

NEWSLETTER, January 2023



Dear all

We have had an amazingly busy Spring Term and have had lots of events going on to enhance our curriculum and learners' development.

As a school, we will be linking to Sandhurst School's Reaching Rwanda project, this will support our learners with their personal development; to learn about other countries and cultures as well as promoting the idea of social responsibility. Learners will get an opportunity to work with students from the mainstream school and to write letters and Facetime students at the school in Rwanda. We are hoping to raise funds and collect items to fill a suitcase to be sent to the school there. If you wish to find out more information, please use this link [Sandhurst School – Reaching Rwanda](#).



Learners also learnt about Chinese customs and celebrated Chinese New Year as part of our Multicultural Day celebrations. All learners attended an assembly and had a party in the afternoon, in preparation for their party, in traditional Chinese custom, learners helped to clean their classrooms and decorate them. In addition, some learners enjoyed trying new foods, whilst others enjoyed creating dragons and learning about the year of the Rabbit.

It was lovely to see so many carers and parents attend the various events we have put on this month to welcome you in to school, such as the Primary Come Join Us afternoon and the Secondary Coffee Afternoon. Many carers and parents attended the Read Write Inc. workshop and the Numeracy workshop, we hope you found these useful and they will aid you to understand what your young person is learning in school and how you can further support them at home. Please keep an eye on the 'Dates for your Diary' section for further events, some of these are targeted to specific areas of the school.

Lastly, at the end of the newsletter is an overall summary of the carer and parent survey undertaken in the Autumn Term. Thank you for taking the time to complete this, your feedback is important to us and helps us to think about things we can potentially develop in the future.

Best wishes,

Jenny Baker
Headteacher

Visit from the rats!

To support our topic of 'Princes, Peasants and Pestilence', Toby and his Mum kindly brought their pet rats into school to show that not all rats are dirty and carry disease! Our KS3 learners fed the rats by hand and watched as they dived for peas in a bowl of water, solved puzzles and played with their toys. The rats also enjoyed cuddles on a cushion!



Science trip to 3M Scanning Electron Microscope

A group of our keen science learners from Secondary had the exciting opportunity to find out all about the scanning electron microscope which can magnify up to 500,000 times! Learners had the opportunity at looking at specimens under different microscopes to see detail that can't be seen with the naked eye. After the session we all enjoyed a drink and a snack before returning to school.



The Plague doctors come to Kennel Lane

On one of the regular Wednesday afternoon activities with Wellington College, Oak class and Wellington College students made 'plague doctor' costumes. Learners were given 40 minutes and a range of resources to see who could make the best costume in that time. All of the costumes were amazing and everyone had really shown their creative abilities. Pictured is the winning costume.

Ruby's Ramblings

Ruby has been busy again this half term. She has been visiting Beech class on Tuesday mornings.

Beech class have been using their communication devices and boards to request actions with Ruby.



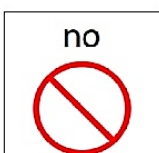
In the photos, you can see Harry and Ethan asking her to spin, Bethany feeding, Leah-May brushing and George stroking,

Ruby is enjoying all the attention!



This month's Buzzword is... no

Follow the link for the video and more information on this month's Buzzword:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9f6uAZxwHE>



Governor Update from Bev Mitchell-Wright, Chair of Governors



Several governors have been able to visit the school in the last month or so and it has been so rewarding for us to see so much good work in action. At our monthly governors meetings, we get regular and detailed updates about everything that is going on in school but there is nothing like seeing it for yourself. Some of us were able to attend the Christmas Fayre and the Christmas productions back in December and one of the governors recently observed an excellent colleague training event.

The best part of our visits is when we can see our learners enjoying what they do, learning new skills and becoming more confident. We want to ensure that every learner at Kennel Lane gets the opportunity to develop and grow and I have to admit that when I came to watch one of the Christmas productions I had more than one tear in my eye. After not being able to have these events for so long because of Covid, it was so lovely to see so many of our young people on stage enjoying themselves, performing with confidence and having a thoroughly good time. Judging by the reception they received from the carers and parents who attended, you all obviously enjoyed it too. We look forward to having many more opportunities to see our young people thrive and grow.

Family Support News

Tuesday 7th Feb is **Internet Safety Day**, with this in mind we wanted to take the opportunity to pass on some tips and share our knowledge around keeping your young people safe while accessing the internet.

6th Feb 10 – 11am – Online Safety Carer/Parent Workshop This session will be a 1-hour workshop run by our school IT leads sharing information with you about ways to keep your children safe online. A separate letter will follow with more information.

9th Feb 10.00am - The Chatty Café Scheme

We have organised another catch up at Bracknell Waitrose for carers and parents of Kennel Lane learners to go along, have a drink and meet other carers and parents from school. Our family support workers will also be there for support and a chat from 10 am.

Top Tips

- Keep computers in family rooms so that you can monitor what your children are accessing.
- Put parental controls on devices.
- Talk to your children about what websites they are using.
- Have family rules about internet usage.
- Bear in mind your young person's developmental age (where are they emotionally/socially/their understanding) when assessing what is appropriate for them to access.

Here are a number of useful sites with extensive information about keeping your children safe online.

- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- <https://www.childnet.com/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/connecting->

HPS Heating and Plumbing



Bracknell

T: 01344 304420
E: bracknell@hpsmerchant.co.uk
Unit 12, Bilton Industrial Estate
Lovelace Road, Bracknell RG12 8YT



We have been contacted by a local heating and plumbing company offering families of Kennel Lane up to 40% discount off some of their products! HPS supply all plumbing and heating products, bathroom products as well as offering a bathroom measuring and design service. We'd like to point out that, as the school is not associated with HPS, you will need to contact them directly if you wish to find out more.

Website News

Please remember to visit the Curriculum section on the school website to find information related to your young person's Key Stage and/or subjects/strands of the curriculum. We will also continue to send home paper copies of termly subject overviews each term.

As well as curriculum planning overviews you can find copies of presentations and resources used in carer and parent information sessions under the parent/carers section of the website.

[Parent Curriculum guides – Read Write inc.](#)

This is a useful guide to Read Write Inc., where you can find lots of free resources to support your young person's learning.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

Dates for the Diary

Monday 6th February	Safer Internet Workshop for Carers and Parents	9.15am
Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February	Half Term	
Tuesday 21st February	EYFS Primary – Total Communication Meeting	PM – time TBC
Tuesday 2nd March	World Book Day	
Monday 6th March	RSHE Workshop	AM – time TBC
Friday 17th March	Comic Relief / Red Nose Day	
Friday 31st March	End of Spring Term Primary & Woodlands Hub 12.45pm finish Secondary 13.00pm finish	

Carer and Parent Survey results are on the following page.

Carer and Parent Survey Results

Total Surveys Completed = 77

The survey ran from Tuesday 1st November 2022 to Friday 11th November 2022.

Not all carers and parents completed every section of the survey.

Statement	% Agreed*	% Disagreed*
My child is happy at Kennel Lane School	97%	3%
My child feels safe at Kennel Lane School	100%	0%
Kennel Lane School makes sure its learners are well behaved taking into consideration their additional needs	96%	4%
Kennel Lane School makes me aware of what my child will learn during the school year	97%	3%
When I have raised concerns with Kennel Lane School they have been dealt with properly	96%	4%
Kennel Lane School gives my child the right support they need to succeed	99%	1%
Kennel Lane School has high expectations of my child.	95%	5%
My child does well at Kennel Lane School	97%	3%
Kennel Lane School lets me know how my child is doing.	97%	3%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at Kennel Lane School	97%	3%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at Kennel Lane School	81%	19%
The school supports my child's wider personal development.	97%	3%
I would recommend Kennel Lane School to another carer or parent.	97%	3%
My child has not been bullied **	88%	12%
If your child has been bullied did Kennel Lane School deal with the bullying quickly and effectively **	90%	10%

*The percentages shown above are for all responses where the Carer/Parent 'Strongly Agreed' or 'Agreed' and 'Disagreed' or 'Strongly Disagreed'. 'Unsure' responses are not included.

**The meaning of these statements appeared to cause some confusion.

My child can take part in clubs and activities at Kennel Lane School

We wanted to highlight all the clubs and activities that take place at Kennel Lane School during the school day that you may not be aware of. At lunchtime, various sporting activities take place, including with a sports coach on a Tuesday and Thursday in Primary and in Secondary on Monday there is a dance club led by a professional dance teacher. These clubs run on a rotational basis so that all learners who want to can take part.

To encourage learners to make choices for themselves and to think of leisure activities they may wish to continue when they finish school, Secondary learners have 'Leisure options' on a Friday afternoon. These include various clubs, such as Chess Club, Crafting, Gardening Club, Hairstyling, Choir and Film Club. Learners choose their 'Leisure' activity on a termly basis. These activities can also change dependent on what learners wish to do and their ideas and suggestions are discussed at our Student Council meetings.

We recognise that we do not offer activities and clubs after school. This is because colleagues are required to attend additional training/activities after school, Monday-Wednesday, to enable us to meet our learners' needs. Transport is also not available outside of our normal times and this impacts attendance at after school clubs. We will continue to review this in the future.