



King Athelstan Primary School



Newsletter

Date 11/03/16



Here we are, already near the end of the Spring Term! The children have had a busy few weeks full of exciting events such as World Book Day which you can read more about overleaf. We are pleased with the progress the children have made in their learning this term and look forward to continuing this wonderful effort in the Summer term. In addition we have attached some feedback from our questionnaires. We hope you have enjoyed the term and we wish you all a happy upcoming Easter break!

Key Dates:

17 th March	Matisse Cake Sale
17 th March	Magritte Class Assembly
18 th March	Sports Relief
24 th March	PCSA Visiting Performance
24 th March	Last day of term (2.30pm)
28 th March - 8 th April	Easter break
11 th April	INSET DAY
12 th April	First Day Back (8.45am)
14 th April	Picasso Cake Sale
19 th April	Class Photos
21 st April	Dali Class Assembly
22 nd April	PCSA Quiz Night
22 nd April	Y1 PCSA "Mini Olympics"
28 th April	Hockney Class Assembly
2 nd May	BANK HOLIDAY (children do not attend school)
5 th May	Monet Cake Sale
5 th May	Monet Class Assembly
9 th - 13 th May	Y6 SATs Week
27 th May	Last day of term
30 th May - 3 rd June	Half term break
6 th June	First day back (8.45am)

Parking

Please can parents and carers avoid parking over driveways/on the corners of Dawson Road when picking up or dropping off. Our school is situated on a busy road and it is important that parents and carers set a good example of road safety for their child/ren. We have had a number of complaints from our neighbours who have not been able to get in and out of their own driveways because of illegal parking. Please allow five minutes extra so that you can park safely or further away and walk safely into school. Thank you for your support in keeping our King Athelstan community safe and respecting our neighbours.

"ParentPay"

Please ensure that you activate your "ParentPay" account as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. You will need this even if you are using PayPoints. "ParentPay" will be used from April 1st 2016 for all school meal bookings. The school office will no longer take bookings for school meals, including menu selections. **If you do not register and book your child's meals online they will not be able to have a school meal.** If you need help with this or access to the internet, please speak to the school office and we will support this process. You need to register even if your child does not currently have school meals as we will be adding trips and clubs at a later date.

All parents/carers **must** register.

Book Donations

Recently we have received some lovely donations of new and used books from pupils in our school for our class reading corners. We are very grateful for the donations and the children are enjoying the widened variety in their class book corners. Pictured is just a few of the classic titles from one of our donations.

Thank you to the parents and carers for these generous donations.



Earth Hour

Saturday 19th March is "Earth Hour". Earth hour is dedicated to finding ways of lessening our electricity usage. The "electricity free hour" is held at **8.30pm** UK time. If you can't do it at this time, any other hour this day is fine. If your family would like to participate maybe you could try playing a board game or going star gazing instead of watching TV? A space satellite will even be taking a picture of our globe to show the reduction in light pollution during this hour! For more information visit:

<https://www.earthhour.org/>

World Book Day

Thursday 3rd March marked World Book Day which was celebrated with lots of enthusiasm by the children and staff at King Athelstan.

The day was full of exciting activities including an assembly with a certificate ceremony for "Best Effort with character costume" and "Best effort in activity." Year 1 said "I love World Book Day because I feel like a real superhero!" Here are some of the wonderful book character costumes and you can also see more on our school website.



Rota Kids

Rota Kids are taking part in the Kingston Mayor's chosen charity event "The Grand Walk" later this month. Rota Kids will be doing a sponsored walk with an elderly person to raise money and awareness in support of the Kingston Hospital Dementia Appeal. Well done Rota Kids - we support you!

King Athelstan Twitter

We have just launched our Twitter account which we will use to promote the engaging learning we are doing at King Athelstan. Please follow us on @KingAthSchool



Learning Pit

In a recent assembly we discussed how we learn and our attitudes towards learning. A helpful way that was used to help the children understand their learning was "The Learning Pit." The analogy is, that if you are going through your learning and everything is really easy (i.e. you are walking on flat ground) you are not being challenged! When you are met with a challenge and it is hard, you feel like you have fallen into the "pit" and can't climb out. Learning is tricky and your brain needs to work hard to achieve success. This is good! "The Learning Pit" analogy explains that the best learning happens in the bottom of the pit, when your mind is full of questions. Slowly as you "climb" your way out of the "pit" you will reach a full understanding. "The Learning Pit" in its more simplified version is the "Learning Line" which children are beginning to understand well. Please use this analogy at home when doing homework as a way to help children see challenge as a positive aspect to learning. Remember you do all your best learning when you are in the "pit."

Try and go into the Learning Pit every day!

Farewell

Mrs Naomi Bain our amazing school administrator will be leaving us on Friday March 18th for a well-deserved promotion. Mrs Bain is looking forward to beginning her new job as Office Manager at Kingston Academy although is sad to be leaving King Athelstan where she has worked for 5 years! We wish Mrs Bain all the best in this new stage in her career and thank her for all her hard work. The care she has provided for our children and support for families has been incredible. We welcome Mrs Anna Cheshire who will be taking over the school administrator role on a temporary basis until we appoint someone permanently.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Sarah Morton, Year 6 O'Keeffe teacher who is expecting her first baby at the end of July. Also congratulations to Mrs Charlotte Coltman, Year 5 Gainsborough teacher, who is also expecting her first baby at the end of August. We love this exciting news!

Support in Year 2

If your child is in Year 2, they may have mentioned that Mr Chandler and Mr Porter have been in their classes a lot! This is because we recognise the challenge of the new end of year expectations and we want to support children as they progress towards them. These members of the Leadership Team will be in core lessons working alongside our fantastic class teachers to ensure all children are challenged and supported to make good progress.

