

# Kents Hill School and Nursery Newsletter – December 2023



## A message from Mrs Mackie...

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ho, Ho, Ho! Well, we have finally made it!

After a very long half term, and only three sleeps 'til Santa, the staff and, more importantly, the children are ready for a well-earned Christmas break.

The last few weeks have seen magnificent performances from Cygnets and Swans, with their unique presentation of a 'Wiggly Nativity', a heartwarming Nursery sing-a-long with Ducklings and Year 2's Christingle service this morning. Everyone at Kents Hill School & Nursery are very proud of all the children and their efforts.

The wonder and joy of the festive season is there to be seen in the children, alongside innocence, enthusiasm and a sense of optimism that all will be well. If only all grown ups could share this.

Myself and all the staff would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful new year, however you will be spending the festive season.

Warmest wishes  
Jane Mackie

## Diary Dates

### January 2024

**Monday 8th** – School re-opens

**Wednesday 10th at 5pm** – Open Evening for prospective parents for September 2024

**Monday 15th** – Last date for Y3/Reception place applications

### February 2024

**Friday 16th at 3pm** – School Closes

**Monday 26th** – School re-opens





# Ducklings

We have been learning about....

shadows and light and dark



Wow! What can we say?! It has been an amazing first term in Nursery. Ducklings class have settled quickly into our Kents Hill family and are following our routines and values fabulously. It has been wonderful getting to know all about them and their families. We have had such fun learning about marvellous materials within our story of the 3 little pigs. We wrote super spells and chopped up Autumnal vegetables to look and describe the inside of them. The harvest assembly was a true highlight for how much the children have progressed, sitting and singing in front of our families and the whole school – how are we only three or four years old?!



## It's Christmas Time...



The build up to Christmas has been so magical for us, learning about Jack Frost, the polar regions and the Christmas story. If you didn't hear, Father Christmas visited our school. We were lucky enough to receive a 'nice' certificate and a wonderful Christmas gift from him. We hope you like our festive photos with him.

We are looking forward to next half term where we will be learning all about 'Superheroes'. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and thank you for your continued support.



Wow! What a wonderful first term we've had! Cygnets have settled in beautifully and have shown endless enthusiasm toward their learning.

We've had lots of fun in our first topic 'Let's Explore' and have imagined what it might be like to live in magical, fantasy lands. We also looked closer to home and started to think about similarities and differences in our local area. We took a tour of the school and began drawing maps to show key areas. We particularly liked creating a Construction Zone to make our own streets and cities.

For our Autumn topic, 'Exploring Autumn', we went on a nature walk within the Kents Hill area and made some fantastic observations. We collected conkers and leaves of all shapes and sizes which inspired some wonderful artwork. We were in awe of the beautiful autumnal colours!



# Cygnets



Do you like our fantasy worlds?

This is a water  
fantasy world.

We have made a super start on our Phonics journey and can confidently recall most sounds from Set 1. We are now beginning to blend and read Ditties from the Read Write Inc. program. Each Friday, your child will bring home a Ditty or short story to share with you which they're very excited about!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



In Maths, we have enjoyed learning a range of counting songs to support counting to 10 and beyond. We recalled the names of common 2D shapes and started to discuss its properties. We explored money and have even started to add and subtract single digit numbers. We've certainly been exceptionally busy bees!

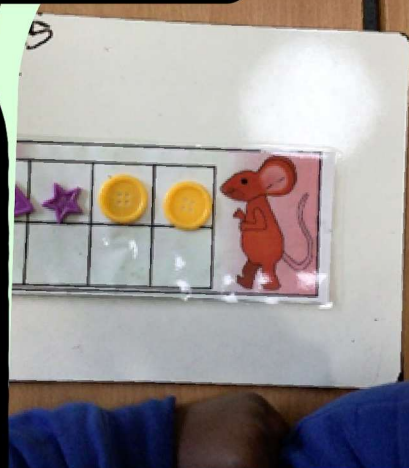
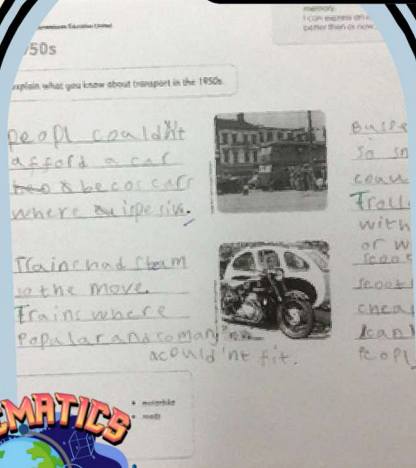


We can't wait for the Spring  
Term!, Cygnets!

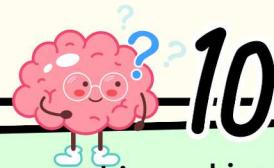




# Swans



Swans have really love to use their new exciting Abacus learning maths workbooks! We have been developing our skills to; count to and beyond 20, write numbers, adding and subtracting, identify missing numbers, identify features of 2D Shapes to sort into a Venn diagram, ordering numbers and using money to make an amount. We also are developing using our number bonds to 10 to support our maths. Please practice number bonds to 10 at home over the holidays. Imagine you have 7 crackers – how many more do you need to make 10?



We have been focusing on reading and writing riddles, writing our own autobiographies and more recently we have learnt about the features of a non-chronological report. We then wrote our own about life in the 1950's, building on our learning from topic, and we wrote one about Christmas! The skills we focused on were; segmenting sounds in a word, using finger spaces, full stops, adjectives, and linking all these together to construct a sentence. It would be awesome if the children could practice these skills over the holidays!

## CHILDHOOD

Wow, Swans really became immersed into this topic. We started off looking at our own timelines, then family trees before moving onto looking at childhood and life in the 1950's. The children have been really eager to learn and apply their new knowledge. In Science we compared materials and their properties, moving onto looking at human senses. DT built on Science by selecting materials to design a shelter (thanks to all the families who came to help build a dazzling den). We have identified the oceans and continents in Geography as well as looking at maps. Primary and secondary colours were the focus of Art before moving onto creating portraits using different mediums. They were amazing! Next half term our topic will be called, Bright Lights Big Cities, watch this space for some more super learning!



See you in January, Super Swans!



# Flamingos

What a jam packed term we've had!

Our brains are exploding with new facts all about significant individuals. Why don't you quiz your child on the important figures below to see what they can remember...

- ~ Rosa Parks
- ~ Neil Armstrong
- ~ Gandhi
- ~ Emmeline Pankhurst
- ~ Christopher Columbus...to name only a few!

In Maths we have been developing our knowledge of place value to see if children can solve problems mentally in order to develop their fluency. Hit The Button is a lovely, easy to use website with lots of opportunities to practise doing speedy maths.

Read more....[topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button](http://topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button)



In DT we have been learning how to read a recipe. Did your child enjoy their Eton Mess which they made at home? Feel free to send in some pictures of any cooking or baking which your child does over the Christmas holidays.



yum!



Year 2 have been learning to be artists when sketching & painting some still life creations. They also used the playdough to re-create a still life object. Do you like our artwork...? Can you guess what the still life object was?

Have a fabulous Christmas break with the family & we look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.

The Year 2 Team

Have fabulous, festive fun, Flamingos!





# Reminders Round-up

## Illnesses

If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea, the very best place for your child to be is at home. If your child develops these symptoms at school, we will call you to collect them. They will then need to be off school for a further 48 hours.

Children must remain at home for at least 48 hours after the last time they were sick or had a bout of diarrhoea, even if this was on a weekend.

This is to prevent the spread of germs, which affects all members of the school community. Please see our website for details of our policy for all common illnesses.

## Parking

After a number of parking incidents this past term, we are once again asking for all members of the school community to park courteously and safely when using the car park outside the school.

Please only park in the bays marked 'Disabled' if you hold a Blue Badge.

Please refrain from parking anywhere other than in a marked bay. Cars parked outside of marked bays not only delay the departure of those in the bays, but could cause a delay to an emergency vehicle accessing the school.

Threatening or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated at any time towards any member of the school community.

## Lost Property

Our lost property boxes (located in the main school entrance area) have become full again this term. All items do not have a name in and so cannot be returned to their owner.

Please can you ensure that all items that your child wears or brings to school are labelled. Please could you check each time you wash the items that their name label or marking is still visible, This will help us to reunite items very quickly. Please ensure your child has a water bottle (filled with water only) each school day.

## Nut Allergies

Due to members of our school community having a life-threatening nut allergy, we are a totally nut-free school.

Please do not put any items containing nuts in your child's lunchbox. This includes whole nuts, chopped nuts, Nutella or equivalent spreads, Snickers bars, cereal bars or cakes containing nuts.