



# King Athelstan Primary School Newsletter 2 – December 2020



Thank you for your amazing support in this very unusual term. We are so proud of your fantastic children who have worked hard and demonstrated real resilience to any changes that have come their way. The children return to school on **Tuesday 5th January**. Please continue to arrive at school at the time allotted for your children's year groups and adhere to the one-way system to ensure social distancing. If you are driving, please park in legitimate parking spaces and not on yellow lines, school zig zags or across private driveways. Please note that any photographing or filming of children arriving or leaving the school site is not permitted. Children are not allowed to film in school using smart watches or other devices—please ensure that they are not able to do this. Please remember to wear your face covering on the school site and in the queue. Thank you for all the cards, gifts and good wishes we have received. We hope you all have a relaxing break. Happy Christmas to all those celebrating and we wish you a happy and healthy 2021!

## Key Dates for 2020-21

Fri 18 Dec	School breaks up an hour earlier
Mon 4 Jan 21	INSET Day
Tue 5 Jan 21	Children return to school
Tue 12 Jan	EYFS Parent/Carer Workshop (Reading & Writing) 9am and repeated at 7pm
Mon 18 Jan	Y6 virtual Junior Citizen
Thur 21 Jan	KS1 Parent/Carer Workshop
Thur 28 Jan	KS2 Parent/Carer Workshop
March 1-4	SEND Parent/Carer Meetings
March 8 & 10	Parent/Carer Consultations

## World Mental Health Day

We celebrated World Mental Health Day on 9th October with the theme '**Attitude of Gratitude**'. Thank you for all your donations to our chosen charity this year: Kingston Hospital, Mental Health. We raised £464.16. The children made Gratitude Cups and wrote about what they are thankful for...

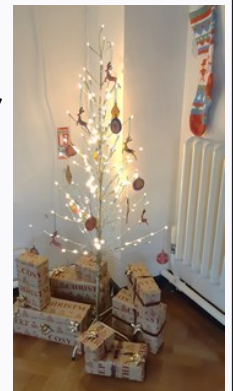
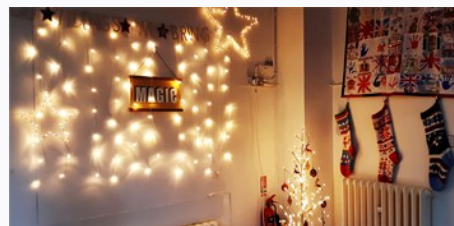


## Parent/Carer Consultations

Thank you to all for making the parent/carers consultation evenings in November such a success. We hope you enjoyed speaking to the teachers via video link. If you haven't had a meeting yet, please contact the school as it is an important meeting and we expect everyone to attend. Arrangements have been made for Da Vinci Class separately.

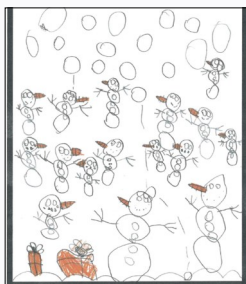
## Christmas Decorations

We had a lovely surprise when one of our parents, Mr Chapman, decorated a corner of the hall with wonderful Christmas decorations, a random act of kindness courtesy of Not on the High Street online store. Thank you so much!



## Christmas Cards

Every year, the PCSA runs a fun competition and the winning entry is the official school Christmas card. This year's winner is Gabi in Matisse Class, Year 2—Congratulations! She won some lovely art materials, which were presented during the class achievement 'assembly'. There are five runners up who also won a prize: Christina in Wiley, Zakariya in Van Gogh, Rudi in Wiley, Harrison in Warhol and Khaled in Dali. Well done all!



## Co-Op Donation

The Co-Op Food store on Lower Marsh Lane raised £200 and very kindly decided to donate it to King Athelstan to help with the increased costs associated with COVID-19, such as extra soap and paper towels. Thank you to Kiran Couto, Store Manager, his staff and all the shoppers who donated.



## Contact

The school office remains closed to parents/carers. All visitors are booked in advance. General enquiries/prospective parents and carers who want to book an online tour: [amin@kingathelstan.rbksch.org](mailto:amin@kingathelstan.rbksch.org) To notify of a change of arrangements for a child: [messages@kingathelstan.rbksch.org](mailto:messages@kingathelstan.rbksch.org). Please email wherever possible, as some staff are working off-site. The telephone number in case of emergency is: 020 8546 8210.

## New Baby

We are delighted to share this photo, from Mr Tom Channing, Wiley Class Teacher, of his baby son Finley James. Finley arrived at the end of half-term on 31st October, weighing 4.3.kg/9lb9oz! He is keeping his mum and dad very busy.



## Amazon Wish List

Apologies, in the last newsletter we left out the link for the Wish List! Here it is: <http://amzn.eu/iVtYjlt>

We have recently received exciting packages of ice packs, tennis balls, and whiteboard pens, all very gratefully received. If you do make a purchase, please attach a note so we know who it is from and can thank you properly!



## Children in Need

King Athelstan raised £463 for Children in Need by wearing spotty accessories. There were some wonderful creations! Thank you to all who contributed so generously.

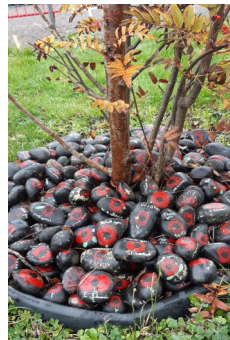


## Soap & Handtowels

We are currently having to spend approximately £400 per week on additional soap and hand towels. We are not able to put these items on our Amazon wish list, but if anyone would like to make a donation, there will be an item on ParentPay. Any contributions are gratefully received. Thank you so much.

## Remembrance Day

The whole school stopped whatever they were doing at 11am on 11th November to observe the national two minute silence to remember those who have given their lives during conflict. The older children will also remember when we painted over 300 Poppy Stones in 2018 to commemorate the centenary of World War One, and to say thank you. The stones have the names of some of those who lived locally in Kingston and Surbiton and gave their life in The Great War 1914-1918. They are arranged around the tree by the bike shelters.



## Staff News

This term we said goodbye to Pip Bermingham from Nursery who has been covering Kayleigh Lee's maternity leave. Kayleigh returned to Klee Class on 23rd November. Sunita Jogani also returns to Nursery on a part-time basis. We also say goodbye to teaching assistant Mrs Tanya Sims. Good luck to Pip and Tanya, and welcome back Kayleigh!

## Wellbeing Assemblies

This term and next, Ms Govan's virtual Inclusion Assemblies will be focussing on the theme of 'happiness' in order to promote wellbeing within the school community. We are using resources from 'Action for Happiness' to share with the children 10 strategies to improve their happiness and wellbeing, with one strategy shared in each assembly. These are then followed up and reinforced with posters representing each strategy around the school. We have attached a summary poster to this newsletter for your information. Action for Happiness have a wealth of free wellbeing and self-care resources which you may find helpful for yourselves or your family members during these challenging times:

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



## The Red Box

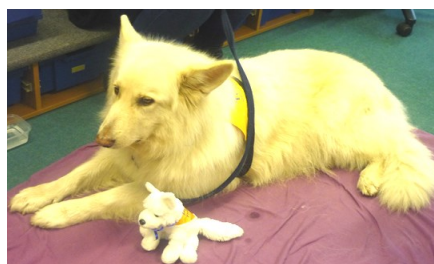
In Wiltshire Room with the Nurture Team we have a Red Box which contains sanitary protection that girls can access whenever they need to. The red box has a selection of products, as well as tights and spare underwear, so that girls can take whatever they need to ensure they are happy, clean and confident for the whole month. The boxes are made up of donations so it is completely free to schools. Girls can just ask staff for the "Red Box" when they need it.

## Extra-Curricular Clubs

Unfortunately, there will be no after or before school extra-curricular clubs for the foreseeable future. We are also unable to offer school trips or swimming lessons. We continue to hold a provisional booking for the Y6 residential trip in June 2021. YMCA and Breakfast Club continue as usual.

## Albus has retired!

Albus, our Pets As Therapy (PAT) dog, retired recently. Albus has spent hundreds of hours in school, attending assemblies, listening to children read and letting people stroke his fantastic coat. He is a real gentle giant. The school bought him a cosy new blanket as a leaving present and he received an achievement certificate! Huge thanks to Kim, his human, for accompanying him on all his adventures. They will be missed.



### Y6 Press Conference

Year 6 got very involved in all things unexplained when a UFO was spotted over the school. A press conference was held and all the reporters set to work to find out the details and try to explain the unusual event...



### Graham Child Christmas Concert

Four children from Year 6 made a recording of a poem by Dylan Thomas, which was included in the virtual Christmas Carol evening on 2nd December. This local charity, along with the Kingston Rotary Club, regularly supports children at King Athelstan to attend the annual Y6 residential trip. Well done to Thea, Ektoras, Ibrahim and Eve who all read beautifully.

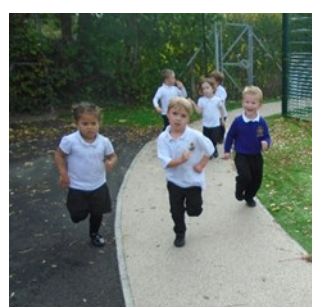


### King Athelstan Mini Marathon

Children from Reception to Year 6 took part in the Mini London Marathon held mostly during their PE sessions between 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> October. They all completed 2.6 miles on our new running track at school. A fundraising page was set up at Virgin Money Giving for any sponsorships and the final amount raised was a massive £2790. Thank you to all who donated. All proceeds raised are going to support the further development of the Outdoor Learning Environment at our school. Each child who completed the challenge was awarded a well-deserved medal and a certificate template was emailed to all so that it could be personalised at home. Well done to all participants and to Mr McLaughlin for all his organisation.

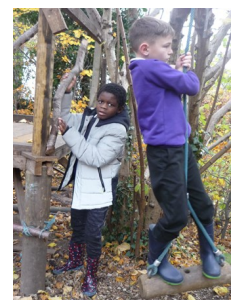


Cassatt Class with their medals



### Forest School

Forest School is a unique educational approach that gives young people increased contact with, and knowledge of, the natural world, which enables their holistic personal development. It offers opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self esteem through different types of learning in the environment of a woodland. It is child led and designed to be fun. It allows our children to achieve and, most importantly, grow at their own pace. This helps foster resilient, confident, independent and creative learners that go on to use their new skills in the classroom environment. Our local Forest School is at St John's Primary School, and currently a group of Y5 children are attending once a week. As you can see, they are making the most of their time there!



### Parking

Please ensure that you park legally and responsibly at drop off and pick up times. We have had several incidents recently where residents' cars were blocked in as parents/carers had parked across driveways. Also, a small number of parents/carers continue to park illegally on double yellow lines increasing the risk for our children trying to cross safely. Please be considerate and follow the rules.



# Wellbeing Poster

Ten keys to happier living



**GIVING**



Do things for others

**RELATING**



Connect with people

**EXERCISING**



Take care of your body

**AWARENESS**



Live life mindfully

**TRYING OUT**



Keep learning new things

**DIRECTION**



Have goals to look forward to

**RESILIENCE**



Find ways to bounce back

**EMOTIONS**



Look for what's good

**ACCEPTANCE**



Be comfortable with who you are

**MEANING**



Be part of something bigger

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS