

Kents Hill School and Nursery Newsletter – March 2024

A message from Mrs Mackie...

Dear Parents and Carers,

What weather! In recent weeks we have experienced pouring rain, Spring showers, sun, hail, and an icy blast! Easter must truly be on its way!

Whatever the weather, we have had a busy, fun and challenging half term. However, the prospect of chocolate and hopefully kinder weather, sees us all move into the welcome Easter holidays.

Your children continue to make good progress towards their targets and the staff consistently plan adventurous learning activities, including our recent Science week across the school! I am proud to see how well everyone is embracing their learning; the children are working so hard. Every day is a learning day! Remember, you can always help them even more by regularly listening to them read at home. Thank you for your support.

Our lovely Mrs. Feaver in Nursery will leave us as we break up today, so take this opportunity to pop by and say cheerio before she leaves.

We hope everyone stays healthy, enjoys the sunshine when it comes and gets a visit from a generous Easter Bunny. Everyone at Kents Hill School & Nursery thanks you for your continued support and wishes you a Happy Easter.

Warmest wishes
Jane Mackie

Diary Dates

April 2024

Monday 15th – School re-opens

Wednesday 24th – Reception Health Screening

Thursday 25th – MKET Performs The Beatles

May 2024

Monday 6th – Bank Holiday (School Closed)

Tuesday 7th – Rocktopus

Friday 24th – Last day before half term

BE KIND
BE BRAVE
BE HONEST
BE CREATIVE
BE HUMBLE
BE THANKFUL
BE HAPPY
BE YOU

Ducklings

We have been learning about...



In Nursery this term, we have been learning about different traditional tales. The children have loved learning about all the different stories under our Ready Steady Grow topic. They have enjoyed acting out the tale of Jack and the Beanstalk and were so excited to plant their own magic beans. They have been carefully watching their beans grow. I wonder whose is going to grow the tallest?



They enjoyed hearing about the various characters that tried to devour the tasty, cheeky gingerbread man and were shocked by what the crafty fox did at the end! In Little Red Riding Hood, they enjoyed the puppet show and had a go at performing a puppet show themselves. We discussed who we could call for help if we were in danger, similar to how Little Red Riding Hood called the woodcutter, and discussed other people who help us in the community. They enjoyed re-enacting The Enormous Turnip and learning about forces of pushing and pulling: getting the enormous turnip to go pop!

It's Springtime...

In Science week recently, we talked about shadows and how they are made. The children loved exploring light and using the torches. Can you remember what happens when the object moves closer to a light source?

Before February half term we learnt all about superheroes and their special powers. The Ducklings loved dressing up as superheroes and pretending they had special powers – we even had a special superhero headquarters. Some of their favourites were: invisibility, flying, strength, super speed and of course being able to shoot spider webs from their wrists!

We have absolutely loved having Mrs. Feaver as our class teacher, she has been a most awesome, enthusiastic and fun teacher and we would like to wish her the best of luck in her new job. She will be very missed!

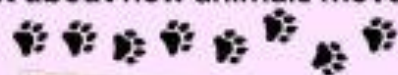


See you in April, Ducklings!

Wow! What a wonderful Spring Term we've had! Cygnet's have been such busy bees in their learning and have made fantastic progress. We are exceptionally proud of them all.

This term, Cygnets have enjoyed listening to a variety of traditional tales which inspired them in their writing. They created 'Wanted' posters for the naughty wolf, described the grumpy troll (and other story characters) and created alternative versions of the Gingerbread man story. We used our sounds taught in phonics to support our writing and are now beginning to use finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. We are also working hard to read and write those pesky 'red words' which can't be sounded out.

Later in the term, we moved on to 'Animal Safari' and created fact files on Lions inspired by the story 'The Lion who Loved'. We thought about how animals move differently in PE and played a variety of team games.



Cygnets



days of the week
Months of the year

100

In Maths, we have continued to work on counting from 1 to 20 and beyond. Cygnets love to count to 100 – why don't you challenge them? We have also worked hard to compare and order numbers, recognise a variety of 2D & 3D shapes, investigate time, name the days of the week and the months of the year (to name just a few things!). Next term, we will continue to partition sets of 10 objects and write matching number sentences alongside developing our mathematical skills further.

Cygnets are excited to continue cooking in the Summer Term. We certainly have lots of budding chefs in class which is wonderful to see.

Thank you for your continued support at home. Cygnets are encouraged to read daily. If they read more than 3 times in a week (recorded in their yellow Reading Record) then they will be able to choose something from the lucky dip!



We hope you have a wonderful break, and we can't wait to see Cygnets continue to flourish in the Summer Term!

Swans



Swans continue to learn and apply their learning using our exciting Abacus learning maths workbooks! We have been developing our skills and learning all about: place value (tens ones), counting on from 2-digit numbers; add a 1-digit number to a 2-digit number, naming, recognising and knowing the properties of 3D shapes, counting in 2s 5s 10s, quarters and halves of shapes, revising doubles to 10, o'clock and half past on analogue and digital clocks and finally, place value using money.

10

20

Please practice number bonds to 10 and 20 at home over the holidays. Doubles to double 10 and maybe have a go at telling the time on different clocks!



ENGLISH

We began the term reading the story, Katie in London. We created a story map and learnt about some of the landmarks. We changed them and the characters to create our own story to write. They were amazing! We learnt how to use the suffix -s or -es to change a singular noun to plural nouns e.g. building – buildings, bus – buses. We have been identifying and writing proper nouns and know they need a capital letter e.g. I walked to see Big Ben. Recently we have been using exclamation marks and looking at more suffix (ing, ed, er, est) where there is no change to the root word e.g. walk – walked, walking / tall – taller, tallest). It would be awesome if the children could practice these skills over the holidays!



Topic: Bright Lights Big Cities

I am really impressed with the children's enthusiasm towards this topic. They have all really enjoyed learning all about London and the Great Fire of London. We have learnt about landmarks, seasons, weather changes and explored weather symbols using transient art and textured printing as well as drawing detailed London Landmarks! During Science Week, we carried out an experiment to find out whether different fruits changed the time it took for jelly to set, it was a yummy and fun experiment! Next half term our topic will be called, School Days, watch this space for some more super learning.



Have a lovely break, Super Swans!

Flamingos

Year 2 have had a fabulous term learning about Coastlines. I am sure some of our families are counting down to the warmer months where you may be visiting the seaside for a family getaway!

In English, we have learnt the story of Grace Darling. We then changed the characters so that we were the main character in our own adventure story. The children have learnt about similes 'we rushed to the survivors as quick as a flash' or 'the boat was as wobbly as jelly'. We have also learnt about alliteration where 2 words start with the same sound 'terrific telescope', scared survivors' or 'salty sea'. Why don't you ask your child what their alliteration name it & then you could make up some of your own alliteration names for your family.

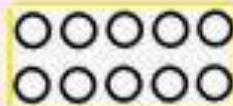


Please remember to read every night with your child. The expectation is that by the end of Year 2, children should be fluent enough to read around 100 words per minute. The RWI book bag books are a great way to practise fluency, which positively impacts children's comprehension also!

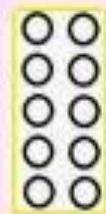


In Maths we have been learning to multiply. The children have been drawing arrays to show their timetables & counting the rows in groups.

$$5 \times 2 = 10$$



$$2 \times 5 = 10$$



In DT we have been creating our own beach huts. First, we practised using paper folds to create a 3D model. What do you think of these...we are pleased that they can stand up successfully without holding onto them.

Then we used; a junior hacksaw, a bench hook, PVA glue, triangular corners, wooden dowel, sandpaper and a tape measure...to create our own wooden structure. Look at our master pieces...



Have a fun Easter break, Fabulous Flamingos! Next term, our new topic will be Magnificent Monarchs...



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. We are still seeing children being brought into school who are clearly unwell with a sickness bug.

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 necessary 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.

School Lunches

As a reminder, and as also can be found on our website, if you would like your child to have a school lunch, you **MUST place your order BEFORE 8.55am** on the day that you would like the meal for your child.

Ordering is disabled after this time and you will not be able to order a meal for that day i.e. if you want your child to have a meal on a Tuesday, you must order the meal **BEFORE 8.55am** on that Tuesday.

If you miss this deadline, we will call you so that you can bring a packed lunch in as our meal provider, Dolce, can no longer send spare meals.

Reading

Every child in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 has a RWI book bag book. This book is linked with their phonics ability & helps them to apply the new sounds they have learnt in school in order to develop their reading fluency. Recently, lots of children have not been returning their book on a Friday. Some children have also been returning their books but saying they have not read it. The children who have been reading their book every night & gaining speed, and then changing their book every week, have made greater progress with their reading than those who haven't. Please support your child on their reading journey as they need your help!

Nut Allergies

Due to members of our school community having a life-threatening nut allergy, we are a totally nut-free school and communicate this on a regular basis. Nuts, however, are still being brought into school.

Please help to keep vulnerable members of our school community safe by not putting 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.