



Dear Families,

A warm welcome to the new school year and our first Digest, particularly to those families joining us for the first time - welcome to the King Athelstan family! We hope you all had a relaxing and fun-filled summer. It was fantastic seeing all the children arrive on Wednesday in their smart uniforms with happy smiles.

In assembly, we talked about the year ahead and the adventures it might bring. We discussed how some things are predictable and others are as yet



unknown. As usual, we used these pictures to support children in thinking about the challenges in the year ahead. I always show the children this image taken of a man climbing steps in Dubrovnik to talk about the journey ahead and talking one step at a time. The steps may seem steep and we don't know what's around the corner at the top but together we will get there. We used this Tom Hiddleston quote (right) to reinforce this along with images of teamwork.

*"You never know what's around the corner. It could be everything. Or it could be nothing. You keep putting one foot in front of the other, and then one day you look back and you've climbed a mountain."*

~ Tom Hiddleston,

Over the holidays we have upgraded all the old lighting in the school to LED. It has made a huge difference to the learning/working environment. We were able to do this using a ringfenced grant on energy-saving improvements. We anticipate that the investment will match the saving in energy costs over the next 2-3 years.

A couple of reminders: please do not try to communicate with children or pass them things through the school gates or fences during the day. Staff supervising the children are incredibly aware of safeguarding them and will not all know who are family members and who might be strangers. It is also very distracting for children while they are participating in learning/play activities. It is obviously fine to wave if they spot you walking down Swan Path.

Please remember, children are not permitted to have smart watches that are connected to other devices in school. We have had incidents where children have shown images or webpages, sent/received messages or made phone calls, all of which present a safeguarding risk. We just cannot manage these challenges.

In this extremely hot weather, please ensure children have sun cream applied at home in the morning, and that they bring a named sun hat and named, refillable water bottle.

Have a lovely weekend.

Emily Newton, Headteacher

### Concerns about Concrete (RAAC)

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach. We appreciate this may be of concern to some of you and we want to reassure you we will always prioritise the safety of children and staff.

The safety of our pupils and staff is paramount and we are currently working with the Royal Borough of Kingston (RBK) to actively check whether RAAC has been used in the construction of any part of our buildings.

The Royal Borough of Kingston has organised a surveyor to visit so that these checks can be completed quickly. The initial survey will be completed next week.

Should any action be needed you will be kept informed and we will prioritise the continuation of education, ensuring that any impact on children is kept to an absolute minimum. Thank you for your understanding.

## Messages from the Office

- Walk home alone - Children in Years 5 and 6 may walk home alone with permission. There is a form you must complete to give your permission, which can be found on the website and [here](#). If you completed a Walk Home Alone form for your child last year you do not need to complete a new one for this year.
- Exceptional leave - there is a form on the website for you to complete to request exceptional leave for your child. Children should only be taken out of school in an emergency.
- Breakfast Club - all bookings must be made on ParentPay by the **Thursday before the booking**. Please do not just turn up at Breakfast Club as there may not be space available and you will be turned away.
- Lunches - although school lunches are free this year for all children in Reception - Y6, you still need to book their meal choices from the menu. This **must be done by 7am on the day** to guarantee availability, but can be done weeks in advance. Over the weekend please check your child's lunch bookings for next week and beyond.
- School uniform - please name all your child's belongings so that anything misplaced can easily be returned to them. Any unnamed items will be put in the Lost Property box just inside the KS1 playground gate which parents/carers can check at the end of the day.
- Clubs - the clubs letter is being sent out next week and the booking system (by Google form) will go live next Thursday. Please see the letter for all details.

## Road Safety

Please be mindful that Villers Road is busy and often has large lorries and trucks visiting the industrial sites. We have a dedicated zebra crossing and a 'lollipop man' Andy there to ensure traffic stops to let everyone cross safely. As adults we should set an example to the children and cross appropriately on the crossing, not run across a busy road. If you are driving to school, please park in the allocated parking spaces in adjacent streets and be considerate to the local residents, not blocking driveways. Thank you.



## Artists Frames



As you know all our classes are named after artists. The children with their new class teacher are busy creating their class frame - a piece of art depicting the whole class in the style of their class artist. You will be able to see the frames when you come in to school. On the left is Warhol's class frame from 2022.

## End of Year Gifts

At the end of the summer term staff received many lovely gifts, cards and vouchers. Thank you all for your generosity and kindness. It is greatly appreciated.

## Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals. The children in Years 3-6 are also offered free school meals this year as a result of the London Mayor's scheme for 2023/24. Families still need to book their child's choice of meal on ParentPay from the school menu. There is a daily choice of a meat (no pork) or vegetarian option, salad bar, desert and fruit. If you prefer, your child may bring in a healthy packed lunch from home instead. Please remember that we are a nut-free school.

A parent has suggested that they would like to continue to contribute the money they would have paid for school meals to the school for kitchen equipment and running costs as well as school resources. As a result, we have set up an item in ParentPay for this, called "Donate the Cost of a Lunch". Thank you in advance for any payments to this account.



## Summer Reading Challenge

From Mr Barson, Year 6 Teacher and School English Lead:

Over the summer I asked the children to take on the Summer Reading Challenge and if your child took part in this, or would like to count how many books they read, we would love to celebrate them in an assembly next week. Please ask your children to collate the titles and come with a number to their teacher so that we can give them the appropriate certificate. Thanks!



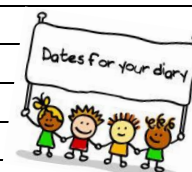
## Lost Property



Please start the new school year by making sure ALL items your child brings into school are clearly labelled with their name, including refillable water bottles. The picture (left) is lost property from the summer term, all of which is un-named. Any named items are regularly reunited with owners, but anything unnamed will be put into second-hand uniform or be disposed of.

## Dates for the Diary

SEPTEMBER	
Monday 11	Y6 Meet the Teacher 3.20pm
Tuesday 12	Y4 Meet the Teacher 3.20pm
Wednesday 13	Y5 Meet the Teacher 3.20pm
Thursday 14	Y3 Meet the Teacher 3.20pm
Friday 15	Y2 Meet the Teacher 3.20pm
Monday 18	Y1 Meet the Teacher 3.20pm



## School Staff

Here is a quick reminder of teaching and support staff who you will meet when the Meet the Teacher sessions start next week. Please note, Nursery and Reception classes will have their sessions in October.

Teachers		
N	Klee	Becks Parker
R	Kusama	Laura Davis/Sarah Wharton
R	Nelson	Jade Gulliford
1	O'Keeffe	Miss Page
1	Van Gogh	Ms Hosseinian
2	Hockney	Miss Smee
2	Matisse	Miss Lee/Mrs Bennett
3	Cassatt	Ms Sarton
3	Da Vinci	Miss Disher
4	Wiley	Miss Versey
4	Mehretu	Mrs Williamson
5	Warhol	Miss Rana
5	Dali	Mr Morris
6	Riley	Mr Barson
6	Kahlo	Miss Meggitt

Our support staff continue to be organised into phase teams, providing the flexibility to best meet the needs of the children.

Teaching Support Staff					
EYFS (Nursery & Reception)	KS1 (Years 1 & 2)	Lower KS2 (Years 3 & 4)	Upper KS2 (Years 5 & 6)	Specialist Resource Provision	Inclusion Team
Barbara Favretti	Mrs Al-Majali	Mrs Willington	Mrs O'Connor	Mrs Crombie	Mrs Bennett
Imogen Flood	Miss Rowles	Ms Al Obaidi	Miss Sa	Miss Brading	Mrs Ramkissoo
Peter Williamson	Mrs Fretwell	Mrs Rizza	Miss Penny	Miss Gillam	Mrs Whooley
Hawa Ali		Mrs Madronero	Ms Naik	Miss Weeks	
Sophie Jackson		Mrs McDonald	Ms Marie	Mrs Nelhams	<b>Speech &amp; Language Support</b>
		Mrs Bradley	Mrs Coelho	Mr Spall	Ceris Heath
		Miss Corotan	Miss Alesrarosario		<b>Pupil Premium TA</b>
					Mr Atkins

### Achievement Assembly



## Achievement Award

Van Gogh and O'Keeffe - whole class for settling in to Y1 so well

Hockney Y2 - Jensen

Matisse Y2 - Izzy

Da Vinci Y3 - Micah

Cassatt - Jessica

Mehretu Y4 - Sophie Rose

Wiley Y4 - Fatima

Dali Y5 - Ava

Warhol Y5 - Poppy

Riley & Kahlo - whole class for stepping up to Y6 expectations

KS1 PE - Archie in Matisse Y2    KS2 PE - Rhys in Mehretu Y4