



This week our focus in school was on **Excellence**, the last of our five **PRIDE** values. Next week's spotlight is on our 'fair is not always equal' visual, pictured on the right.



Dear Families,

Today we had a full lockdown practice. The children were **AMAZING**. We only do lockdown practices that we tell the children about in advance and prepare them for. The preparation includes practising the responses to the instruction 'locks, lights, out of sight' and hearing the bell quietly in the classroom environment. As it was a practice, Mrs Ahearn and I walked around the school to see if we could spot anyone. It was like a giant game of hide and seek and the school was totally silent, dark and we thought that 400 children and 50 staff had simply disappeared in an instant. Well done everyone, you were brilliant at hiding!



As many of you will be aware, schools across the borough - and nationally - are seeing a drop in pupil numbers due to lower birth rates and more families moving out of London because of rising cost of living. This situation has serious implications on school budgets, which were already stretched, as the school budget is based on **per pupil** funding. At King Athelstan we need to continue to make significant changes in order to be able to set a balanced budget for the financial year, which starts in April 2026, and for successive years. Sadly, this reflects the financial challenge that affects many public services across the country. We have had to make the difficult decision to change the teaching arrangements in Year 1 from January in order to reduce expenditure. Mrs Campbell, who is employed through an agency, will be leaving at Christmas. Mrs Ahearn, our Deputy Head, will take over Mrs Campbell's days, working alongside Miss Wharton. Mrs Campbell is an excellent, dedicated teacher and she has fitted into our school team brilliantly. We would like to thank her for her commitment to the class over this term. She will be greatly missed by pupils, families, and staff, and we know you will join us in wishing her the very best for the future.

A huge thank you to the PCSA and everyone who made the Festive Fair last Saturday so successful. The Choir sounded wonderful, and we were so lucky to have a visit from Santa himself!

We had a visit this week from Sarah Cantrill, who did so much work with us last term to produce the amazing celebration of 1100 years since the coronation of King Athelstan's. She spent time with Y6 working on the final stage of the King Athelstan 1100 project - more details to follow.

Please remember to place your order for Christmas cards or other items as soon as possible to ensure they arrive before Christmas. For any queries, contact the company at: sales@fraserportraits.com.

Have a lovely weekend.

Emily Newton
Headteacher

Toys/Home Items in School

As the holiday season generates additional excitement around new toys and other items, please can we continue to insist that, in line with our policy, non-essential items are not brought into school without prior permission from staff. We have all the resources children need in school, including toys and sensory tools. If you feel your child needs something specifically different, or they want to bring an item in to show, please discuss this with staff in advance. **It is particularly important that no electronic items, which are increasingly capable of sound and image recording, are brought into school (including smart watches) as this presents a significant safeguarding risk.** Twice this week we have had to take electronic devices off children and delete images taken in school. Please keep all items like this at home. Children are not allowed to wear watches that have the capacity take digital photographs or connect to the internet. Thank you for your support in this.

Christmas

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas around school. We have several beautifully-decorated Christmas trees, although a cheeky elf has decided to sit on top of the Kusama class one! Nursery have been making gingerbread men, which look and smell delicious.



Gardening Club



Nelson Class



Kusama Class



Nursery making gingerbread men



EYFS and KS1 Christmas events are coming up in the next couple of weeks:

Friday 12th December - 9.15am	Hall	Kusama Class (Reception)
Friday 12th December - 2.30pm	Hall	Nelson Class (Reception)
Monday 15th December - 9.15am	Hall	Matisse Class (Y2)
Monday 15th December - 2.30pm	Hall	O'Keeffe Class (Y1)
Wednesday 17th December - 9.15am	Hall	Van Gogh Class (Y1)
Wednesday 17th December - 2.30pm	Hall	Hockney Class (Y2)
Thursday 18th December - 11-11.30am	Nursery	AM Nursery (songs and crafts)
Thursday 18th December - 12.30-1pm	Nursery	PM Nursery (songs and crafts)

Please note that we can only accommodate a maximum of **3 family members** (including younger siblings) per child in each assembly/show, and up to **2 family members** in the Nursery sessions due to space restrictions.

Toy Donations

Some families may be having a pre-Christmas clear out. If anyone plans to get rid of any of the following, and would be willing to donate them to school, we would be very grateful. We are particularly looking for items aimed at the older children:

- Small cars/vehicles for older children (e.g. Hot Wheels/Matchbox size)
- Larger (KS2 sizes) costumes/dress up items
- Playmobil (any, but people would be especially appreciated)
- Other small play people/figures/animal/dinosaurs (dolls house size/Barbie size, **not action figures**)
- Construction materials (e.g. wooden blocks, magnetic tiles) - no Lego/Duplo please, we have lots!
- Stencils (letters, shapes, etc.)
- Small storage baskets

Charity Carol Concert

Our Y6 Junior Leadership Team Co Chairs, along with eight Y5 and Y6 Choir members, represented King Athelstan at a charity Christmas Carol concert on Wednesday evening at New Malden Methodist Church. Each year, members of the Rotary club and Inner Wheel help raise funds for local charities. Nancy and Alex, our Co-Chairs, read two



poems called A Winter Bluejay by Sara Teasdale and Winter-Time by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Both children read with confidence and they were very well received by the congregation. The Choir sang three songs (Midnight by Mark and Helen Johnson, Mary Did You Know by Pentatonix, and Stop The Cavalry by Jona Lewie). There was lots of positive feedback at the end of the event.

We are so proud of the Co-Chairs and the Choir members for representing

the school so well. Thanks to Mr McLaughlin and Mr Thomas for making all the arrangements, and to all of the families who attended and supported on the night, it is greatly appreciated.



King Athelstan Primary School - Inspiring Excellence

Y1 & Y2 Multi Skills Festival



Well done to the 11 children who took part in the Multi Skills Festival at Chessington School on Thursday. They participated in ten different games, including speed bounce, running and balancing. All children received a well-earned medal at the end of the event, as well as a certificate in achievement assembly back at school. A special mention to Jackson in O'Keeffe who received the



KS1 PE star for his great effort on the day! Well done to them all for representing the school so well.

Clubs for Spring Term

As you know, the letter about clubs for the spring term was emailed to all families on Thursday 4th December. The Google form to request clubs will open on Sunday 7th December at 10:00am, and close on Tuesday 9th



December at 7:00am. Places will be confirmed by Friday 12th at 4:00pm, and payment is due by Monday 15th at 10:00am. Confirmation of Pupil Premium places will be emailed directly to families and will NOT be in ParentPay as there is no cost. All clubs start in the week beginning 12th January, and end in the week of 16th March.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

DECEMBER 2025	
Tuesday 9	Warhol Class Assembly - 9am NEW DATE
Wednesday 10	Da Vinci Class Assembly 9am
Wednesday 10	Y5 & Y6 Ice Skating at Hampton Court - Go to ParentPay
Thursday 11	CANCELLED - Mehretu Class Y4 trip to Synagogue
Friday 12	Kusama Class Christmas Assembly 9.15am
Friday 12	Nelson Class Christmas Assembly 2.30pm
Monday 15	Matisse Class Y2 Christmas Assembly 9.15am
Monday 15	O'Keeffe Class Y1 Christmas Assembly 2.30pm
Tuesday 16	Y4 trip to see Cinderella at the Rose Theatre - Go to ParentPay
Tuesday 16	Thinker's Project Exhibition 3.20-3.50pm and 5.30-6pm
Wednesday 17	Van Gogh Class Y1 Christmas Assembly 9.15am
Wednesday 17	Hockney Class Y2 Christmas Assembly 2.30pm
Thursday 18	Klee AM Christmas singing & crafts 11-11.30am
Thursday 18	Klee PM Christmas singing & crafts 12.30-1pm
Friday 19	Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas lunch and early finish (except Klee AM)
JANUARY 2026	
Friday 9	PCSA Uniform Sale in the Hall from 3.20pm
Monday 12	Clubs start this week
Friday 30	Y4 Cake Sale 3.15pm



Amazon Wish List

We have an ongoing Amazon Wish List, which we started after families wanted to contribute items to school. We have been adding a few new cookery-based items to our list! There is no obligation to buy anything, but all purchases are very much appreciated. The link is: <https://amzn.eu/hcy87Hz>



PCSA



PCSA are having a big uniform sale in the new year after school on Friday 9th January 2026. Come along and pick up some nearly new goods or some spare items. Please clearly put your child's name in all things they bring into school, including coats and hats as well as uniform sweatshirts, cardigans and water bottles.

House Points

This week the winners are **Green (Villiers)** with an amazing 37 points! **Yellow (Cambridge)** are in second place with 32 points. **Red (Dawson)** have 30 points and **Blue (Hawks)**, 24.



King Athelstan Primary School - Inspiring Excellence

Achievement Award

Van Gogh Y1 - Grace	O'Keeffe Y1 - Amelya
Matisse Y2 - Nizaar	Hockney Y2 - Aicha
Cassatt Y3 - TY	Da Vinci - Ollie
Mehretu Y4 - Koshin	Wiley Y4 - Harley
Dali Y5 - Ottilie	Warhol Y5 - Whole Class
Kahlo Y6 - Sam	Riley - Nancy
KS1 PE Jackson in O'Keeffe Y1	KS2 PE - Max in Riley Class Y6

Times Tables Rock Stars/NumBots Maths Champions this week:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Haider	Lily & Herberts	Ayaan	Joshua	Aicha	Ben
Logan	Ruth	Paula	Megan	Daniel	Max

KOOSA Kids

KOOSA Kids are pleased to be operating the Christmas Holiday Club here at King Athelstan Primary School on 22nd, 23rd, 29th & 30th December (fully funded Christmas Holiday Activity & Food Programme (FUEL) sessions on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December). Bookings are open.



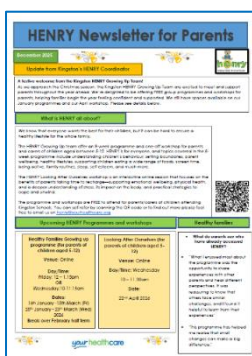
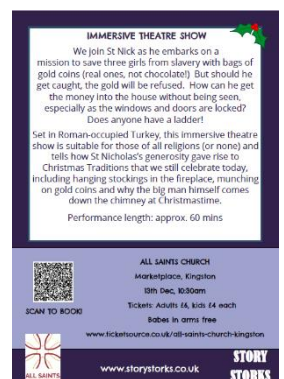
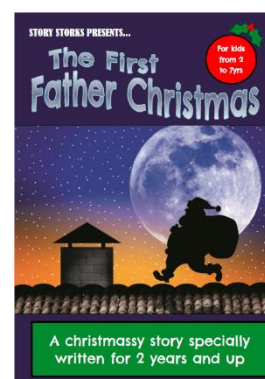
Visit www.koosakids.co.uk/holiday-club for more information. KOOSA will also be running February half-term holiday clubs.



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:

The First Father Christmas - Story Storks, run by Sarah Cantrill, who was so involved in our King Athelstan even in June, are hosting an immersive show for children from 2-7 years old called The First Father Christmas. It is at All Saints Church in Kinston on Saturday 13th December at 10.30am. The link to book tickets is: [All Saints Church event tickets from TicketSource](http://AllSaintsChurch.eventticketsfromTicketSource).



The HENRY Growing Up Team - the HENRY Growing Up Team from Your Healthcare would like to send their season's greetings. They have two parenting programmes running in January and would like to share the newsletter with families ahead of the Christmas rush of activities. Scan the QR code on the right here to find out more, or email on henry@yourhealthcare.org

