

Kents Hill School

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Newsletter 6
2017/18
16th October
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For more information
and news, please visit:
www.kentshillschool.org.uk

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Amazingly, I am already writing the last newsletter of the first half-term. The half-term has flown past and, when we return, our thoughts will very quickly turn towards Christmas (*Already? I know!*).

It has been a half-term filled with success for the community of Kents Hill School. Some of our achievements include:

- Embedding the Values Curriculum. Gems are regularly awarded to children who show a particular value. They add the gem to the 'Kents Hill Garden of Values' – and we will watch this grow over the course of the year.
- Developing a culture of continuous improvement through teaching everyone about a 'Growth Mindset'.
- Improving attendance. Attendance for Autumn 1 is **97.9%** compared to 96.2% for this time last year. An improvement of 1.7%.
- And don't forget about all the fabulous learning taking place every day!

I would like to thank every member of the Kents Hill School staff for their support this half-term. They have embraced every change I have made and have worked tirelessly to make the school as effective as possible. I honestly believe there are very few schools as happy and positive as ours – and that is because of the staff who come here every day.

Have a safe and happy half-term holiday. The better children (*and adults*) are refreshed – the more effective they will be as learners when we return.

Simon Bolger

Message from Executive Head

Firstly a very big thank you to all the families, children and staff of Kents Hill for making me feel so welcome. It has been delightful to spend time with the children and seeing them working hard and progressing well. The children of Kents Hill have really enjoyed talking about collecting their gems for showing their values. It was lovely to get the opportunity to meet some of our parents at the recent, very well attended coffee mornings so thank you very much for your support. I am normally at Kents Hill on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and at Heronsgate for the other three days. I look forward to continuing to work with you in partnership.

Jane Edwards

Goodbye

On Friday we will sadly say goodbye to **Mrs Jane Slatter**. She has decided to leave Kents Hill to be able to spend more time with her family. Jane has been a valued member of the Kents Hill School Community for a number of years (*as a parent, Learning Support Assistant and governor*) and she will be missed by many (*adults and children!*). I would like to personally thank her for all her efforts in school and wish her and her family all the very best for the future.

Harvest Festival

Parents and families are invited to our **Harvest Festival which will be held this 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.

Stars of the Week

Last week's 'Stars of the Week' were **Kelvin** and **Phoebe** in Year 2, and **Rintaro** and **Abigail** in Year 1. Well done to these children for putting a brilliant effort into all of their learning.

Kents Hill Friends Association

The Friends held their Annual General Meeting last week – and it was great to see some new faces appear in the group. The Friends Association play a vital role in supporting the school. We are very lucky that our Friends Association have registered charity status and that such a dedicated group of people are voluntarily willing to give up their time to support our school.

Over the years, the Friends have raised funds which have paid for things around school such as the playground markings, picnic benches and a piano for the school hall. Without their fundraising, the purchase of these facilities would not have been possible.

Our Friends Association organised a very successful Summer Fete in June. The turnout was fantastic and it was great to see so many people from the local community engaging with life at the school. Already, they are making plans to ensure the next Fete will be even more successful.

To ensure that our Friends Association continues to play a strong role in life at the school – we are asking for more parents to consider becoming involved with the group. If you are interested in joining the Kents Hill Friends Association please let Mr Bolger know and he will point you in the right direction.

Assemblies in School

Whole school assemblies on a Monday morning are planned to ensure children learn about the principles of developing a Growth Mindset, embracing positivity and preparing them for life in modern Britain.

So far this half-term, assemblies have covered the following themes:

- Enjoying the challenge of setting new goals
- Positivity
- Democracy
- Don't give up
- Be curious
- Have a go
- Harvest

When we come back after half-term, our assembly themes will be:

- Bonfire Night and keeping safe
- Remembrance
- Co-operation
- Mutual respect
- Keep improving
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Christmas

Fundraising Stamps

The school has signed up to a fundraising initiative called Fundraising Stamps. This is a brilliant way for us to be able to raise funds for school. The company will buy used stamps from schools in bulk and we will be able to spend the money directly on our children. Please save and donate your used stamps to help us raise funds for the school. Your used stamps can be given in to the main office or to any member of staff on the door.

School Places Information

For parents of children starting school for the first time in September 2018 or children moving into Year 3 in September 2018

Apply on time

-
- Any applications received after this date will be processed in the 2nd round after the majority of places have been allocated
 - A late application therefore means you are much less likely to get what you want
 - Notifications of the places offered will be made on 16 April 2018 (unless your application is late)

Apply online

- You can only apply online between 4 September 2017 and 15 January 2018
- You will be able to view, update, submit / resubmit and check the status of your application throughout the process
- Notification of the place allocated will be quicker and your application will be secure
- You will be able to log on from midnight on 16 April 2018 to view the school that has been allocated

Use all four preferences

- You could disadvantage yourself if you don't use your opportunity to express a preference for four schools
- Each preference is considered in its own right, so give yourself four separate chances, the schools do not know the order you have put the preferences
- If more than one school is able to offer your child a place the order of preference is important, so ensure you list the schools in the order that you want them considered

Choose wisely

- Understand the school's oversubscription criteria
- Improve your understanding of your chance of success by looking at the point when schools turned down applications last year
- Don't assume you will be allocated a place at your catchment school if you don't state it as one of your preferences

The above is information taken from Milton Keynes Council website. For full details about how to apply please visit – <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/school-admissions/admission-arrangements-september-2018-19>

Dates for your diary...

Monday 16th October Individual school photos
Wednesday 18th October Reception, Y1 and Y2 Parent consultation meetings 3pm – 6pm
Thursday 19th October Reception, Y1 and Y2 Parent consultation meetings 3pm – 6pm
Friday 20th October Harvest Festival 2pm
Wednesday 8th November Open Day
Wednesday 15th November Open Day
Wednesday 22nd November Stop and Share – 8.50am
Wednesday 6th December Reception Morning Christmas Performance
Thursday 7th December Reception Afternoon Christmas Performance
Thursday 7th December School Council Elections for Spring Term
Monday 11th December Nursery Christmas Performance
Tuesday 12th December Year 1 and 2 Christingle Service
Friday 15th December Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 15th December 3.00pm School Closes for Christmas Holiday
More information will follow about a number of these dates.
