



Dear Families,

We hope you all had an enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend. It was lovely to have an extra day, wasn't it!

Over the past few months, we have been tendering for a new catering contract. Catering contracts tend to be for 3 years with an extension period of up to 2 years. We are now approaching the end of the process. This has involved visits to other schools where the shortlisted companies are already based. Yesterday, Mrs Kearns, our School Business Manager, and I spent the day with our counterparts at Ellingham Primary School, as we are completing this process at the same time. We had presentations from each company and food sampling. The Ellingham School Council asked questions on behalf of both schools:

- *Would you feed different portion sizes to different year groups?*
- *How do you know that the children like the food you make?*
- *Can we have a pudding and fruit?*
- *Why do you want to make the meals for children at our school?*

Over the next week, we have another few school visits before we formally appoint the successful company. Our existing company, WilsonJones, decided not to tender again. It is a very long process due to the size of the contract but we are looking forward to announcing the new company in the second half of term. In these processes, our existing staff TUPE over to the new company so Marie and her team will remain as the staff on site regardless of the change in provider. Exciting times ahead for our school meals!

Next week we have KS2 SATs. This is an important week for our Y6 children. They have worked incredibly hard towards these assessments which all Y6 children across the country do at the same time. We are incredibly proud of the progress of every single child and for us this is what matters. It is great to achieve National Standards but it is also brilliant to demonstrate amazing progress and perseverance. We are proud of every one of you.



Have a lovely weekend.

**Emily Newton**  
Headteacher

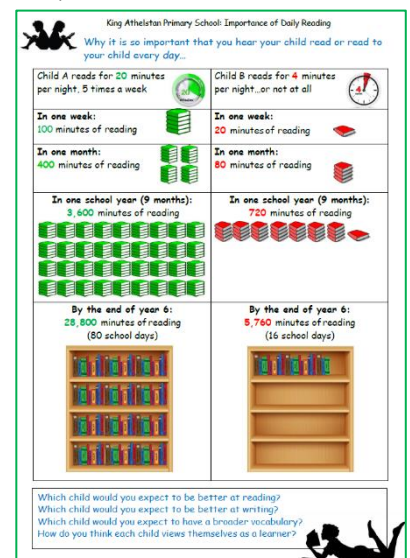
### Phonics and Reading

Soon, our Year 1 children will undergo their Phonics Screening Check, which is a statutory assessment for Year 1 pupils in England, held annually in June to assess decoding skills. Children read 40 words (a mix of real and "alien" nonsense words) one-on-one with a teacher and is designed to check children's ability to recognise sounds and blend them to read words confidently. The children have been working incredibly hard in school and we are very proud of the progress they are making.

You can really help at home by:

- Listening to your child read regularly
- Practising recognising and saying sounds
- Encouraging your child to blend sounds together when reading unfamiliar words
- Using any phonics practice sheets or games sent home by school

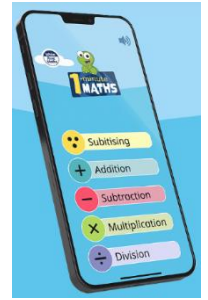
At King Athelstan, reading for pleasure is at the top of our reading agenda and we work hard to create a positive reading environment for all year groups. As parents and carers, you can support the love of reading at home by listening to your child read and reading to them daily. Bed time stories and reading at home, not only increase academic ability, but also help to strengthen family relationships and foster a lifelong love of books. Each child has a log in to Oxford Owl, a free e-book library, to access books at home. A little practice each day makes a huge difference and helps build children's confidence and fluency. Thank you for your continued support.



## One Minute Maths!

If you're going to allow your child screen time, let it be screen time that builds confidence and learning too!

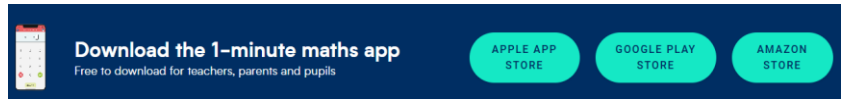
The free **1-Minute Maths** app from [White Rose Education](https://www.whiteroseeducation.com) helps children develop number fluency through fun, fast-paced one-minute challenges. Designed especially for Reception and KS1 pupils, the app supports key maths skills including:



- number bonds
- addition and subtraction
- multiplication and division
- subitising (recognising quantities without counting)

Children can complete short activities independently, receive instant feedback, and even use helpful hints when needed. The questions are randomly generated, so children learn the maths concepts rather than memorising answers.

Why families love it:



- Completely FREE
- No adverts or distractions
- No login or internet required after download
- Just 1 minute at a time — perfect for busy routines
- Builds confidence and recall of key number facts

The app is available on Apple, Android and Kindle devices.

**If you're going to allow your child screen time — let it be this!**

## New to Nursery or Reception

For those who have children starting either Nursery or Reception in September, please note the following dates. A **Welcome to Nursery** meeting will take place online for parents/carers on Thursday 4 June 4 from 10:15 – 10:45am. This will be a Google Meet and the link to join is: <https://meet.google.com/gbd-syjq-wjr>. Similarly, there is a **Welcome to Reception** meeting online, also on Thursday 4 June 4 from 9:15 – 9:45am, and the link to join is: <https://meet.google.com/dsb-fxzx-omi>. Families can ask any questions and find out all about what happens when their child joins in either of these year groups.

In June, there will be **Stay & Play sessions** for children joining either For Nursery or Reception in September. Parents/Carers can bring their child into their classroom three times to get used to the space and meet the staff:

- Tues 9<sup>th</sup> June 9.15am - 9.45am
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 9.15am - 9.45am
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2.15pm - 2.45pm



The team hopes to see as many families and prospective children and look forward to them joining King Athelstan.

## Eco Day & Outdoor Learning

We are very excited to announce our first Eco Warriors-led Eco Day. This day will be combined with our biannual [Outdoor Classroom Day](#) on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May**. The Eco Warrior team have devised a number of activities for every year group to engage in, both inside and outside the classroom. They have chosen a theme of animals to run through the day. Children will also be doing other parts of their learning outside, and whilst indoors, the Eco Warriors will be encouraging everyone to turn off lights, working with natural light and minimise use of Smart boards to save electricity. The Eco Warriors have created a Thinker's Project grid based on their animal theme, which children will be able to access on Google Classroom. Any contributions to this special Thinker's Project will be celebrated in assembly and the children will receive a certificate. Children will also be planting a class sunflower for a school competition. Lots of classes will be making models with recycling items, so we welcome children bringing in cardboard boxes, plastic tubs and bottles and bottle lids to their classrooms. All children should wear their PE uniform on this day as they will be spending time outside. Thank you.



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### MAY 2026

Friday 15	The Little Recyclers clothing donation - drop off in the car park by 9am
Friday 15	PCSA Quiz Night 7.30pm Spring Grove
Monday 18 May	Start of Walk to School Week
Wednesday 20	Dali Class Assembly 9am
Thursday 21	Outdoor Classroom & Eco Day
Friday 22	Reception Cake Sale 3.10pm
Mon 25-Fri 29 May	<b>Half-Term - children not in school</b>

### JUNE 2026

Wednesday 3	International Day - <a href="#">see letter for details</a>
Thursday 4	Welcome to Nursery (10.15am) and Reception (9.15am) - online meetings
Friday 5	Class Photograph Day
Friday 5	PCSA Football World Cup Event 6-7.30pm
Tuesday 9	EYFS Stay & Play 9.15am
Wednesday 10	Y2 trip to Hampton Court - go to ParentPay
Friday 12	Y3 trip to the Science Museum - go to ParentPay
Friday 12-Mon 15	Y6 Residential trip to PGL
Tuesday 16	Y6 Rest Day for those who attended PGL
Tuesday 16	Y3 Country Dancing Festival - volunteer on ParentPay
Tuesday 16	SEND Parent/Carer Plan Reviews - details to follow
Thursday 18	EYFS trip to Bocketts Farm - go to ParentPay
Thursday 18	Y5 Workshops at The Hollyfield School
Thursday 18	Choir Concert at the Rose Theatre - go to ParentPay. Tickets on Theatre website
Thursday 18	SEND Parent/Carer Plan Reviews - details to follow
Friday 19	Y1 Cake Sale 3.15pm
Monday 22	Y6 author visit at the Rose Theatre - details to follow
Wednesday 24	Y1 Trip to Littlehampton seaside - <a href="#">go to ParentPay</a>
Friday 26	EYFS Stay & Play 9.15am
Friday 26	Y6 Lolly Sales 3.15pm
Saturday 27	PCSA Summer Circus!

### JULY 2026

Wednesday 1	EYFS Sports Day - in the MUGA at school - details to follow
Thursday 2	Y1-Y6 Sports Day - at Athelstan Recreation Ground - details to follow
Thursday 2	Y6 Lolly Sale 3.15pm
Thursday 2	Y6 Quiz Night - details to follow
Friday 3	<b>INSET Day - children not in school</b>
Monday 6	Last week of clubs
Tuesday 7	EYFS Stay & Play 2.15pm
Wednesday 8	Y6 Production 2pm - details to follow
Thursday 9	EYFS Beach Day - details to follow
Thursday 9	Y6 Production 7pm - details to follow
Friday 10	PCSA AGM 9am
Friday 10	Y4 Ukulele Concert 2.30pm
Friday 10	Y6 Lolly sales 3.15pm
Friday 10	Y6 evening event - details to follow
Tuesday 14	Thinker's Project Exhibition 3.20-3.50pm & 5.30-6pm
Thursday 16	Y6 Leavers' Assembly & Tea - details to follow
Friday 17	School ends one hour earlier

### SEPTEMBER 2026

Monday 7	First day of autumn term
----------	--------------------------

## Gardening Working Party



A huge thank you to the wonderful Gardening Working Party, who once again came on site last Saturday. They cleared lots of growth in the Wildlife Garden and paved around the pond there, making it more easily accessible. There is also some new planting - a lovely hydrangea bush, amongst others - as well as some general tidying up.



## Achievement Assembly



### Achievement Award

Van Gogh Y1 - Rayan      O'Keeffe Y1 - Nevaeh Jade

Hockney Y2 - Herberts      Matisse Y2 - Ebrahim

Cassatt Y3 - Ava      Da Vinci - Kayden

Wiley Y4 - Talia-Rose      Mehretu Y4 - Aya

Dali Y5 - Toby      Warhol Y5 - Ruby

Riley - Azra      Kahlo Y6 - Rhys

KS1 PE - Dominic in O'Keeffe Y1      KS2 PE - Megan in Wiley Y4

Times Tables Rock Stars/NumBots Maths Champions this week:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Logan	Theo & Ellie	Ayaan	Poppy	Meryem	Abdul
Aadarsh	Ruth & Gregory	Yanice	Rachel	Alfie	Mohamad

## House Points

This week the winner is **Red House (Dawson)**. **Green House (Villiers)** are in second place, **Yellow House (Cambridge)** are third and **Blue House (Hawks)** fourth.



## 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. Thank you. The link is: [King Athelstan Wish List](#). We also welcome any knickers/pants and school socks to hold as spares for children across the school. These are often cheaper to buy in supermarkets, so we have not added them on Amazon!

## KOOSA Kids

KOOSA Kids will be operating their May Half Term Holiday Club at King Athelstan Primary School from 26th-29th May during the half-term holiday. The exciting, action-packed activity programme is designed for children aged 4-13, featuring a mix of exciting games, art & crafts, active challenges and the famous Go-Karts. See flyer for more information. Bookings are now open!

<https://www.koosakids.co.uk/holiday-club>



PCSA has several events and schemes at the moment:

1. The Little Recyclers: bring unwanted clothes and other items to the school car park on the morning of **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May** (see lists of acceptable items on the poster)
2. [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) Families can download the app and do their online shopping in this way to raise money for the school. [Sign up here.](#)
3. [www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk) Weekly prizes offered for £1 ticket.
4. Adults' Quiz Night on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May at the Spring Grove pub from 7.30pm.



Tickets for all PCSA events are available here:

<https://www.ticketsource.com/king-athelstan-primary-school-pcsa>

You can contact the PCSA on [kingathelstanpcsa@gamil.com](mailto:kingathelstanpcsa@gamil.com)

### 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:

**Free bike-marking** - The Metropolitan Police will be offering free bike marking using bike register outside Kingston University, Penrhyn Road, Kingston KT1 2EE on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May** between 11am and 3pm. This will be in conjunction with the Dr.



Bike service where you can get your pedal cycle checked for free by an experienced Bike Mechanic. They will carry out a standard "M" check of each bike, and can fix a range of issues including: adjusting brake levers, indexing gears and lubricating key mechanical parts. They will also inform you of any extensive issues that cannot be fixed onsite.



**Family Childcare Survey** - Every year councils have to report on childcare in their area to ensure they are meeting the needs of families and their children. In Kingston and Richmond the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report is produced by Achieving for Children, who provide children's services for Kingston and Richmond councils. To build a clear picture of childcare (for both early years and school age children) across our area, and how well it meets the needs of local families, we are asking parents and carers who either currently use childcare or need to use childcare to complete our Parents and Family Childcare Survey - this survey is anonymous. Your feedback will help us understand what is working well, identify any gaps and inform how we can better support families and develop local childcare provision. Your contribution is extremely valuable and we hope to receive a wide range of responses representing the needs of all families. [Access Parent and Family Childcare Survey here](#)

The survey outcomes will be included in our annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessments which are published each Autumn and also shared with the Department of Education. You can view our last year's report here: [Childcare Sufficiency Assessment: Kingston and Richmond 2025](#)

**Coombe Girls' School** - Please see the poster, right, about an Open Evening on **8th July** and Open Mornings in June and July for Y7 admission to Coombe Girls' School in New Malden.

