



Dear Families,

We hope you have had a chance to read the school's Ofsted report that we sent to families by email yesterday. Thank you to those who emailed us back or spoke to us on the gate with such lovely messages of support. Please also have a look at our most recent outcomes which are on the school website.



Many of you will be aware of the significant challenges around school funding and will be following press reports around this. This is a national issue and relates to many aspects of the budgets allocated to schools, but most importantly, the inadequate funding for SEND. On top of this, we have sky-rocketing energy costs and an unbudgeted although well-deserved pay increase for staff to contend with. The school always budgets for pay increases - this year we were advised to budget for a 3% increase. It is likely that the increase will actually be between 5 and 10% across different staff. To be clear, the pay awards are not yet finalised, but are unfunded by the Government, and were announced well after the current budget was set and already part way through the financial year. They are likely to cost the school in the region of an additional £100k. We are currently writing a deficit recovery plan to address the huge and ongoing shortfall in funding and will update you in due course.

On Monday we will be talking about Harvest and about the collection we are making for the Food Bank. Donations are entirely optional and are welcome from Tuesday - Friday morning next week. Thank you in advance.

Emily Newton
Headteacher

International Day

Today we have seen some wonderful, colourful outfits from around the world as the children enjoyed all the varied International Day activities. There were also some excellent 'Culture in a Box' which we put on display in the KS1 playground alongside the Food Market. Thank you so much for all those who donated food items which were sold with the proceeds going towards the Big Outdoors Project to help fund the refurbishment of the KS1 playground. Approximately £165 was raised - we will give the final count, along with photos next week.



Uniform and Snacks

Children look so smart in their school uniforms. Please remember that PE uniform is plain black shorts/jogging bottoms/sports leggings (not fashion leggings), and not grey or patterned ones. Trainers may only be worn with PE uniform on the days when children have PE at school (or from next week when they are attending a school sports club). Otherwise, school uniform requires black school shoes, not boots. Children should wear plain black/grey/white socks or tights (not leggings) and not multi-coloured or patterned ones. We currently have a number of children who are wearing trainers with school uniform - this is not permitted.



If your child requires a reasonable adjustment to be made for medical or SEN reasons then this must be approved by SLT.

Children may bring a piece of fruit or vegetable to eat at break time. We do not permit other snacks, such as crisps, sweets, biscuits, chocolate or cereal bars.

Please remember that we are a **nut-free school** as we have children with severe nut allergies. No nuts may be brought onto the school site. Thank you.

First Aid - Bumped Heads

If a child bumps their head (e.g. bumped into another child/bumped into the climbing frame) a member of staff will always call parents/carers to inform them as part of our First Aid policy. These phone calls are precautionary courtesy calls to let you know so that you can monitor them at home and check for any signs of concussion which may appear later. Each child will bring home a Bumped Head Notice with further details as well. Any serious head injury will always be dealt with immediately, and with families' involvement.

Bikeability

We run a Bikeability programme for children in Y5 and Y6 at King Athelstan. It is organised through the Environment Service at the Royal Borough of Kingston and is funded by the Department for Transport. We currently offer Bikeability Level 1 and Level 2 training in the summer term.



What is Bikeability?

- Bikeability is designed for children who have a reasonable control of a bicycle
- Children must have a roadworthy bike (air in the tyres, working brakes and chain) and a helmet
- Children learn control skills in off and on road situations
- Children will be taught about road position and how to communicate with other road users
- Visit the Bikeability website for more information : <https://bikeability.org.uk/>

Several families have already signed up their child in Y5 or Y6 for a course this academic year, but we still have some more spaces. If you would like your child to be considered, please complete the form here and Mr McLaughlin will be in touch.

Year 5: <https://forms.gle/x9gqddD2wo7d8tmr6>

Year 6 : <https://forms.gle/3sZcoCazULBM2nQVA>

Eco Warriors

Our Eco Warriors lead the school in developing environmental awareness, introducing eco-friendly initiatives and encouraging everyone to make more sustainable decisions on a day to day basis.

The children attended an assembly on Wednesday 14th September which explained what Eco Warriors do and how the children might become involved. The Eco Warriors discuss world issues such as air pollution, deforestation, the threat of plastic consumption and global warming. They will meet regularly to implement the King Athelstan Eco Code, develop an action plan for areas we feel we can tackle and share ideas with their classes, school and the wider community. Children have been invited to apply using the Eco Warriors application form (attached in a letter sent earlier this week - KS1 or KS2). All applications should be returned to school by **Wednesday**



28th September to their class teachers or online by email to the admin email address:

admin@kingathelstan.rbksch.org. The successful applicants will be announced after the selection process is completed.

Black History Month

Black History Month is coming up in October, and we will be spreading awareness of the importance of this in assemblies and in lessons. Our mission over the last few years has been to not only celebrate the amazing and undervalued contribution of Black History in the month of October, but also to embed it more firmly within our curriculum permanently, so that children who come to King Athelstan feel proud of their communities and are well represented. We already focus on: ensuring that a display board in the hall celebrates local and famous members of the black community; delivering lessons focusing on historical figures from a range of countries and cultures; collaborating across the curriculum to look at how members of the black community have influenced them e.g. inventors and mathematicians. We continue to strive to represent our school community in the resources we have and the lessons we deliver. We welcome suggestions and feedback from parents/carers and will be collaborating more closely in the future.



Parent/Carer Evening and Drop in Sessions

Thank you to those who joined the meet the teacher sessions over the last few weeks. Now that all of the sessions have been completed, we will be adding all of the slides to Google Classroom for those parents and carers who could not attend. If you have any questions about any of the information please speak to your child's class teacher.

We will be holding parent/carers evenings online slightly earlier this year, to allow teachers to discuss children's progress and settling sooner. We will then be having drop in sessions for parents and carers later this term to see their child's classroom and their work books as we know that parents are keen to come into school when possible too.

Drop off and Pick Up

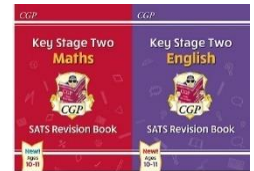
It takes time at the beginning of the year for children to settle into their new classes and particularly for Nursery and Reception children to get into the routine of saying goodbye and lining up in the mornings. Please say goodbye to your child in the line *outside* and hand over any belongings, before they get to the gate, so that you have plenty of time to say goodbye and so that the line can keep moving. Both the EYFS and KS1 gates are frequently blocked whilst these exchanges happen. As soon as you have dropped off your child at the gate, please leave the gate area and follow the one-way system round to the car park, as sometimes seeing you waiting can cause more stress for your child. Please be reassured that you do not need to wait until your child has entered the building as both entrance points are well staffed.

Nursery and Reception families dropping off older siblings can line up at the KS1 gate and wait for the 8:40am opening.

At pick up time, once you are through the KS1 gate and have picked up your child/ren, please follow the one-way system through the car park (this includes to pick up scooter and bikes). Do not come back through the KS1 blue gate - this creates unnecessary congestion. If parents and carers are worried about the queue being too busy at 3:15pm, families are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to come towards the end of the pickup slot (3:20pm) when the queue has subsided. It really does die down after the initial 3:15pm rush; this is also a better opportunity to speak to class teachers with any urgent matters, as most people have gone. The gates will be closed between 3:20 and 3:25pm.

Y6 CGP Books

Y6 CGP revision books for SATs can be ordered via ParentPay until 7th October, at a school discounted rate. There are three books covering maths, reading, and grammar revision for Y6 to complete at home. We highly recommend these revision books, as they cover everything in the new curriculum and will help your child to get ready for the rigor of secondary school.



Baby Davis

We are pleased to announce the arrival of Laura Davis' baby Dylan last Saturday! He weighed 7lb 2oz. Mum, Dad and big sister Sophie are all well and busy looking after him. We hope he can come and visit us soon.



Contact Details

Please make sure that school has the correct telephone and email details for you and any other contacts for your child. Please also ensure that you check your junk mail as several parents/carers have said they have not received email communication from school, only to find it has gone into a junk folder. Thank you.

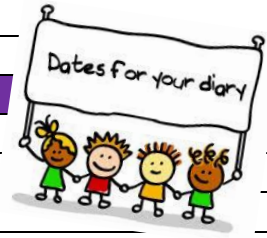
Harvest Festival Reminder



From Tuesday 27th - Friday 30th September there will be a table outside where any donations can be left for the Kingston Food Bank. Ideal items are: breakfast cereals, pasta sauces, tinned vegetables, tinned meat, rice and sponge pudding, UHT milk, squash, household cleaning products, shower gel, personal hygiene products and sanitary wear. Thank you.

Dates for the Diary

SEPTEMBER	
Mon 26	Clubs start this week
Tue 27-30	Harvest Festival donation of items for Food Bank
OCTOBER	
	Black History Month - information to follow
Mon 10	Mental Health Superlearning Day
Mon 10	A Day in the Life of a Nursery Child - online at 4pm
Tue 11	A Day in the Life of a Reception Child (Kusama) - online at 4pm
Tue 11	A Day in the Life of a Reception Child (Nelson) - online at 5pm
Mon 17	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings 3.30-6.30pm
Wed 19	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings 4-7pm
NOVEMBER	
Tue 1- Fri 4	SEND Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings
Mon 14- 16	Parent/Carer Book Looks. Dates to be confirmed



Community Notices

Teddington School are looking forward to welcoming Y5 and Y6 families to their Open Evening on Wednesday 12 October between 5.00pm and 8.00pm. Current Teddington students will be tour guides showing visitors all departments in the building. Headteacher Paul Grills will be hosting talks at 5.00pm, 6.00pm and 7.00pm. Tickets are required for the talk by Mr Grills, and are available via the QR code on the attached flyer.



Mill Street Residents are hosting their annual beer and sausage festival on Mill Street Green (very close to King Athelstan School) and would like to pass it on to all the schools, neighbours and friends around the area. This is a super fun and family-friendly event, and this is raising funds for two charities helping children affected by cancer (Momentum and Children's Cancer Leukaemia Group). All welcome!

