



Newsletter

March 2024



Values for March: Courage and Perseverance

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that you and your families are getting ready for a relaxing Easter break. Before we hopefully head for the holiday, however, I wanted to take a moment to update you on the exciting happenings at Kington Primary School this week.

As you know, we have been focusing on the importance of keeping ourselves healthy this week and we have had some fantastic guests join us. Lynne, a nurse, and Shaun, a paramedic, talked to every class about looking after ourselves and what it is like to be a medical professional. Lauren from the fire service educated us all about fire safety and we were delighted to have Alan Ames, The Birdman and Charlotte from the 'Dogs Trust' share their knowledge and passion for animals with us too.

We have also got outside to complete a daily mile, sometimes with our buddy class, and spent time learning relaxation techniques with our yoga teacher Georgie. Each class has looked at the importance of brushing our teeth well and what sort of food and drink affects our tooth health. We even made our own very healthy snacks to try which were delicious!

A big thank you all our lovely guests and thank you to Mrs Hedley for organising the whole week.

It has also been wonderful to welcome so many people to our Parents Evenings this week where pupils proudly shared their books and work. As a staff, we all want to say a huge thank you to all of our parents, carers and friends for your amazing support this term.

Thank you once again and have a great Easter holiday. We will see everyone back on Monday 8th April.

Mrs Bretherton

This half term's Achievement Certificate winners!



Summer Term 2024 - Dates Coming Up

Monday 8th April – All back to school

Wed 10th April – Year 1 Forest School starts for 6 weeks

Wed 10th April – Year 1 Maths Parent workshop 2pm

Thurs 11th April – Year 1 Maths Parent workshop 9.10am

Fri 12th April – Sponsored Bunny Run – Friends KPS

Mon 15th April – School Nurse drop in morning

Tues 16th April – Values Games for some Year 3 and 4 children

Tues 16th April – Year 1 and 2 Swimming starts

Wed 17th April - Parents meetings for London trip 2.30pm and 6pm

Fri 19th April – Year 3 and 4 Swansea Trip

Thurs 25th April – Whole class photos

Thurs 25th April – Parent Forum 2.30pm (All welcome)

Mon 1st May – Early May Bank Holiday

Mon 13th May to Thursday 17th May Year 6 SATs week

Tues 16th May – KS2 E-Safety workshops with classes then to share with parents

Tues 23rd May – Enrichment 5

Wed 22nd May- London Trip

Thurs 23rd May – Hay Festival for KS2

Fri 24th May – London Trip returns

27th May – Half term week

Wed 5th June – Year 6 begin Forest Schools

Wed 12th June – Tag rugby tournament

Fri 14th June – Wear what you like day (bring in chocolate and sweets for Summer Fayre)

Mon 17th June – PC Uxley STAR workshop Y6

Thurs 27th June – Parent Forum 2.30pm

Fri 28th June – Wear what you like day (bottles) Summer Fayre after school

Thurs 4th July – Transition day to high schools

Fri 5th July - KS2 show 2pm and 6pm

Tues 9th and Wed 10th July - Parents evening

Mon 15th July – Y6 Leavers' Party after school

Tues 16th July - Enrichment 6

Thurs 18th July – Year 6 Leavers Assembly to parents

Friday 19th July - End of summer term

Other news...

Friends of KPS

Funds raised:

£832	Christmas Fayre
£63	Uniform sales
£159.39	Xmas Card sales
£674.34	Discos
£324.10	Lottery
£5047.07	Co-Op

Funds paid out:

£200	towards Hay Festival Coach
£337.60	towards Pantomime
£227.99	towards Sea-life rug
£1129	towards school signs
£300	Blist Hill coach
£200	Christmas gifts

We would like to remind you of different additional ways to support our Friends fundraising:

School lottery – weekly lottery draw

The year ahead

Exciting Friends of KPS future events include....

- Friday 12th April our Bunny Run,
- Friday 28th June our Summer Fayre
- 5th December Pantomime

Thank you for your support in attending or contributing to our fundraising events – please feel free to contact us via the school office if you would like to join us.

Attendance News

Our Attendance Class joint winners for this half term were Year 5 and Year 4, both with 95.5%. Congratulations to both classes for huge improvements in your attendance and enjoy choosing your special prize activity!

Please see below for more on attendance as there is currently a government initiative to get children back into school more so they have the best chance of reaching their potential.

Parents Forum

The next Parents Forum will be held on Wednesday 25th April at 2.30pm. Please do come along if you can for a coffee and a chat. We plan to discuss:

- Ways to support transition to new classes and year groups.
- Considering topics for next academic year's Parents Forum.

Values throughout the year

January – Hope

February – Trust

March – Courage and Perseverance

April – Respect

May – Cooperation

June – Responsibility

July – bring all the values together

September – Kindness and Friendship

October – Honesty

November – Peace

December - Understanding

Everyone has been busy earning their values vouchers and beads for showing our values in action. The winners so far are England with 818 beads but the other teams are close behind. The winner of our voucher draw is Karina in Y3 who won the fabulous cricket set kindly donated by Clubsport.



Guinea Pig News

Our lovely guinea pigs, Willow and Squirrel, have been with us now for over a year! In that time, we have clearly seen how having animals in school can bring many benefits and much joy to everyone.

After all their hard work, and the many journeys they have had to make every weekend to be cared for, we have decided to let Willow and Squirrel 'retire' and we are going to look for a 'forever' home for them.

If providing a new home for Willow and Squirrel is something your family would like to be considered for then please come along to meet Ms Deans on **Tuesday 16th April at 3pm** to express your interest.

Here are a few things to bear in mind if you are thinking about making the commitment to look after the guinea pigs on a permanent basis:

- Willow and Squirrel are indoor Guinea Pigs and therefore need to have enough space to be transferred between their cage and their pop-up indoor run. During the warmer months they can be outside during the day, when it's dry, but will always need to be inside at night.
- Guinea pigs need a range of fresh food daily alongside their hay and nuggets.
- Guinea pigs poo and wee a lot! They require daily cleaning of their living areas.
- Willow and Squirrel enjoy interaction with people and thrive from regular safe cuddles and grooming sessions.
- Willow and Squirrel are now about 4 years old and, within the appropriate environment, should thrive until 6 years or beyond, so rehoming will be a long-term commitment.
- As with all pets, there may be a need to visit a vet and certain care tasks like nail cutting need to be completed regularly, so consider this care factor in.

We know the children in school will feel sad that Willow and Squirrel are retiring but the decision has been made with their best interests in mind. They have been a lovely part of our school community and we have other pet plans in place ready to follow the great work that Willow and Squirrel have started. Thank you to all of our families who have looked after them and given them lovely 'holidays'.



Sports News at KPS

Sports news - Our inter-house competition has been table tennis this term and the KS2 children have been really engaged, the winners bravely played in assembly yesterday and it was very close! Sports Council have been running an active lunchtime competition for our KS1 children where they have been trying to throw and catch a ball or get the ball in the egg cup as many times as they can in 1 minute! The winners were announced today with prizes awarded. We have taken part in a Y3 and 4 'Bee Netball' tournament at LHS and represented our school brilliantly. A group of 10 Y5 went to Leominster to be trained as 'Play Leaders' and had an amazing day showing focus and commitment and are going to be working with our younger children after Easter. We have many upcoming events including the Values Games & Tag-Rugby Tournament at Luctonians - look out for news on the school blog in the summer term.



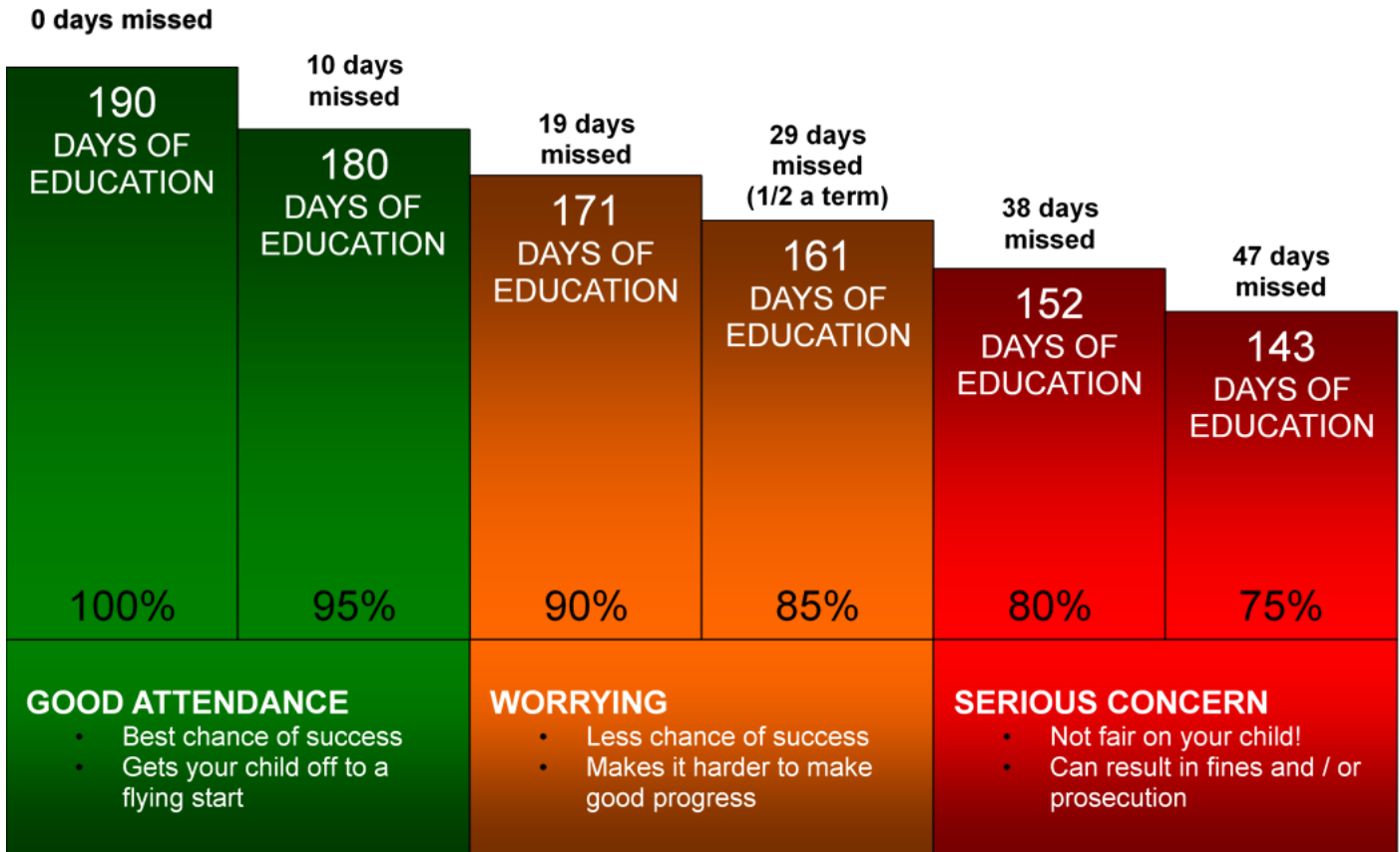
Good attendance for all

Our aim is to promote good attendance for all pupils in our school and to raise awareness of the importance of this to support their development and academic achievement. As parents, we need your help and support to ensure your child reaches their full potential.

Who to contact to report absence or discuss any barriers that may impact on your child's attendance.

- Mrs Bretherton
- Mrs Welson
- Mrs Price or Mrs Lewis in the school office

1 or 2 days a week may not seem like a lot but.....



What does good school attendance look like?

We take school absence very seriously. We identify pupils whose attendance drops below 95% and provide support and intervention to help improve this if required. It is important for parents or carers to work together with the school when a pupil's attendance is a concern.

Providing Reasons for Absence

May we remind you that you are required to contact school every morning of absence. When contacting for a pupil who is off school, we require an actual reason for the absence. The more information you provide will enable us to consider if the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

Medical Appointments – We ask that you make every effort to ensure that any medical or dental appointments are not made during school time. Where this is unavoidable, we request that parents and carers send pupils to school prior to appointments and return to school after. Please put this in writing to the school prior to the appointment and include the date and time. Failing to provide this information may result in the absence being unauthorised. If arriving late for school following an appointment, please ensure that your child is accompanied and signed in by an adult at the school office for safeguarding reasons. School may request that medical evidence is provided to support absences.

Please enjoy these photos from our 'Looking after Ourselves' week





England – Running Trophy

Winners



Quick Notices:

Red Nose Comic Relief fundraiser – thank you for your contributions. We raised a fabulous £212.59.

Forest School will start on 10th April for Year 1. Please send your child in wearing old clothes, coat and wellies with uniform & shoes in their bag to change into.

Swimming lessons for Year 1 and 2 will start on Tuesday 16th April afternoon.

19th April trip to Swansea for Years 3 and 4.

Hay Festival for Years 3 to 6 is on Thursday 23rd May. Some Years 5 and 6 children will also be on the London trip. We will let you know more details as soon as possible.

Have a lovely Easter!

