



GREAT KINGSHILL

Church of England Combined School



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22nd January 2025

Aspiring to be our best with kindness, respect and faith

Happy New Year!

I realise it is a little late in the month to be saying that, but as it's the first newsletter of the calendar year, I feel it's still acceptable to wish you all a happy new year; I hope you had a wonderful break over the Christmas holidays.

We were greeted to freezing temperatures to kick-off the new term, but the children were fantastic in dealing with the chilly weather and cracking on with their learning. Hopefully the worst of the cold snap is behind us, and we're keen to push on into an exciting term.

As always, it's set to be a busy one with lots to look forward to: Viking Day, Spirit of the Wild, and a trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum look set to be some of the highlights. Not to mention Year 6's residential to Norfolk!

We also have parents' evenings on the horizon; I look forward to seeing you all then.

With my best wishes,

Mrs Best

Forest School News



The start of Spring Term 2025 got off to a pretty cold start to say the least, but we still managed to get out and about in the woods. A lot of the sessions in the first week involved a re-orientation of the rules in our area, and a good explore to find anything new that has cropped up over the Christmas holidays.

We have a new batch of what we think will be snowdrops at the back, and with any luck they will flower in the coming weeks. We have carefully cordoned off the area, so there is much less danger of footfall damage. We have explained that we need to look after our wildflowers as they are protected.



The main intention for the first week was to start to learn some knots, but with the snow and icy conditions, we adjusted this and our focus switched to keeping the children warm through movement. Our favourite game of Drum Stalker has been introduced to the current classes, and needless to say, they want to play it every session. Who are we to disappoint?!

Saying that, week 2 has been a bit less cold, so we did get the ropes out and some groups of Year 3 learnt the Clove hitch knot and created their own swing. It stayed up, and they had a lot of fun pulling each other using the excess rope. Year 5 have become skilled at Viking Chess, which ties in with their topic. Some really accurate throwing and interesting tactics...plus a few Viking roars of victory.



Year 6 will be continuing with their mallet making, using the bill hooks to carve out the handles. It was too cold in the first week, but we will get there!

Mr Smith

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

SuperKind

January SuperKind Challenge

In collective worship this week, we have been talking about each new year giving us an opportunity for a fresh start. We talked about New Year's Resolutions as a way to set goals for things that we would like to achieve over the next year. We know it can take perseverance to make a change, and this ties in perfectly with this month's value of COURAGE.

We considered the fact that New Year's Resolutions that could make a difference to our communities or a cause that we care about, can be especially meaningful. These are some examples we discussed:

- Eating vegetarian meals for one day a week
- Avoiding food waste by not overloading our dinner plate
- Picking up one piece of litter off the streets every week
- Turning off the tap when brushing our teeth
- Walking to school instead of driving

This challenge will give pupils an opportunity to earn a SuperKind 'change maker' sticker, and we are excited to hear about ways they are taking social action. To show us how they are getting on with their resolution, pupils can complete the attached form showing their

progress during the first month and return once completed (either a printed copy or via Class Dojo).

HAPPY
New Year



My NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION this year is to:

.....

The impact I hope to make is:

.....

How are you getting on? You could record/tick to show your progress during your first month, then return to school to earn your 'change maker' award. **(either return printed copy or upload a photo via class Dojo)**

JANUARY 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Science Fair

GKCS Annual Science Fair 2025

We are pleased to announce the return of our annual Science Fair. This year, the fair will be held on **Tuesday 25th February 2025** and will celebrate the theme **'Change and Adapt'**.

Entries may be for individuals or groups of up to 3 people from years 1 to 6. Exhibits should include a backing board with information about your topic/ experiment /investigation. It should also include any useful models or a practical example for others to interact with. Please bring your exhibits into school (back of the hall) on the day of the fair, not before.

During the school day all children will have the chance to visit the fair, look at the exhibits and speak to the children presenting their work. Children who have entered the fair will be given the opportunity to explain their exhibit to every class at some point during the day. Parents are invited to look at the exhibits on Tuesday 25th February between 3:15pm and 4pm.

The start of a new year is a great time to think about how the world is changing and how we can adapt to these changes, making it an excellent starting point for a celebration of science. You can use your own ideas to create your exhibit or get inspired by the suggestions below:

- Talk about what change and adaptation mean.
- How have you noticed the world around you changing, and how have you adapted?
- Think about your favourite science experiment or activity, did it involve change?
- How have animals and people adapted to new environments over time?
- Is ever-changing technology making our lives easier, or are we adapting to fit it in?

We are very excited to see what the children create as this has been such an amazing event in previous years. Good luck and have fun!

Mrs Karen Mahdavi

Science Lead

Winter Clothing Drive

We received a letter last week from Eliza, one of our Head Pupils, asking the school for help in contributing to the One Can Trust's 'Clothes Bank':

Dear teachers,

As you know, it's currently the colder part of the year. Some people are not as fortunate as we are, and they do not have enough warm clothes. I would like to set up a winter clothing drive, with donations of gloves, hats, coats and scarves. These clothes could then be donated to the One Can Trust's 'Clothes Bank' in High Wycombe, to help people.

I know it takes a lot of effort to do things like this in school, but I am happy to help in any way I can - from checking the box to make sure suitable clothing has been donated, to setting up a presentation for Collective Worship to tell the children what we are doing and why we are doing it.

I hope you like my idea. I feel this would be an amazing thing to do for people in need. Please get back to me and let me know what you think.

Thank you,

Eliza

Well Eliza, we love the idea, and so we're going for it!

A box will be in the foyer between now and half term, so if you have any suitable clothes you wish to donate, please place them inside.

Many thanks in advance.

Collection from clubs

If you are collecting your children at the main entrance following after-school clubs, could we kindly ask that you wait outside as opposed to in the foyer. Over the past few days, the foyer has become extremely crowded at 16:30 when the clubs have finished, and this has made it very challenging to hand over children who are leaving wraparound care - especially the little ones!

Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

Wrap Around Care and the Disco

We want to inform you of important details regarding Wrap Around Care on the evening of the upcoming PTA Disco Friday 7th February.

On the evening of the PTA Disco, Wrap Around Care will be open as usual until 6pm, but please note the following important information:

1. **Children attending Wrap Around Care before the disco:** if your child is already booked into Wrap Around Care in the afternoon, they will be safely collected by PTA volunteers and taken to the disco with all their belongings.
2. **Collection from the disco:** after their disco session ends, children **must** be collected directly from the disco. Please note that children will **not** be able to return to Wrap Around Care after attending the disco.

To ensure a smooth and safe transition, please ensure you collect your child from the disco promptly at the end of their session.

Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to seeing the children enjoying the event. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office.

Preschool admissions - September 2025

Places are rapidly filling up for Preschool admissions starting September 2025. If you would like to apply for a place, please email preschool@gkcs.school as soon as possible to ensure we can offer you the session(s) you require.

Thank you.

Dates - Spring Term

Below are the dates for 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 1
Monday 6 th January	09:00 – 11:00	New Preschool children settling-in session (no parents)
Monday 6 th January	13:30 – 15:00	New Preschool children settling-in session (no parents)
Tuesday 7 th January	10:30 – 12:00	4P first swimming session (every Tuesday)
Monday 13 th January	09:00	Open morning for prospective parents 2025
w/c Monday 3 rd February		Children's mental health week
Thursday 6 th February		Y5 Viking Day
Friday 7 th February		PTA Discos (timings and arrangements TBC)
Tuesday 11 th February	15:30 – 18:30	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 12 th February	15:30 – 18:30	Parents' Evening
Friday 14 th February	15:15	School closes for half term
Monday 24 th February	08:30	School opens for Spring Term 2
Tuesday 25 th February		Science Fair
Thursday 25 th February	15:20 – 16:00	Open classrooms and viewing of Science Fair
Thursday 6 th March		World Book Day
Wednesday 12 th March		Y4 Spirit of the Wild
Friday 14 th March		Y3 trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st March		Y6 residential to Norfolk Lakes
Thursday 3 rd April	14:00	Y1 Easter performance to parents
Friday 4 th April	13:30	School closes for Easter holidays