

Magical Moments

Remembrance Day

Our children made us very proud at the Remembrance Day event at the war memorial in the churchyard. It was a very moving event, and the children showed fantastic respect, arriving and leaving in silence and listening attentively throughout, as well as observing the two minute silence.



Year 6 Residential

Our Year 6s had a fantastic time on their residential. Many experienced activities for the first time including: abseiling, den building, Jacob's ladder, zip wires and staying away from home for four nights. The children were buzzing when they came back to school, and it was a pleasure to hear about them challenging themselves and working with their peers to develop their resilience and teamwork.



Anti-Bullying Week

Last week we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week in school by wearing odd socks to school. Through assemblies and class discussions, we explored how everyone is unique and special, and that bullying is not tolerated included when online.



Dear families,

As we approach the end of the year, there are many exciting updates to share with you. Please read on for important news and reminders.

Christmas Nativities Are Underway!

Our pupils are busy preparing for the Christmas nativities, and we couldn't be more excited! The children are working hard to rehearse their lines, songs, and performances, and we look forward to sharing these special moments with you in the coming weeks.

Staff News - Mrs Newstead and Mrs Cannon

It is with mixed emotions that we announce that Mrs Newstead will be moving onto a new role. Many of you will know her as a familiar face around the school. Mrs Newstead has been with us for more than 10 years, starting as a Midday Supervisor, before progressing into a Learning Support Assistant (LSA), ELSA Practitioner, and becoming an integral part of our Safeguarding Team. Her dedication and care for the children, as well as her skills and expertise, have made a real difference in the lives of many children. While we are sad to see her go, we know that the skills she has developed here will serve her well in her new role.



Similarly, we share the news that Mrs Cannon will be moving onto a new role. Mrs Cannon has been an invaluable member of our school community for more than 15 years, working as a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) and providing class cover when needed. While we are saddened by her departure, we are also excited for her as she embarks on this new chapter by trying something different. We wish her all the very best in her new role and know she will continue to be amazing wherever she goes. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Newstead and Mrs Cannon for all their hard work and commitment to Kedington, and we wish them every success as they embark on this new adventure. I'm sure you will agree, both will be greatly missed by staff and children.

Attendance - Persistent Absence

We have noticed an increase in our Persistent Absence (PA) figures, largely due to holidays being taken during term time. To clarify, "PA" refers to children who miss 10% or more of school days, which can significantly impact their learning and progress. While we understand the importance of family time, we encourage parents to consider taking holidays during school breaks to avoid the impact of missed lessons. Please see our Trust Attendance Policy on the school website for further information.

I also wanted to share with you some information from Suffolk regarding FPN and how holiday fines are used. I can confirm that school does not financially benefit from the local authority issuing fines. Please see information below from Suffolk:

The Use of FPN Funds Monies collected are used for administration of the penalty notice system and prosecutions. Any surplus left after this is spent on attendance support. This revenue is not considered part of wider local authority funding and is not used to fund the core attendance expectations. Examples of how surplus this year has been spent:

- Supporting case work which allows us to keep the costs to school as low as possible.
- Access to Educational Psychologist for EWO's with challenging cases.
- Bikes, bus passes and other transport for pupils in emergency accommodation to allow them to remain on role at their current school.
- Mental health toolkit training for EWO's
- An Attendance outreach project with rural schools

Smartphone Free Childhood Initiative

We are delighted with the positive response to this initiative. Several parents have messaged us to thank us for helping them to say no to their child having a smartphone and visitors to our recent Open Morning commented that this was a deciding factor in choosing Kedington as the first choice for their child.

The pledge can be made at any time and is not binding until we have at least ten pledges in a class. We have already reached this milestone in Year 1 and Year 2 and are only one away in Year 3!

We will update you on numbers in every newsletter.



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.

UPDATE 25.11.24

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLEDGES = **52**

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN = **24.3%**

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.

Smartphone Free Childhood
Pledge



iRock Launch Assembly

We are excited to announce the launch of the iRock music program coming soon to our school! On 4th December, we will, have a special assembly to introduce iRock to the children. iRock is an exciting music program where students will have the opportunity to learn to play instruments, sing, and even form their own bands. The program encourages creativity, teamwork, and confidence, offering children a fun and engaging way to explore the world of music. Further information on how children can get involved will be available after the assembly.

OM Health & Wellbeing

Please find below information regarding free virtual parent drop-in sessions led by OM Health. The sessions run once a month and are available to all parents. The sessions are designed to support parents that may need advice and guidance around parenting, and/or support for your own mental health and well-being, as well as your child's. All sessions are private and confidential.

To book just scan the QR code on the poster below or follow this link.

<https://scheduler.zoom.us/omhwc/virtual-parenting-session>



om
Health & Wellbeing Consultancy Ltd

WHO'S LOOKING AFTER YOU?

**VIRTUAL PARENT DROP-IN:
NURTURING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY'S WELLBEING**

Are you a parent seeking support in navigating the challenges of raising happy, healthy children, while also taking care of your own wellbeing?

We understand that parenting can be overwhelming, as children don't come with a manual.

WHAT WE OFFER

- **Monthly Virtual Drop-In**
Connect with us via Zoom or phone once a month for a safe and supportive space.
- **Expert Guidance**
Sessions led by health professionals, school nurses, counsellors, and parenting experts who are dedicated to helping your family thrive.
- **Confidential Advice & Support**
Your concerns and questions are treated with the utmost confidentiality, ensuring a comfortable and open environment.

WHY ATTEND?

- Gain valuable insights into your child's health and wellbeing.
- Learn effective strategies for managing your own stress and mental health.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR CHILD'S WELLBEING WHILE CARING FOR YOURS!

When: Once a month (check our website for specific dates)

Where: Join us from the comfort of your home via Zoom or phone call.

How to Register: Scan QR or Visit www.omhwc.org.uk to sign up and receive your access link!

Don't miss this opportunity to prioritise both your and your child's wellbeing. We can't wait to support you on this journey!

Staff Car Park

A gentle reminder please that the staff car park should **not** be used to walk through during drop offs in the morning and pick-ups. For everyone's safety, we ask that the path next to the trees is used - thank you

Early Finish on the Last Day of Term

As we approach the end of term, please note that children can be collected early on the last day of school (Friday 20th December) at 1.30pm if families wish to. This has always been a tradition and gives everyone a chance to start the festive season a little earlier. If you are unable to collect earlier, then please inform class teachers.



Reporting absences/changes to collection etc

A reminder to report any absences from school, please either call the school office on 01440 702787 or email absences@kedingtonprimary.co.uk Our office staff all work part time, so sometimes Dojo messages/emails can get missed.

If you would like to let us know about a change of time/person collecting your child, please phone the school office on the number above. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary

December/January	
Tuesday 3 rd December	KS1 Christmas Performance – 9.30am
Wednesday 4 th December	iRock Launch Assembly KS1 Christmas Performance- 2.00pm
Tuesday 10 th December	EYFS Christmas Performance- 11.00am
Monday 16 th December	Christmas Service at Kedington Church – 2.00pm
Tuesday 17 th December	Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day and PTFA Mad Hair Day!
Friday 20 th December	Role Model Assembly Last day of term - early collection 1.30pm
Monday 6 th January 2025	Spring Term Begins



PRESTIGE CHRISTMAS MEGA CAMP

23rd December 2024 9am - 3:30pm

- 📍 Haverhill - Coupals Primary Academy
- 📍 Linton - Linton Heights Junior School
- 📍 Newmarket - The Ellesmere Centre

ONLY £15



**Sports Activities
Action Games
Creativity Corner
Inflatables**

**Board Games
Construction Activities
Quizzes + Prizes**

07494 002352

BOOK ONLINE

info@prestigesportsdevelopment.co.uk

www.prestigesportsdevelopment.com

NEW YEAR MEGA ACTIVITY CAMP

2nd & 3rd January 2025

9AM - 3:30PM

Early drop-off from 8:15am

*Late pick-up until 5:30pm

5-12 YEAR OLDS

WHERE?

- Haverhill - Westfield Primary Academy*
- Linton - Linton Heights Junior School*
- Newmarket - The Ellesmere Centre*
- Great Easton - Great Easton Primary School
- Great Yeldham - St Andrews Primary School



**from
£22.50**

BOOK ONLINE - WWW.PRESTIGESPORTSDEVELOPMENT.COM