
|--|---------------|---|
| Monday 6 th January 2025 | 08:30 | School opens for Spring Term |
| Monday 6 th January 2025 | 09:00 – 11:00 | New Preschool children settling-in session (no parents) |
| Monday 6 th January 2025 | 13:30 – 15:00 | New Preschool children settling-in session (no parents) |
| Tuesday 7 th January 2025 | 10:30 – 12:00 | 4P first swimming session (every Tuesday) |
| Monday 13 th January 2025 | 09:00 | Open morning for prospective parents 2025 |
| w/c Monday 3 rd February 2025 | | Children's mental health week |
| Friday 7 th February 2025 | | PTA Discos (timings and arrangements TBC) |
| Tuesday 11 th February 2025 | 15:30 – 18:30 | Parents' Evening |
| Wednesday 12 th February 2025 | | Y5 Viking Day |
| Wednesday 12 th February 2025 | 15:30 – 18:30 | Parents' Evening |
| Friday 14 th February 2025 | 15:15 | School closes for half term |

Finally, we would like to thank all the parents for the generous gifts and kind words in the Christmas cards that have been received this week. The staff room has been full with so many delicious treats; we are all really grateful and it has definitely brought some Christmas cheer!

The staff and I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas break. We hope you have everything you need and that you get to spend time enjoying each other's company. Remember, it doesn't matter what is under the tree but who is sat around the table!

We are looking forward to seeing what 2025 has in store for us.

