



Kents Hill School

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Newsletter 2

2017/18

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It will be a busy week of campaigning in school as the children in Year 1 and 2 have been preparing to vote for their **Autumn School Councillors**. The School Council will this year be led by Mrs Miller. Any child interested in joining the School Council should have indicated this to their class teacher and received a letter outlining the next steps. All candidates are asked to create a campaign poster and to prepare a short speech for their class where they explain why they would make a good School Councillor. All the Year 1 and 2 children will take part in a secret ballot on **Thursday 21st September** where they will choose one boy and one girl. Reception will vote for their councillors later in the year. In a change to previous years, new School Councillors will be elected every term. This is to ensure that the skills of a being a School Councillor can be spread more widely.

The results will be shared on Friday morning in assembly. Children are taught that if they are not elected then it is perfectly fine to be disappointed – but it is not fine to be upset, angry or cross. Part of growing up is dealing with and accepting setbacks – and for some this is the first step. It will be very clearly explained to children that even if they are not elected – their voice and views can still be heard. Very best of luck to all the candidates!

Simon Bolger

Pupil Premium

A Citizen Portal is available to help you find out if your child qualifies for free school meals and Pupil Premium. This is vital additional funding for school to spend on resources such as extra staff, books, resources or school trips for eligible children. The system is quick and simple to use and can be accessed via a smartphone or hand held device. **If you qualify, you will receive a reference number that you simply bring in and show us at school.** Please register at https://emsonline.milton-keynes.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE Whilst we understand all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible to receive universal free school meals, by checking your eligibility you will help us to find out whether we can claim for Pupil Premium funding.

Thank You

Mrs Laura Kos has stepped down from her role as a School Governor. I would like to publicly thank Laura for all her efforts in supporting members of the school community.

Before and After School

We understand that before and after school, children enjoy playing on the play trail located on the main playground. There is no problem with the equipment being used before and after school. However, I would just like to make clear that during these times – before 8.50am and after 3.00pm – that **parents are responsible for their own children** using the playground and equipment. Please remember, the school gate will be locked at 3.10pm – so we request parents and children have left the playground by this time.

Communication

Communication is extremely important to us in helping to support your child. If you have any questions or concerns, **please see the class teacher in the first instance**. They are the adults who are working closely on a daily basis with your child and any concerns you may have can be quickly resolved. This can often be done at the end of the day at the classroom door. Should you require more

time then please make an appointment via the staff in the main office. Please be mindful that teachers may have prearranged meetings straight after school during the week.

Following your appointment should you need further support then you can make an appointment with a senior teacher appropriate to your child's year group - Miss O'Dell in Key Stage 1 and Mrs Pace in Early Years. Again, all appointments should be made via the office.

In the unlikely event that your concern has not been resolved by the class teacher or a senior teacher - then you may wish to make an appointment with myself, which will also need to be done via the main office.

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:

Evelyn
Janine

Year 2:

George
Asif

Growth Mindset

At Kents Hill School, we believe in developing a Growth Mindset. This is the belief that our intelligence has no ceiling and is not fixed. We believe success and achievement comes from hard work and practice – rather than relying on natural talent or ability. We praise children for their effort – not for how 'intelligent' they are. In fact, research conclusively proves that telling a child they are "clever" has a detrimental impact on overall learning and achievement. We believe that new skills can be learnt and acquired with effort, input, time and practice. If we can't do something at Kents Hill School, we say "I can't do it **yet!**"

A Growth Mindset is underpinned by the use of eight Learning Powers. They are:

Concentrate: Manage distractions, do one thing at a time, plan and think it through, get lost in the task

Don't give up: Try hard, practice lots, keep going, try new strategies, ask for help

Be cooperative: Listen to others, say when you understand, explain things to help others, be tolerant

Be curious: Ask questions, notice things, ask 'What if?...'

Have a go: Have a Growth Mindset, don't worry if it's wrong, learn from mistakes, be excited to try new things

Use your imagination: Be creative, let your imagination go

Keep improving: Try to be better than last time, keep reviewing your learning, improve one thing at a time

Enjoy learning: Feel proud of your achievements, imagine your intelligence growing, know you can do it if you have input and practice

Every time a power is referred to in school we explicitly link it back to having a Growth Mindset. We also use Growth Mindset praise. Our language tells children what we believe and that we value them as learners.

Growth mindset praise includes saying things like:

- 'Good it's making you think – that's how your brain is growing.'
- 'Every time you practise, you're making connections in your brain stronger.'
- 'You're good at things because you like them and you work hard at them.'
- 'You can use this mistake. Think about why it didn't work and learn from it.'
- 'You can't do it **yet!**'

In Reception and Nursery, the children are learning about Growth Mindset and the learning powers by exploring 'Lenny Lion's Learning Zoo'.

The Reasons We Come To School Every Day

Children come to school to learn much more than just academic skills. We are preparing them for their journey out into the world. When the **Values Curriculum** launched in September 2015, the school agreed 11 values in consultation with staff, children and families.

To remind you, the values are:

Happiness	Respect	Cooperation
Honesty	Patience	Care
Responsibility	Equality	Appreciation
Determination		Tolerance

These have proved successful in school so we are now linking them to **The Reasons We Come To School Every Day**. Anything we do in school is now linked back to these reasons, and values are taught alongside this different reasons.

The Seven Reasons We Come To School Every Day are:

To care for ourselves, each other and the world

To enjoy the challenge of setting and achieving our goals

To adapt and succeed in a changing world

To take responsibility for actions and choices

To collaborate and understand everyone has something special to contribute

To recognise and celebrate achievements

To always try our best because we want to improve

Parent Workshop Survey

A massive thank you to all those parents who gave up a few minutes to complete the parent workshop survey. We had a solid **38 families** respond to our survey – which reflects around **26%** of our families. I am sure you are interested to see what was said...

92% of parents said they **would** be interested in attending a parent workshop session.

The type of workshop parents are most interested in attending are listed below:

Most desirable	1	How children learn best
	2	Writing
	3	Reading and phonics
Least desirable	4	Maths

Also, several responses showed an interest in **social, emotional and mental health**.

We will use this information to inform when and what we focus our upcoming parent workshops on. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

Macmillan Coffee Mornings

Information about these fantastic fundraising events will be coming out soon. The events will be held on the following dates and times:

Year 2	Wednesday 4 th October	9.00 – 10.00	Hall
Year 1	Thursday 5 th October	9.00 – 10.00	Hall
Reception	Wednesday 4 th October	2.00 – 3.00	Hall
Nursery	Wednesday 4 th October	9.00 – 10.00	Nursery building