



# Kents Hill School

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Newsletter 1

2017/18

11<sup>th</sup> September 2017

For more information  
and news, please visit:

[www.kentshillschool.org.uk](http://www.kentshillschool.org.uk)

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Welcome back! It was fantastic to see all of the children back last week and even better to see them straight back into their learning – picking up where we left off at the end of the Summer Term. We have exciting times ahead at Kents Hill School and as the new Head of School I am determined for this year to be even more successful than last year.

Once again, all of the staff team have spent the last six weeks preparing the school for the new academic year. My thanks to Mr Dean for his hard work at upgrading various parts of the building during the break. My thanks also to the teachers and learning support assistants who have spent time in school busily preparing classrooms, making resources and planning exciting lessons for the term ahead.

Simon Bolger  
Head of School

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## New faces

We welcomed some new faces to the Kents Hill team at the beginning of last week...

- Mrs Jane Edwards, our new Executive Headteacher, who will be supporting Mr Bolger as Head of School;
- Miss Sophie O'Dell, who has joined our teaching team as class teacher of Oak class. She will also be our Leading Practitioner in Maths.
- Mrs Lorna Ellison has also joined us a permanent Midday Supervisor.

We also have a number of new children and families to our school – joining Nursery, Reception and a small number in other year groups. We extend a warm welcome to all who are new to our school and look forward to working with them as we strive to help every child fulfil their potential.

We also congratulate Mrs Young (previously Miss Wickham) on her marriage in July – please note the name change!

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## Dates for your diary

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September

Key Stage 1 School Council Elections

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October

3.00pm Break up for Half Term

## Successes and Next Steps

At the end of the Summer Term in 2016/17, our Year 2 results were **well above** the national average. In addition, last year's Year 1 children (*that's the current Year 2 children*) made **better than average** progress (in reading, writing and maths) than they would have done at an "average" school. This was a credit to the hard work and efforts of the children, school staff, parents and governors. Well done!

As you will remember, Ofsted visited Kents Hill School in June 2017 and we secured a judgement of "**Good**". The inspector noted: "staff provide a strong culture for keeping children safe at Kents Hill." He also said "the staff are well-motivated. They are keen to

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make sure that all pupils make good progress.” And that Kents Hill “pupils enjoy coming to school, and they learn with sparkling enthusiasm.”

We are very keen to maintain the progress we have already made and to continue this trajectory of improvement. This year we will be focussing on developing:

- Learning and teaching in Mathematics by embedding a mastery curriculum;
- The standard in writing across the school by continuing with the already successful Talk4Writing approach; and
- Ensuring a higher proportion, especially the more able, achieve the highest standards.

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### General reminders

The weather is always changing around Kents Hill and we have already had some inclement weather at break and lunchtime! For that reason, please make sure your child brings a coat to school every day which is clearly labelled with their name. Already last week we had children who came to school with only a shirt on and no jumper or coat.

Please also make sure children have their names in **all items of clothing**. Understandably, it is very frustrating for parents when clothing goes missing – but it is also frustrating when we have 20 lost unnamed jumpers in lost property! Lost property is located in Main Reception at the front of school.

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### Attendance

Attendance at school is not only a legal requirement but also has a huge impact on the attainment and progress of our children. Attendance also has an impact on the judgement Ofsted makes – a school with attendance below the national average (and it is not improving) cannot be a “good” school. This is why it is so crucial to maintain really good attendance and punctuality throughout the year.

Did you know?

- 95% attendance = 10 days absent a year
- 90% attendance = 20 days absent a year
- 85% attendance = 30 days absent a year
- 80% attendance = 40 days absent a year

#### “Every Minute Counts”

If your child is late every day...	In a year your child would lose the following days education...
5 minutes late	3 days
10 minutes late	6 ½ days
15 minutes late	10 days
20 minutes late	13 days
30 minutes late	19 ½ days

Establishing good patterns of attendance now – and only taking days off when it is really necessary – is preparing our children to succeed in their future lives.

For your information:

- The legal responsibility for ensuring children come to school lies with the parents;
  - If a child arrives after the register has been taken (this is 9.00am) they will be marked as late and if they arrive after 9.15am the session will be recorded as an unauthorised absence; and
  - Holidays will not be authorised and if they are taken parents may be subject to a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) fine of £60 (or £120 if not paid within 28 days). Please note that the fine is £60 per parent, per child.
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## 100% ATTENDANCE

Well done to the children listed below who all had 100% attendance and no late marks during the Summer term. They all received a certificate on the last day of the Summer term.

**Ash:** Sofia Bianco, Lena Cierach, Amelia Edmunds, Evelyn O'Donnell, Amelia Ololade, Isaac Reeves, Charlie Rooke, Nehan Sadit, Taylor Drew, Lucy Whitwell

**Beech:** Alexa Cunningham, Milan Dhana, Eythan Nash, Amelia Staveley, Benjamin Thaxter

**Chestnut:** Adam Billows, Oliver Cahill, Mwata Champo, Aiden Ficek, Bhargav Iarala, Alex Price, Albie Rand, Elsie-Maeve Wilsher

**Elm:** Alex Bosco, Lewis Chaproniere, Phoebe Graham, Samuel Land, Jasmine Saidi, Thalia-Mae Simpson, Callum Tett, Ted Welch

**Oak:** Nashon Bennett-Appiah, Frank Bogusz, Emily Cooper-Batista, Phoebe Goult, Daisy Lamb, Alicia Palmer, Adam Shepherd, Lilian Stone

**Willow:** Mustafa Abdulle, Poppy Austin, Sarah Brown, Julia Cierach, Kaylen France Barker, Timothy Gooding, Maisie Goult, Patryk Halon, Summer Johnson, Amelia Legg, Calum Majithia, Halle McCormick, Amilie Rand, Isla Sparks, Eloise Tett, Oliver Thorpe, Shay Wootton

100% for the whole of the academic year 2016/2017

A special WELL DONE must go to the children listed below who achieved an incredible 100% attendance for the whole of last year! Those children were presented with a special medal on the last day of the Summer term.

Eythan Nash, Alex Bosco, Phoebe Graham, Jasmine Saidi, Alec Price, Albie Rand, Alicia Palmer, Adam Shepherd, Poppy Austin, Timothy Gooding, Maisie Goult, Amelia Legg, Amilie Rand.

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## Stars of the Week

These children have been selected by their class teacher for making an outstanding effort with their learning, behaviour and attitude around the school. They received a certificate and had afternoon tea with Mr Bolger. Well done.

### Year 1:

Lucy W

Gabriel

### Year 2:

Jasmine W

Patryk K

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## Term Dates 2017/18 – A reminder

	Open AM on	Close end of PM on
<b>Autumn Term 2017</b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Spring Term 2018</b>	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March
<b>Summer Term 2018</b>	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> April Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July

**School will be closed on:**  
**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 for INSET Day (Staff Only)**  
**Bank Holiday Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

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## School Meals

You are now able to order meals for the whole of the Autumn term. Any new parents will have had instructions on how to order in their joining packs and should have received an email with their password and a link to the website. If you have mislaid this please talk to the ladies in the office who are able to resend your password. Meals are free for our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. The cost of a meal for nursery children who stay all day, is £1.80 per meal. Menus are freely available from the main entrance foyer.

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## **After School Clubs**

We run several after school clubs:

MK Dons Multi-skills: which run on a Tuesday from 3-4pm. This is open to Year 1 and Year 2 children only, Reception children will be invited to join in the Spring Term. We still have some places available at a cost of £12 for 6 sessions.

Dance: street dance runs on a Monday from 3-4pm and ballet club runs on a Thursday from 3-4pm, both in the Community Centre opposite the school (our staff transport the children across at the end of the school day). There are a few places left for ballet.

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## **School Photographs**

The school photographer will be in school on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October to take individual photographs – they make a lovely keepsake as well as great Christmas presents for grandparents and other relatives. Proofs go home about a week afterwards so please get any orders back to us as soon as you can so that photos are ordered and delivered back to us in plenty of time.

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## **Contact Details**

Please ensure that all contact details we hold for you are correct and up to date. This is important to ensure we are able to contact you should we need to. You can make any changes with Mrs Armitage in the Main School Office.