



Mrs Mastrocola's Weekly Digest Issue 5 - Friday 8th October 2021

Dear Families,

We welcomed prospective new families to our Virtual Open Morning this week for families new to King Athelstan or children eligible to start our Nursery or Reception classes in 2022. There is another one on 21st October at 1.30pm. If you are aware of any families who might be eligible, please do let them know as 'word of mouth' is often the best recommendation! Last year 210 applications were received for 60 places so it is important that applications are made as soon as possible. For Y6 families don't forget that the closing date for applications for secondary school places in September 2022 is **31st October 2021**.

As well as a number of cases of COVID, we have also had many children in school who have unpleasant coughs and colds. With the complications with COVID, it is vital that children showing symptoms are tested - if a child is unwell they should not be in school. This allows the child a chance to recover and protects all in school. It is really important that everyone plays their part - by doing so our school will be able to 'Stay Safe and Stay Open':

- ✓ if your child is unwell with symptoms like fever, headache, cough or a change to their sense of taste or smell, they should not be in school and you should arrange a PCR test
- ✓ remember that 40-70% of children have no symptoms so the twice weekly rapid flow tests are so vital for your family. Test kits are available from the school office.
- ✓

Have a lovely weekend - best wishes,

Lucy Mastrocola, **Acting Headteacher**

World Mental Health Day

It has been strange in school today to see everyone wearing green tops! This is to help celebrate our Super Learning Day to coincide with World Mental Health Day. The children have created 3D sensory gardens to take home. They have also been taking part in 'mindful' activities throughout the day. Any mufti contributions can be paid on ParentPay (World Mental Health Day donation) and will go towards the ongoing refurbishment of our outdoor spaces and building a sensory garden in the KS1 playground which will be so wonderful for the children's wellbeing.

London Marathon



PE teacher Mr McLaughlin ran the London Marathon last Sunday in the fantastic time of 3 hours and 45 minutes to help raise money for PCSA's Big Outdoors Project, redeveloping our outdoor learning environment and KS1 playground. It was his first ever marathon, but might not be his last... He has also taken the whole school from Nursery right up to Y6 through their mini marathons over the last couple of weeks, running and walking 2.6miles around our running track. Well done everyone!

It is still not too late to sponsor Mr McLaughlin here :

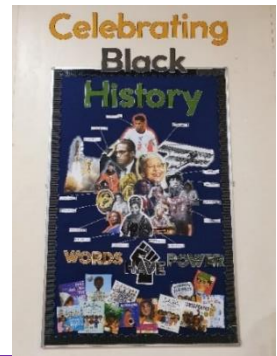
<https://www.givey.com/mrmclaughlinsmarathon>, or the children, on:

<https://www.givey.com/kalondonminimarathon>. The marathons have

already raised over £3000! Thank you so much for your donations and for your support.

Black History Month

October is Black History month and at King Athelstan we are celebrating by looking at how to embed Black History into our curriculum. Mr Barson started the celebrations with an introduction to our new and permanent display board which proudly shows the contribution many amazing figures from the black community have given throughout the ages. Further events will unfold across the month as we look to make Black History a mainstay in our curriculum. We will be asking you and your children to have an input on what Black History we teach and also a celebration within our lessons of historical figures.



NSPCC PANTS Rules

This week Ms Govan did a special assembly, as part of our PSHE curriculum, on the NSPCC's PANTS rules for keeping yourself safe. The rules are:

P - Privates are private

A - Always remember your body belongs to you

N - No means no

T - Talk about secrets that upset you

S - Speak up, someone can help



More information is on the NSPCC website, along with the very catchy Pantosaurus song!

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

House Competition

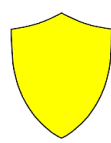
The winner of our House competition this week is **Yellow House - Cambridge** with 34 points!



Villers (33)



Dawson (31)



Cambridge (34)



Hawks (31)

Securing Good Attendance

Overall attendance this week was 95%.

Only 3 out of 16 classes secured greater than 96% attendance and we need to do much better next week!

Every school day counts!

Well done to **Hockney Class**, this week's highest attending class once again.

1 st	Hockney Y2	97.4%
2 nd	Mehretu Y4	97.3%
3 rd	Van Gogh Y1	96.8%
4 th	Dali Y5	95.2%

PCSA News

The Christmas card designs should all have been returned by now so that the PCSA can get them off to the printers. The proofs will be back soon and you can order the cards, keyrings and other items in time for Christmas.

The first cake sale of the year will be on **Friday 15th October** in the KS1 playground at pick-up time, hosted by Y2. The PCSA will also be holding a uniform sale at the same time, so please take a look and save some money!

The PCSA is always happy to welcome new volunteers to help with events or by becoming a class rep. Please contact kingathelstanpcsa@gmail.com for more information.