

Kenton Primary School

Newsletter

5th January 2018



Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

Everyone at Kenton Primary would like to wish you all a happy new year and welcome to the new term. We would also like to thank you for the generous Christmas cards, presents and well wishes that you so kindly sent our way.

The spring term is always packed full of learning, children really find their feet in their year groups and everyone is very busy! We all look forward to seeing the children flourish, mature and develop.

Readers Please

We have some fantastic regular adult readers who come into school on a given day/morning and hear children read. If you would like to do this, please see Mrs Moseley about how to become a volunteer, or if you already have your DBS with the school, please see the relevant class teacher.

There is now a sign-up sheet outside Willow Class if you would like to hear the younger children read and can commit to a regular session.



Scooters and bikes in the school playground

We love it when the children come in to school in a healthy way - walking, on their bike or on a scooter. We only have space to keep scooters in school.

Also please remind them that they need to get off of scooters and bikes before they come through the school gate and not get on them again until they are outside of the school gate at the end of the day. We don't want anyone to be hurt by a child on a scooter or bike.



Forest School 2018

Children in Yr 3 & 4 have enjoyed their final session of forest school and celebrated with hot chocolate and marshmallows around the fire. We have been making Christmas wreaths and weaving decorations to take home over the past two weeks.

The weather has certainly marked a shift into winter, with plummeting temperatures and a bitter cold wind. Please make sure your child is adequately dressed for a full morning or afternoon in the woods, where we don't get much sunshine.

Layers, hats and gloves are essential to trap heat (see attached for ideas to layer up your child).

Waterproof snow boots or hiking boots are much warmer than wellies and can be found cheaply in Aldi/Lidl at this time of year. Wellies can be made warmer with some fleece-lined long socks/ski socks.

Reception and Yr 2 will take part in forest school sessions after the Christmas break, starting Monday 8th January. Please make sure your child has:

- a bottle of water
- a plastic bag for storing muddy boots
- lots of clothes, hat and gloves
- a snack

Reception children will need to come into school wearing their forest school clothes and their school uniform in a named bag, and Year 2 children will need to come to school in their school uniforms and their forest school clothes in a named bag.



Absence from school during term time

We have received some additional guidance from Devon County Council about authorised absences during term time. We know that some families struggle with understanding the regulations concerning this, so have included excerpts from the guidance below. If you would like the whole leaflet please ask at the school office.

Devon County Council guidance January 2018

Let's work together...

We want to ensure that all of our children attend school so that they do not develop gaps in their learning and maintain positive routines:

If you are experiencing any difficulties in ensuring that your child attends school, regularly and on time, please let the school know so that they can help.

We want to work with you to achieve the best for your child.

A family holiday is not considered by the Government to be an 'exceptional circumstance' and therefore will not normally be authorised.

Guidance on approving leave of absence

Pupil registration regulations states that absence should only be granted due to the exceptional circumstances relating to that application. It is important to note that Headteachers can determine the length of the authorised absence, as well as whether absence is authorised at all.

There is no legal definition of what constitutes an exceptional circumstance; it is up to the Headteacher to decide. There are no rules on this as circumstances vary from school to school and family to family. **Our view is that exceptional implies events that are rare, significant and unavoidable; an event that could not reasonably be scheduled at another time.**

How to request leave of absence for reasons other than holiday

Parent/carer must contact the school in line with the school's attendance policy and ideally complete a leave of absence form. Parents are advised to complete the leave of absence form as accurately as possible. Decisions are often based on information provided on the form.

Parents need to consider below before making any request for leave of absence:

How exceptional are the circumstances? Is there an alternative option?

The stage of the child's education and progress, and the effects of the requested absence on both elements

The overall attendance pattern of the child

Frequency of similar requests

The following might be considered as exceptional circumstance

Religious festivals, rites (e.g. Bar Mitzvah, Holy Communion) and **Cultural celebrations** such as Chinese New Year, Diwali.

Close family wedding; if dates cannot be during school holidays.

Illness or death of an immediate family member

Child, parent/carer requires medical treatment

Children returning to their home country

Email: admin@kennandkenton.devon.sch.uk

Website: <http://www.kenton-primary.devon.sch.uk>

Diary of Events

January 8th	First Session of Forest School for Reception and Year 2		AM/PM
January 9th	Chestnut Class to Morwellham Quay		All Day
January 9th	Oak Class first swimming session	St Luke's	AM
January 12th	Mrs Lunn's Choir visit Birmingham	Birmingham	All Day
January 19th	Chestnut Class Trip to Plymouth University for robotics course.	Plymouth University	AM
February 2nd	Community Forum Meeting	School	2.30— 3.30 pm
February 9th	Break Up for Half Term		
February 21st	CAP (Child Assault Prevention) assembly for children	School	9.15— 10.00am
February 22nd	Eye Tests for Reception Children	School	
February 27th	Quick Sticks Hockey Competition for Year 5 + 6	Dawlish CC	2.00— 4.00 pm
March 29th	Break up for Easter		

Term dates for the year

SPRING TERM 2018 begins Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Half-term 12th—16th February 2018

Second half of term starts on Monday 19th February 2018

Spring term ends on Thursday 29th March 2018

SUMMER TERM 2018 begins Monday 16th April 2018

May Day Monday 7th May

Half-term 28th May—1st June

Second half of term starts on Monday 4th June 2018

Calling all dancers in KS2

Dance club will be weekly again this term, and sessions will be every Thursday from 3.30-4.15pm. The first session will be on Thursday 18th January. The children and I will be starting to create dances for our summer extravaganza!

Mrs Narramore's Film Club

This will continue to be every other Tuesday from 3.30—4.30pm starting on Tuesday 16th. As before Christmas, look out for the film outside Mrs N's classroom and sign up if your child is keen.

Oak Class Swimming : Year 3 + 4 children will be starting their swimming sessions on Tuesday 9th January. They will need to be dressed in a PE kit that is warm enough to stay in for the whole day (tracksuits are a good idea!) and have their swimming costumes and towels in a named bag. Their coach will be leaving at 8.30am so please be at school by 8.20am.

Ordering school dinners

We have had too many people ordering after the Thursday deadlines and the kitchen is unable to provide this many lunches on the day.

We of course want to help in cases where people have forgotten on the odd occasion but so many are ordering late (and frequently late) that the kitchen can't cope. Please order by 9a.m Thursdays, a week in advance. You can book up to half term.

Many thanks for your cooperation with this.



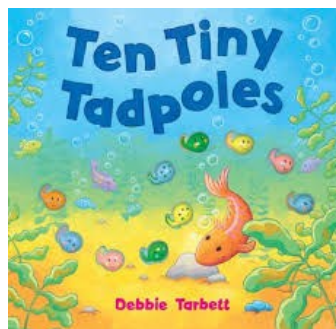
Illustration Club

Mrs Goodwill, our new trainee teacher in Cherry Class will be starting a new Illustration Club on Wednesday afternoons

from 3.30pm - 4.30pm, beginning on Wednesday the 17th January, until half term.

Mrs Goodwill is a published children's book illustrator (Google Debbie Tarbett) so this is a wonderful opportunity for our children to develop their drawing and narrative skills.

The club will be for children in Years 1, 2 and 3, and will be limited to 15 places, so will be on a first come first serve basis. If you would like your child to attend the club, please see Mrs Goodwill in Cherry Class for a form. Happy drawing!



Christmas Carol Service

Well done to all the children for a lovely Carol Service in the Church. We would all like to say a big thank you to all of you who donated at the end, we raised an impressive £151.55 for PDSA. We would also like to say a big thank you to Reverend Mark for the use of the beautiful church.



AR Reading Meeting

We would like to invite all parents to a special meeting to share our approach to using AR (Accelerated Reader) - the quiz based approach of tracking children's progress in reading. Most children begin using the system at some point in Year 2, so this meeting will be relevant for everyone.

Mr Baxter and Mrs Crossley - May will explain how we use the system in school and how it can help motivate children and how we set children targets to encourage them to read. The meeting will be in the hall on Tuesday 23rd January from 3pm - 3.30pm.

