



Dear Parents

Welcome back everyone to 2026, what a wet one it has been so far! Hopefully it will all start to settle down, we are already experiencing slightly lighter evenings and staff are arriving to school in daylight which is always feels more positive.

PARENT / CARER QUESTIONNAIRE

The federation Senior leadership Team are gathering parents and carers views in order to better understand how our communities feel about the schools and where we can work together to improve things. Please could we ask you to complete the online form via the link below, expressing your views about Kilmington Primary School. The questions are very similar to the types of questions that Ofsted ask parents and carers about their school. All information is confidential unless you would like to offer your contact information. The collated results will be analysed by myself and the Executive Head of the federation.

<https://forms.office.com/e/4WWfDLMBqg> 

OPEN AFTERNOON

We would like to continue with the Open Afternoons that we have had over the last few terms. These are an ideal opportunity for parents and carers to come in to school: look at your children’s books; talk to your children about their learning; have a look around the classroom and join in with some activities in the class.

This term’s open afternoon will be on Friday February 13th and will follow theme of the SCARF “Wear Your Scarf Day” – a day to mark the end of Children’s Mental Health Week. This year’s theme is “**This is My Place**”, encouraging children to explore what makes them feel safe, valued, and connected. **What is SCARF?** - SCARF stands for Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, and Friendship—five essential values that support children’s mental health and wellbeing. It forms the main planning that we now follow for PSHE teaching across the school. We will encourage the wearing of scarves on this day as a reminder of what we are thinking about.

On this afternoon classes will be taking part in activities designed to help children reflect on their sense of belonging and creating spaces where they feel they truly belong. We would love for you to join us on this afternoon, from 1.30pm onwards.

We are also looking into the possibility of Fresha (our catering company) putting on a tasting event so parents and children can sample some of the menu options. More details of this will follow.

PARENTS’ EVENINGS

These will be held in the week following half term: 23rd-26th February as follows:

Pipits		Tuesday 24 th February	Wednesday 25 th February	
Kingfishers		Tuesday 24 th February	Wednesday 25 th February	
Jackdaws			Wednesday 25 th February	Thursday 26 th February
Ospreys	Monday 23 rd February		Wednesday 25 th February	

Signing up sheets will be available in “The Crow’s Nest” between 9th and 13th February.

CLASS NEWS

PIPITS

Pipit Class has had a whizzy start to the year with our new big question "How do we get about?" They have been exploring different modes of transport and discussing the places they could travel to. The children brought their wheels to school and investigated how a bike works. During our block play sessions, we have experimented to see which blocks slide or roll quickest down a ramp. The children have even invented their own method of 'snowboarding' down it using a plank.

Our traditional tale this half term is the Gingerbread man. The children love to retell the tale particularly the song "Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread man!" We have been focusing on key storytelling vocabulary such as: one day, first, next, unfortunately, luckily, suddenly and after that. This week they have begun telling their own Gingerbread man stories which we have acted out in our class 'theatre'. Making our own Gingerbread men was a great success. Luckily our Gingerbread men didn't run off after we had cooked them!

The reception children are very excited to have been taught all the phase 3 diagraphs and trigraphs in phonics. They have all grown so confident with their reading and it is great to see how proud they are. Parents, it would be great if you can give them plenty of opportunity to 'show off' their new skills at home using the Collins ebook app.



KINGFISHERS

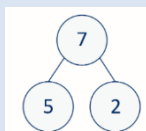
Kingfisher class have been busy learning about Florence Nightingale and Edith Cavell in History as part of our topic on 'Hospitals and Healthcare'. We have discovered that they were both nurses who helped people. They are historically significant people because they made a difference and have impacted on our healthcare today.

In Science, we have been learning about what animals and humans need to survive. We now know that we just need food, water and air to breathe in order to survive. We also looked at what we need to be healthy and learnt the importance of healthy food and exercise.

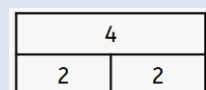
In English, we have been reading *Stuck* by Oliver Jeffers. It is a story about a boy called Floyd who get lots of things stuck up a tree. We are now beginning to plan our own story based on this. We have designed our own main character and decided what gets stuck up the tree!

In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting number within 100. We have used base 10 equipment to solve problems. We love to draw our own part- part whole and bar models to show our understanding of the connection between numbers.

The part-part whole model looks like this.



The bar model looks like this.



JACKDAWS

Jackdaws have had a busy start to the Spring Term. In Maths, we have been learning about multiplication and division. We have learnt various ways of multiplying and dividing numbers, including with remainders. We have been learning our 4x and 8x tables too.

In English, we have explored two texts so far. The first was called 'How to Invent' and we looked at many different inventions before exploring the life of Louis Braille. Braille was responsible for the invention which enables people with sight difficulties to read using formations of 6 raised dots. Braille is now used all over the world and has also been incorporated into various technologies. Our second text is 'Arthur and the Golden Rope', this is more of a fantasy based adventure story which the children are really enjoying. This week, the children created some lovely inventive pieces of writing imagining that they were Arthur at a pivotal point in the story.

In Science, we have been looking at 'States of Matter'. We have learnt about solids, liquids and gases and have conducted some investigations too; such as the time it takes for a cube of chocolate to melt in our hand!

Our class read has been Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, the children loved the book so much, they asked to read the sequel Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator! Reading is such an important part of our educational diet and it's been great to see everyone so engaged with the stories. To help at home, the children do bring reading books home every day which we request be read as much as possible (ideally 10 minutes per day). They also have reading records for children and adults to log reading.

Today, we are very much looking forward to our Orchestra trip! Thanks to all adults who have been involved in organising it and I'm sure the children will be talking all about it when they get home!

OSPREYS NEWS

Ospreys have made a wonderful start to the year and are becoming more consistent with many of the skills they have learnt over the years. Spelling and punctuation are generally improving and almost everyone is now joining their handwriting consistently. Osprey class is a time when we fine-tune all our skills and put them into practice, ensuring that we are competent with writing in a range of genres before heading out into the wide world of secondary school.

Our writing unit has been based on the book Everest by A. Stewart and J. Todd-Stanton. The book uses illustrations and rich text to map out the gruelling journey to the summit of Everest in 1953. The children have written diary entries in the role of either Hillary or Norgay. We have been very impressed with their control of language and the variety of sentence constructions that they are becoming more confident with. They really enjoyed a role-play session, where they re-enacted the journey through the treacherous Khumbu Icefall – children need to talk about their writing and rehearse what they want to put down on paper. Some children watched videos at home about Everest; it certainly sparked interest

In maths the final years of primary school reinforce the basic skills many times so that we are fluent and accurate with these techniques before setting off onto new learning in secondary school. Since the start of this year, we have been focusing on fractions and decimals.

Our geography topic is called: How sustainable is the UK's economic activity? Something that we hear lots about in the news! Hopefully children are coming home discussing the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors! This week the children had to plan 3 meals for a family of 4. They were provided with different options of organic, free-range and conventional, cheaper choices. They were genuinely surprised to discover the prices of food, especially the more healthier options. Over the next few weeks, we will be learning about agriculture, energy, rare elements, water use, waste management and automation.

In science we have continued our topic on light and have loved experimenting with shadows, mirrors and prisms. We were all fascinated to learn how rainbows are formed. We have a few more sessions to go and are hoping for a sunny day when we can investigate how shadows change through the day. Once we have finished this topic we will be moving on to work on solids, liquids and gases.

Outdoor Learning - Kingfishers

Thursday (after lunch)
5th & 12th February

As usual children can come to school in appropriate clothing and bring their wellies or alternative appropriate shoes in a separate carrier bag. Wellies are ideal and long trousers and long sleeved tops are essential to protect from brambles, stingers and insects. Enough clothing to keep warm and coats are essential on these dates.

Clubs Dates

Tuesday	Lego	3 rd & 10 th February - 10 th , 17 th & 24 th March
Thursday	Story	5 th & 12 th February - 12 th , 19 th & 26 th March

Diary Dates February

Thurs 5 th	Kingfishers Outdoor Learning (after lunch)
Thurs 5 th	Pipits Train Trip – PACKED LUNCH – parents to drop & collect from station
Thurs 12 th	Kingfishers Outdoor Learning (after lunch)
Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February	
Half Term	
Mon 23 rd	Jackdaws & Ospreys Swimming & Tennis – parents to collect at 3.00pm
Thurs 26 th	Ospreys Outdoor Learning (after lunch)

Our forthcoming events and diary dates are on our website listed in the *News & Events* section.

More specific details can be viewed online by clicking on the relevant event,
this will then display the letter content or additional information

Diary Dates website link

Term Dates website link