



Kents Hill School

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Newsletter 8
2017/18

6th November
2017

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www.kentshillschool.org.uk

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It has been another very busy week in school (*I seem to say that every week!*) and I was really pleased to see the children back in school ready to start the new half-term with the same enthusiasm which they had at the end of the half-term.

Last week in assembly we learned about Bonfire Night and its significance to life in modern Britain. Lots of children enthusiastically told me of the firework displays they had seen over the weekend. This morning's assembly was about Remembrance Day. We found out why we wear poppies and why it is important to remember. I am encouraging every member of the school community to wear a poppy to support and remember soldiers at home and abroad. During Friday's assembly we will have one minute's silence in school to show that we remember. Poppies are available to buy in school from the main office – and children are able to buy them during the day.

There has been some superb learning in school recently. This week I have watched in awe as the Nursery children become master builders in their outside area, also I have seen, smelled and tasted lots of pumpkins in Reception, watched children brim with excitement as they dipped apple pops in chocolate and covered them with delicious toppings in Year 2, and I have been greeted by copious numbers of caped crusaders in Year 1 as well!

My special thanks go to all the staff who played a part in preparing and organising all of these excellent experiences for our children.

Simon Bolger

Stars of the Week

In the last week of Autumn 1, the 'Stars of the Week' were **Aidan** and **Maxymilian** in Year 2, and **Daisy** and **Heidi** in Year 1. The 'Stars of the Week' from last week were **Calum** and **Neeyu** in Year 2, and **Sabina** and **Avuyile** in Year 1. Well done to these children for putting a brilliant effort into all of their learning.

Positivity for you and your family

Come and find out the secrets of happiness and how you can use them to transform your life and your family's lives. This will take place on **Thursday 9th November**. Two identical sessions will run 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. If you haven't done so already,

please use this link to indicate which session you are going to attend:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6YN5XH5>.

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. All parents have been emailed a copy of the advert and invited to respond in a survey to show which session you can attend.

Open Days

On **Wednesday 8th November** and **Wednesday 15th November** we are holding open days around the school. This is a chance for existing and prospective parents to come and see just what it is that makes Kents Hill School so special. There is no need to book an appointment. Four times for both days with Mr Bolger are 9.15am, 11am and 1.15pm.

School Photographs

Orders for school photographs must be returned by **Wednesday 8th November**.

Friday 1st December is an INSET Day

There will be no children in school on this day. If you would like to make use of Kents Hill Care Club on this day then ask the staff in the office about availability.

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.

End of Day Collection Procedures and Safeguarding

At the end of the school day when we release children back to their parents/carers, we always make sure that we can see the collecting parent/carer before letting the child out of the building. Teachers and LSAs are very good at recognising regular parents/carers who collect. If for some reason you are unable to collect and you must make different arrangements to normal – **please let the main office know before the end of the school day**. If it is someone collecting who has never collected before, or is not a regular collector, then **they must have the family password you use at school**. If the collecting adult does not have the password and we do not recognise them, then **for safeguarding reasons we will not release the child into their care**. If you are unsure of your password and want to 'reset' it then please see the staff in the main office. Thank you for helping us keep the children of Kents Hill School safe.

SchoolComms

As communicating with parents is so vital and we know that paper can be so easily misplaced; making information available to you via text and our Gateway App is a fast and efficient way of ensuring you know the latest information as quickly as possible. You can download the app from your app store. However, we can only provide information if we have the correct contact details for you so it is essential that you verify all your details are correct (*and let the school know about any changes too*). Please contact the school office if you have any queries.

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 member of teaching staff – Miss O'Dell or Mrs Pace. 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.

Pupil Premium – *(I would encourage all families to explore this)*

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.

Kents Hill Friends Association

We are excited to announce some upcoming events arranged by the Friends Association.

- Monday 13th November – 2.50pm – in the main playground outside Year 2 – second-hand uniform sale **and** a cake sale.
- Wednesday 29th November – 3.15pm to 4.30pm – in the main school hall – Christmas Craft Event (£1.50 for a pack of exciting craft goodies, and 30p for tea, coffee or juice).



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'.

Dates for your diary...

Wednesday 8th November Open Day

Thursday 9th November Parent Workshop – Positivity for you and your family – 2-3pm and 5-6pm

Friday 10th November Bags 2 School Collection

Wednesday 15th November Open Day

Friday 17th November Children in Need – wear something spotty for a £1 donation

Wednesday 22nd November Stop and Share – 8.50am

Friday 1st December INSET Day – no children in school

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.
