

King Athelstan Primary School

Newsletter 1

Monday 16th September 2013


Welcome Back!

What a great start to the year! The children have all returned so happy, positive and ready to learn. It has been a delight to see each class settle so quickly with such enthusiasm. What a perfect environment to say a big 'hello' to all the new families who are, and will be, joining us in Nursery, Reception and in other year groups across the school. We are really pleased you have chosen to be part of our ever growing school community. The aim of our newsletters is to keep you informed about the workings of the school, special events and how you can support your child's learning at home. This year we will be focusing on raising standards in writing and maths across the school. We will be encouraging the children to use and apply their maths skills across the curriculum and developing every child's passion for reading and writing through a rich and lively curriculum. The school has invested in a new home reading scheme - it should be arriving in the next few weeks. Watch this space for updates and hints and tips about how you can help at home!

Autumn Term Dates:

Monday 23 rd Sept	Year 3 and Year 4 Swimming Starts 8pm PCSA Meeting- all welcome	
Thursday 26 th Sept	Da Vinci Cake Sale	
Friday 11 th Oct	Bags to School collection PCSA Foundation Stage Tea Party (3.20pm)	
Thursday 17 th Oct	O'Keeffe Cake Sale	
Wednesday 23 rd Oct	Individual class photos	
Mon 28 th Oct-Fri 1 st Nov	HALF TERM	
Thursday 7 th Nov	Van Gogh Cake Sale	
Tuesday 12 th Nov	Parent/Carer Evenin9 (3.30-5.30pm)	
Thursday 14 th Nov	Parent/Carer Evening (5.00-7.00pm)	
Thursday 28 th Nov	Governor Visit Day Parent Forum - all welcome (2pm)	
Friday 29 th Nov	Michelangelo Cake Sale	
Friday 6 th Dec	PCSA Christmas Fair	
Friday 20 th Dec	End of Term (2.30pm)	
23 th Dec - 3 rd Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	

Other Useful Dates for the Year:

Mon 6 th Jan	Start of Term - INSET	
Tuesday 7 th Jan	Children back at school	
Thursday 16 th Jan	Kandinsky Cake Sale	
Mon 17 th - Fri 21 st Feb	HALF TERM	
Friday 4 th April	End of term (2.30pm)	
Mon 7 Apr-Mon 21Apr	EASTER HOLIDAY	
Mon 12 th -Fri 16 th May	Year 6 SATS Week	
Mon 26 th -Fri 30 st May	HALF TERM	
Friday 11 th July	INSET DAY	
Wednesday 23 rd July	End of term (2.30pm)	

Please note: Two other INSET days TBC

Class Assemblies will start on Thursday 17th October. A list of classes and dates will be sent out in the next newsletter.

These assemblies will be held at 8.55am - parents and carers are welcome to come along and see what their children have been up to.



Polite Reminders

Walking Home - If you would like your junior aged child to walk home alone, please complete a permission slip available from the office. Please remember that only secondary aged children can collect younger siblings.

Lunch Boxes - If your child has a packed lunch please can you make sure that he/she arrives at school with their lunch every day. A significant number of lunches are being dropped off later in the day disrupting the staff in the office. Thank you for your support!

Early Arrivals - We have noticed some unaccompanied children getting to school seriously early. As staff are in meetings and preparing for the school day we are unable to ensure these children's safety. Please be aware that we have a Breakfast Club available to support parents who need to get to work early. Pop into the office for more information.

Toys and Balls - We want your children to be happy at school - please do not let them bring in any toys or balls unless they have been asked to do so by a member of staff. Items from home can cause unnecessary worry - they will be taken away and will need to be collected from Mrs Fairweather by an adult at the end of the school day. There are plenty of activities in school to keep the children busy - there is no need to bring anything.

Staffing Update:

We are delighted to inform you that Naomi Phillips, in Year 6, got married during the Summer term and will be using her married name, Mrs Ahern, in school from now on. Sadly, Wendy Wilman and Hannah Davidson will be leaving us at the beginning of October. Wendy has secured a position working as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA). We are delighted for her and know she will do an amazing job. Hannah has finally realised her dream of joining the RAF. This is something she has been working towards over the last couple of years. We are delighted by her success! We wish them luck for the future!

School Uniform

We really believe that smart children are in a better frame of mind for taking their learning seriously. It is lovely to see so many of the children looking so smart in their new uniforms. Please make sure your child is wearing black school shoes (not trainers or trainer-like shoes) and grey, black or white socks/tights. Please ensure that they have their shirts tucked in and that they are not wearing any nail varnish or earrings other than studs. To help prevent the spread of head lice we recommend that children with long hair have it tied back. Please support us with this.

Thank you for your patience when buying uniform from the school office - it has been very busy recently! From this week we will be having an allocated time for the office to sell school uniform - **every Thursday afternoon from 2.30pm**. Please ensure you submit a completed order form (available from the office) along with the correct payment - where possible - in a clearly named envelope.

PE Reminders

We want every child at King Athelstan to have healthy bodies with healthy brains! Help us keep your children active. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school every day. All children need to have:

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black shorts
- Black plimsolls or trainers
- Stud earrings covered or removed

During cold weather some children may wish to bring in plain black tracksuit bottoms and a plain black sweatshirt.

Thank you for your support with this!



Extra Curricular Clubs

We are committed to giving the children experiences outside of the normal school day. We recognise that these activities give the children the chance to develop different skills and confidences. We are delighted to be able to offer a wide range of clubs this year - dance, football, tennis, drama, maths challenges and choir...to name a few. A letter has gone out recently. Can we remind you that we are charging £10 per child per term for each club that is run. These funds will help us to provide equipment to run clubs. If your child is Pupil Premium (have received a Free School Meal in the last 6 years) they are entitled to join one school club for free. Please see the school office for more information.

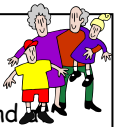


HELLO! Nurture Team **HELLO!**

We recognise that children sometimes find school a little overwhelming for a number of reasons. We are delighted to be able to offer children additional support through our full time Nurture team - Denise Ramkissoon and Tracey Whooley. They have a varied role throughout the school, from learning mentors to small group nurture support. They work closely with class teachers and the senior leadership team to ensure every child is 'ready to learn' when they are in school. As part of their Nurture role they will be out in the playground every morning before school. Please feel free to have a chat with them if you have any worries or concerns about your child's school life. We are keen to build on the excellent relationships we have with our families and support each child. Happy children make successful learners!

Help Us Keep Your Children Safe

A reminder to KS1 and KS2 parents/carers - when you collect your child from the KS1 playground the end of the day please stand behind the fading blue line. This will help us keep track of the children and ensure that they are dismissed to the correct adult. Thank you for your support. Year 1 will begin to be dropped off and collected from the doors in the KS1 playground from Monday 23rd September.



EYFS Update

As your children settle please do not hesitate to talk to Karen or one of the team if you have any feedback, questions or concerns.

Can all children please come to school with a waterproof coat as we play outside come rain or shine!

A reminder - All items of clothing should be NAMED - we want to make sure that each child goes home with the correct pieces of uniform!

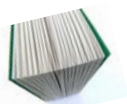
Look out for letter giving dates for 'Stay and Plays' and 'Welcome Meetings'. We look forward to seeing you there!



Inspire Our Young Writers! Waterstones Author Events

Wednesday 18th September at 4pm - an in store book signing with Oliver Jeffers author of 'How To Catch A Star' and 'Lost and Found'.

Sunday 29th September at 2pm - an in store signing with Cressida Cowell, author of the How to Train Your Dragon series.



Get Ready For Homework!

Homework has started - help your child to get organised by finding a quiet space for them to work. Please encourage them to hand it in on time! When we work together we can make a difference!

