



HEADTEACHER NEWS

Last week we had the excitement of the Head Boy and Head Girl elections, the pupils all entered into the spirit of the process and it was a true reflection of democracy in action. The letters of applications of the 9 pupils involved were exceptional and they should all be incredibly proud of themselves. Throughout the process they demonstrated all of our school values and proved what truly exceptional pupils we have here at Great Kingshill; both Mr Eaden and I found the whole experience humbling.

Student Leadership

Congratulations to Charlie Gourley and Hannah Franklin who are newly appointed Head Boy and Head Girl. I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the best for their new roles and agree that they are both deserving ambassadors for the school.

We would like to thank all the other candidates for their participation, the standard was very high and we would have been proud to have had anyone of them elected.

We asked all the candidates to describe the best thing about our schools and overwhelmingly the pupils said:

"The adults in school as they are kind and they help us with our work and our concerns, they make us feel loved."

Values:

This week to support our Student Leadership elections we have been discussing leadership and hope in collective worship. We discussed with the children what makes great leaders and how they could all demonstrate leadership both at home and in school.

"Great leaders don't set out to be leaders...they set out to make a difference. It's never about the role and always about the goal"

Parents Evening Booking for Reception – Year 6 Booking opens 5pm on Monday

At the beginning of next week, we will be opening bookings for parents evening. You will need to log on to eSchools to book your appointments. For new parents you will be sent a letter with your eSchools log on. All appointments will be 10 minutes long and are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Parents evening is your chance to find out how your child has settled into their new year group. We strongly encourage all parents to attend.

Any parents who are unable to log in, will need to email the school office to request that their password is reset. We would suggest that all parents check their log on before 5pm on Monday when booking will become live.

Homework Focus Group

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the two homework focus group meetings, despite the short notice. It was really pleasing to see so many of you there and that there was a general consensus in the room that:

Parents broadly wanted homework to be better organised and more consistent in approach, they wanted to know that the homework set would make a difference to their child and would be marked and acknowledged by the teacher.

Overwhelmingly parents felt that homework should be given in the following areas:

- Reading – daily reading and reading comprehension activities
- Spelling – weekly spelling lists that are relevant to the year group spelling expectations. This would involve pupils learning the words including the meaning and then writing them in sentences.
- Times tables – weekly learning of times tables, which will be tested.

We have taken on board the suggestions from parents and will be implementing new homework expectations from the beginning of next half term. In the meantime, please keep reading with your child, practising their times table and learning any spellings that have been sent home.

Drop off arrangements

Please can you ensure that you have witnessed your child walking through the school gate when you drop off, as we have had a number of children who have been dropped off after the gate has closed and have brought themselves around to the school office. Pupils who do not come through the school gate need to be signed in by an adult.

Punctuality and Parking

We have an increasing number of pupils arriving late, this is very disruptive for the pupils as it means they often miss the start of day routines. Please ensure that you arrive in school on time, the gate will be closed promptly at 8:50 and we ask that all parents have left the school site by this time.

Thank you to the majority of our parents who park in a considerate way, can I take this opportunity to remind parents that they should not be parking in the front or carparks of the school, even at 7:30! We would also ask that you are mindful of our neighbours and do not park over their driveways or in the carpark of the shop.

Choir needs you!

Thus far the school choir only has 5 members, whilst I understand that some pupils had to choose between other clubs available on a Monday it would be fantastic if we could have more pupils joining our choir, Miss Prout will consider opening the club up to Year 2 pupils. If your child is interested, please sign up using Parent Pay.

Parent Helpers

Are you interested in becoming a parent helper? We are looking for parent helpers to help with a range of activities in school.

We will expect all parents who wish to come in and help in school to attend a short safeguarding and parent training workshop. After you have attended the training you will then be cleared to help in school.

This year we will be coordinating the work of parent helpers to ensure that all classes benefit, as last year some classes were overwhelmed with help and could not use all parents who offered to help, whereas this support could have been used elsewhere. We appreciate that parents want to help in the classes of their child or children but we are asking if you could give a little extra time to help support another class, (as some of our older classes get very few volunteers), it would be greatly appreciated.

Dates for training are as follows:

Wednesday 4th October – 9:00am

Friday 6th October – 2:30pm

Thursday 12th October – 9:00am

We are looking for parents to help in the following ways:

- Hearing readers
- Preparing resources
- Photocopying
- Craft and creative activities
- Cooking activities

We are also looking for parents to come and help during Forest School sessions on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon. Your child does not have to be attending these sessions. In order to ensure that the session runs smoothly we need 1 additional adult per session. If you are interested, please email into the school office marked FOA Mrs Mabey.

Harvest Festival:

Thank you to everyone who made donations to our Harvest festival. I know that all the donations will make a difference to the people who use the One Can Trust.

Pre-School Open Day

Our pre-school class has been up and running since the start of term and we are holding an open day on Tuesday 3rd October, parent with children who are 3 or due to turn 3 this academic year are welcome to visit the pre-school setting throughout the morning. The open session will run from 9:15 -11:00. Please come along and see what we have to offer.

Prayer Group

We are a group of parents and friends of the school who meet weekly to pray for the children, staff and families who are part of Great Kingshill School as well as the school events that happen here and away.

Firstly, we would love to welcome anyone who would like to join us in praying after school drop off on Thursday and Friday mornings (alternating week by week) in the nurture room (sign in at main office and ask for directions if you need). We enjoy having toddlers and babies with us, and we even have a few toys!

Secondly we will be serving coffee and muffins in the canteen from 8.45am on Thursday 5th October if you would like to come and meet us and find out more.

Regardless of your beliefs or faith we would like to pray for you and there is a prayer box in the seating area by the school office for anonymous requests should you wish to let us know of any particular situation or events that you are in or aware of. You can also get in contact with us via the messy church/ prayer group pigeon hole in the school office.

We hope your children are settling in well this term, and in particular that any new parents are feeling welcome here and adjusting to the changes. There's a lot to get used to and remember! We are praying for a great year, especially for the children to develop great friendships and for a positive learning environment and lots of fun.

We look forward to meeting some of you next Thursday,
Great Kingshill Prayer Group

Jeans for Genes:

Thank you to everyone who supported Jeans for Genes on Friday, the children all looked fantastic in their blue and it was quite strange looking out at a sea of blue in collective worship instead of red. We are delighted to announce that we raised £350 for Blue House' chosen charity, our next significant charity event will be for Yellow House and Children In Need.

Fitter Futures:

Once again this year we have teamed up with Fitter Futures to promote our pupils' fitness and wellbeing. Today the pupils will bring home their log on details and attached to the newsletter is a letter explaining how to log on to the website. www.fitterfuture.com

Attendance:

We would like to remind parents that all pupils should be through the gate and into school by 8:50, any pupil arriving after this time should be signed in as late. There are an increasing number of families who are habitually arriving late every day, we will be monitoring lateness and expect all pupils to arrive on time. In our efforts to raise awareness of attendance and celebrate high attendance levels, each week we will be recognising the class that has achieved the highest level of attendance and at the end of each term we will recognise those pupils who have achieved 100% attendance with a certificate.

This week's attendance champions are:
6CQ with 98.2% attendance, well done 6CQ!

House Points:

Each week pupils work hard in school to earn house points. House points are used to reward pupils who have achieved well in class, either through effort or high attainment. At the end of each week the house captains' count and the outcomes are shared with the school during celebration worship.

Tudor	York	Windsor	Stuart
211	155	140	188

PTA News

Yesterday the PTA held their AGM, this has resulted in

Katie Rostgaard being elected as Chair, she will be supported by the committee including:

Secretary: Rhian Cockshoot

Treasurer: Karen Mahdavi / Kam O'Donnell

After half term we will see the build up to the Christmas Fair and the highlight event of the PTA year, please support where you can and look out for notifications from them.

Easyfundraising

Easyfundraising is such a wonderful tool to help our school raise money whenever parents shop online yet we have not been utilising it. Since opening our account in December 2014 we have only raised **£2,721.70** with only a **145 supporters**. This is a really easy way to raise money for the school and all you have to do is visit the website and this shop using their links.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gkcspta

Children's News:

Anti-Bully Conference

This week four pupils from Year 5 attended the first Bucks Anti-Bullying Conference. The children returned to school full of enthusiasm and with a plan of things they want to put into place to raise our awareness of bullying issues. The conference named them "Agents for Change" and they were awarded a badge that they will wear in school.

These pupils will be our anti-bullying champions and help to promote safety and wellbeing for all pupils. Their first suggestion is that they would like to establish a "friendship drop in spot" This will be for children who are having friendship issues, they will be supported by the peer mentors and encouraged to support each other. This will be a child lead group and Mrs Marks one of our nurture practitioners will be there to support and guide the pupils.

They will be encouraging children to look out for posters.

Bikeability

This week Year 6 pupils have been taking part in Bikeability training with Spokes. The children have done really well (despite the weather) and are now more confident about cycling on the roads and have a greater understanding of traffic and how to keep themselves safe while out cycling. This course has been heavily subsidised by Bucks County Council and we are really lucky to be able to offer a limited number of places to our Year 5 pupils and attached to the newsletter is a letter with all the details.



Each week we will list the letters that will be attached with this newsletter. We will endeavour to ensure that as much of the information we need to communicate is contained within the body of the newsletter, however, on occasions it will be necessary to send separate letters. As a general rule you should only receive letters regarding to school trips or specific events.

Attachments to this newsletter:

Electronic Copies

All pupils: Fitter Futures Letter

Year R: Forest School Letter

Year 5: Bikeability Letter

Paper Copies in book bag

Year R: eSchools log in Letter

New Pupils: eSchools log in Letter

Fitter Futures log on details



All new dates are shown in Red

Dates for 2017 -2018

October:

2nd Parents Evening booking open 5:00pm

3rd Pre-School Open Day

4th Year 3 Trip to Hughenden

5th Afternoon tea for Reception parents

5th Prayer group coffee morning 8:45

6th PTA Fun Friday – Popcorn

9th Individual Photos

11th Year 5 to Woodrow

16th Parents Evening 3:30 -5:30

17th Year 5 Interschool Football / Netball Festival

17th Rotary Shoe Box Assembly

18th Parents Evening 5:00 -8:00

23rd – HALF TERM

30th Year 4 Legion XIII in school visit

November

2nd Rotary Shoe Box collection

2nd Year 3 Trip to Henley River & Rowing

10th Reception & KS1 trip to the cinema

13th Remembrance Service

14th Year 1 Multi-Skill Interschool festival

17th Children in Need

17th School Disco

December

2nd PTA Christmas Fayre

3rd Participate in the All age service at St Michaels

12th KS1 Nativity (Afternoon)

13th KS2 Music Concert

14th Early Years Nativity (Morning)

14th KS1 Nativity 6:30pm

15th Early Years Nativity (Afternoon)

18th Christmas Church Service

18th Key Stage 1 and Early Years Christingle

19th End of Term 1:30pm

January

3rd Inset Day

30th Year R Interschool – Winter Olympics

February

12th HALF TERM

21st Year 3-6 Interschool Cross Country

March

2nd World Book Day Dress Up

6th Year 4 Interschool Football

12th Parents Evening 3:30- 5:30

14th Parents Evening 5:00 – 8:00

16th School Disco

19th Year 6 Isle of Wight

28th Easter Church Service KS2

29th End of term 1:30pm

April

16th Inset Day

25th Year 3 Interschool – Tennis

30th Class Photos

May

23rd Year 2 Interschool – Games

28th – HALF TERM

June

27th Year 6 Interschool – Games

29th School Disco

July

3rd Secondary Transfer Day / Move up day

5th Bucks School Games

6th INSET DAY

9th Sports Day KS2 AM / KS1 PM Picnic Lunch for all

11th Reserve Sports Day

13th Reports out to parents

24th July End of Term 1:30pm

