

Kents Hill School

Kents Hill School, Birdlip
Lane, Milton Keynes, MK7
6HD

01908 240038

kentshillschool@mket.org.uk

Newsletter 7
2017/18
30th October
2017

For more information
and news, please visit:
www.kentshillschool.org.uk

Remember to like us on
Facebook:



Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term. As I said at the end of the last half-term, I am thrilled with the start we have made to the school year. Now that the children have settled into their new classes, parents have met with teachers and class rules have been embedded – it is time to crack on with some serious learning. I know that all of the teachers have planned exciting learning opportunities for the next few weeks and I am looking forward to seeing the children's efforts over the coming weeks.

Simon Bolger

Parent and Teacher Consultation Evening

These were held over the evenings of October 19th and 20th. A huge thank you to all the parents who made appointments and met with their child's class teacher to discuss the start children have made to the year. It is a vital part of how we ensure all children are receiving the correct provision and are on-track to make at least expected progress in their learning. 134 out of 144 children had appointments attended by parents – meaning **93%** of our children had their learning discussed by parents and teachers. We will be writing to all parents who did not attend and/or did not make an appointment to schedule in a time to meet with their child's class teacher as soon as possible. It is expected that all children have appointments made and attended by parents for these consultations – I have set a 100% target for Parent and Teacher Consultation Evening attendance in 2018. I look forward to seeing your continued support help to achieve this.

100% Attendance

Well done to the **71 children** in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who **attended school every single day** in Autumn 1 and **were on time**. This means that **49%** of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children achieved 100% attendance. It is fantastic to see so many children and families making the effort to attend every day and be on time. It really does make a difference to children's learning.

Did you know that if a child's attendance is **90%** for the entire time they are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 that it means they would have missed **57 school days** by the time they leave Kents Hill? This is equivalent to almost an entire term.

We had a number of children who attended school 100% of the time – but on some occasions they arrived after the registers closed and received a late mark. Also, early collections for appointments are counted as absences. There are only 950 learning hours in an academic year so every day and every minute really does count!

“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

Parent Workshop

Some exciting news... On **Thursday 9th November** we will be hosting a parent workshop entitled 'Positivity for you and your family'. It will run twice on this day – **firstly at 2pm-3pm and then again at 5pm-6pm**. It will be presented by Mr Bolger in the school hall. It is an adult only event as we will not have child care facilities at these times.

The session is designed in response to the parent workshop survey sent out in Autumn 1 where parents asked for workshops about how children learn best and mental health and well-being. I am hoping as many parents as possible can attend these events as the messages are a key part of what we are trying to achieve this year at Kents Hill School for all our children.

Harvest Festival

I hope you enjoyed the Harvest Celebration on the last day of the half-term. Thank you for your generous donations. We managed to donate **227 individual items of food** to the St. Mary's Food Cupboard and also raise **£101 for Wear It Pink Breast Cancer Support**. It was great to see so many parents in attendance and the children sang, spoke and performed superbly. My further thanks go to all the adults who helped the children prepare for the big day.

Dates for your diary...

Monday 30th October School reopens for Autumn 2

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

Tuesday 12th December Nursery Christmas Performance (*this is an amended date*)

Tuesday 12th December Year 1 and 2 Christingle Service

Wednesday 13th December Dolce Christmas Meal

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.

Henry Bear and Duggee the Everyday Dog

You may have heard children talking about Henry and Duggee. Henry is awarded to the class who earns the most tokens at lunchtime. This can be awarded for good table manners, politeness, good behaviour on the playground and generally being a good role model. Henry then stays with the winning class all week.

Duggee 'Douglas' the Everyday Dog is awarded to the class with the highest attendance for the week. Duggee comes to school every single day on time band he has his 100% attendance badges to show for it. The same as Henry, Duggee stays with the class for the whole week.

And introducing... **The Golden Brush...** (*oooooh aaaaah*)...

The Golden Brush is quite literally a brush that is gold...! It will be awarded to the class which has the tidiest homebase, shared area and cloakroom. Mr Bolger will inspect the school on a Friday morning and decide who should be awarded The Golden Brush. It will stay with the winning class all week.

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 Uniform – A Reminder

A reminder that our school dress policy is as follows:

- Royal blue sweatshirt, pullover or cardigan
- White, royal blue or pale blue polo shirt
- Black or grey trousers or skirt
- Black shoes (*not trainers*)

Children should not be wearing coloured trainers or hooded tops. It is also important that children have a coat with them in school every day – even if they are dropped off by car in the morning they still go outside for play times!

All items of clothing must have children's names clearly written on.
