



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and have enjoyed making the most of the lovely weather. In some ways, it feels as though the children have been away for months, while in others, it feels as though they only left yesterday!

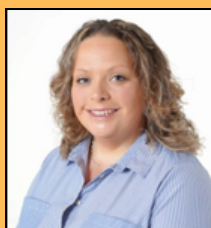
I am very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school. As a reminder, children in Years 1 to 6 will return on Thursday 3rd September, and we are delighted to welcome the newest members of our Kingstone family, our Reception cohort, on Friday 4th September.

Although the children have been away, KTPS has certainly not been quiet over the summer break. The school has been a hive of activity, with several exciting projects taking place. Many areas have been freshly painted, new carpets and furniture have been installed, and new photo boards have been displayed throughout the school to brighten our shared spaces and celebrate our school community. Perhaps most exciting of all, our Reception playground has been completely transformed. With new fencing and artificial grass now in place, the area looks bright, fresh, and ready to be enjoyed throughout the year. I can't wait for the children to see all the improvements that have been made.

There are quite a few updates to share with you. Rather than including everything in one long, text-heavy letter, I have put all the information into this accompanying document, which I hope you will find easier to read and navigate. Some of the information included is very important, so please take a few moments to read through it carefully to ensure that you are fully informed ahead of the new school year.

If you have any questions or anything is unclear, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I am very much looking forward to what promises to be another fantastic year at Kingstone.

Mrs Preece 😊



Amy Preece

Head of School

- Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Designated Teacher for Looked-After and Previously Looked-After Children.
- Teaching and Learning Lead



Kate Wilson

Assistant Headteacher

- Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCO)



Joe Bull

Assistant Headteacher

- Attendance Lead
- Pupil Premium Lead
- Data and Assessment Lead



Autumn 1 Information

Letters from Class Teachers and Learning Jigsaws/Topic Webs will be emailed to parents this Wednesday. These contain year group specific information such as PE and Forest School days etc.

Assembly

There will be no Celebration Assembly on Friday 4th September. The first one will be on Friday 11th September – all welcome.

Parent/Carer Letters

We are aware that at times a large number of letters and messages are sent to parents and carers, sometimes two or three on the same day. We recognise that this can make it difficult to keep track of important information. To make communication more manageable, class-specific information will now be included in our Friday newsletter. This may include trip information, important dates, reminders and other key information. Where possible, we will avoid sending separate letters for individual events and instead use the newsletter as our main way of sharing this information. We therefore ask that all parents and carers read the Friday newsletter each week to ensure that important information and dates are not missed. We hope this will make communication clearer and more manageable for everyone.

Parent Coffee Mornings

From September, we are delighted to be introducing half-termly coffee mornings for parents and carers. These will take place in the school hall following our Celebration Assembly (at approximately 9:30am). Dates for the coffee mornings will be included in the Calendar of Events document, which is shared with families each half term. These informal sessions are open to all parents and carers and provide a wonderful opportunity to meet other members of our school community, build new connections and spend time together in a relaxed and welcoming environment. We hope that many of you will be able to join us throughout the year, and we look forward to welcoming you.

Parent Pit-Stop Evenings

We will also be introducing termly Parent Information Evenings for all parents and carers. Each session will focus on a different topic, with details shared in advance. Possible themes may include online safety, making reading fun, or understanding autism. More information will be shared soon, but if there is a topic you would like us to cover, please let us know.

Office Communication

If you have a message that needs to be passed on during the school day, we kindly ask that, wherever possible, you send it by email rather than over the telephone. This allows us to ensure that your message is passed on to the relevant member of staff as quickly and efficiently as possible. To help us manage emails efficiently, you will receive a standard response confirming that we have received your email and passed the message on to your child/the appropriate member of staff. This is intended to reassure you that your message has been received and actioned, while also allowing our staff to focus on their roles throughout the school day. Please be assured that the use of a standard response should not be deemed as dismissive; It is simply a practical way of acknowledging your message promptly and reassuring you that it has been received and passed on.

Parking

Thank you to everyone who has supported our efforts to improve parking around the school by following the guidance shared in the Spring Term regarding the designated no-parking areas. New markings have been added to the school drive and surrounding areas. We kindly ask all parents and carers to continue to park considerately and to respect these markings to help keep everyone safe. The primary now has 2 disabled parking bays – please only use these spaces if you have a blue badge displayed. Where possible, we encourage families living in the village to walk to and from school if they are able to do so. Your continued support helps us to ensure that the start and end of the school day remain as safe as possible for all members of our community.

Healthy Eating

We are currently working on a clearer whole-school approach to healthy eating, which will be shared with all stakeholders in the near future. In the meantime, we would like to remind parents and carers of the following expectations:

- Morning snack – Reception to Year 2: Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are not required to bring a snack to school, as fresh fruit is provided for children at morning break.
- Morning snack – Years 3 to 6: If children in Years 3 to 6 would like a snack at morning break, this should be a piece of fresh fruit or vegetables. Please do not send children to school with cereal bars, fruit winders, yoghurts or similar snack products.
- Lunch: If your child has a hot school dinner booked, they do not need to bring additional food to eat at lunchtime. This includes items such as crisps, chocolate, sweets or other snacks.
- Drinks and hydration: We encourage children to stay well hydrated throughout the school day and provide regular opportunities for them to refill their water bottles. Children should only have water or sugar-free squash in their bottles. No other drinks are permitted.
- We are a nut-free school and therefore no items which include nuts or traces of nuts should be used in lunch boxes.

We appreciate your support in helping us develop healthy eating habits and promote positive choices across the whole school. Our aim is to provide a consistent approach that supports children's health, wellbeing and readiness to learn.

Attendance and Punctuality

A reminder that the school arrival window is 8:35am–8:50am. It is essential that children arrive at school by 8:50am so that they are ready to begin their learning promptly. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, you are going to be late collecting your child at the end of a school day, please inform the school office at the earliest opportunity. If your child is absent from school because they are too unwell to attend, please contact the school office at the earliest opportunity. When calling the office, there is a dedicated absence line, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This means you can leave a message outside of school hours.

Where we have not received a reason for a child's absence, we have a duty to follow this up to ensure that the child is safe. This may include making contact with parents/carers and, where necessary, carrying out a home visit.

We understand that there can be a range of reasons why families may experience difficulties with attendance. If you are struggling with your child's attendance for any reason, please reach out to us. We are here to support you and work with you to find the best way forward for your child.



PARENT/CARER SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent and carer survey at the end of the last academic year. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us understand the views of our families and identify areas for further development and improvement. We were delighted to receive responses from approximately 75% of our parent community, giving us a really strong representation of parent and carer voice across the school.

The results were overwhelmingly positive, with every question receiving at least 95% positive feedback, which is incredibly encouraging.

Some of the highlights from the survey include:

- 100% of parents and carers reported that their child feels safe and happy at school. This is, of course, our highest priority.
- 100% reported that they feel safeguarding is taken seriously at school.
- 97% said that they feel the school supports their child's emotional wellbeing.
- 99% reported that their child is taught well and is making good progress.
- 100% felt that behaviour throughout the school is good.
- 99% said that they would recommend the school to other parents.



In response to the question **“What does the school do particularly well?”**, a clear theme was how well our staff know and treat the children as individuals. Many of you highlighted the strong relationships that staff have with the children and the way in which they are recognised, valued and supported as individuals. A number of you also commented on how accessible and responsive our staff are. Many of you particularly mentioned having a member of the leadership team on the school gate each morning as a real positive. It was also lovely to hear that many of you feel the introduction of Family Groups has had a positive impact on your child's experience at school. Our pastoral provision was another area highlighted in your responses. Many of you expressed your appreciation for the support you and your children have received, particularly during more challenging or difficult times. Knowing that families feel able to reach out to us and that you feel listened to and supported is incredibly important to us.

What could the school improve? From a school perspective, this was perhaps the most important question in the survey. While there were no common themes emerging from the responses, there were some really interesting and useful individual points raised. As the survey was anonymous, it can be difficult for us to explore some of these comments further or fully understand the context behind them. If you raised something in response to this question and would be happy to talk through your comments, I would really appreciate and value the opportunity to do so. Your feedback is important to us, and having the chance to understand your experience in a little more detail would help us to consider how we can respond. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you would like to discuss anything you raised. I would be very happy to talk it through with you.

Please continue to share your thoughts, ideas and feedback with us throughout the year. You are an incredibly important part of our school community and a key stakeholder in our work. Your views and experiences matter, and your feedback helps us to understand what we are doing well and where we can continue to improve. Please do not feel that you need to wait for a survey to share your thoughts – if there is something you would like to discuss, celebrate or suggest, please get in touch with me at any point. I genuinely value the opportunity to listen and work together to make Kingstone the very best it can be for our children and families.

Thank You

Thank you again to everyone who took the time to complete the survey and share your thoughts. We are incredibly proud of the positive feedback we received, but equally value the constructive comments and suggestions that will help us to continue to develop and improve for the benefit of all our children.

VALUES

When we return to school, we will be launching our new Academy Values. Across the Academy, we have chosen three core values that we want to be recognised, understood and lived by everyone within our community: **Courage, Kindness and Aspiration.**

These values are at the heart of who we are and the culture we want to create across both schools. Just as we talk regularly with the children about our school expectations of Ready, Respectful and Safe, we will be talking about and celebrating our Academy Values every day.

We want these values to be more than just words on a wall. We want to see them reflected in the choices we make, the way we treat one another and the way we approach challenges and opportunities. We expect every member of the Kingstone community – children, staff, parents and carers – to demonstrate Courage, Kindness and Aspiration in all that we do.



Each Friday, during our Celebration Assembly, we will be presenting a Values certificate to a child who has demonstrated our Academy Values of Courage, Kindness or Aspiration particularly strongly during the week. We want to celebrate children who not only understand our values but truly live them through their actions, choices and interactions with others.

If your child is selected to receive the Values certificate, you will receive a text message on Thursday evening inviting you to join us for the Celebration Assembly, should you wish and are able to attend.





School Houses

From September, we are excited to be relaunching our school house system. Every child will belong to one of our four school houses, which will be used for a range of activities throughout the year, including competitions, whole-school events and Sports Day.

Being part of a school house helps to foster a sense of belonging and school identity, while also creating valuable opportunities for children to work alongside and build relationships with pupils from different year groups.

Our four school houses are:

- Croft (red)
- Eastnor (yellow)
- Ludlow (green)
- Raglan (blue)

When the children return to school, teachers will let them know which house they have been allocated to. We are looking forward to seeing plenty of healthy competition, teamwork and house spirit throughout the year!

COMPETITION

We would love each house to have a logo and are therefore inviting children to design a house logo that can be used throughout the year. Children should submit a line drawing of one of the castles which we will bring to life as a logo if it's chosen as the winning one. Children should draw on white paper and use a pencil or black pen. The designs **should not** be coloured in. Children may draw any of the four castles and children can choose to draw all of the castle or part of it.

Please take a photo of the entry and email it to the admin email address (ktpsadmin@kingstoneacademy.co.uk), or bring a hard copy into school by the deadline of Friday 4th September. Please make sure the entry states which castle has been drawn.





Pupil led groups

During the first week back, we will be sharing information with children about how they can apply for a role in one of our pupil-led groups. Information will also be shared with parents in the Friday newsletter on 4 September 2026, so that families are informed and can support their children with their application should they wish to apply.

As a reminder, our pupil-led groups are:

School Parliament

Children can apply to become one of our School Parliament members as a Reading, Sports or Charity Ambassador. Throughout the year, children in these roles lead and support different areas of school through a range of events and projects. Our School Parliament members also play an important role in ensuring that pupil voice is heard across the school. The group meets once a month to share the thoughts, ideas and feelings of their year groups. These discussions help us to ensure that our pupils are happy, listened to and that we are responding positively to their feedback.

Young Hopefuls

Our Young Hopefuls are a fantastic group of school ambassadors from Years 3–6. Their role is to support our school community, as well as contribute to the wider Kingstone village community.

Over the past few years, our Young Hopefuls have visited the Sunshine Club to play board games with older residents, organised village litter picks and supported the Parish Council by delivering flyers to residents. They also play an important role in supporting younger pupils during lunchtimes and are positive role models who are greatly admired by the younger members of our school community.

Young Hopefuls meet once a week after school as a club.

House Captains

With the exciting rebranding of our school houses this year, the role of House Captain is particularly special!

House Captain positions cannot be applied for and are selected from our Year 6 pupils. As a staff team, we carefully consider which children demonstrate excellent role-model qualities, responsibility and promising leadership skills.

Our House Captains will lead house events throughout the school year, encourage participation and support the younger members of their houses. We are looking forward to seeing our new House Captains step into these important leadership roles.

