

Half Termly Newsletter January 2026

Great Kingshill CE Combined School



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

"Love your neighbour as yourself" Luke 10:25

A busy start to the new year!

Happy New Year! We know it's the end of January, but it needed to be said as it's the first newsletter of the new year.

We've had a very busy start to 2026, and the children have enjoyed some fantastic experiences to enrich their learning - both in and out of school - which you will see more of below in our 'New from around the school' section.

There's lots to look forward to next half term as well: Year 2 have their 'Great Fire of London' day, and Year 6 will be off to Norfolk for their residential!

News from around the school

A Glimpse Across the School

While we know you regularly see updates from your child's year group on Class Dojo, we thought it would be lovely to share a broader view of life at Great Kingshill. Each half term, we will include a selection of photos from across all key stages—capturing moments of learning, creativity, play, and celebration.

It's a chance to see what's happening elsewhere in the school and to appreciate the vibrant, caring community your child is part of. From Early Years exploration to Upper Key Stage 2 achievements, we hope these snapshots bring a smile and a sense of connection.

Keep an eye out for your favourite moments—and who knows, you might spot a familiar face!

So far this term...

Preschool welcomed some very special visitors last week, who came to check that everyone was behaving themselves!



It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to see how the police are working to keep safe in our local area. Reception were also lucky to welcome some visitors into school, as they took part in a Chinese Dragon workshop to go alongside their learning about the lunar new year!





Year 1 had a fantastic morning out at Holmer Green Junior School, taking part in a gymnastics festival, and Year 2 have been learning a brilliant dance for their Great Fire of London topic.



Year 3 popped down to Year 1 to help them with their instructional writing in English. The children worked together fantastically to build some super-veg, based on the classic book 'Supertato'!





Year 4 had an amazing day out at the Science museum in London, looking at the wonderful exhibits, watching experiments led by real scientists, and getting hand-on in the 'Wonderlab'!





Finally, Year 5 welcomed the 'Space Dome' (yes, it really is as cool as it sounds) into the school hall to boost their understanding of their space topic in science.



PTA News

DISCO UPDATE

We're excited to share that the Winter PTA Disco will be moving to the spring, giving us the perfect opportunity to create an even more fantastic event! With longer days, brighter vibes and plenty of time to add some extra sparkle, the spring disco promises to be bursting with fun. Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm – we can't wait to celebrate together and we will be announcing the new date very soon.

GK FUNFEST - SUMMER EVENT

We're starting to plan for GK Funfest and would love support from local businesses! If you or someone you know can offer sponsorship, donate a raffle prize, or would like a stall on the day, we'd be thrilled to hear from you.

Please contact pta@gkcs.school if you're interested – thank you for helping make our event a great one!

2026 CALENDAR

Parents Night	30 th Jan
Religious Celebrations	March/April
Spring Disco	TBC
GK FunFest	TBC June
Summer Disco	9 th July

**WE NEED
Your
SUPPORT!**

If you would like to get involved in helping at our upcoming events, please get in touch – your support makes all the difference. Please email pta@gkcs.school or contact your class rep to volunteer or find out more.

Attendance

Attendance Really Does Matter!

If your child is absent from school, please email attendance@gkcs.school; please do not email the school office.

Tips for Improving Punctuality

- **Prepare the night before:** Lay out clothes, pack bags, and check homework to avoid last-minute stress.
- **Set a consistent bedtime:** A good night's sleep helps mornings run smoothly.
- **Use alarms and reminders:** Set alarms for both waking up and leaving the house.
- **Plan for extra time:** Aim to leave 10 minutes earlier than needed to allow for unexpected delays.
- **Create a calm morning routine:** Avoid screens before school and keep breakfast simple.
- **Talk about why punctuality matters:** Explain how being on time helps learning and avoids missed opportunities.
- **Use Breakfast Club if mornings are tight:** Our Breakfast Club is open from **7:30am every day**, providing a safe and calm start to the day.

Exceptional Request for Leave of Absence

Leave of Absence Reminder

We would like to remind all parents and carers that **requests for leave of absence should only be made in exceptional circumstances**. Unfortunately, we are **unable to authorise family holidays or extended visits abroad** during term time.

Please be aware of the following important points regarding unauthorised absences:

- **Unauthorised absences are reviewed on a “10 in 10” basis**—this means that if a child accrues **10 unauthorised absences within a 10-week period**, the school is **required** to refer the case to the Local Authority.
- This review process runs **concurrently throughout the school year**; it is not reset at the start of each academic year.
- While the school makes the referral, **the decision to issue a penalty notice lies with the Local Authority's Attendance Team**.

- If you have previously received a penalty notice, please note that **you will not be eligible for the reduced rate payment option.**

We understand that family circumstances can be complex, and we are here to support you. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact Mrs Marks on attendance@gkcs.school

Thank you for your continued cooperation in helping us maintain high standards of attendance and punctuality.

Respecting our neighbours.

Respecting Our Neighbours and Local Community

Unfortunately, the number of calls we are receiving regarding parking, as well as disrespectful behaviour towards our neighbours and other parents continues to rise. These include reports of:

- Blocking neighbours' driveways.
- Leaving young children unattended in cars.
- Threatening behaviour towards staff in the Post Office when challenged about parking in private spaces.

In these instances, we have advised members of the public to contact the local police on the non-emergency number, especially if they believe an offence has been committed.

We have also received complaints about litter from parents' cars, including dirty nappies and snack wrappers.

Our Request

Please respect our neighbours and the local community by:

- Parking considerately and never blocking driveways or private spaces.
- Avoiding leaving children unattended in vehicles.
- Disposing of litter responsibly.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain positive relationships with our community.