

DATES FOR THE DIARY

June:

10th—Class Photos

17th-19th - Yr6

London Trip

24th—26th—

Adventure Explorers.

July—

1st—Year 6 Sailing
day.

2nd—Sports Day

5th—Year 6 Sailing
day

11th—Dolphins end-
of-year play.

19th—1.45pm—End
of the Summer
Term

KINGSWEAR PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS : 7.6.2019



ISSUE

Anti-Bullying

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.” –
Plato.

Thursday this week saw the Orcas off on another trip to see some more Castles. This time it was the very lovely Berry Pomeroy Castle and the classic Motte and Bailey Castle at Totnes. The children all loved the ruins at Berry Pomeroy Castle, saying it was the best fun to explore and look around. They all loved the 'dungeon' at the bottom of St Margaret's Tower: too spooky for some, but enjoyed by most! It was great to see how lots of the children put their learning into practice, naming many of the features of the castles and comparing them to Dartmouth from our previous visit.



unicef
UNITED KINGDOM

LEVEL 1

E-mail: parent@kingswearprimary.org.uk
Website: www.kingswearprimary.org.uk
Facebook: Kingswear Primary School



Celebrations

Attendance Matters

This week's attendance by class:

Otters - 96.05%

Orcas - 96.82%

Dolphins - 97.37%

WOW! Well done

Dolphins

Best attendance this week!

School attendance for the year
so far is currently **96.1 %**

Please keep supporting our
attendance target of **96%**. and
above



Stars of the Week

Otters - Beau

Orcas - Archie S

Dolphins - James M

Kingswear Cup Winner—

Mackenzie

Thank you for all your old batteries! We collected over 1000 which were collected this week for the Big Battery Hunt. Pretty impressive for our little school!



Kingswear School: moving forward together.

Dear Parents/ carers

Below is the content of the e-mail sent yesterday to highlight some of the questions raised for those who were not able to attend the discussion on Wednesday. Hopefully it sets out clearly where the school will develop moving forward. If anything has been missed out or there are questions which you still have please do arrange to see myself or Ms Simnett or simply e-mail them to parent@kingswearprimary.org.uk and we will add them to these questions and answers below.

Will the school be closing?

No not at this point, Kingswear's situation leaves it particularly vulnerable to fluctuations in pupil numbers and it has in the past had to reduce down to two classes because of this. The school has a budget set next year and for the subsequent two years which show the school as being financially healthy and sustainable. This is of course completely dependent on the pupil numbers. It is very difficult to forecast numbers moving forward as the number of pupils within the school's catchment area is very low and we draw many from out of the area. We of course want to maintain and increase pupil numbers, the biggest factor of which is you as parents supporting the school.

How will staff be supported to meet the needs of pupils in such a wide range of ages in the class?

Teaching pupils of a range of ages is challenging but will be done through careful planning by the class teachers to ensure each child has the differentiated curriculum they need. Our teachers at Kingswear work very closely with colleagues across a number of other schools to enable them to share ideas and support one another. This helps with planning for a variety of ages and abilities.

How many adults will there be in each class?

In the details of the letter below it shows the organisation of the class teachers, we map the provision for the pupils and deploy the adults accordingly this will roughly equate to three adults in each class with the class teacher and two support staff. As well as myself, Ms Simnett and Mr Sullivan this will equate to a very low pupil to adult ratio which enables us to continue to support pupils in the caring and nurturing environment they are used to.

This has been communicated very poorly, how will the school ensure that communication is better and more effective in the future?

Having listened to the feedback on this matter there has been poor communication around the changes for which I apologise. We will review how this happens in the future and ask you as parents what the best way is moving forward. Initially we will be putting communications such as this out via e-mail and onto the school website to avoid paper letters becoming lost in school bags. Please can you make sure the school has the most up to date e-mail address for you so you can be reassured they will get to you. Looking forward to the next year and beyond we will be looking at effective ways of communicating what the children are learning in the curriculum for their classes too.

How are these changes going to be communicated to the children?

Over the coming half term we will be working with the children to gather their thoughts and opinions about the best way to organise the school; this will feed into the development of the school vision and values which we will be seeking your opinions on. We will look to hold further question and answer sessions around these plans and hope the children will be able to present their ideas for the organisation of the school to you as well. The dates for these will follow.

We joined the multi-academy trust to benefit from it, it seems like this is not the case and the school is suffering?

The school benefits hugely from being part of a multi-academy trust with the support networks in place and the shared services. All schools are facing financial cuts and therefore needing to make difficult decisions as explained earlier and in the initial letter; this is exacerbated at Kingswear because of the small numbers of pupils but it certainly is not an isolated case. I am seeking to arrange a date when the CEO and Director of the trust would be available to answer questions about the Multi Academy Trust as a whole. We will let you know a date in due course.

What can we do as parents to support the school?

The biggest advocates a school can have is its parent community, you provide the voice beyond the school gate. Kingswear is a good school which is nurturing and supportive in its approach, there are wonderful teachers and support staff who go above and beyond to support all the pupils in their care providing them the great foundations they need to move on to secondary school. If these positive messages get out the school will thrive. On the other hand negative elements on social media can be extremely detrimental to a school, we have no control over this but we would urge everyone to think carefully when posting/ reading or sharing negative comments as it is ultimately the education of the children at Kingswear which is at stake. There are avenues for expressing concerns through the parent e-mail and talking to staff and we urge you to use this.

As mentioned in the outset if you have any additional questions please do e-mail them in to parent@kingswearprimary.org.uk or alternatively please arrange a meeting through the school office or with staff at the beginning or the end of the day. We all want Kingswear to be a success and look forward to working with you to ensure this is the case.

Many thanks

Paul Girardot

Class News

Dolphins

Literacy: This week we have practised conveying character and mood through descriptions and dialogue. We have begun to plan our own suspense stories based on a short animated film, 'Alma'.

Maths: We have been estimating and measuring volume and capacity, with both 3D objects and containers. We have used a formula to calculate volume and solved problems involving capacity.

Topic: We have been learning to create our own rhythms and dances, taking inspiration from the New Zealand rugby team's Haka dance.

Orcas

This week in Orcas we have been exploring two more castles as part of our castles topic. We had a good day at Berry Pomeroy and Totnes Castle on Thursday and were once again blessed with lovely weather! The children really showed off what they have learned during this topic.

We have been looking at Time still in Maths and the children are really getting to grips with this subject. Keep asking them the time at home, I'm sure it's helping with understanding!

In English we are coming to the end of our class book, but have also been writing a recount of the trips to get them back into writing!

Please keep practising the tables and spellings with them over the next week in readiness for their tests next week.

Otters

Maths: This week our Maths lessons have been all about direction and position. The children have been using treasure maps to learn about left and right and using the BeeBots to learn how to programme and debug.

Literacy: In Literacy we have been working on our handwriting and super sentences. We have found out which letters are from each letter family and worked on our formation, making sure they all sit on the line correctly. The children have been thinking of adjectives to describe snails and writing about them in sentences.

Topic: Our new topic for this half term is 'Life', the children have been thinking about all the things they would like to learn and talking about what we already know. On Tuesday we went for a nature walk to see how many living things we could find on the way to the creek and we have been looking carefully at some snails we found on the playground.



CALM TOOLS for FAMILIES

OPEN MINDS UK offers emotional wellbeing support for families. Our personalised toolkit helps your child manage tricky times and become more resilient. Sessions cost £45 per hour in Bradninch, near M5 and you take away lots of useful ideas and resources to use at home. It really helps! See website for testimonials.

FAMILY COURSE

Our Calm Tools for Families course will take place at Exeter Phoenix on 18th June, 25th June and 2nd July.

Cost £80 for one adult and one child.

See website for more details: www.openmindsuk.org.uk

SEND Signpost

Timid to Tiger season two:

Due to our successful first season, we have decided to run the Timid to Tiger parent programme again. Though dates have yet to be confirmed, past parental requests have been taken into consideration.

A question and answer meeting will be held at Blackawton Primary School on Wednesday 26th June at 2:45 in the school hall.

The 'Timid to Tiger' parent programme is aimed at supporting parents to help their child approach life more confidently, and learn to tolerate their worries and fears through life's ups and downs. This programme is an evidence based initiative with a strong emphasis on schools collaborating with parents to support their child.

One parent review can be seen below:

Did you think that the Timid to Tiger programme was a worthwhile process? Definitely yes it's a lifeline for us. It makes you realise you are not alone and others go through similar struggles.

What was the impact on your child's anxiety issues? This has given me the tools to manage my child in a more proactive way to possibly even diffuse an issue before it happens.

What strategies will you continue? Praise, child led play and ignore if needed.

What evidence have you seen that your child's anxieties have improved? My child is calmer and beginning to manage others in a better way.

If you were to recommend it to another parent, what might you say? Children don't come with a manual and this course gives you modern day tools to manage the everyday obstacles, events or behaviour you may come across.

What might you change about the programme? (Timing, presenting approach, etc) none.

Where there any extra's you got from the programme you weren't expecting? Yes being given guidance and mindfulness tools to understand behavioural issues. I am a lot calmer with my child and that makes for a happier child.

We hope to see lots of faces from all schools there.

Thanks

Emily & Vicky

KOOTH: -

The UK's leading mental health & wellbeing platform for children and young people. A free, safe and anonymous online support for young people - <https://www.kooth.com/>

Kooth is the UK's leading mental health and wellbeing platform. Over half of all 11-18 year olds have access to Kooth. XenZone, the creator of Kooth, is an online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people, accessible through mobile, tablet and desktop and free at the point of use.