



Dear Families,

Our spotlight for this week was on our listening skills: *We listen to everyone*, with a particular focus on the importance of listening to adult instructions. Next week our spotlight will be led by Mrs Williamson and our team of Eco Warriors with a focus on *taking care of our school*.



In assembly this week, we examined the story of *The Star Thrower* by Loren Eiseley (1907-1977), which goes like this:

*Once upon a time, there was an old man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach every morning before he began his work. Early one morning, he was walking along the shore after a big storm had passed and found the vast beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see, stretching in both directions.*

*Off in the distance, the old man noticed a small boy approaching. As the boy walked, he paused every so often and as he grew closer, the man could see that he was occasionally bending down to pick up an object and throw it into the sea. The boy came closer still and the man called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"*



*The young boy paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can't return to the sea by themselves. When the sun gets high, they will die, unless I throw them back into the water."*

*The old man responded, "But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I'm afraid you won't really be able to make much of a difference."*

*The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean. Then he turned, smiled and said, "It made a difference to that one!"*

We reflected that, even though sometimes issues can seem very big and overwhelming, each of us can make a small difference and these can add up to bigger change. This is relevant at all levels, from global issues such as climate change to looking after our school and each other. It can be tempting to think 'well, other people don't bother' but we can only control our own actions and we never know who else we might influence to make a change!

Just a final reminder to all families that the **gates are locked at 8:45am** for KS1 and KS2. Children arriving at or after this time **must** go through the office where parents/carers must sign them in to ensure they are registered correctly which is important for the children's safety. We have seen an increase in children and families arriving at 8:45 as the gates are being locked (or later). Please also remember to keep the movement flowing by not stopping to handover belongings or watch children going into the building as this blocks the pathway for others. Thank you for your support with this.

Have a lovely weekend.

Emily Newton

Headteacher

## Parent Governor Vacancy

The King Athelstan Governing Body currently has a vacancy for a Parent Governor, and information and application forms were emailed to all families on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

As the parent or carer of a pupil currently on roll you are eligible to stand as a candidate. (Eligible candidates include: father, mother, legal guardian, person having custody of a child on roll). The Governing Body establishes the strategic direction of the school by:

- Setting the vision, values, and objectives for the school
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- Meeting statutory duties to support the school in achieving these goals.

King Athelstan has ten governors. To find out more, see the website [here](#). We hope to receive lots of applications.

## Focus on Maths KIRF

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, especially 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. In class, each child will complete three space races based on the focus, which will then be sent home so you can see the facts they need to practise further. 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. See the attachments at the bottom of the website page [here](#) for all the KIRFs for each year group each term so that you can help your children at home. Here is the KIRF overview for all (right). Remember, the Y2-6 Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) Glow Up update takes place today - if children log in to TTRS they can see the exciting changes and customise the colours etc on their account. They may need to log out and back in again to see these changes.

Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs)						
By the end of each half term, children should know the following facts. The aim is for them to recall these facts instantly. Please see our school website for guidance and examples of the KIRFs.						
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4*	Year 5	Year 6
Aut 1	I know division and halves of numbers to 20.	I know division and halves of numbers to 20.	I know number bonds for all numbers to 20. For example: $7 + 3 = 10$ , $12 + 4 = 16$ , $18 + 2 = 20$	I know number bonds to 100.	I know the multiplication and division facts for all times tables up to 12 x 12 (divisor).	I know the multiplication and division facts for all times tables up to 12 x 12 (divisor).
Aut 2	I know number bonds for each number to 6. For example: $2 + 4 = 6$ , $3 + 3 = 6$ , $4 + 2 = 6$	I know number bonds to 20. For example: $14 + 6 = 20$ , $5 + 15 = 20$ , $20 = 10 + 10$	I know the multiplication and division facts for the 3 times table.	I know the multiplication and division facts for the 5 times table.	I can identify prime numbers up to 20.	I can identify common factors of a pair of numbers.
Sp 1	I know number bonds to 10.	I know the multiplication and division facts for the 2 times table.	I know the multiplication and division facts for the 4 times table.	I know the multiplication and division facts for the 9 and 18 times tables.	I can recall square numbers up to 144 and their square roots.	I can identify prime numbers up to 50.
Sp 2	I know number bonds for each number to 10.	I know the multiplication and division facts for the 10 times table.	I know the multiplication and division facts for the 8 times table.	I know the multiplication and division facts for the 7 times table.	I can find factor pairs of a number.	I can convert between decimals, fractions and percentages.
Term 1	I can tell the time (to clock and half past).	I know the multiplication and division facts for the 6 times table.	I can recall facts about directions of time.	I can recognise decimal equivalents of fractions.	I know decimal number bonds to 1 and 10.	I know the decimal and percentage equivalents of the fractions $\frac{1}{2}$ , $\frac{3}{4}$ , $\frac{1}{4}$ , $\frac{1}{10}$ , $\frac{1}{100}$ and 1000.
Term 2	I can count in 5s (up to 50), 2s (up to 100), 10s (up to 100) and 100s (up to 1000).	I can tell the time (quarter hour intervals and 5 minutes).	I can tell the time (5 minutes and nearest minute).	I can multiply and divide single-digit numbers by 10 and 100.	I can recall metric conversions.	I know the square roots of square numbers to 15 x 15.

\*Children in Year 4 will be taking the 'Multiplication Tables Check' to determine whether year 4 pupils can fluently recall their multiplication tables. It is a live stage 2 (KS2) assessment to be taken by pupils at the end of year 4, which is statutory from June 2022.

## Y5 Swimming

Swimming forms a vital part of PE in the National Curriculum, and school has a legal requirement to teach all children water safety and to swim 25m by the time they reach the age of 11. The ParentPay item is still open for families who have not yet made a contribution to the cost of the coach. At King Athelstan, we are currently taking Y5 to swimming lessons at the Malden Centre, New Malden in the spring term, as we have done for the last few years since the Kingfisher Leisure Centre closed in 2020. The lessons are taught by Mr McLaughlin and a team of instructors according to the children's ability. The children are taught the following:

- To swim competently over a distance of at least 25 metres.
- To be able to use a range of strokes effectively - front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke.
- To perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.



This year's Y5 are enjoying their lessons, and working hard on their swimming skills. Thank you to the Y5 parents who are accompanying the group each week on a rota basis - we really value your help. We have had positive feedback from other users of the pool saying how quiet the children are in the changing rooms and that they are well-behaved around the Centre. Keep it up, Y5!

## Ice/Heat Packs for First Aid



We use these re-usable medical packs in school, which can be deployed as either ice or heat packs depending on the situation. Unfortunately, many of them seem to have disappeared and we now have very few. These are a regular item on our Amazon Wish List for this reason! We always ask children in school to return them to the Medical Room, and would like to ask if you find any at home to please return them, too. Thank you.



## Amazon Wish List

We have an ongoing Amazon Wish List. There is no obligation to buy anything, but all purchases are very much appreciated. Have a look at the link here: <https://amzn.eu/hcy87Hz> . We also have an

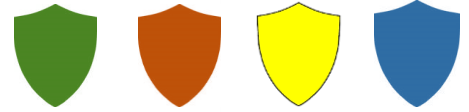


ongoing item in ParentPay called *Donation to School Fund for Resources 2024-25*, which we have recently used to buy 200 more white board pens which the children use daily. Thank you for all donations.



## House Points

This week in first place is **Green (Villiers)** with 31 points. Blue (Hawks) are in second place on 28. Red (Dawson) have 25 points, and Yellow (Cambridge) have 24.



## Achievement Assembly



### Achievement Award

Van Gogh Y1 - Jolene

O'Keeffe Y1 - Gregory

Hockney Y2 - Ronnie

Matisse Y2 - Ben

Cassatt Y3 - Ali

Da Vinci Y3 - Emma

Mehretu Y4 - Inaya

Wiley Y4 - Amelie

Dali Y5 - Zophie

Warhol Y5 -

Riley Y6 - Gaby

Kahlo Y6 - Sofia

KS1 PE Oscar in Hockney Class Y2

KS2 PE Arran in Riley Class Y6

Eco Warriors welcomed a new member to their team: Aya in Cassatt Class

Times Tables Rock Stars/NumBots Maths Champions this week:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Kieran	Talia & Giulia	Stephen	Alae Nor	Beth	Julia
Fatima	Robin & Kayden	Sharav	Dunia		Meryem O

## PCSA



The PCSA is looking for some additional committee members and particularly a Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Chair. If you would like to get involved, or find out more information, please contact: [kingathelstanpcsa@gmail.com](mailto:kingathelstanpcsa@gmail.com)

### Dates for the diary

- Friday 31st January, cake sale - Year 4
- Saturday 1st February, Gig Night (right) - adults only from 19:00
- Friday 28th February, cake sale - Year 3
- Thursday 13th March, Spring Showcase - run by Mr Thomas
- Friday 28th March, Quiz Night - adults only, school hall



DATES FOR THE DIARY	
JANUARY 2025	
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
Friday 28	Cake Sale Y3 3.15pm
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
Wednesday 12	Parent/Carer Book Looks 3.30-4pm
Thursday 13	Y5 trip to the British Museum
Thursday 13	KS2 Spring Showcase - See Google Classroom
Tuesday 18	Y4 trip to Natural History Museum
Tuesday 18	Lifting Young Voices Concert - information to follow
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
Friday 28	PCSA Quiz Night (adults only) School Hall
APRIL	
Friday 4	Break up one hour earlier for Easter holiday
Tuesday 22	Children return to school
Friday 25	Cake Sale Y2 3.15pm
MAY	
Monday 5	Bank Holiday - children not in school
Tues 12-15	Y6 SATs
Thursday 22	Cake Sale Reception 3.15pm
Mon 26-Fri 30	Half-Term



## 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:

**Light Up Kingston** - Kingston First and Riverside Walk are delighted to announce the return of Light Up Kingston 2025, from **Friday 14th February to Monday 23rd February 2025** in Kingston Town Centre. This year's event is set to be bigger and brighter featuring more installations, interactive elements, and the introduction of sound and movement. The event promises to brighten up February's gloomy winter evenings every day from 4.30pm-9pm. As part of this celebration, Kingston's local businesses will once again be involved in the event, offering exclusive deals and discounts for visitors, such as 25% off your total food bill, and Kids Eat Free. Participating venues include Gourmet Burger Kitchen, Chakra, Excellar, Cass Art, PRYZM, FunClub, Afrikana and many more! There will also be an expanded line-up of installations. As well as the return of last year's Light Maze in the Ancient Market Place, there will also be a whole host of new light displays incorporating soundscapes and dynamic movement, adding a new layer of magic to these beautiful installations.

