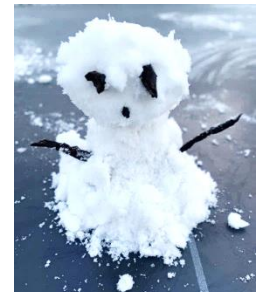




Dear Families,

Welcome back and Happy New Year to everyone in our King Athelstan community. We hope you have had a relaxing break.

It has been a cold but positive start to the spring term. Thank you for ensuring your children have warm coats, hats and gloves. Over the holidays we have had some grounds work done as the next phase of development for the KS2 wild area. There is now a new path that will eventually facilitate access to this area. There is still more work to be done before it is operational. We have also had some other areas tidied up (e.g. along the path on the way to EYFS) and some fencing has been replaced.



A snowman made by Breakfast Club!

Please keep an eye on your inboxes for information about upcoming trips and visits for your child's class for this term and make sure you have a note of your child's class assembly, if it has not yet happened this year. We publish dates on the school website [here](#).

In assembly at the end of last year we were talking about spreading kindness and happiness by doing kind things for others and making an effort to greet people and talk to children or adults in school that you don't yet know well. It would be great to continue this within our parent/carers community. We have had quite a few new families start in Nursery and across the school. Please do extend a warm welcome to anyone new and try to make some new connections with parents/carers you don't know yet.

One final reminder - we are still really struggling with parents/carers coming in to wait at the EYFS and KS1 gates before drop off or collection times. PLEASE wait outside until your gate opens. Nursery families should be first in the mornings at 8.30am, with everyone else waiting in the queue outside. Coming in early creates extra 'traffic' in a very busy area, making it hard for people to get through to drop off or collect their children and slows down people leaving the school site, which then slows everything further. Please also avoid gathering in the entrance area and by the gates to chat or to 'unload' children/bags from buggies as this blocks access for everyone else. Children working in the KS1 playground or in neighbouring classrooms find it very difficult to learn effectively or complete their daily routines with additional people watching them while waiting at the end of the day. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Please read on as we have exciting news about the KS1 playground!

Have a lovely weekend.

Emily Newton, Headteacher

KS1 Playground Refurbishment

We are delighted to announce that **work on the KS1 playground will begin on Monday 29th January**. After our consultation with staff and families, we have selected the Fawns design. The company will complete the first phase of the design this term (see diagram), with plans to continue fundraising for the second phase already in place. At present Fawns are suggesting a 3-4 week schedule, one week of which falls in the half term holiday.

The building work will have implications for pickup and playtime arrangements. Heras fencing will be erected around the whole grass area of the KS1 playground which will restrict the flow of families coming into the playground at pickup time. We will be asking everyone to adhere to the one-way system walking into the KS1 playground through the double gates by Haring and Wiltshire (Nurture/Inclusion) and then continuing out of the playground via the large gates into the car park.



We will share full details of these arrangements in the next few weeks. A massive thank you and well done to our PCSA team who have worked relentlessly over the last few years fundraising for the Big Outdoors Project. Without their unwavering support and the generosity of our families, staff and all those who have raised funds, the Big Outdoors Project would not be happening. We are all very excited to finally be able to give our KS1 children the playground they deserve! Once this phase has been built, we need to raise approximately £70k for Phase 2 to complete it, so please keep up the fundraising!

School Census

Next Thursday 18th January is school census day. The school census takes place three times a year and collects information such as pupils' background details, special educational needs, free school meals eligibility, as well as educational history. It also collects data on absence, exclusions and their reasons, indicators of armed forces or children in care. Our school funding is based partly on how many children have a school lunch on census day so we ask that you make sure you book a meal on this day. It would make a huge difference to us if everyone booked a meal on this day. The menu for next Thursday is chicken burger or a cheese and tomato pizza, so **please make your booking on ParentPay in the usual way.** Thank you.



Wraparound Childcare Survey

Achieving for Children (AfC) have asked us to share this link with school families. It is a survey asking for your requirements, in relation to wraparound childcare, to support the council planning for September 2024. Whilst we know most of you use KOOSA Kids, it is important that the council has an understanding of numbers so please complete the survey even if your childcare needs are currently fully met. Thank you. Please click on [this link](#) or the QR code on the right. Thank you.



Kingston Children and Young People's Plan

Kingston Council is developing a new Children and Young People's Plan. It's being co-produced with children and young people, and will set out priorities for Kingston children and young people from 2024-2027. Its aim is to focus on the needs of all children and young people aged up to 19 years old (up to 25 for anyone with SEND or who have been in care) who live, study or work in Kingston. They would like children, young people and parents of very young children to tell them what's important to include in the plan. There is a short survey so you can have your say, and a chance to win a £10 Love2Shop gift card by completing the survey today! The link to the survey is [here](#).

Amazon Wish List

Thank you so much to everyone who has been kind enough to purchase items from our Wish List - it is very much appreciated. **The link is:** <https://amzn.eu/hcy87Hz>. There is, of course, **no obligation to buy anything.**



Immunisation Catch Up

There will be a catch up day on **25th January for MMR and polio immunisations** which took place in school previously. This is for children whose parents/carers were given consent forms to complete before Christmas. Families should return consent forms to the office by Monday 15th January.

Maths KIRFs

KIRF (Key Instant Recall Facts) have been designed to support the development of the mental skills that underpin much of the maths work in schools. This is part of a national drive to improve mental maths. Every half term, each year group will have a focus and by the end of each half term, children should know those facts. The aim is for them to recall these facts instantly. It is expected that the children will learn and practise these in school AND at home. All the KIRFs are on the school website. Please check your child's KIRFs for this half-term [here](#).

Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs)					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.
2	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.
3	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.
4	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.
5	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.	Know the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Outdoor PE Lessons

A message from Mr McLaughlin: As a rule, children do not wear jackets or coats in PE lessons as it restricts their movement. They are very active in these lessons so would normally warm up quickly. However, exception is made if they have a cold/cough or are recovering from a cold/cough or other viral infection. In this instance a jacket will be allowed. Exception is also made should a child request to wear a jacket/coat or other items such as a beanie or gloves, within reason. In extreme weather, all children may be asked to wear coats in the warm up. The welfare of the children is paramount so please do reassure that they can request to wear any of these items.

Coronation Artwork



We are really pleased to display our final piece of artwork which was made to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May 2023. Each of the children drew one of the four national flowers from the countries of the United Kingdom using oil pastels. Mrs Barr then organised them into the shape of the crown and Dariusz, one of our site managers, created a Perspex front and frame for it. It took 2 people and a complex arrangement of props and supports to hang it. It is enormous (8 feet high and 4 feet wide) and displayed in our large hall, so take a look next time you are in school. It looks really wonderful. Special thanks to Mrs Barr, our Art Teacher, for managing all the arrangements to accomplish it.

Please note, we have moved our last INSET Day from Friday 28th June to Friday 5th July 2024

DATES FOR THE DIARY	
JANUARY 2024	
Monday 15	Spring clubs start this week
Tuesday 16	Bag2School collection - car park
Friday 19	PCSA Y1 and Y2 Disco 3.30-5pm St John's Hall
Wednesday 24	Y3 trip to Kingston Mosque
Thursday 25	MMR and Polio immunisation catch-up
Friday 26	Y4 Cake Sale
FEBRUARY 2024	
Thursday 1	Y6 Junior Citizen trip
Wednesday 7	Da Vinci Class Assembly 9am
Wednesday 7	EYFS Museum - in Nursery & Reception classrooms
Mon 12 - Fri 16	Half Term
Tuesday 20	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings R-Y6 in person
Thursday 22	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings R-Y6 online
Friday 23	Y6 to Science event at Surbiton High School
Friday 23	Y3 Cake Sale
Friday 23	Reception trip to the Polka Theatre
Tuesday 27	SEND Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings R-Y6 in person
Thursday 29	SEND Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings R-Y6 in person
MARCH 2024	
Wednesday 6	Wiley Class Assembly 9am
Thursday 7	World Book Day
Wednesday 13	Cassatt Class Assembly 9am
Monday 18	Y5 Bikeability starts
Wednesday 20	Van Gogh Class Assembly 9am
Friday 22	Y2 Cake Sale
Friday 22	Y3 trip to Kew Gardens
Friday 22	PCSA Y3 and Y4 Easter Disco 3-5pm St John's Hall



Achievement Award

Van Gogh Y1 - Sarah	O'Keeffe Y1 - Salma
Hockney Y2 - Areeb	Matisse Y2 - Sirine
Da Vinci Y3 - Dunia	Cassatt - Sofie
Mehretu Y4 - Shivansh	Wiley Y4 - Hazel
Dali Y5 - Raiya & Nicholas	Warhol Y5 - Arthur
Riley Y6 - Katelyn	Kahlo Y6 - Daniel
KS1 PE - King in Hockney Y2	Y2KS2 PE - Ilyas in Kahlo Y6

Times Tables Rock Stars/NumBots Maths Champions this week:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Benjamin	Elena & Summer	Lorelai	Grace	Electra	Tia-Louise
George	Shiloh	Erin	Robbie		

Miss Meggitt awarded Equality and Diversity certificates to Eme and Roanna in Y6, and to Karlis and Antonia in Dali Class for their wonderful and thoughtful poster about ADHD. Well done!

House Points

This week's winners are **Green (Villiers)** on a whopping 35, Yellow (Cambridge) just behind on 34, Red (Dawson) on 25 and Blue House (Hawks) with 23. Well done all!



PCSA

The PCSA is holding its AGM on **Wednesday 24th January at 8pm** at the Spring Grove (13 Bloomfield Road KT1 2SF). The agenda for the meeting includes:

- Report on activities since the last AGM - Emily
- Accounts from previous financial year - Luiza
- Elect new committee members - All
- AOB - All



Why not sign up to be more involved in the PCSA! You can do this by emailing Emily kingathelstanpcsa@gmail.com. Our events cannot run without people's help so it would be great to see you there.

The Y6 cake sale last term raised £237.51 which was donated to Save The Children. The Y5 cake sale raised £208.46. See the dates list above for more cake sales. Thank you.

Bag2School Collection

On **Tuesday 16th January** Bag2School will be collecting donations from King Athelstan, as they have done previously. They pay the school PCSA £0.50 per kilogram of donations so if you are due a charity shop drop or

clear out then please get a black bag together and bring to school at MORNING DROP OFF (15:15 will be too late). There will be an area of the car park marked out to leave the bags.

For a list of what they DO collect please see here (items in blue) <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

For a list of what they DON'T collect please see here (items in red) <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

Please note they won't take items if they're wet. All donations must be in sealed bags, so bin bags tied at the top ideal. Thanks so much!

Community Messages

In this section of the Digest we include information received from other agencies. We are not promoting these items, but include them in good faith as they may be of interest to King Athelstan families:



Fairfield Litter Pick team would like to say a **MASSIVE** thanks to everyone who took part in, or helped promote, the Fairfield litter picks last year. With your incredible help, litter heroes from all across Kingston, Surbiton, Norbiton and New Malden collected 41 bags of rubbish last year from Fairfield Recreation Ground and the children's playground opposite. What's more, in addition to all the thanks from park-goers, pupils at King Athelstan were inspired to borrow our litter pickers for their own clear-up in Athelstan Park! We'll be back for more rubbish-based park fun next weekend - **Saturday 13 January, from 2-3pm** - with litter pickers to lend out, and sweet treats for participants. Please help us spread the word with your neighbours, school friends or any other local groups so we can make the park as lovely as possible.

Kingfisher Leisure Centre - the first of four public exhibition sessions about the Kingfisher Leisure Centre will be taking place on **Saturday 13 January** at the Quaker Centre from **1-4pm**. Full information can be found [here](#).

Kingston Cycling Campaign - The [Kingston Cycling Campaign](#) has its next family-friendly bike ride on **Sunday 14 January**. The aim is to help build bike confidence - regardless of age or cycle experience - while embedding healthy new habits in the families and local residents, so any help in spreading the word would be appreciated. The fun Kingston bike ride (tiny.cc/KingstonFunRide3) will start from **Alexandra Park in Berrylands at 10.45am**, with the Kingston Mayor set to take part, too. The easy-paced and hill-free 7-mile group ride will head along quiet roads and traffic-free routes in Tolworth and Old Malden to showcase some of the rural delights, including Tolworth Court Farm Fields and Berrylands Nature Reserve - a sneak peak of the route [here](#). Reserve your free place on tiny.cc/KingstonFunRide3



Thames Music Theatre - this is a new music theatre company for young performers based in the South West London area. The Fuse Festival held at The Rose Theatre in Kingston in the summer has given them an important slot in its programme for a musical comedy called **THE ROMAN INVASION OF RAMSBOTTOM**. This was originally commissioned and broadcast by Granada Television. The cast will be aged between 10 and 16, and the auditions are in early February. All rehearsals are planned to fit in with school holidays. To enquire or book an audition, go to this website <https://www.thamesmt.org> or click on the QR code in the poster.

