

## Magical Moments

### Forest School

Our youngest children are having a fab time at Forest School. They are learning to make dens, work as a team take risks and have fun in the outdoor environment.



### Year 5 DT

Our Year 5 children have been learning about visibility and have created their own hi-vis belts and jackets as part of their DT project.



### Year 3 Printing

The Year 3 children have been exploring the world of printmaking and mono printing! They enjoyed experimenting when drawing directly onto an ink slab and then taking impressions to create unique artwork. It was amazing to see their creativity flow and the results were full of imagination!



Dear Families,

Happy new year! We hope you've had a restful holiday and are looking forward to another great term ahead. As we settle into the new year, we're excited to share some updates and initiatives that have been making a positive impact on our school community.

### Staff Updates

Mrs Runswick, our dedicated Forest School Leader and ELSA practitioner, will be leaving us at the end of this month to pursue a career in working with younger children. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Runswick for her hard work and passion during her time with us and for developing a fantastic Forest School within our grounds and one that has been enjoyed by all classes. We will keep you informed about arrangements for the continuation of Forest School sessions and ELSA support once appointments have been made.

We would also like to wish Mrs Reeder all the very best as she begins her maternity leave at February half term. During her leave, Mrs Jordan will be stepping into her role and already transitions have begun where she is working alongside Mrs Reeder and Mrs Bradnam to ensure a smooth transition. Likewise, Miss Morey has spent time in Year 1 ready to take over the teaching alongside Mrs Dearman.

Towards the end of this Spring term, we also welcome back Mrs Weaver from maternity leave.



## **Attendance: A key part of belonging**

At Kedington, we believe that fostering a strong sense of belonging is key to ensuring our children feel connected, engaged, and excited about coming to school every day. This year, we're continuing to enrich our pupils' experience, not only by offering a range of enrichment activities, but also inviting families into school more to support with activities in class, assemblies and participate in workshops.

A strong sense of belonging is directly linked to being present, which is why we are putting an increased focus on attendance. When children are at school, they are part of the community, engaging with their peers, teachers, and the learning environment. We recognise that there may be barriers that prevent some children from attending regularly, and we want to support families in overcoming these challenges.

Our staff will be reaching out to families proactively, using telephone calls and Dojo messages to check in with children and parents, and ensure everyone feels welcomed back to school after any absence.

We're pleased to report that the attendance data for each class this term has been positive, with all classes achieving attendance rates in and around 95%. We continue to celebrate weekly class attendance in family assembly. Congratulations to the Year 1 class for being top of the leader board this term!



## **Improving Lunchtimes: Listening to Our Students**

We're always looking for ways to make lunchtimes a positive experience for everyone, so recently we held an assembly to hear the children's ideas about behaviour in the hall. They came up with some fantastic suggestions, and together we've developed a clear set of expectations to help lunchtime run smoothly. These include:

- Talk in a quiet voice
- Show respect to everyone
- Eat over the table
- Tidy your mess
- Help keep the hall clean

These simple but important guidelines will make the dining experience more enjoyable and encourage responsibility and respect for our shared space.

We are also excited to announce that we will be inviting parents into the school to join their children for lunch, starting with our reception class. This initiative is part of our ongoing effort to foster a stronger sense of belonging and give parents an opportunity to experience lunchtime at school first hand. As we move forward, we hope to extend this opportunity to other year groups in the coming months.

## **Funky Friday: A Fun Way to Celebrate the End of the Week!**

We're thrilled to introduce a new addition to our school week - Funky Friday! Starting this term, every Friday will be an opportunity for our students to let loose, have fun, and celebrate the end of the week with a little bit of flair.

On **Funky Friday**, children will be invited to join in a lunchtime dance party on the playground where they can show off their best dance moves to some great tunes. We'll have inflatable microphones, guitars, and pom-poms available for the children to use as props while they groove to the music!

In addition, a class will be asked each week to choose a favourite song to sing as they enter Family Assembly. This week, our Year 3 class has kicked things off with a fantastic choice - "Dance Monkey" by Tones and I! This is a great way for children to share their music tastes, bond with their classmates, and bring a little extra energy and fun to the start of the assembly.

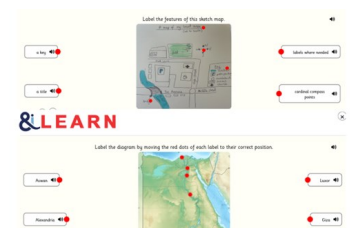


## **Car parking**

A gentle, heartfelt plea from me here. I'm getting complaints from neighbours about parking on the roads outside the school - not because it is busy, they expect that. It is the parking across driveways, blocking footpaths, parking on corners and on double yellow lines. Please ensure that you are parking sensibly so that our children are kept safe and we can continue to maintain positive relationships with our local community.

## **&Learn: Engaging Learning with Digital Thinking Tasks**

This term, we've been making great use of digital thinking hard tasks across the school, both in classrooms and as part of homework. These fun, interactive activities keep learning exciting and engaging, helping students to develop their skills while reinforcing their learning in a creative and meaningful way. What's especially valuable about these tasks is that they focus on using what students already know, giving them the opportunity to refine and reinforce their skills.



## **A Friendly Reminder: Pets on School Grounds**

While we all love dogs and understand the joy they bring, we want to remind families that pets should not be taken through the school gates.

Some of our children feel anxious or uncomfortable around dogs and we aim to create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Thank you for your support with this.

## Smart Phone Free Childhood

Please see below information about the success of our Smart Phone Free Childhood Initiative. We only need 1 more person to sign up in Year 3 to hit our target of 10 pledges!

**Smartphone Free Childhood Initiative**

At Kedington Primary Academy, we know how harmful the use of smartphones can be for children and urge all our parents and carers to pledge to delay giving their child a smartphone until they go to high school. This only becomes binding when we get 10 or more in each class so about a third of the children won't have a phone.

**UPDATE 28.01.25**

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLEDGES = **51**

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN = **23.6%**

Year Group	Number of Pledges	10+ pledges?
R	7	
1	13	YES
2	10	YES
3	9	
4	5	
5	5	
6	2	

Parents and carers can pledge at any time using [this](#) link or the QR code.



## NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that can help children feel better and back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

Common condition	Patient eligibility
Earache	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	1 year and over
Sore throats	5 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract	Women 16 to 64 years
Shingles	18 years and over



**Kedington  
Primary  
Academy**

# EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

**Don't miss out on the education you deserve.**



## Dates for your diary

February 2025	Event
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Children Mental Health Week
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Reception Parents' Lunch
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	EYFS Parents' Consultations
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term begins
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Children return to school
March 2025	Event
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	OM Health in school
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Church Service
April 2025	Event
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Parents' Evening (Years 1-6)
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Parents' Evening (Years 1-6)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Finish for Easter break Collection 3.15pm