

The Kentmere Post

December 2021



Headteachers' Update



Welcome to the second edition of the newsletter for the autumn term. I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. It has been fantastic to see so many of you in school engaging with the parent lunches, workshops, and class assemblies. We are delighted that we are able to put measures in place to continue with our Christmas activities safely. Thank you for your support and cooperation with this.

Our focus for the workshops has been on reading as this is one of our school priorities. Reading is so important as it is a key life skill and a gateway for our learners to access all areas of the curriculum.

Already this term some of our Y6 children have enjoyed an action packed few days on our residential at Robinwood. The staff commented on their impeccable behaviour.

Additional enrichment opportunities have taken place with an educational visit to Eureka, watching a Pantomime, Forest School Activities and a visit to the Church. These first hand learning experiences are so crucial for helping our children learn.

Our school has received two prestigious awards for our Internet Safety work and digital provision. Earlier this week we were presented with our World Class Schools Status. We are so proud of our achievements and continually look to improve ourselves.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas. I hope that you can enjoy the festive season and spend time with friends and family. I also wish you a happy and healthy 2022.

School Improvement Priorities

As a school we have to pick areas to focus on each year and then we produce a comprehensive action plan. These are our School Improvement Priorities for this year.

- Reading - promoting a love of reading and encouraging our children to talk about their favourite books and authors.
- Sticky Learning - focusing on our children recalling previous learning and making connections. Helping children know and remember more.
- Challenge - making sure that all our learners see challenge as a good thing and have work which stretches their thinking.
- Developing resilience - helping our learners understand that sometimes tasks are tricky and they need you to keep trying and not give up.
- Coaching - encouraging everyone in our school to work together and coach and challenge each other.
- The Springboard Strategy - this focuses on wellbeing, Century Tech (for KS2) and Peer Coaching.

Governor Elections

Following the recent governor elections I would like to welcome Dr Helen Charnley to the governing body. Congratulations to Reehana Khan was also re-elected and will continue to add value to the team. Commiserations to the other candidates and I would like to thank them for the time and effort in producing such detailed applications. The results were very close and we feel privileged to have such interest in the vacant posts.

Class Updates

Nursery

The Nursery children really enjoyed our Spanish day learning new words in Spanish. We answered 'hola' during the register and 'adios' when going home. We also learnt to count to 5 in Spanish and made Spanish fans and flags too.

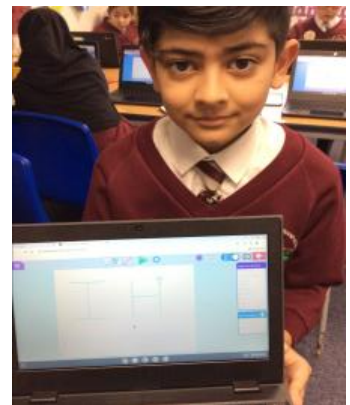
During sunshine day we listened to and talked about the story 'It's Ok to be Different' By Todd Parr. We talked about the importance of being kind to each other, having kind hands and feet and saying kind words. We made hearts for our friends out of card and playdough.



Reception

This half term, the children in Reception have been looking at all the different people who help us. We learnt all about the emergency services, including paramedics, firefighters and police officers, and how these people help keep us safe in our community. We were very excited when our local firefighters showed up in their fire engine to teach us about fire safety! We even had a chance to squirt the hose! The children then talked about the people close to them, like their family, friends and teachers, and who they can talk to if they need help. We then looked at what makes a good friend and how we can all take care of each other.





Class Updates

Year 5/6

Last week we had Spanish Day, where we learned all about other countries that use the Spanish language. We conducted research all about those countries and found what makes them so interesting. We also looked into why having Spanish as an additional language is so important and how it could open up future opportunities and potential career paths.

History

November History

1st November, 1848 - The first medical school for women opened in Boston.

3rd November, 1534 - King Henry VIII became Supreme Head of the Church of England.

4th November, 1922 - King Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered at Luxor, Egypt, by British archaeologist Howard Carter.

5th November, 1605 - Remembered as Guy Fawkes Day in Britain, for the anniversary of the failed "Gunpowder Plot" to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I.

9th November, 1989 - The fall of the Berlin Wall (after standing for 28 years as a symbol of the Cold War).

11th November, 1918 - The Armistice between the Allied and Central Powers was signed, silencing the guns of World War I effective at 11 a.m. - the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

11th November, 1992 - The Church of England voted to allow women to become priests.

17th November, 1558 - Queen Elizabeth I ascended the throne of England at the age of 25, reigning until 1603 when she was 69.

Useful links

Explore the BBC Primary History website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zcw76sg>

Discover fascinating history facts from across the globe!

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/discover/history/>

History for Kids is a free online history network. The website is packed with articles, worksheets and even a quiz on each section.

<https://www.historyforkids.net/>

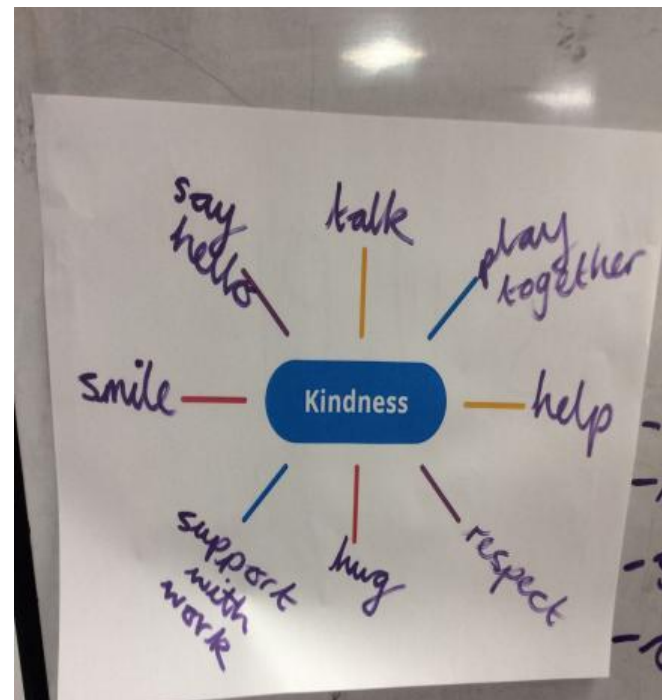
DID YOU KNOW?

In the original Roman calendar, November was the ninth month of the year. It got its name from the Latin word "novem" which means nine. However, it became the eleventh month when the Romans added in January and February to the start of the year.



Prosocial

Last week for our Sunshine Day, we focused on Anti-Bullying Week activities. The theme for this year was 'One Kind Word'. We thought about the different ways we can be kind towards other people and how this makes them feel.



Eco

The largest lake in Britain could be filled with rubbish from the UK in 8 months. Please make sure that you recycle as much as possible.

Wellbeing

The children in the Invitation Club were inspired by The Forest School project from Place2Be this half term. They worked with Mrs Hayes to create some art work to reflect ways in which to boost wellbeing. Well done!



Safeguarding

Please note that Safeguarding information can always be found on our website. Should you have a question or comment there is a dedicated email address

safeguarding@kentmereacademy.co.uk

In an emergency situation the number for Rochdale Children's Social Care is 0300 3030 440.



Kentmere Academy

RUNNING LATE?

Punctuality at school has a huge impact on your child's learning. Coming into the classroom after everyone else has settled down to work can be embarrassing and unsettling. They also miss the time when the lesson plan is set out for the class.

Obviously there are times when lateness is unavoidable - But if you are running more than 15 minutes late for school, please call the school office so that we are able to let the class teacher know to expect your child.

REPORTING ABSENCES

If your child is absent from school it is your responsibility to inform us of a reason for absence by 9.00am on each day. We may make a home visit on the first day of absence and any subsequent days thereafter.

Should you need to discuss your child's absence then please phone the number below.

Attendance Line: 01706 647533 option 1. An answering machine is also used on this line.

HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

Please remember - parents and carers have no legal right to take their child out of school during term time for any form of holiday. This includes, weddings, visiting sick relatives, and short breaks. This is Unauthorised Term-Time Leave and we will submit Fixed Penalty Notices where applicable.

You must, by law, inform us if you intend to take your child out of school during term time, or else risk being reported to both the Education Welfare Team and the Children Missing Education Department.

LEGISLATION ABOUT UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

In August 2014, the government made changes to how local councils should address unauthorised absences from school, mainly in the area of issuing fines to parents whose children are out of school during term time.

Section

23 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 empowers Headteachers to issue Penalty Notices in cases of unauthorised absences from school. The issuing of a Penalty Notice is considered appropriate in the following circumstances:

- Overt truancy (including pupils caught on truancy sweeps)
- Parentally-condoned absences
- Unauthorised holidays in term-time
- Persistent late arrival at school (after the register has closed)

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN AT KENTMERE

If your child is persistently late after the register has closed for 20 sessions (10 days) within a 12 week period, we will issue a Penalty Notice to each parent of the pupil.

If your child is absent for a minimum of 20 sessions (10 school days) during a 12 week period, we will issue a Penalty Notice to each parent of the pupil.

If your child is absent for a minimum of 10 sessions (5 school days) for an absence related to "leave" during term time, we will issue a Penalty Notice to each parent of the pupil.

Should you need to discuss any attendance issues please speak to Miss Grantham



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Trust**

Providing more