



King Athelstan Primary School

Newsletter

Date 09/12/15



Here we are in the last weeks of 2015. It has been a great term with a lot of exciting trips and visitors to help make our learning lots of fun. This is a bumper issue so please take your time to read all of our news and key dates for 2016. We would like to wish a Happy Christmas to all children and parents/carers, from the whole team at King Athelstan. Have a happy and safe holiday and New Year and we will see you on January 5th ready and raring to go!

Key Dates

18 th December	Christmas Parties and Christmas Lunch
18 th December	Last Day of term (2.30pm finish)
21 st Dec - 2 nd Jan	Christmas Holiday
4 th January	INSET DAY
5 th January	First Day Back
14 th January	Michelangelo Cake Sale
14 th January 8.55am	Van Gogh Class Assembly
28 th January	Dali Cake Sale
11 th February	Magritte Cake Sale
11 th February	Last day of term (3.15pm finish)
12 th February	INSET DAY
15 th - 19 th February	Half term break
22 nd February	First day back
25 th February	Hockney Cake Sale
4 th March	Mother's Day Assemblies
8 th March	Parent/Carer Meetings
10 th March	Parent/Carer Meetings
10 th March 8.55am	Matisse Class Assembly
17 th March	Matisse Cake Sale
17 th March	Magritte Class Assembly
18 th March	Sports Relief
24 th March	Last day of term (2.30pm finish)
28 th March - 8 th April	Easter break

Office Hours

Please note the school office is open from 8.20am - 4.45pm. Please conduct all your office-related business between these hours. Please do feel free to leave answer phone messages or drop reply slips/orders etc into the post box by the front door out of hours. Many thanks for your support.

Fundraising

NSPCC

Delyth, our NSPCC representative, came in to count the sponsorship money from our 1 mile run. The children raised a total of **£2059.00** for the NSPCC's ChildLine appeal. What a fantastic achievement! This will fund over 500 calls to ChildLine.

Children in Need

We raised a total of **£286.03** from the Mad Hair Day donations for Children in Need on Friday 13th November. Great effort King Athelstan!



Christmas Fair

The annual Christmas Fair took place last Friday, 4th December. It was lovely to see all the parents and carers in school enjoying the decorations and stalls. Santa's grotto was particularly popular, as were the tombola stalls. Thank you all for your donations of sweets, unwanted gifts and bottles and jars on our mufti days this term to support the event. A huge thank you to the PCSA team for organising such a fabulous event. The total raised was in the region of £3000! The younger children are all looking forward to performing their Christmas Productions and everyone is excited about enjoying their Christmas Lunch on the last day of term.

Reminder

All outstanding club payments need to be handed into the school office by **Friday 11th December**. Please remember you must complete an order form if you wish for your child to have a school dinner. This includes pupils who receive Free School Meals.

Homework Exhibition

We would like to thank all children, parents and carers for the fantastic homework that has been produced this term. We are going to celebrate this hard work by holding an exhibition on Monday 14th December, in the main hall. Pupils will be given the opportunity to look at other classes' work during the afternoon. Parents and carers are invited to have a look at the exhibition from 3:15pm onwards. Please can any remaining homework be handed into class teachers on the morning of Monday 14th December.



Homework Review

Thanks again to all the stakeholders who have taken time to feedback about our new homework system. As was stated at the beginning of this term we are looking at ways to further improve homework at King Athelstan. As such, revised guidelines will be issued before the end of term that will be in place for the Spring term.

Attendance

We have continued to have a lot of questions about attendance letters. Thank you for your ongoing feedback. Please be assured that we do not mean to offend parents and carers with our letters. The Government change from 85% to 90% attendance could trigger Education Welfare Officer involvement for many more families than previously and it is important that we update you regularly on your child's attendance. As a school, we are held to account by Governors, the Local Authority and the Government for our attendance data and therefore we must monitor it carefully and work with families to remove barriers to attendance.

We all know that children who are in school every day (apart from when they are too unwell to attend) have a better chance to succeed than those who regularly have time off. We know that, as parents and carers, you feel strongly about this too. Being unwell is unavoidable, however, some children have time off for very minor illnesses or take holidays in term time or are absent without reason. In all cases, we do need to let you know when attendance drops below 90%. If you feel absence has been incorrectly recorded then please speak to Mrs Abdool in the school office - we can easily rectify this and we are happy to chat to you about individual attendance issues or queries.

IXL Celebration

King Athelstan pupils have completed a combined 100,000 questions! This is a fantastic effort - congratulations!



Staffing Changes in Early Years

We are delighted to be able to update you on the staffing arrangements for EYFS from January. As you are aware, Melanie Reilly is moving on to an Early Years Foundation Stage Leader post at the end of this term, and Kayleigh Lee will be going on maternity leave in the early part of the New Year.

Mrs Semina Lukha will be taking over the morning Nursery class, working alongside Jackie and Anna from the beginning of the Spring Term until the end of the academic year. Semina came in to cover the class when Melanie was off sick and is already getting to know the children. She has been in for induction already and can't wait to start officially!

Mrs Eleanor (Ellie) Drake will be taking over Cezanne Class in a job share with Miss Pip Bermingham whilst Kayleigh is on maternity leave. She will be the Acting EYFS Leader. Ellie is joining us from Maple Infants School and brings with her SENCo (Special Educational Needs) Co-ordinator and Acting EYFS leader experience. Ellie is currently on maternity leave after the birth of her second child and will join us for 3 days a week in the Spring Term and 4 days a week in the Summer Term.

Miranda Weanus, who covers EYFS release time, is also moving on at the end of term. We will cover this within the new staffing arrangements.

Thank you to Melanie and Miranda for all their hard work and we wish you all the best for the future. Many thanks for your ongoing support and we look forward to these exciting changes in the New Year.

Thank you PCSA

This term across the school we have had numerous trips and visitors to help support our learning. Many of these trips have been made possible by the support of the PCSA who have given us a total of £1846 to help reduce the cost of trips such as Den Building, Story Storks Visit, GugaFit workshops and IXL. They also help purchase fresh fruit for KS2, helping to keep King Athelstan pupils healthy. A big thank you to the PCSA for all their hard work and commitment to the school.

PCSA Cinema Night

The PCSA will be holding a film night on Thursday 17th December from 3:15 - 5:20pm in the school hall. "Minions" is the film of choice and tickets are priced at £3; which includes popcorn and a drink. This is for children in Years 1 - 5. See you all there!

New Baby

On Sunday 29th November Mrs Zoe Wright gave birth to baby Oscar. Congratulations Mrs Wright! Enjoy your first Christmas together.

