



Mrs Mastrocola's Weekly Digest Issue 20 - Friday 11th February 2022

Dear Families,

This week our focus turned to Children's Mental Health Week and the theme of 'Growing Together'. At King Athelstan our children are fortunate to have access to considerable support: we have our own Nurture Team, led by Mrs Ramkissoon, who are available not only to all the children in our school but also to the whole school community. They offer support and advice and are also trained as 'Mental Health First Aiders' so can support children with any worries they have. In addition, we have access to our local Mental Health Support Team and their outreach workers, who support both children and families. Working in partnership with you, this support aims for the children to be 'ready to learn', happy and flourishing. If you are struggling with anything at home or would like to talk to someone about your child, do get in contact with us as we may be able to help. Mrs Ramkissoon or a member of the Inclusion or Senior Leadership Teams are always here to assist and signpost you to further help.



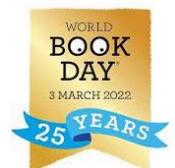
We have had a particularly difficult half term, being very close to placing some classes into remote learning because of absences caused by Covid for both children and staff. Fortunately, this has been avoided through the resilience of our amazing staff team and everyone's determination and collective efforts - members of staff have stepped up again to cover colleagues, amend hours, work longer hours, work at weekends, undertake duties at the last minute on days they were not supposed to be working and above all protect the continuity in health, learning and experiences of the children at King Athelstan. I am very proud of the way everyone in the King Athelstan family has responded to the challenge, putting our children first. I know adding LFTs to the daily routine is an extra pressure but it does, and has, made a difference. After half term, we will be back into our Stage 3 section of our Roadmap, where all trips, some indoor events and more visitors on-site can resume. We look forward to welcoming families of Van Gogh class in person to their assembly in the hall at 9am on Wednesday 23rd February - this had to be postponed from 26th January. Many thanks again for all your patience and support over this time.

Thank you to all those who have made nominations to the Teaching Awards. The deadline for nominations is Friday 4th March, so please visit <https://www.teachingawards.com/> if you would like to nominate someone - an ideal way to thank them.



Don't forget to keep logging in to your child's Google Classroom as each week teachers post the current learning in English and maths, as well as spelling. Mrs Ahearn has also posted the Extreme Reading Competition (see the World Book Day letter sent today for details).

Look out for upcoming letters about the 25th anniversary of World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March, and also the SPARK Book Awards. Children will also bring home a book voucher today.



Next week is half term. Do keep safe and well. Please carry out a lateral flow test on all children on Sunday 20th February. If they have a negative result, we look forward to seeing your child back in school bright and ready to learn on Monday 21st February 2022.

Best wishes,

Lucy Mastrocola, Acting Headteacher

Staffing News

We are pleased to be welcoming Ms Natali O'Farrell as our new Welfare and Attendance Officer, who will be starting on Monday 28th February. We have also recruited a new Teaching Assistant, Ms Lise Marie, who will be working in Key Stage 2. Finally, we are happy to announce that Ms Newton will be returning from maternity leave on Monday 28th March.

King Athelstan Primary School - Inspiring Excellence

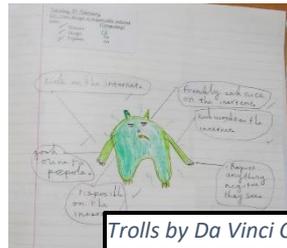
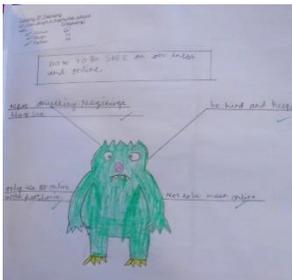
Early Morning Interventions

Thank you for your understanding around having to cancel early morning interventions over the last few weeks. We hope to be able to resume these in the second week back after half term - Monday 28th February. We will issue letters after half-term to the families whose children are invited to attend.

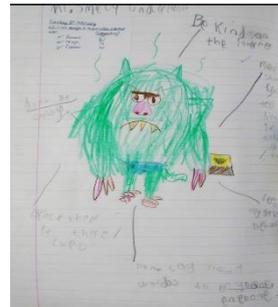
Safer Internet Day

King Athelstan celebrated Safer Internet Day on Tuesday with a whole school assembly discussing the theme of 'All fun and games?' Activities ranged from story-telling and acting in Key Stage 1, 'troll' designing in lower KS2 and rules for responsible phone use in upper KS2. Children read digital twists on classic fairy tales including 'Chicken Clickin', 'Old MacDonald Had a Phone,' and 'Troll Stinks!' As well as this, children took part in crucial discussions on given internet safety scenarios such as 'What would you do if you lost a mobile phone?' Why not have a discussion at home?

O'Keeffe Class



Trolls by Da Vinci Class



Parent/Carer Consultations

You should all have received an emailed letter about the Spring Term Parent/Carer Consultations taking place in the week beginning 28th February for children with SEND Plans, and the week beginning 7th March for the rest of the school. These are very important and we expect to meet regarding every child. The meetings will take place again virtually via SchoolCloud- please refer to the letter for details. Due to the high number of COVID cases this half term, we were unable to invite families into school to look at their child's books as planned. We are hoping to be able to do this in March however, we will be photocopying a piece of work the children are proud of to be sent home, so please look out for this in the weeks after half term.



Y5/6 Cross Country Competition

Mr McLaughlin took a team of Y5 and Y6 children to the Borough Cross Country Competition on Wednesday.



The children had shown great commitment to the event, coming in to school early for training sessions, and they represented the school really well. Congratulations the girls' Y6 team who came third in the borough. In the individual standings, Leila came third of all the Y6 girls in the borough, Rowan was 3rd for Y5 boys, and Charlie came 5th for Y5 boys. They were a credit to the school and displayed our PRIDE values and great sportsmanship. Well done, all.

House Points

The winners of the weekly House Competition this week are: **Red House, Dawson**, on 32 points, followed by Green House on 29, Yellow on 23, and Blue House on 21.



Villers (29)



Dawson (32)



Cambridge (23)



Hawks (21)

School Trips

Recently, Y6 have been to a Junior Citizen event at Chessington World of Adventures, our sports teams are taking part in borough competitions, and we have had the chance to send some of our wonderful KS2 artists to work with the Stanley Picker Gallery. All trips and opportunities are communicated to families via email, and require permission to be confirmed by you, either on ParentPay or a Google Form. Trips may also require payment, confirmation of lunch or pick up arrangements, or logging of volunteers to attend. Please ensure that you follow any instructions in letters so that we can confirm the details of trips and events in good time, without having to chase for details. Please note that there is also a facility on ParentPay to pay more than the cost of your child's trip in order to assist others who may struggle to pay, if you wish to use it. These contributions make such a difference and are much appreciated.



Thank you.

Thank you



We are very pleased to announce that we have used the generous grant we received from the Ernest Cook Trust to buy two new laptop trolleys. This means we can securely store and re-charge all our DfE laptops in the trolleys, so they are always ready for our learning and to be distributed to any pupils isolating who may need them. Thank you so much.



News from the Junior Leadership Team



Our Eco Warriors have finalised their Eco Code with the strapline 'Everyone helps the planet, so be GREEN'. GREEN stands for Grow our own food, Reduce, reuse, recycle, Energy efficiency, Encourage wildlife, and Never litter. They will be issuing more details soon.

The JLT reported on their research about Science in school. They surveyed children across the school and found that they most enjoy learning facts about healthy diets, the moon, skeletons, dinosaurs and watching excerpts from BBC Planet Earth. They least enjoyed the short time on laptops. They would like more science sessions and for them to be more active rather than sitting at their tables. The lessons would be even better if they did more cooking, more experiments, and spent more time outside. Their most memorable lessons were creating volcanos, soil testing, the 'egg experiment', making electric circuits and dissecting lambs' hearts.

Thank you so much to the members of the JLT and all their feedback will be gratefully passed to Mr Morris, Science Lead. The next task for the JLT is to investigate pen licences across the school. They will be holding assembly in school on 7th March with all their findings.

PCSA

All families at King Athelstan are automatically members of the PCSA (Parent Carer Staff Association). The PCSA would love to welcome new members who want to help by volunteering with events or becoming a class rep. Please contact kingathelstanpcsa@gmail.com for more information and to ensure you are added to their mailing lists for events. Watch this space for more PCSA events coming soon...

Achievement Assembly

Well done to the following children who received their certificate of excellence this week:



Achievement Award

Friday 11th February 2022

Kusama Reception - Uzay

Nelson Reception - Rachel

Van Gogh Y1 - Oliver

O'Keeffe Y1 - Meryem

Hockney Y2 - Pedro

Matisse Y2 - Zakariya

Cassatt Y3 - Maia

Da Vinci Y3 - Robyn

Mehretu Y4 - Grace

Wiley Y4 - Alex

Dali Y5 - Kacey and Melissa

Warhol Y5 - Roan

Kahlo Y6 - Brad

Riley Y6 - Zara

PE KS1 - Milena, Matisse Y2

PE KS2 - Roan in Warhol Y5, Charlie in Dali Y5 and Laila in Kahlo Y6 for their fantastic results at the borough Cross Country Competition.

Maths Achievement

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Rowan	Nadia	George	Ryan	Martha	Andrew	Evan W
Anastasya	Ari	Zakariya	Hai	Lucas	Roan	Isabella

Times Tables Rock Stars - Half Term Tournament

Thank you for helping to make the KIRF Super Learning Day so successful last Friday. It was lovely to hear how much the children enjoyed battling it out against each other.

We want to keep the buzz around Times Table Rock Stars going so we have set up a whole school battle tournament (Year 2 - Year 6) that will take place over half term, between Saturday 12th and Sunday 20th February.

When children play on Times Tables Rock Stars, the questions answered correctly will contribute to the class' overall score between 8am-7pm each day. It is highly encouraged that children practise their times tables, in short bursts, regularly,

to help improve and sustain their fluency. We hope that they enjoy this special battle! We will be announcing the winner on Monday 21st during our whole school assembly!



Dates for the Diary

FEBRUARY

Half Term 14th February - 18th February

Tues 22	Y4 virtual Multiplication Tables Check presentation to parents 9.30am
Wed 23	Y6 trip to Kew Gardens
Wed 23	Van Gogh Class Assembly 9am
Mon 28	SEND Parent/Carer Consultations

Class Assemblies 2022

All are at 9am. Two people may attend for each child, and must have taken a lateral flow test beforehand with a negative result. All must wear a face covering on site, unless medically exempt. Please wait by the main school office door after drop off. Thank you.

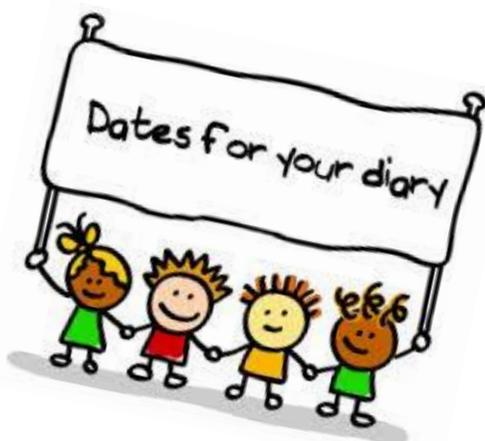
Wed 23 rd February	Van Gogh Class Y1
Wed 2 nd March	Mehretu Class Y4
Wed 9 th March	Kahlo Class Y6
Wed 16 th March	Matisse Class Y2
Wed 23 rd March	Cassatt Class Y3
Wed 27 th April	Nelson Class, Reception
Wed 18 th May	O'Keefe Class Y1
Wed 15 th June	Kusama Class, Reception

MARCH

Tue 1 -Thur 3	SEND Parent/Carer Consultations
Wed 2	Mehretu Class Assembly 9am
Thur 3	World Book Day
Fri 4	Y3 trip to RHS Wisley
4-8	Science Week
Mon 7	Parent/Carer Consultations 3.30-6.30pm
Wed 9	Parent/Carer Consultations 4-7pm
Wed 9	Kahlo Class Assembly 9am
Thur 15	Y3-6 Gymnastics Competition
Wed 16	Matisse Class Assembly 9am
Mon 21 -Thur	Y5 Bikeability
Wed 23	Cassatt Class Assembly 9am

APRIL

Fri 25	Y3 trip to Chessington Zoo
Fri 1 April	Break up one hour earlier for Easter
Tue 19	Children return to school
Wed 27	Y4 trip to Thames Young Mariners
Wed 27	Nelson Class Assembly 9am



Please remember that on Monday 6th June 2022 school will be closed for Jubilee Day