



Dear Families,

Happy last day of this half-term! The week started with the very exciting news that Mr Gardner, Dali Class teacher, and his wife had a baby girl on Sunday 8th February. She weighed 3.33kg and they are still working on a name. Mum and baby are in good health, and Dad is in love 💖. Huge congratulations from us all!



It's Children's Mental Health Week and this year's theme is "This is My Place". In Miss Govan's Inclusion assembly, she focussed on the sense of belonging and considered all the different places and groups that might provide that, school included.

It was Safer Internet Day on Tuesday and Miss Sarton, Computing lead, led assemblies in KS1 and KS2 focussing on keeping children safe when they are online. See the item below for more information.

The rest of the week has been busy with a fantastic class assembly from Wiley Class; a Junior Citizen trip for Y6, learning about safety in lots of different contexts; and Year 2 have had a workshop about the Great Fire of London.

We hope you have a great half-term break and look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Emily Newton

Headteacher

### Y4 Wiley Class Assembly

Wiley Class treated their families to a fantastic class assembly this week, all about the Romans. They recreated 'A Night in the Museum' where Roman Emperors and gods came to life, as well as 'Rome's Got Talent'! They ended with a fantastic rendition of 'Just Like a Roman'. Well done, Wiley Class, you made Miss Smyth very proud.



### IFTAR Celebration



Don't forget to book your place at the IFTAR celebration event in school on the evening on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**. We would love to see as many people there as possible, but we do need to know in advance as we have a limit on numbers. Check the letter sent out recently with all the details, and the Google booking form [here](#).

### School Uniform

We would like to encourage families to use the half-term break to ensure the children are wearing the correct uniform all of the time. This encourages a sense of pride and belonging to King Athelstan Primary School. All footwear must be plain black, without coloured soles, laces or logos. Purple sweatshirts and cardigans must have the King Athelstan logo - this is the only item of uniform that must display the logo. Plain sweatshirts or cardigans are not uniform and are not permitted. Children's socks should be black, white or grey, and not brightly coloured! Please remember that the PCSA have a large range of clean, good-quality second-hand items, available for a small donation. Their next uniform sale will be in the school hall on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** at school pick-up time, or they can be contacted on [kingathelstanpcs@gmail.com](mailto:kingathelstanpcs@gmail.com). Please ensure all items are clearly marked with your child's name. We have a lost property box located just inside the KA1 playground which is frequently full of un-named items, from shoes to coats with every item in between! Any item that is named will find it's way back to it's owner. Thank you.



Safer Internet Day

It was Safer Internet Day on Tuesday and Miss Sarton, Computing lead, led assemblies in KS1 and KS2. This year's theme, 'Smart tech, safe choices - exploring the safe and responsible use of AI,' focused on teaching children the skills to use AI (Artificial Intelligence) technology safely and responsibly. From voice assistants, to chatbots, to algorithms, AI technology is playing an increasingly large role in all our lives. It is important that we find time to discuss these tools and the impact they can have on our own and our families' online experiences, including:

1. the news and content we see,
2. the way we work, including using AI for homework or studies,
3. and the risk of misuse of AI



We encourage you to join us in celebrating by continuing the conversation about AI technology at home. Here are some helpful resources:

1. You can complete the [UK Safer Internet Centre's interactive quizzes](#) with your child.
2. Read the UK Safer Internet Centre's tops tips for parents and carers [here](#).
3. You can share the UK Safer Internet Centre's [top tips for children and young people](#) with your child.

You may also like to use one of these prompts to start a conversation with your child:

1. What's your favourite thing to do online?
2. Have you ever used an AI tool? How did it make you feel?
3. What do you like about AI technology?
4. Do you have any worries about AI technology?
5. What advice would you give to your friends about using AI?
6. Who would you talk to if you saw something worrying online?
7. What more can I do to help you feel safe online?

A key part of protecting children and young people from online harms is through preventative education. By talking about this in school and at home, we can all work towards keeping children safe when they are online. Celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for you to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year.

## Maths Learning

At King Athelstan we love maths and see it as an essential life skill. We are committed to ensuring that children have a positive and meaningful experience of mathematics throughout the school.



Children from Nursery to Y2 have access to **NumBots**, an online resource where children can



practise their number recognition, number bonds, addition and subtraction skills, so that these become fluent and they can leave their fingers behind. From Y2 up to Y6 we use **TimesTables RockStars** (TTRS), which is fun and challenging way to practise tables independently and against your peers and other schools. Both NumBots and TTRS use the same login details.

**j2e** is a collection of online educational tools specifically designed to engage, motivate and inspire children from Nursery right up to Y6, who all have logins for this.

[illegible]

**KIRF** (Key Instant Recall of 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 from Y1-Y6 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. Speak to your child's class teacher if you do not have the login for any of the above sites.

## Amazon Wish List



The Wish List was started after families wanted to contribute items to school. There is no obligation to buy anything, but all purchases are very much appreciated. We've recently received some Blu Tack, funky pens (for reading record prizes) and another milk jug for Breakfast Club cereal! Thank you. The link is: [King Athelstan Wish List](#).

King Athelstan Primary School - Inspiring Excellence

## World Book Day

This year's World Book Day will be celebrated on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March** and children are encouraged to dress up as a famous book character and bring in the book, or wear their pyjamas and bring in their favourite bedtime story. The day will be full of tasks all focused around books and the love of reading. This year's focus will be on some of the shortlisted books from the SPARK! Book Awards.

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
5 MARCH 2026



Each child will receive a World Book Day voucher which can be used until Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March; this entitles them to a free book from the £1 selection, or £1 off a full price title, and can be used in any good bookshop, such as the Regency Bookshop in Surbiton. The Masked

Reader features recordings of anonymous adults from school reading a story whilst hidden behind elaborate masks, and children have to guess who is reading! This year, we will also be running the Extreme Reading Competition again. Children are encouraged to read a book in a comical, unusual or spontaneous place and take a photo! See the letter sent on 11<sup>th</sup> February for more details.

## School Fund

Thank you to families who have already responded to the letter from Governors last term regarding the School Fund. The letter explained that, in response to ongoing financial challenges facing the school, the Governing Body - which is responsible for overseeing the school's budget - agreed to trial a parent/carers voluntary contribution scheme. This scheme has been trialling since September 2025 and will be reviewed later in 2026. As a guide to contributions, we are suggesting an amount of £60 per child per year, which is in line with amounts requested by other local schools. Families who feel able to give more are encouraged to do so, while smaller contributions would also be gratefully received. The school will welcome any and all contributions made and will ensure that these are spent wisely, overseen by the Governing Body, to give our children the school environment they deserve. We really appreciate all contributions made. You can make a donation at any time [here](#). Thank you so much.

## Y2 Great Fire of London Drama Workshop



The Drama Hut came into school today to run a workshop for Y2 all about their topic, the Great Fire of London. Children dressed like the people of the time to learn about how the fire started and what happened during those three fateful days in 1666. They also examined Samuel Pepys' diaries about living in London at that time, and how this event changed London's architecture.

### Great Fire of London



## Outdoor Learning Environment - Volunteers wanted!

Here at King Athelstan we are lucky enough to have a dedicated group of parents and carers - the Outdoor Learning Environment Working Party - who volunteer to help maintain and improve our outdoor spaces. The team meets approximately once a half term at weekends to work on our outdoor spaces. In the past, the team has created the raised beds in the allotment, a hedge across the front of school and a pond in the wildlife garden



amongst other smaller projects. We are excited to welcome one of our parents, Seb Turner, as the new leader of the outdoor learning working party team. The next working party focus will be to create a pathway around the wildlife garden pond and clear and maintain the paths around the wildlife garden. The dates of the next working party sessions are: 10am-1pm Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>

March. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Mrs Williamson on:

[outdoorlearning@kingathelstan.rbksch.org](mailto:outdoorlearning@kingathelstan.rbksch.org). We are also looking for donations of logs and paving slabs if you or anyone you know is having any garden work done. Any questions, please ask!



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

FEBRUARY 2026	
Mon 16-Fri 20	Half term - children not in school
Monday 23	Parent/Carer Books Looks for those with online bookings 3.25-3.55pm
Tuesday 24	Parent/Carer Consultations in person 3.30-6pm - Bookings open. Not Dali
Wednesday 25	Y5 to Kingston Train Station trip
Thursday 26	Parent/Carer Consultations online 4-6.30pm - Bookings open. Not Dali
Thursday 26	Y4 Cake Sale 3.15pm (moved from Friday 27)
Friday 27	PCSA School Discos: Y3-4 from 6-7pm, Years 5-6 from 7-8pm
MARCH 2026	
Tuesday 3	Y5 Dali Parent/Carer Consultations in person 3.30-6pm (new date)
Wednesday 4	Kahlo Class Assembly 9am
Wednesday 4	Community Iftar event - see letter & Google form
Thursday 5	World Book Day - see letter for details
Thursday 5	Y5 Dali Parent/Carer Consultations online 4-6.30pm (new date)
Friday 6	Y6 to RI Science Show at Surbiton High School
Tuesday 10	Y5 & Y6 Kingston cinema trip
Tuesday 10	SEND Parent/Carer Consultations in person 3.30-5.30pm - Bookings open
Wednesday 11	O'Keeffe Class Assembly 9am
Thursday 12	SEND Parent/Carer Consultations in person 3.30-5.30pm - Bookings open
Monday 16	Y5 Greek Day
Monday 16	Deadline for Thinker's Project online entries via Google Classroom please
Tuesday 17	Y4 trip to Natural History Museum - details to follow
Wednesday 18	Van Gogh Class Assembly 9am
Thursday 19	Y5 visit to St John's Church - Google form for volunteers open
Friday 20	Comic Relief Crazy Hair Day - PCSA Fundraiser £1 donation
Tuesday 24	Y6 trip to Kew Gardens - details to follow
Tuesday 24	Y1 Kingston cinema trip
Tuesday 24	Thinker's Project Exhibition 3.20-3.50 & 5.30-6pm
Wednesday 25	Cassatt Class Assembly 9am
Wednesday 25	PCSA Uniform Sale in the Hall after school
Thursday 26	Reception trip to the Wetlands - go to ParentPay
Thursday 26	KS2 Spring Showcase - audition videos due in by 13 <sup>th</sup> February
Friday 27	Y3 Cake Sale 3.15pm
Friday 27	Break up for Easter one hour earlier
APRIL 2026	
30 March - 10 April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13	Y3 trip to the Mosque
Wednesday 15	Y4 Thames Young Mariners Trip - go to ParentPay
Wednesday 15	Hockney Class Assembly 9am

### PCSA

There will be another **pre-loved uniform sale** after school on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**. Call in to the Hall at drop off to pick up some items for a donation to the PCSA, any amount welcome.

PCSA has now set up a page on the well-known site, [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.com). When you buy something from



certain websites that company will donate a percentage of money to the King Athelstan PCSA. It doesn't cost you anything - it all comes from the

company/business you are buying from. It costs us nothing, but if everyone signs up it could make a massive difference to your child's education and experiences whilst at King Athelstan - thank you. The **school disco** is back! On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February. Years 3&4 from 6-7pm, and then Years 5&6 from 7-8pm. Entry by ticket only: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/king-athelstan-primary-school-pcsa>



*King Athelstan Primary School - Inspiring Excellence*



## Achievement Award

Van Gogh Y1 - Amare	O'Keeffe Y1 - Viktoriia
Hockney Y2 - Theo	Matisse Y2 - Liam
Cassatt Y3 - Zac	Da Vinci - Ronnie
Mehretu Y4 - Ali	Wiley Y4 - Su & Emma
Dali Y5 - Ayan	Warhol Y5 - Leo
Kahlo Y6 - Kaysha	Riley - Abdulrahman
KS1 PE - Viktoriia O'Keeffe Y1	KS2 PE - Nadia Da Vinci Y3

Times Tables Rock Stars/NumBots Maths Champions this week:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Viktoriia	Arron & Ellie	Mila	Megan	Meryem	Milena
Kairo	Gregory & Ruth	Matilda	Uzay	Sahib	Myra

## NSPCC Number Day

Children from Years 2-6 took part in the national NSPCC Number Day last week, called NSPCC Rocks. We are pleased to announce the winners from King Athelstan. Well done, and keep it up!

1.	Grace	Riley Class Y6
2.	Ali	Mehretu Class Y4
3.	Ellie	Hockney Class Y2

## House Points

This week **Green House (Villiers)** are in the lead with 33 points. **Red (Dawson)** are just behind with 32 points. **Blue (Hawks)** have 31 and **Yellow (Cambridge)** have 29 points.



## Good Citizen Awards

Spring 1 2026	Name
O'Keeffe	Jackson
Van Gogh	Logan
Matisse	Hazel
Hockney	Arjun
Cassatt	Salma
Da Vinci	Jamie
Mehretu	Poppy
Wiley	Izabella
Dali	Jake
Warhol	Nina
Kahlo	Sophia
Riley	Rosa

At the end of each half-term, one child from each class is chosen to receive our Good Citizen Award. This special recognition is given to pupils who consistently make the right choices — not for rewards or recognition, but simply because it's the right thing to do. Our Good Citizens show kindness, honesty and responsibility in everything they do, whether in the classroom, on the playground, or around school. Each Good Citizen receives a badge and certificate to celebrate their positive attitude and commitment to doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. We are so proud of our latest recipients — well done to all our Good Citizens!

**Spotlight on being a good citizen**

This week the adults in school will be on the look-out for children showing good citizenship.

I meet the behaviour expectations because:

- I don't want to receive a consequence for my unexpected behaviour.
- I want to receive praise and rewards for my good behaviour.
- I want other people to think good things about me.
- I want to do well at school and in the future.
- It is who I am.
- I do the right thing (even if no-one is watching).

What step are you on?

## 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:

**Join Spring Sounds** - a free day of music fun on **Sunday March 22** (10am-5:30pm) at Kingston University's Town House. Try instruments, join workshops like gamelan or video game composing, enjoy talks and performances - all ages welcome, no experience needed. It's relaxed, drop-in style with family zones. Register free for entry and updates (workshops limited). Supported by Arts Council England and Kingston Music Service. Children must be accompanied by an adult. More details and booking, scan the QR code here.



**Family Cycle Ride** - Join Kingston Cycling Campaign and local friends on **Sunday 8 March 2026** for a fun-filled ride through the borough. This free family-friendly ride will start in Manor Park Recreation Ground, Malden Rd, New Malden, and head out on a deliciously-flat 6.5 mile route through 4 different boroughs, designed with all ages and cycling abilities in mind. [To join in the fun or to find out more click here.](https://tiny.cc/FunRideMarch26)