



Dear Parents and Carers,

28th May 2021

STAFFING NEWS:

- Sadly, Mrs Heason is leaving us to venture to pastures new at the end of the summer term. We will miss Mrs Heason and wish her the very best of luck in her new school.
- As you will be aware from the news, the government have given schools Catch Up Funding to help children who may have fallen behind because of the school closures. We have decided to use two of our most talented teachers to undertake this work: Mr Laurie and Mrs Ward. Therefore, they will not have a class from September but will be working across the school.
- We interviewed for two new teachers yesterday: one to replace Mrs Heason and the other to replace Mr Laurie and Mrs Ward. We received a large number of applications and it was a very strong field. I am delighted to report that we have appointed Mrs Judy Toes and Mrs Vanessa Woodward to join our teaching team from September. I am looking forward to working with them both.

DOGS AT THE SCHOOL GATES: There have been a couple of complaints recently regarding dogs being brought to the school gates. On one occasion a parent was bitten, and on another children became distressed when two dogs were fighting. Some children are not comfortable around dogs and find the prospect of being near one distressing. Out of respect to those who are not canine lovers, it would be appreciated if dogs were not brought to the school gates at drop off or pick up. If this is not possible then we ask that dogs do not line up with the children and are kept under control at all times. As many of you are aware, I love dogs, but I do understand that what looks like a friendly, jumpy pup to me can be a terrifying situation to others. I thank you in advance for your support.

WONDERFUL WOODLAND: I spent time in our Wonderful Woodland this morning observing children having a forest school experience led by Miss Rees. I watched as two Reception children used a bow saw to cut a wooden 'cookie' from a log of wood, I joined another group in their 'café' waiting patiently for the cook to prepare soup in the mud kitchen, I was impressed when 4 children could fit inside a den that they had made out of sticks and I enjoyed the laughter as the children climbed trees and collected branches in the wood. The children were so inspired and could not wait to share with adults and each other the bugs that they had found whilst exploring with magnifying glasses or flowers that they had not noticed before and so much more. Outdoor learning is fantastic – it encourages imagination and independence and is great fun. My thanks go to Miss Rees for developing this aspect of our provision at KMS.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: At the start of Term 4 we advised you of dates for the term ahead. Please see below a reminder of these along with an additional date in respect to the Maths challenge.

- Monday 14th June 2021: Class Photographs
- Monday 21st June 2021: Assessment Week
- Monday 5th July 2021: Spelling Bee
- Tuesday 6th July: Maths Bee
- Thursday 8th July 2021: Reading & Maths Champion Reward
- Tuesday 13th July 2021: Reports Issued
- Thursday 15th July 2021: M&M Theatrical Productions performance of 'Treasure Island' (Covid-19 guidelines dependant)
- Thursday 15th July 2021: Move up morning
- Friday 16th July 2021: Last day of term- Finish 13.30

FSU NEWS: All the Reception classes have started Forest School this week. The children have loved the freedom to explore and set their own challenges. Some of the children used the bow saw, under the supervision of Miss Rees, to make a wood biscuit. They were very careful as it is quite sharp. Others have been searching for insects, den building, drawing maps and digging. We think we might have found a dinosaur bone and the children are looking forward to excavating it more next week. Our focus on Floella Benjamin has continued and we have watched a variety of children's TV programmes from the past, such as Trumpton, Rhubarb and Custard, Words and Pictures and The Flumps. The children were shocked to discover that when some of the teachers were young, there were only three TV channels and that they only had one TV in the house, which had a black and white picture.

We have been very excited this week in Ducklings because we have had butterflies in our classroom. We had them as caterpillars and have been waiting during the chrysalis stage. We were worried that they wouldn't emerge before half term, but the timing was perfect. We will release the butterflies today. We have been learning about dragonflies as well this week and we looked carefully at the amazing patterns and shapes on their wings as we drew them. We then used these wings to make a beautiful beaded dragonfly. Ms. K Rainer, Early Years Coordinator

KS1 JAPAN DAY: 'Konnichiwa' - The children in Key Stage One have taken part in a Japanese themed day today celebrating the country and it's culture, ahead of the summer Olympics which will be held in Japan this year. The children have learnt about the geography of Japan, it's location in Asia and key landmarks such as Mount Fuji and the capital city - Tokyo. They have recreated art work in the style of traditional and famous Japanese artists, such as Katsushika Hokusai. We have also been brushing off our language skills and have been practising saying simple phrases in Japanese. We were lucky enough to have been kindly gifted some sushi by local Bicester company, Y&R Sushi, which the children thoroughly enjoyed tasting this afternoon. What a great day to finish a busy term on! We will be displaying our work from today on our class boards in the school hall.

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH: Even with the lockdown easing, it is still really important to take the time to care for yourselves. TalkingSpace Plus is a free, confidential NHS service for adults in Oxfordshire, to help people when they're feeling stressed, anxious or low and they offer their treatments online for your safety and convenience. If you feel you would benefit from support please contact the service directly on 01865 901222 or visit www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/talkingspaceplus.

PE DAYS TERM 6: After the half term holiday there will be some changes to the P.E rota, please see below:

Year 1	Kingfisher: Monday & Thursday	Puffin: Monday & Thursday
Year 2	Swan: Wednesday & Friday	Flamingo: Wednesday & Friday
Year 3	Lion: Tuesday & Friday	Giraffe: Tuesday & Friday
Year 4	Eagle: Monday & Friday	Penguin: Wednesday & Friday
Year 5	Snowy Owl: Tuesday & Thursday	Leopard: Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 6	Elephant: Monday & Wednesday	Dolphin: Monday & Wednesday

Please continue to send your child to school wearing their P.E kit on their designated P.E days.

TRACK AND TRACE: As you will be aware, people need to self-isolate if they come into contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus. If a member of staff or a pupil who has been in school this week develops symptoms or has a positive test taken on or before Sunday 30th May 2021, the school needs to be notified. The school can then notify the rest of the bubble that they need to self-isolate for 10 days. Please e-mail any urgent Covid-19 information to office.2210@kings-meadow.oxon.sch.uk

COVID19 UPDATE: There have been no new cases of coronavirus in school this week.

PTA EVENT REMINDER: As detailed in the newsletter previously, the PTA are running a virtual pet show and would like to invite you to take part. Please see below a reminder of how you can participate.

There are 4 categories:

1. Dog
2. Cat
3. All other animals
4. Draw your dream pet - this category will be split into 2 sections, section 1 will be Nursery, Reception and Key stage 1, and section 2 will be Key stage 2.

There will be a prize for each category/section.

Please go onto PTA Events to pay for your entries, and then email your photos to kingsmeadowschoolpta@gmail.com. £2.50 per photo.

Photos must only include pets (no humans for data protection), and no wording to identify your pet. Please include your pet's name, age, and any other information you would like to add in the further information section in the booking. Only photos that have been paid for and fulfil the requirements will be entered for judging.

The deadline for photos is **Wednesday 9th June at 9am**. Any photos submitted after this time will not be included. No refunds will be given.

You may enter as many pets/photos as you would like to.

Judging will take place on Friday 11th June, and winners will be notified by email.

Any questions, please contact the PTA - kingsmeadowschoolpta@gmail.com.

Thank you for taking the time to enter and support the school, and Good Luck!

ATTENDANCE: The attendance for the school this week was 96.48%. The class that achieved the highest attendance this week was Lion Class with 98.93% attendance, well done to Lion Class.

Bluebird: 97.91%	Yellow Wagtail: 96.97%
Red Kite: 97.88%	Puffin: 97.67%
Kingfisher: 91.67%	Swan: 98.39%
Flamingo: 98.39%	Giraffe: 93.53%
Lion: 98.93%	Eagle: 97.59%
Penguin: 95.75%	Leopard: 97.59%
Snowy Owl: 97.42%	Dolphin: 92.07%
Elephant: 97.01%	

HALF TERM HOLIDAY: Today we close for the half term break. I hope that you and your family have a happy and healthy holiday and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 7th June, when school reopens.



Mrs L Daulton

Headteac