



Kents Hill School

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When I first came to Kents Hill (January 2015) as Deputy Head, my vision for what the school could be was clear. I wanted to ensure that every child left our school with every opportunity still open to them – which is also my desire for my own child. I do not want any doors to be closed to any child because they can't do something.

The Ofsted inspection letter in June 2017 noted that we have “worked tirelessly in recent years to improve the school further”. With this in mind I am clearly focused on improving the school even further over the next year. When I have walked around the school with Mrs Edwards in these first few weeks we can feel a learning buzz in the classrooms – children are clearly enjoying their learning and are motivated to succeed – and we are determined to achieve our vision for the school – to create a successful school community with a ‘can do’ attitude rather than relying on reasons or excuses why we ‘can’t do it’.

However, it is obvious that the school's role is limited. If a child comes to school every single day they have access to **950 hours** of teaching time every year – **that is just over 10% of the total hours in a year** – so we know we must work in **partnership with you** to provide the best education possible for your child to develop the skills they need in wider society.

I know that the majority of parents share my desire for their child to excel. As a school we really appreciate the contribution of the vast majority of parents who read with their child regularly, get them into good independent learning habits, develop self-discipline and encourage their child to meet our shared expectations.

On a daily basis, I see a vast majority of parents modelling our high expectations to their children – not just in terms of their learning but in terms of how they behave – this could be through parking considerately outside the school, respectfully speaking to other adults and members of staff, or the way they deal with any issues that arise. This attitude makes the Kents Hill School Community a very special place to belong to.

I also know our shared determination means we will not lower our expectations of the children. Most children – and perhaps most adults – don't like it when things get harder or expectations rise – but at Kents Hill School we have a Growth Mindset where we believe we can learn from failure and embrace challenges instead of shying away from them. By helping us to transmit this attitude to your children you are giving them the very best chance for their future.

We have made a superb start to the year – and with your continued support we can build on these early few weeks and make this a year to remember at Kents Hill School.

Simon Bolger

Children's Reading Records

These records are designed to track the progress children make with their reading. Every time you hear your child read – please take a few moments to indicate this in their reading record. It helps the class teachers to understand how regularly children are reading – and which children can be identified as requiring some extra reading time in school. Did you know that research shows children who read aloud every day acquire new language and vocabulary up to ten times faster than children who read aloud once a week?

Harvest Festival

This year our **Harvest Festival will be on Friday 20th October at Christ the King Church at 2pm**. For this event we would like children to donate items of food. These will be displayed during the event. At the end of the event our display of food will be donated to St. Mary's Food Cupboard.

We ask that children donate non-perishable foods (tins, bottles, packages, jars). They can be sent in any time from Monday 16th October.

School Development Plan

Every year we devise a plan to ensure that the school continues to improve. At Kents Hill School we believe that the smallest changes have the biggest impact. Our School Development Plan focuses on five key areas with a single, overarching, long-term goal: **To ensure the quality of education at Kents Hill School is outstanding**. It is an ambitious long-term goal – but one I know the entire school community has the ability to rise to.

This year we are focusing on the following areas:

Priority 1 – Outcomes for pupils

To secure raised standards in reading, writing and mathematics.

Priority 2 – Quality of teaching, learning and assessment

To secure good progress for all pupils by ensuring that all provision is at least consistently good.

Priority 3 – Personal development, behaviour and welfare

To secure good progress for all pupils by ensuring good attendance, behaviour and achievement.

Priority 4 – Effectiveness of leadership and management

To secure good progress for all pupils by ensuring leadership at all levels of the school is effective.

Priority 5 – Budget and Finance

To secure good progress for all pupils by ensuring the learning infrastructure promotes the school's aims.

Dolce...

Hot Meals

Dolce provide our hot meals in school. Currently, 60% of Reception children take up a hot meal, 81% in Year 1 and 67% in Year 2. If you would like to enquire about hot meals for your child then please see a member of staff in the main office.

You may know that children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meals which is funded by the government. This funding ends when children enter Year 3. If you visit the following link: https://emsonline.milton-keynes.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/ - you can check to see if your family is eligible for free school meals for any older children you may have. In addition to this, if you are eligible, the school can claim for Pupil Premium funding which can be spent on things like extra staff, resources, books, or trips. If every family checked their eligibility it could entitle the school to valuable extra funding which would be spent directly on Kents Hill School's children.

Food wastage

Dolce are taking steps to ensure the amount of food they throw away across schools they serve is kept to an absolute minimum. In the last year, Dolce have had **300,000 meals** ordered and prepared across schools nationwide – **only for them all to be thrown away because the orders were not cancelled**. If every single child on roll at Kents Hill School had a hot dinner – those 300,000 wasted meals would have fed our schoolchildren for **11 years**. I think we can all agree that such huge food wastage is morally wrong.

To do our part to support the food wasted nationally we ask that if you have ordered a hot meal – and you know in advance that your child will not be in school to receive it – **please cancel it before 9.30am on the day**. From January, we as a school will be charged for any uncollected hot meals. By cancelling meals in advance you will be helping to prevent food wastage and the school spending money on uncollected meals, rather than on learning resources for children. Thank you for your support.

Kents Hill Care Club

*Environmental Health recently visited our Care Club to carry out a food hygiene inspection. I am very pleased to say that we achieved a **5 Star Rating** – the highest score possible! Congratulations to all of the Care Club team for their hard work in maintaining such very high standards.*

Kents Hill Friends Association

*We have a small and dedicated group of people who work hard over the year to raise valuable funds for the school to pay for new resources and facilities. This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 10th October at 7.30pm in the Activity Room** at school. If you are interested in joining this fantastic group then please come along and join in!*
