

# NEWSLETTER, September 2023



Dear Carers and Parents,

I hope you are well.

The new academic year has got off to a fantastic start! We have welcomed 22 new families into our Kennel Lane School community since the start of September and our new learners are settling in well.

This week, we have found out that our academy conversion order was granted by the Department for Education's Advisory Board. We are hoping to convert early in the Spring Term 2024. We have already had some visits with the Trust and are looking forward to working with them to continue to develop high quality teaching and learning opportunities for our children and young people.

**Please note** there has been a change to our term dates. In the Spring Term, we will be having an additional Inset Day on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, this is to allow us to join The Corvus Learning Trust for their training on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and then to have our essential PRICE training in February. This has been agreed by the Local Authority and The Corvus Learning Trust.

Over the Summer, as part of strong safeguarding practice, we reviewed our E-Safety (Online) Policy, the updates to the policy include new learner friendly Acceptable Use agreements, which support the keeping safe online work we cover as part of our curriculum. Here is a link to the policy on our website [KLS-E-safety-Online-Policy-V1.pdf \(kennellaneschool.com\)](https://www.kennellaneschool.com/KLS-E-safety-Online-Policy-V1.pdf) As a result of this, we looked at our Acceptable Use Policy and agreements for all stakeholders and these have also been updated. A new Acceptable Use Agreement will be coming home for you to sign too, please can these be returned via your young person's Home School Link Book.

If you wish to discuss any matters relating to your child or young person, in the first instance, please leave a message with the School Office on 01344 483872 or write a note in their Home School Link Book. Our Extended Leadership Team are also available to assist you as the next step;

- Primary – Zoe and Archana
- Secondary – Alison (KS3) and Tensa (KS4 & KS5 and Life Skills)
- Woodlands Hub – Sheena
- Support and Intervention Team – Jemma (Nurture and Attendance)
- SENCO – Dawn

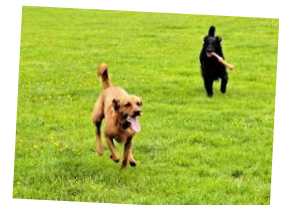
If the matter is urgent, please call in and our office team will find the best possible person to take your call.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the various carer and parents' events over the course of this ½ Term and it was lovely to meet some of you at the EYFS event on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Our 'Dates for your Diaries' section in the newsletter is a good way of keeping track of the future events which are due to take place for carers and parents and/or your young person.

Kind regards  
**Jenny Baker**  
Headteacher

## Ruby's Ramblings

Ruby had a lovely summer! She travelled to France and made a new friend there. After her holiday, she spent lots of the summer playing with her friend Seb. Ruby is excited to be back at school and seeing all her human friends again!



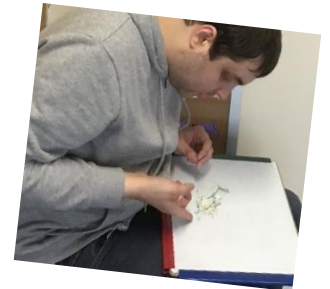
## Harvest Festival



We are once again collecting donations for Harvest Festival, this time supporting Bracknell 'Share' via Warfield Church. Please send or bring non-perishable food items into school by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you to Carly for creating this lovely display and collection baskets in Reception, and thank you to you all for your continuing support.

## Amazing Artwork

We are delighted to have some original artwork in the ELSA room courtesy of Ali Lubbock. Ali is the son of John, who visits us from 'Music for Autism' each term. Ali loves to draw Disney characters and has created this amazing wall art for the ELSA room. It is a work in progress and we look forward to seeing the finished room!



## Family Support News

We hope you all had a lovely summer! The Family Support Team are looking forward to working with you all again this year.

### The Chatty Café Scheme

We are looking forward to seeing some of you again at the next chatty café meet up at Waitrose Café, Bracknell on **10<sup>th</sup> October at 10am**. This is a chance for carers and parents of Kennel Lane learners to go along, have a drink and meet others from school. Our family support workers will also be there for support and a chat from 10 – 11am. Feel free to join us, we look forward to catching up with as many of you as can make it.

### Top Tips

We know some of our learners have lots of medical appointments, others have less but for many of our learners (and carers and parents) this can be a challenging visit and can cause lots of anxiety. Our family support team are working with local medical practices to help us produce specific information, social stories, visual supports etc., to help learners with these visits – please contact us or the class team if you have a visit and would like support to prepare your young person.

- To help minimise anxiety and challenging behaviours remember to:
- Prepare your young person – show pictures, social stories etc, put it on the timetable
  - Go on pre-visits to get used to the environment
  - Take distractions and motivators
  - Role play doctors/dentist etc., at home to get used to what is expected
  - Use timers/countdowns e.g., open mouth for 5,4,3,2, 1 – this can then be built up

## School Gateway



If you have an Android or iPhone, please download this app for the 'School Comms' service. This saves us the cost of a text when we need to communicate news or information to you immediately. If you already have the School Gateway app, please check that the email address you have nominated (there is only capacity for one per household), is correct. Please email [secretary@kennellaneschool.com](mailto:secretary@kennellaneschool.com) if you need to make any changes.

## Governor Update from Bev Mitchell-Wright, Chair of Governors



Another academic year has begun and it was great for all the governors to be back in school last week for our first Full Governing Body meeting of the year.

As governors, our role is strategic rather than operational so we do not get involved in the day to day running of the school and our 3 main focus areas are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

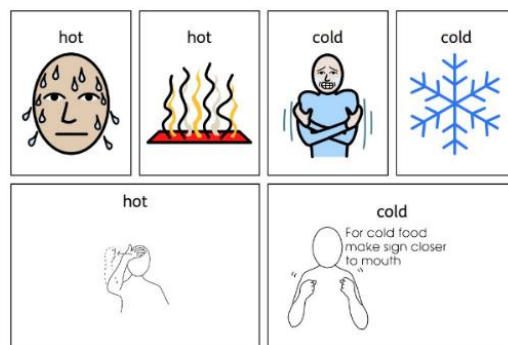
We do this in a variety of ways from regularly monthly meetings, in depth discussions with individual colleagues, visiting school to talk to our learners and carers and parents, and attending a variety of school events during the year. We are very much looking forward to visiting school over the coming year to see our learners in action and to observe first-hand the great work which is taking place at Kennel Lane.

We still have a vacancy on the Governing Board for a Parent/Carer Governor so if that's something that you think might be of interest to you, please do contact our Clerk of Governors, Fiona, [fiona.stanton@kennellaneschool.com](mailto:fiona.stanton@kennellaneschool.com)

### This month's Buzzword is... hot, cold



Follow the link for the video and more information on this month's Buzzword [https://youtu.be/smqVGh\\_HYSI](https://youtu.be/smqVGh_HYSI)



### School Lunches



School lunches, including desserts, are £3.07 for Primary learners and £3.19 for Secondary learners. Please remember that school lunches must be paid for in advance. Visit [www.scopay.com](http://www.scopay.com) or download the **SCOPAY mobile app** to register if you have not yet done so.

If you have a question regarding your SCOPAY account, see the SCOPAY Parent Information Page at [help.scopay.com](http://help.scopay.com). This page includes information regarding the SCOPAY mobile app, setting up Parental Alerts and FAQs to help with your queries.

### Attendance

Please remember to call the school office **each day** your child or young person is unwell and will be absent from school. Please do not email your young person's teacher, SLT Link or Department Leader regarding absence. Please note that if we do not receive a call or answerphone message reporting your young person's absence, a member of the team will call carers/parents to find out the reason for non-attendance at school. The office number is 01344 483872 and there is an answerphone service if you are calling outside of school hours.



## Covid, Illness, Sickness, Germs, Bugs, and other nasties

Your cooperation is appreciated in adhering to the following when your young person is unwell:



- For fever, please do not return your young person to school until 24 hours after the temperature has returned to normal.
- For sickness and diarrhoea, please do not return your young person to school until **48 hours** after the symptoms have completely stopped, i.e., 48 hours after the last episode.

## Transport



If you are collecting your young person early from school for any reason, please remember to call the transport team and let them know. Likewise, if you bring your child to school late, please notify Transport that they will need collecting at the end of the day as usual. Please note that it is always a carer/parent responsibility to do this. Thank you.

## School Speed Limit and Car Parking



We have reduced the vehicle speed limit on school car parks and approach roads to 5mph to ensure the safety of everyone on school site. When driving on Kennel Lane, we kindly remind you to always adhere to the Highway Code, paying particular attention to double yellow lines, "keep clear" signs and school zigzags. Please also avoid parking on blind bends or junctions and take care not to block our neighbours' driveways or access. This will not only help to keep Kennel Lane residents happy but will ensure the safety of our school community too. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Dates for the Diary



Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Harvest Festival</b> (Please send donations into school by this date)	
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Family Support Practitioners Chatty Café at Waitrose Bracknell	10.00am
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Primary 'All Join In'	1.30pm – 2.30pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Woodlands Hub 'All Join In'	09.30am – 10.30am
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>HALF TERM</b>	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need	
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day & Secondary Christmas Fayre	Fayre timings TBC
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Primary Christmas Production	Timings TBC
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Secondary Christmas Production	Timings TBC
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Christmas Lunch	
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Award and Achievements Assemblies	Timings TBC
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Autumn Term Primary & Woodlands Hub 12.45pm Finish Secondary 13.00pm Finish	
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December to Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	<b>WINTER HOLIDAY</b>	
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Start of Spring Term All learners return to school	

# TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024



## Autumn 2023

**Staff training days:**  
(school closed to students)

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023**  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**1<sup>st</sup> Half Term starts on:**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Term ends on:**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

October Holiday:

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term starts on**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Term ends on:**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 12.45pm – Primary / Woodlands  
1pm - Secondary**

Christmas Holiday:

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

## Spring 2024

**Staff training days:**  
(school closed to students)

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> Half Term starts on:**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**

**Term ends on:**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

February Holiday:

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Staff training days:**  
(school closed to students)

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term starts on**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Term ends on:**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 12.45pm – Primary / Woodlands  
1pm - Secondary**

Spring Holiday:

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
(Good Friday –29<sup>th</sup> March 2024; Easter Monday – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)**

## Summer 2024

**1<sup>st</sup> Half Term starts on:**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Term ends on:**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**Bank Holiday**

**May Day – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

May Holiday:

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024  
(Spring Bank Holiday – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term starts on**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024**

**Term ends on:**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 12.45pm – Primary / Woodlands  
1pm - Secondary**

**Staff training days:**  
(school closed to students)

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024**  
**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024**