



Kidmore End CE (Aided) Primary School

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18th October 2017



Dear Parents and Carers

We had two lovely events in our school community last week. The first was on Wednesday morning when we were joined by colleagues from the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust to celebrate our conversion to an academy within the trust. The School Council shared a little of the school's history, and we looked to the future considering how we can all play a part in the next stage of our school's development. As always the children sang beautifully and reminded us of the real reason for all the hard work that goes into making our school successful.

The second event on the week was our Harvest Festival on Friday afternoon. Reverend James Stickings joined us and we were both delighted to see Church so full of family members. The children led us in a reflection on the theme of 'rainbow Harvest' which was a fitting end to our work this term on thankfulness and generosity. We collected £191.50 in donations for School Council's chosen charity of Oxfam.

This morning, in our normal school assembly, we talked about our school as a 'treasure box' and what was valuable within it. The children were full of ideas, with a number of contributions from our Foundation Stage pupils. I am so proud of how they have settled into school this term and how they are confident to share their ideas in that whole school setting.

KESA

Thank you to the KESA team for organising last week's discos and for their informative newsletter. This Friday they are hosting a cake sale, and there will also be an opportunity to buy second hand uniform. Do join us if you can from 2.30pm in the School Hall. We thoroughly enjoyed the Puzzle Challenge Day funded recently by KESA and are delighted that so many families joined their children at the end of the day to try out some of the activities.

Parents' Evenings

Bookings for Parents' Evenings for Years 1-6 will open on PMX on Monday 30th October at 4pm. There is a significant amount of information on the school website about our curriculum and how we approach key areas such as Reading and Phonics, as well as our approach to assessment. We realise 10 minutes is a short time, so it is really important that the time is spent talking about your child and their progress. Thank you for your help and support in making these consultations valuable for all of us. Tea and coffee will be available in the Learning Zone and in Year Five so do help yourself if you have a gap between appointments.

Please note that there will be no teacher-led clubs in the week of Parents' Evening. The playground will be open for car parking, so please avoid parking at the New Inn and if your children are with you, please ask them to stay indoors under your supervision as the gates will be open.

Open Mornings

We will be holding Open Mornings for next year's Foundation Stage on November 2nd and November 28th, starting at 9.30am. Please do pass this information on to anyone you know who may be interested in a school place. I will give a short talk and then there will be a tour from our Y6 pupils.

Maths Challenge

Four children from Year Four represented our school recently at a Maths Challenge event at Crosfield School. Well done to Jonty and Raephe, Clara and Lara who all did very well, and thank you to Mrs Jones for taking them.

Football

Our boys and girls football teams played in a tournament at Rotherfield yesterday, with both teams winning their first games and coming third overall. We were particularly impressed by the enthusiasm of all children to play, and delighted to get a girls' team after a couple of years without one.

Anti-bullying week

Anti-bullying week will take place in the week beginning 13th November. This is a national event, with the theme this year being 'All different, all equal'. Mrs Watkins and the buddies will be leading a special assembly on Thursday, particularly talking about what bullying is and how it is different from relational conflict. We will also be looking at our 'No outsiders here' resources and thinking about how we can work together to make our school an inclusive and happy learning environment. Mrs Watkins and I recently attended some training to start the process of become an All Together School – this includes activities to do with the children and staff training and is supported by the excellent [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#).

Trips

There have been a lot of children out and about over the past few weeks – Year Five visited the Victorian Schoolroom in Reading, Year Three visited Ufton Court and came back resplendent in blue warpaint, and Year One have been to Milestones Museum today finding out more about homes in the past. Mrs Ferguson has improved her knowledge of animal husbandry on the Year Two trip to Vines Farm and Year Four had a Greek experience at the Ashmolean Museum. Thank you to all the parents who have joined our school trips and to the staff for organising these learning experiences for our children.

And finally...

I hope you all have a pleasant half term break, and are able to enjoy some lovely autumn weather. Please remember school is closed for staff training on Monday 30th October.

With very best wishes,
Linda Hull, Headteacher

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club has been a great success – thank you to Lucy and her team. There are drop-in places available – if you are interested please email breakfastclub@kidmore-end.co.uk.

Dates for your diary

We have given dates as far in advance as possible, so some may be subject to change.

OCTOBER

Fri 20th **Y6 Sharing Assembly 9.05am**
FS Stay and Play
KESA Cake Sale 2.30pm
Second hand uniform sale
Mon 23rd **HALF TERM BREAK**
Mon 30th **INSET DAY**

NOVEMBER

Tues 7th Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm
Weds 8th Governor visit day
Thurs 9th Parents Evening 3.30-5.30pm
Sun 12th Remembrance Day (Church)
Mon 13th Anti-Bullying Week begins
Fri 17th Y5 Sharing Assembly
Sat 25th KESA Christmas Fair

DECEMBER

Sun 3rd *Christingle Service (TBC)*
Mon 4th Y1/FS Nativity 9.30pm
Tues 5th Y1/FS Nativity 9.30am
Weds 6th Flu Vaccines FS-Y4
Thurs 7th Y2 Nativity 2.15pm
Fri 8th Y2 Nativity 2.15pm
Tues 12th *Christmas Concert 6.30pm (TBC)*
Weds 13th *Christmas Dinner – Juniors (TBC)*
Thurs 14th *Christmas Dinner – Infants (TBC)*
Tues 19th *Church Service 9.15am*
END OF SCHOOL 1.30pm

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Safe Parking and Road Use

I'm sorry to say I continue to receive complaints from local residents about inconsiderate and at times dangerous driving and parking at the beginning and end of the school day. You may have noticed the new banners reminding people about keeping the entrances to school clear, and we have asked our local PCSO to visit in order to monitor the situation.

My advice to residents who make a report to me is to make a similar report to the police. If you wish to report an incident or a near-miss then I am happy to forward them to the police if received by email or in writing.

The Gallowstree Common play area will be officially opened at 10 am on Saturday 21st October. Please come along in your wellies and have a splash about on the new equipment that you helped to choose! Everyone welcome.

Junior Drama Workshop

Queen Anne's school is excited to announce we will be hosting a new Junior Drama workshop on **Saturday 11th November 2017** for girls in Years 5 & 6. This will be led by Mr Rhodri Punter, Head of Drama at Queen Anne's and is free of charge.

The workshop will take place in our Performing Arts Centre where our fantastic school productions take place. Girls are welcome to arrive between 9.00am - 9.30am with the workshop beginning at 9.30. At 12.00pm, girls will perform what they have learned, which parents are welcome to attend. Following this there will be cake and refreshments in The Space, our new Sixth Form Centre. For more information, please email marketing@qas.org.uk

Oxford Philharmonic Family Concert Pirates, Ahoy! – 12 November 2017 Oxford Town Hall, 3pm

Most suitable for ages 4-8

Welcome aboard our swashbuckling pirate ship; be prepared to be taken on a musical adventure across the seven seas! Pre-concert craft activities at 2pm, Concert ends 4pm

Oxford & Cambridge Christmas Singing School

This Singing School will be held at Magdalen College, Oxford on the 20th and 21st December. The theme for the Christmas course will be Christmas Carols and festive music from around the world, from the Medieval to the modern.

We offer short holiday courses for children aged 7-13 who love to sing. The days conclude with a mini concert to which participant families and friends are warmly invited and a longer concert on the last day.

(Note from Mrs Hull – my children have attended this course for the past two years – it is lovely!)

Henley Youth Festival Memories

As part of our 25th anniversary next year, we are trying to compile a book of memories based upon your anecdotes. We would love you to write a short description of a particular time, event or experience during your youth festival life.

We hope that this anthology of memories will include parents and grandparents, performers, sportsmen and women, people who took part in workshops or went to shows, young people who took part in the big musicals and orchestral occasions. It may be a funny anecdote, or the nerves of preparing for performance, your costume or equipment, preparing in the dressing rooms, exhaustion at the end but satisfaction and pride. It can be accompanied by a photograph and details of the year it happened etc.

Spread the word. As things progress we will keep you in touch. Please send your memories to [Alfie Hay alfiehay1@googlemail.com](mailto:alfiehay1@googlemail.com) or The Old School House, Bix, Henley on Thames, RG9 6BY

