



King Athelstan Weekly Digest Issue 16 - Friday 10th January 2025

Dear Families,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you had a good break and that those celebrating Christmas had a great time. It was lovely to see the children return with such enthusiasm on Tuesday.



Our spotlight for this week was: **We are SAFE as we move around school**, and on Tuesday we thought about what this meant in action.

We have a busy term ahead: swimming started today for Y5 and there are a number of sports competitions in the diary alongside author visits, World Book Day, Bikeability and class trips.

It is so cold at the moment so please make sure your child has a warm coat, hat and gloves - all with their name in.

Don't forget to apply for Reception places for any siblings due to start school in September - see below.

Have a lovely weekend.

Emily Newton,

Headteacher

Starting Reception in September 2025

Children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 are due to start reception class at primary school in September 2025. Applications for a Reception place at King Athelstan close on **Wednesday 15 January 2025**. Please note: if your child attends our Nursery, this does not automatically guarantee them a place in Reception. To apply for a place at King Athelstan for Reception please click [here](#).

Poppy Appeal

In November 2024 members of our Junior Leadership Team collected money for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal by selling poppy pin badges and other items in the playground after school. The charity has recently informed us that we managed to raise £106.99 of the grand total of £28,000. The Royal British Legion uses the money raised to provide support to the Armed Forces community and ex-service personnel in six key areas: Financial Support, Advice, Employment, Mobility, Housing and Mental Health.



Focus on Handwriting

At the last Parent/Carer Forum in November, some parents wanted to discuss handwriting. They asked about pen licenses and how to support children with letter formation and good handwriting habits. In school, the teaching of handwriting starts with mark making in Nursery and then moves on to the teaching of phonics in Reception and KS1. We use phrases like 'Birdy Fingers' to remind the children of their 'Tripod Grip', which means they initiate their pencil grip with the shape of a bird's beak (right). We also use 'letter families' to teach children how to form each letter correctly. Once children are confident with their pencil grip, they move through handwriting targets with bronze, silver and gold awards. Once they have achieved their gold award they are presented with a 'pen licence' which means they can move from writing in pencil to writing in blue pen. There is a lot of information about the teaching of writing, as well as all other aspects of the curriculum, on the school website [here](#).



Lunch Reminder



Please remember to book your child's lunch. School lunches are free, but menu choices must be booked on ParentPay; bookings can be made up to the Easter holidays. The menu for this term is on the website [here](#).

King Athelstan Primary School - Inspiring Excellence

Author Visit

On 6th February, Years 3-6 will get the chance to take part in an interactive session with author Kieran Larwood. He is the author of one of our most-loved bucket list books 'The Tale of Podkin One-Ear' and will be promoting a new series of books called 'Dungeon Runners'. Regency Books in Surbiton are offering us a reduced price of £6.10 each for the books and for children to get their books signed after the session in school. If you would like to order one or both books, please pay via ParentPay by the closing date of **27th February**. This is entirely optional.



Y6 PGL Residential Trip

Y6 are going on their residential trip to a PGL centre from 6-9th June (right). Thank you to the families who are paying their instalments. Please remember the next instalment of £55 will be due on 7th February. The full amount can be paid at any time if you prefer.



Achievement Assembly



Achievement Award

Van Gogh Y1 - Kirpa

O'Keefe Y1 - Emma

Hockney Y2 - Haadiya

Matisse Y2 - Ozzie

Cassatt Y3 - Leyah

Da Vinci Y3 - Harley

Mehretu Y4 - Julian

Wiley Y4 - Erin

Dali Y5 - Robbie

Warhol Y5 - Hazel

Riley Y6 - Ege

Kahlo Y6 - Whole class

KS2 PE Grace in Warhol Class Y5

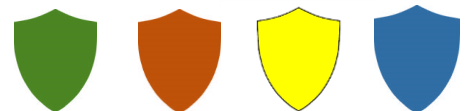
KS1 PE Wagan in O'Keefe Class Y1

Times Tables Rock Stars/NumBots Maths Champions this week:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Hazel	Sarah	Tasya	Ruby	Max F	Agatha
Teddy	Benjamin & Dhanvin	Rowen	Roan	Inci	

House Points

This week in first place is **Green (Villiers)** with 28 points. Red (Dawson) are in second place on 26. Blue (Hawks) are third on 25, and Yellow (Cambridge) have 21.



Amazon Wish List

We have an ongoing Amazon Wish List which was started after families wanted to contribute items to school. There is no obligation to buy anything, but any purchases are very much appreciated. Have a look at the link here: <https://amzn.eu/hcy87Hz>. Thank you.



Pupil News

Max in Year 6 took part in the National Primary Maths Challenge last term, supported by King Athelstan and Kingston Grammar School. He scored very highly and has been invited to take part in the Bonus Round in February, held at Kingston Grammar School. Congratulations to Max, this is a great achievement, and we wish him well for the Bonus Round!



DATES FOR THE DIARY	
JANUARY 2025	
Friday 10	Y5 go swimming every Friday
Wednesday 15	Deadline for applications for Reception places in September 2025
Wednesday 15	Y5 to Royal Institution Science event at Kingston Grammar School
Monday 27	Y6 Swim Gala - invited children only
Wednesday 29	Y2 Matisse Class Assembly 9am
Friday 31	Cake Sale Y4 3.15pm
FEBRUARY	
Saturday 1	PCSA Adult Gig Night at the Fighting Cocks, Kingston 8pm
Wednesday 5	Y3 Da Vinci Class Assembly 9am
Thursday 6	EYFS Museum in school
Thursday 6	Author visit for Y3-6. Order books if required on ParentPay
Tuesday 11	Y5 Greek Day
Wednesday 12	Y6 Kahlo Class Assembly 9am
Thursday 13	Book Looks for parent/carers
Mon 17-Fri 21	Half-Term
Tuesday 25	Parent/Carer Consultations 3.30-5.30pm in person
Thursday 27	Parent/Carer Consultations 4-6.30pm online
MARCH	
Monday 3	Y6 to Royal Institution Science event at Surbiton High School
Tuesday 4	SEND Parent/Carer Consultations 3.30-5.30pm in person
Wednesday 5	Y3 trip to Kew Gardens
Wednesday 5	Y4 Mehretu Class Assembly 9am
Thursday 6	SEND Parent/Carer Consultations 3.30-5.30pm in person
Thursday 6	World Book Day
Wednesday 12	Y3 Cassatt Class Assembly 9am
Thursday 13	Spring Showcase
Wednesday 19	Y5 Dali Class Assembly 9am
Friday 21	Comic Relief
Monday 24	Clubs end this week
Wednesday 26	Y2 Hockney Class Assembly 9am
Friday 28	PCSA Easter Cake Sale

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:

PCSA Gig Night - The PCSA has arranged another Gig Night at the Fighting Cocks in Old London Road, Kingston, after the success of the last one last year. Our very own Mr Thomas will be performing again on **Saturday 1st February**. Tickets are only £8 in advance or £10 on the door, with proceeds going to the PCSA to benefit the school. Click on the QR code, right, to book.



Free exercise session at Fairfield - Our Parks delivers FREE (and recommended by a King Athelstan parent) group exercise at Fairfield Recreation Ground every Saturday at 09:30am. You can book your weekly class at ourparks.org.uk/kingston

Autism Seminars - 'Understanding Autism' is one of the Autism Seminars for Families which provides information and advice to parents and carers of children who have received a diagnosis of autism or are on the pathway for an assessment of autism. The second date is a 'Managing Anger' seminar for families, which may be useful. The third flyer is for a Support Group for parents/carers of children with ASD.

Autism Seminars for Families

Understanding Autism

This will be delivered virtually as a webinar on **Wednesday 5th February 2025** from 9.30 to 11.30am

About the Webinar
"Understanding Autism" is one of the Autism Seminars for Families which provides information and advice to parents and carers of children who have received a diagnosis of autism or are on the pathway for an assessment of autism. It is a live webinar and will not be recorded.

The webinar will help families to:

- > develop an understanding of autism
- > discuss experiences of getting a diagnosis
- > identify how autism can affect families
- > explore practical ideas for developing communication strategies

How to book a place
Please complete the registration form by following this link - <https://forms.gle/74ebiaC7YehU4qC05A>
or contact the webinar facilitator below for more information.
Name: **Jane Piddock**
Email: jpiddo2@grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk
Telephone: 020 8399 5344

All places are limited please only book a place if you are able to attend and let me know ASAP if you know that you can no longer attend, so that I can give that place to someone else.

Autism Seminars for Families

Managing Anger

This will be delivered virtually as a webinar on **Monday 3rd March 2025** from 10am to 12

About the Webinar
"Managing Anger" is one of the Autism Seminars for Families which provides information and advice to parents and carers of children and young people with autism. It is a live webinar and will not be recorded.

The webinar will help families to:

- > discuss why children with autism often have challenges with distressed behaviour and anger
- > identify a low arousal approach for support through stressful situations
- > explore the cycle of anger and possible support strategies
- > examine strategies for managing feelings.

How to book a place
Please complete the registration form by following this link - <https://forms.gle/74ebiaC7YehU4qC05A>
or contact the webinar facilitator below for more information.
Name: **Jane Piddock**
Email: jpiddo2@grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk
Telephone: 020 8399 5344

All places are limited please only book a place if you are able to attend and let me know ASAP if you know that you can no longer attend, so that I can give that place to someone else.

ASD Parent/Carer Support Group

Wednesday 12th February 2025

9.30 to 11am
at
Grand Avenue Primary School, Surbiton, KT5 9HU

Join us for coffee, biscuits and chat to other parents that understand.
Theme: Supporting independence

If you would like to come along, please register by following this link
<https://forms.gle/znuT0QyupPm58re>
or contact
Jane Piddock (e-mail: jpiddo2@grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk)

Young Parents Connect - Aimed at any parents under the age of 25, this group gathers every Tuesday to meet other young parents and to find support for any issues. You can contact them at kasbt@kingston.gov.uk or go along to the next meeting. Refreshments are provided and there is a play area for the children, all free of charge.

Young Parents Connect
Norbiton

Food provided & Play area for your children available

A place for young parents to connect. A happy and confidential space where we focus on:

- A healthy child-parent bond
- Increasing confidence and self-esteem
- Your mental well-being
- Your support network
- Socialising with other young parents

When and where?
Every Tuesday, 11am - 1pm, term-time only.
Archway Parish Rooms, KT1 3JL

Who is it for?
Any parent 25 years and under.

Interested?
Fill in the form by scanning the QR code (left), [click here](https://forms.gle/znuT0QyupPm58re), or contact us kasbt@kingston.gov.uk

Safer Kingston Partnership | **MENTAL HEALTH** | KINGSTON EDUCATION