

Newsletter *December 2019*

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NEWS FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Well done and thank you

It is hard to believe that the term has gone so quickly. It has been a great term in which the children have worked really hard to make good progress. So many exciting events have taken place both in and out of school and I am truly thankful to the wonderfully committed staff who make KPS such a great place to work and learn.

A special well done must go to our newest arrivals in reception. These wonderful children have settled brilliantly in to school life and appear very comfortable in their surroundings. They have made great friends, are happy and are learning well every day. Rehearsals for the Nativity performance by Reception are going well – I know there will be a few tears from proud mums and dads in the audience next week.

School progress update

We have continued to make great progress this term towards the developments set to us by Ofsted: writing has been a strong focus with every child from Year 1 to 6 having a presentation book to show off their best work; we look forward to welcoming you in for another visit at the start of next term so that you can see what we have been up to.

In maths, we have implemented and developed a widely recognised approach to promoting deep understanding. The 'mastery' approach is used by many schools to great success and we have already noticed real improvement in children's understanding. Our Times Tables Rockstars leader board is also highly contested with some incredibly rapid recall of number facts gracing the top steps.

In addition, we have implemented a new approach to whole class reading and are delighted to inform you that we have been awarded an additional £5,000 to support with the purchase of exciting reading books. Our parent and pupil discussions tell us clearly that children wish to have greater freedom when choosing their reading material, particularly in Year 3 and beyond. So, in the new term, we will be developing our reading corners and allowing children to choose more flexibly from the material that really excites and motivates them to read. I look forward to inviting you in to the school to hear more about the approaches we are using.

We need you

If you can spare a little time on a regular basis each week to hear readers, we would love to hear from you. We know that reading on a daily basis is vital to ensure that children make the best progress they can and while teachers and teaching partners work tirelessly to hear as many children as they can, there is simply not enough time in the day to hear as many as we would like. If you could spare a little time, for example for half an hour before pick-up time, to hear children in a range of classes, please send an email to Acting Deputy Headteacher - Mrs Hillman on: lhillman@kingsway.gloucs.sch.uk letting us know which days and times you could help.

Help us to help you

We all know that life can be challenging at times. We do all we can to support families in any way we can and know that as highly visible members of the community, we can be a close support when emotions are raw. We love helping and want to do what we can for you and your children. We aren't perfect, but we do strive to the best we can be. Unfortunately, in the past few weeks there have been a couple of instances where a very small number of our community have been confrontational and aggressive in their language and behaviour – either to each other or to the school staff. As the Executive Head Teacher, I must make it clear that this will not be tolerated in any way. It has been necessary to warn one or two visitors to the site that this kind of behaviour is totally unacceptable and will result in ban from the site if necessary. I respectfully request support from everyone in demonstrating the behaviours we would expect our children to learn and show to others.

Thank you for helping us to make sure all children, staff and adults can come to a school where they feel comfortable, safe and secure.

INTERNET SAFETY

On the 19th November, we had a visit from the 'Internet Legends' who gave us an assembly about Internet Safety. The children worked through some different problems where they had to work through the Internet Legends Code which includes: Think Before you Share, Check it's for Real, Protect your Stuff, Respect Each other and When in doubt, discuss. More information and a game to practise these skills can be found on https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk



ENTERPRISE FAIR was a great success. The children made some lovely Christmas creations to sell and a made few games for the visitors to play.

All money raised will go to the classes chosen charity. Thank you also parents, carers, friends and family who came along to support the children, hope you will enjoy the Christmas gifts you bought.

Chosen charities are:

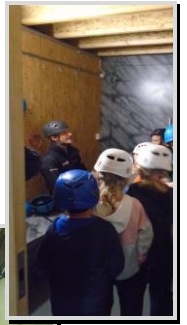
- EYFS – Teckles
- Year 1 – Teckles
- Year 2 – Teckles
- Year 3 – Wild Hogs Rescue & Sue Ryder
- Year 4 – Super Hero foundation
- Year 5 – Teckles
- Year 6 – Children’s Burns Trust & Dogs Trust

Total amount raised is £455.95



AMAZING SCHOOL TRIPS

Yet another group of **Year 3** children were able to enjoy the wonderful experience of Laches Wood. The children became independent, helpful and were excited about all the challenges and tasks that they took on as a group. From making a musical instruments to a dark evening walk in the forest, from caving to den building and a lot more. The children even had to clean their rooms before leaving. If you were able to come along to the Year 3 assembly, you would have heard a few of the songs we sang and chanted.



Year 4 had a fabulous trip Dragon Boat racing. The children were put in to three groups and shown how to use their oars for particular commands in order to make the boat move in different directions. Not an easy task when your hands are cold, brrrr! Like true Viking Warriors they pushed through cold and rain, rowing with all their might to the beat of the drum. Their packed lunches were definitely well deserved after that!



Year 4
Brave Viking Warriors
rowing to the beat of the drum.



The **Year 5** trip to Breakheart Quarry was all about getting out in the great outdoors. This amazing disused quarry is a great place to learn, explore and discover. The children were able to research the different types of trees around them by the shape of its leaf, bark, fruit and bud. They also built some magnificent dens using the resources around them and great team work.

Bringing out even more creativity in the children, we then asked them to sculpt something with the quarry stone. A lighthouse, roundhouse, flowers and much more was built. The children even had some time to play in a large excavated quarry pit after their well learnt lunch.

Popcorn was also on the menu but the children had to make it themselves over a fire pit, this took a little perseverance, however, they needed to persevere a lot more when trying to set alight a cotton wool ball with a flint and steel. A great lot of fun and mud was had by all.



FOODBANK

We would like to say a **big thank** you to two of our Year 5 pupils, Nancy and Summer, wrote to the Headteacher asking if the school could have a Christmas collection for the Foodbank. This was a lovely idea as the whole school would be involved. Messages were sent out to parents and carers asking them for their help and support by giving a donation of suitable food items for the Foodbank.

The children have managed to collect some food already, but if you would like to donate some food then please check out the Foodbank website:

<https://gloucester.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> and or bring in your donation by 10th December. The food will be collected on Wednesday 11th December.

PARENTPAY UPDATE

Auto top-up for school meals to launch soon

What is Auto top-up? Based on parental preference, Auto top-up will add money to their child's meal account as soon as the balance falls low. Funds are drawn directly from the parent's bank account (via Bank Transfer).

Parents will get increased peace of mind and schools will benefit from decreased meal debt. Auto top-up has already been successfully tested with parents across the UK.

Please note: Auto top-up is not available to parents who use advanced meal booking services.

For more information please check out the website: www.parentpay.com/bank-transfer-and-auto-top-up/ and or <https://www.parentpay.com/dec-update-2019/> for the December 2019 update.

PLEASE NOTE DIARY DATES WILL BE UPDATED AS/WHEN EVENTS ARISE & **DATES MAY CHANGE.**



DIARY DATES 2019



December 2019

- 10th Dec 2019
 - Christmas Dinner
- 11th Dec 2019
 - Reception/Year 1 Christmas Production Matinee Performance 2pm - 3pm
- 12th Dec 2019
 - Reception/Year 1 Christmas Production Evening Performance 5pm – 6pm
- 13th Dec 2019
 - Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime in School 9 – 11:30am
- 17th Dec 2019
 - Key Stage 2 + Yr2 Carol Concert 2pm – 3pm
- 20th Dec 2019
 - **School finishes at 2:30pm**

*Wishing you a
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from Kingsway Primary School.*



And Finally.....

Please ensure that your contact details are up to date. If unsure contact the school office on 01452 881800 or email admin@kingsway.gloucs.sch.uk



DIARY DATES 2020



January 2020

- 6th Jan 2020
 - **School re-opens at normal time**
- 7th Jan 2020
 - Provisional Date for Year 3 Trip to Coaley Peak
- 15th Jan 2020
 - QLC Gymnastics event at Clearwater
- 17th Jan 2020
 - Young Voices Concert
- 27- 31st Jan 2020
 - Bikeability Training Week

February 2020

- 5th Feb 2020
 - QLC Cross Country at Beach Green 1pm – 3pm
- 17 – 21st Feb 2020
 - **Half Term – School Closed**
- 24th Feb 2020
 - **Inset Day – School closed**

April 2020

- 6 – 17th April 2020
 - **Easter Holidays**

May 2020

- 8th May 2020
 - **Bank Holiday**
- 25 – 29th May 2020
 - **Half Term**

