

NEWSLETTER, November 2017

Hello everyone and welcome to your November newsletter. Andrea has been very interested to hear about what you've all been up to, despite not being at school. This newsletter is packed full of exciting trips, events and activities – we hope you enjoy reading about them!



Life Saving Appeal



We are delighted to have a new group of students taking part in our Life Saving course this year. They are all keen learners developing their skills at their own pace and we would like them to have the same opportunity as our last group, some of whom went on to achieve their PADI 1 Open Water licence. We are lucky enough to have the support of the Dive Crew Team who put in so much time and effort to help our students achieve this level.



Dive Crew have won many awards such as Depththerapy Instructor Trainer (Adaptive Teaching) helping people with special needs including many ex-service men who have lost limbs and are now competent divers themselves. For this to happen, we would like to find a business that would be prepared to sponsor the group. If you work for a company that we could approach, or run a company yourself and would like to help sponsor a group of our students, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact the school office, leave your details and one of us will give you a call back to discuss. Thank you.

Children in Need 2017

The 2017 Children in Need fundraising event took place on the 17th November and as usual, Pudsey made a special appearance during assembly – he even brought along his good friend Jan! Members of the Senior Leadership Team roped in a couple of Key Stage Leads and a Family Support Practitioner and treated us to a superb dramatization of 'Room on the Broom'.



Finally, Pudsey Bear ended our wonderfully spotty assembly with some very smooth 'Macarena' moves indeed! 😊



Later in the day, the Primary School Council helped to raise more money by selling hot chocolates to staff at break time. They also sold cakes and biscuits that all of the classes in Primary had made. We had a fantastic time and raised over £100!

Pudsey stayed all day visiting classrooms (and from what we are told, practicing his Gangnam Style dance moves in the mirror), and in total, we raised just under £370 for Children in Need! Thank you all so much for your generous and continued support of this very worthy cause.



Tall Ships

This term, two of our adventurous Sixth Formers joined a Wellington College trip and went sailing around Portsmouth's Solent. Jacob and Harry experienced a day on a tall ship, participating in a range of team-work activities, and even got a chance to climb the rigging. We hope to return next year!



The Gruffalo comes to Primary



Those of you visiting Primary this month could not fail to meet a life-sized Gruffalo painted on the wall of the entrance lobby! Huge thanks to Lesley (TA in Topaz class) for her amazing reproduction of this well-loved character and for brightening up this area of the school.

FOKLS Halloween Party



On Friday 13th October, the Friends of Kennel Lane School hosted another **spooky** Halloween party for our learners. Staff and learners alike dressed up, danced to **monster** hits and had a **scarily** good time!



Primary visit to Wellington College



Years 5 and 6 were lucky enough to be invited to an Autumn Harvest Celebration at Wellington College. We tasted different types of English apples and even tried apple bobbing! We also grew a pumpkin for the 'Heaviest Pumpkin Competition' and Kennel Lane won! We returned with a certificate and a mini greenhouse along with some very happy children!

Back at KLS, the Primary department held their annual Halloween pumpkin competition. Each class presented fantastic pumpkins, showing great design, skill and flair! Michelle kindly volunteered to judge the competition and choose Quartz's Cookie Monster as the winner. Well done Quartz!



Primary 'Join Us' Afternoon



Primary enjoyed their second autumn 'Join Us' afternoon this month. Parents, carers and other family members were invited to join in with a 'Playdough and Modelling' session after enjoying refreshments supplied by our Secondary Learners 'Green Leaves.' There were lots of different modelling activities happening across primary such as play dough modelling and making salt dough. Thank you to everyone who came and helped to make it a successful afternoon!

We reached our goal!

A big thank you to all the parents who sent in Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers during the last campaign. We are delighted to report that we achieved our target and purchased new goal posts and nets for both Primary and Secondary learners. This will enable our learners to use them for practising during lessons with the visiting Chelsea Coaches and be 'goal-ready' for our tournaments at the Madjeski Stadium!



Working Experience



Our Year 11 learners participated in Working Experience this half-term. They visited 3M, Panasonic and Waitrose in order to see the range of job roles in different businesses. They enjoyed learning about what it is like in a work place and participated in a number of activities including tours, talks and team-building games. Thank you to the three businesses for hosting us!

Waitrose



3M

Panasonic

Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds



As we believe that a healthy body helps with a healthy mind, the Secondary department have introduced a daily exercise session for learners. On National Fitness Day (Wednesday 27th September 2017) most of the learners in Secondary had the opportunity to run or walk the 'Golden Mile' which is a safe, simple and measurable health and fitness initiative accessible to all age groups regardless of ability. They managed to cover an amazing total of 54 miles! So that they can continue in their progress of a healthier lifestyle, we are also developing the learners' knowledge of healthy eating. Further details can be found at <http://schools.golden-mile.org/#>. Any support you can continue to give at home will help us deliver this brilliant initiative at school.

Governor Update from Peter Floyd, Chair of Governors.

The Governing Body has three core functions and I want to explain these one at a time over the next three newsletters. The first is to **"Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction"** which sounds very grand but is really very straightforward – it means that we are responsible for making sure that the school has a very clear idea of what they want to achieve, the style in which they aim to do it and what the planned outcomes are for our learners. Governors are very satisfied with the school's vision believing it to be aspirational, but realistic, and suitably focused on achieving the best possible results for our young people. I will cover the second core function next time but now want to introduce you to the Vice Chair:



Hi, my name is Bev Mitchell, I have been a parent governor here for almost 5 years. I am the Vice Chair of Governors, Chair of the Staffing Committee and Careers Governor. My son Tom has been at Kennel Lane since year 7 and is now in his final year of 6th Form.

After over 25 years working for global companies, I started my own Learning and Talent Consultancy just under 3 years ago. I work with global clients to help them develop the talents of the people within their business. My background is in learning and development, sales, marketing and business leadership. I try to combine my experiences as a parent of a young person with additional needs with my business expertise in order to play an active role as a governor at Kennel Lane. When I get any spare time (which isn't very often!), I enjoy walking, gardening, Pilates, listening to music, theatre and cinema as well as reading crime novels.

New Automated Gates

We are really excited to tell you that we have had new automated school gates installed. These will ensure that our learners remain safe whilst at school and mean that our perimeters are really secure. This was a huge project to implement – a very big thank you to everyone involved for their efforts!



Winter's here!

Please make sure your young person comes to school equipped for the colder weather including gloves or mittens, scarves and hats. Please ensure all items are named as we cannot guarantee to be able to locate them again if they are lost and unnamed.



Whilst on the subject of colder days, please make sure you are fully aware of the procedure for school closure in the event of snow or other extreme weather conditions. If we need to close the school due to severe weather, we will:-

- Inform local radio stations (BBC Radio Berkshire, Heart, Reading 107);
- Update our website and school answerphone message;
- Inform the Local Authority school transport service;
- Send a message via Schoolcomms after 7am on the morning of the closure. Please check you are registered for this service, especially if you have changed your mobile telephone number. Speak to the school office if unsure.

Judgements about whether to close the school are based on Met Office forecasts including the likelihood of worsening weather throughout the day and include a number of factors. If the school is open in the morning but the weather begins to deteriorate throughout the school day, we may have to make the decision to send your young person home early. In this event, the school will contact you via Schoolcomms where appropriate and will contact the local authority transport teams to facilitate early pick-ups. In extreme circumstances it may be necessary for you to facilitate the pick-up of your young person.

Opal inclusion class- when a decision to close is made this also applies to those Kennel Lane learners in the inclusion class, which is based at Birch Hill Monday to Thursday, even if the Birch Hill site is still open.

Finally, please note that due to learners arriving by taxi and the vulnerability of some of our learners, it may be necessary to close the school site **even if other schools in the area remain open** in order to keep everyone safe. We will endeavour to remain open as far as we can, but our first priority must be with our learner's safety and your understanding in this matter is appreciated.

Twitter

Kennel Lane School now has its very own Twitter account! We're still learning so please bear with us whilst we get to grips! Our user name is @KLSBracknell.



Staff News



Hearty congratulations to Vicky (KS5 Lead) and her husband on the safe arrival of twin boys! Mum and babies are doing well ☺

Dates for the Diary

Friday 15th December	Christmas Productions: 10.00am Secondary, 1.15pm Primary
Monday 18th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 19th December	Secondary Department Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 19th December	1.30pm Christmas Disco
Tuesday 19th December	END OF TERM
Friday 5th January 2018	Back to School!

Best wishes,

Jenny