

Kents Hill School

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Newsletter 16

2017/18

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www.kentshillschool.org.uk

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It certainly has been a busy few weeks in school. We have enjoyed some lovely warm sunshine as well as some cold, windy weather over the last few weeks. With this mind, please make sure that you are sending children to school with appropriate clothing. This means coats when colder, and sunhats when warmer. The very changeable weather really means that we need to be prepared for all weather types.

There has been some excellent learning around the school recently. I have seen snails racing and children timing and recording the distance they have travelled. I have read some brilliant recounts of Year 2's performance at The Venue and also some superb writing about dinosaurs in Year 1. In Nursery and Reception, I have really seen the children develop their learning resilience. Most children are able to recognise when something becomes challenging that they are able to adapt their approach to help them be successful. This is a fantastic attribute not only for future school years but also for future life as well!

There are a number of events and important dates this term so please look at the list at the end of this newsletter to make sure you don't miss anything. I look forward to seeing parents in and around school for some of these events in the coming weeks.

Simon Bolger

Welcome

I would like to introduce our new caretaker to all of you. **Mr Neil Trail** has made an excellent start to his new role. He has already completed many 'odd jobs' around the school as well as working very hard to make sure the school site is as clean, tidy and safe as possible.

Year 2 End of Key Stage Assessments

Over the course of May, children in Year 2 will complete their end of Key Stage 1 assessments – more commonly known as SATs. These will take place during the school day and will be led by class teachers. We work hard to make sure that the assessments run as smoothly and stress-free as possible. The types of challenges posed to the children during these assessments will match what they do in their day-to-day learning. We do not tell the children we are doing 'tests' – so please reinforce this at home by not using the word 'test'. Instead, we talk about giving the children 'special challenges'. There are no set days or times for the assessments. We ensure that all children have taken part in the assessments by the end of May. To help us, please make sure your child arrives to school on time every day and that you are supporting their learning at home with daily reading. The entire Year 2 team thank you for your support on this.

Kents Hill Care Club

We currently have spaces available for Kents Hill Care Club during the May half-term holiday. If you are interested in taking up a place at the club for the holiday then please contact the school via the main school office or speak to any member of the Care Club staff.

General Reminders

- *Parking on the double yellow lines around school is not permitted. We have also noticed some parents are parking on the pavements outside the church and shops. This not only causes congestion but also poses a significant health and safety risk.*
- *We ask parents to refrain from using inappropriate language (including swearing) at, or in front of, their children whilst on the school premises. We have high expectations of conduct and behaviour for our children – and we expect the same from all adults.*
- *Parents are responsible for their children until they enter school at 8.50am and when they are dismissed at 3pm. Please make sure you are properly supervising children around the school premises during this time.*

Late collection

*As a school we understand that, in the case of an emergency, on a one-off occasion, any parents might be a few minutes late picking up their child from school. However, we currently have a growing issue with parents regularly collecting their children late at the end of the day and/or after clubs. **School finishes at 3pm** and all children should be collected at that time, unless they are attending a club or going to Kents Hill Care Club.*

This term, we have been keeping a record of those children who are not picked up on time. Late collection is a child protection / safeguarding issue and, if our records show that it is a regular occurrence the school will have no choice but to contact Children's and Family Practices / the Children's Social Care Team.

In addition, having to supervise children who have not been picked up on time obviously means that we have to use time and money that is meant for all children. The office is a very busy area of the school and there is insufficient space for children to be supervised. Likewise, we have now started to keep a record of late collections from clubs / sporting activities. As clubs are optional (and some are over-subscribed), regular late collection will mean that your child loses their place at the club and will not be considered for another club for the rest of the school year.

If you do require after school childcare, then please make the most of Kents Hill Care Club. We are lucky to have them on-site and they provide excellent after school child care facilities.

Attendance

We all know that coming to school every day is really important. If children miss time in school, through absence or lateness, they can find it hard to catch up the next day. This can mean they start to fall behind with their learning. Longer absences, and unauthorised holidays, have an even bigger impact. The current attendance figures for 2017-18 are:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
94.8%	96.8%	96%

Well done to Year 1 who are currently leading the way!

Please remember: for children to make the best progress possible, they need to be in school. Low attendance at school is one of the main reasons that children becoming disadvantaged with learning.

*If your child is sick or has diarrhoea they should be kept off from last bout of illness for 48 hours. **However, if they are just feeling a bit ill (but haven't actually been ill) please send them in.** If they need to come home we will contact you. This is an important "life habit" for them to get into...*

Dates for your diary – more dates will be confirmed as the term progresses...

Monday 7 th May	School CLOSED for Bank Holiday
Tuesday 8 th / Wednesday 9 th May	Nursery parent / teacher consultations
Friday 11 th May	Year 1 assembly
Monday 14 th May	Class photographs
14 th , 15 th and 16 th May	Reception health screenings
Thursday 17 th May	Reception trip to Herrings Green Farm
Friday 18 th May	Royal Wedding Celebration Day – more information will follow...
Friday 25 th May	3pm – School closes for half term
Monday 4 th June	INSET Day – school closed for children
Tuesday 5 th June	8.50am School reopens for Summer 2
Thursday 7 th June	Nursery information evening

Saturday 9 th June	Kents Hill School Summer Fete
Monday 18 th June	Sports Day
Tuesday 19 th June	Sports Day back up
Thursday 21 st June	Reception assembly
Friday 22 nd June	Year 2 Transition morning 1 to Heronsgate
Wednesday 27 th June	Year 2 Transition morning 2 to Heronsgate
Monday 2 nd July	Year 2 Transition morning 3 to Heronsgate
Tuesday 3 rd July	Year 2 trip to Roald Dahl Gallery
Thursday 5 th July	'Moving up to new class day'
Friday 20 th July	Year 2 Leavers Assembly
Friday 20 th July	3pm – School closes for summer holiday
<i>More information will follow about a number of these dates.</i>	