



KING EDWIN NEWS

Monday 11th Sep 2023

King Edwin Primary School
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Headteacher - Mr A Callaghan-Wetton
@kingedwinsch #kingedWINNERS



Dear parents and friends of King Edwin Primary School,

What a great start we have had to the new school year! I would like to thank all of our KingEdwinner families for being so supportive at the start of this term and helping to create such a positive attitude across the school.

The children have been 'awesome' and when walking along the corridor and talking with so many children, it is clear to see how settled everyone is. I could not have asked for a better start to the year.

I would like to welcome all of our new KingEdwinners in our Cubs, Badgers & Foxes classes. We are so pleased that you have joined Team KEPS!

We also have a few other additional children that have transferred to KEPS. We are sure that everyone will make you feel welcome and that you will enhance our school, helping us to be even better than we already are...this includes all of our new parents too! On this note, please keep an eye out for news from our FOKE (Friends Of King Edwin) team who are always looking out for new friends/members to support them. Their AGM will be very soon and I am sure they would love to welcome you into the team.

Routines in school at the start of the year often take a little while to get used to but so far, our KingEdwinners are doing just great. Please just pop us an email if you have any concerns or questions and we will endeavour to answer them as soon as possible.

You will always hear me banging the same drum in terms of how proud I am of our school team, community and most importantly - KingEdwinner Children. I never get tired of this and it is the best part of being a headteacher. This year, we have started as we mean to go on and I very much hope that the positivity continues across KEPS.

OFF TO A
Great Start

Thank you for your ongoing support; the partnership between parents and school is very much a factor behind the success of any school and more importantly the success of any child.

Kind regards,

Andy Callaghan-Wetton - Headteacher

Parent Drop-in Session

Before the summer holiday, some of you may recall that a date was given to you regarding a drop-in session to give you the opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and team. The date and time allocated to this is **Wednesday 13th September** and we will be available from **3:30pm to 4:30pm**.

The classroom doors will be open for you to access from the playground. This is an informal session to pop in for a chat at your convenience, ask any questions that you may have as well as receive some key information for the new academic year regarding expectations, routines and important dates.

We hope to see you on Wednesday but, in the meantime, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask your child's class teacher or Mrs Cox (Transition Lead).



COMMUNICATION

Our communication is reasonably effective at KEPS. We have a range of ways that parents can connect with staff and these are generally well received. School Comms, Email, TEAMS, Social Media (X -formerly Twitter, Instagram and Facebook), telephone, letters and school planners/diary.

We always try to communicate with parents in a timely manner and respond accordingly. Please understand that sometimes, a response may take a little while to get to you. Typically, a response is given within a couple of days of receiving initial communication.

TEAMS is our platform for home/blended learning. In the event of any isolation or lockdown we will fully utilise the functions of TEAMS to educate our KingEdwinners. TEAMS is **NOT** our daily parent communication tool. It has served us really well but now the system is predominantly used by the children and staff exclusively.

If you have a question or comment to make regarding elements that aren't about your child's home learning tasks, we have a range of ways of getting in touch with school:

- Call the school office on 01623 822111
- Email our school office email on office@kingedwin.notts.sch.uk
- Email through the school gateway
- Contact our helpandsupport@kingedwin.notts.sch.uk



Drop off and collection

THANK YOU! Whilst we have amended our school day slightly, I really appreciate the fact that our parents have managed the starts and collection times with such ease. The children are also managing the changes to the school day very well.

Late Arrivals & Collection

Persistent late arrival often results in the whole class having their learning compromised. Late collection is also unsettling for a child. **Any unauthorised absence is detrimental to a child's education.** Thanks in advance for your continued understanding and support regarding attendance and punctuality.

Sweets/Birthdays/Allergies etc.

We must politely ask families **not** to send in 'sweet treats' or treats for birthdays. We are in a position where the percentage of children with specific allergies and medical needs has risen to unmanageable levels with regards to allowing birthday treats etc. Obviously the health and well being of all of our children is of utmost importance. I appreciate that this message may not be popular but I simply cannot take any risks. We must also remind parents that water is the best liquid for the children's water bottles to help them stay hydrated. We do not 'police' water bottles or lunch boxes as we trust our families and know that you will work with us to make KEPS a safe and healthy school. Thanks again for being so supportive and understanding.

Holidays

Hopefully people managed to get a break and maybe have some time away this summer. Many of the children have been sharing stories of their camping or beach experiences. It has been great to hear. I must take this opportunity to remind all parents that **no term time holidays** will be authorised and that we will be following LA and National guidance when referring to attendance issues related to holidays taken during term time.

There are 13 weeks per year allocated to school holidays and I must urge every family to keep to the dates given. Children have clearly had a disrupted education in the past few years and we need to do all that we can to help them recover a little lost ground and obviously maintain that level of education that we offer.

Holiday dates in Nottinghamshire schools can be found at:

[School holiday and term dates](#) | [Nottinghamshire County Council](#)



Football & Scooters on the playground before or after school

On a couple of occasions I have had to talk to a few children that are playing football (on the playground) or using scooters before or after school. It is lovely to see but we have asked the children not to do this.

I counted many pushchairs in the playground last week. I would not forgive myself if the children accidentally kicked the ball at one of the push chairs and a child was hurt. The children understand the reasons behind this decision and are absolutely fine about the rationale in helping to keep everyone safe in school.

Nut Free School

We have a number of children in school with nut allergies. We are therefore a nut free school. Could parents please avoid packing food that may contain nuts in packed lunches. Thanks.



Parking

We often receive complaints about the parking outside school. Please could we ask that you are parking safely at pick up and drop off times and respecting the yellow lines, as appropriate.

This is especially important as we move towards darker nights in the near future. Lets keep our little KingEdwinner children safe please :-)

Dates and Diaries

Our 'School Planners' arrived on time this year. Hopefully you will find them useful for organising the school day, reading records and general supportive notes as the term progresses.



We are finalising a few more dates for our diary and Mrs Musgrove will be sending a list of dates for your reference next week.

The term ahead is very busy - please keep an eye on our website and social media platforms for up to date information/activities at KEPS.

Secondary School Applications

If your child has just started in year 6 and they live in Nottinghamshire, it's now time to apply for a secondary school place for next September.

All applications must be received by the closing date of 31 October 2023.

Carefully check the admission criteria for each school before applying to make sure that your child has a high priority within the criteria and list four preferences.

The easiest way to apply for a place is online.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/applying-for-a-school-place-september>



Harvest Festival

This year's Harvest Festival is fast approaching, and we would be delighted to share our Harvest plans with you all. This year, our KS1 and KS2 children will be creating Harvest poetry, crafts, art pieces and even music to share during our Harvest celebrations at St. Mary's Church on Monday 2nd of October 2023.

Foundation Stage 1 children will be visiting The Nightingale Care home (date TBC) to sing Harvest Songs.

The Foundation Stage 2 children would like to invite their grown-ups to a Harvest event on Wednesday 4th of October. They will be inviting grown-ups in for an hour in the morning, and an hour in the afternoon to take part in some themed activities and to sing a song down at our wonderful Forest School.

The KS1 and KS2 children will be taking any/all food donations collected at KEPS to St. Mary's Church on Monday 2nd of October and we will be most grateful if any donations that our KEPS families may like to make are brought into school on either Friday 29th of September or the morning of our visit. We thank you for any support that you may be able to provide to our community.

Unfortunately, due to capacity numbers at St Mary's Church, we are unable to invite parents/carers to join us for our KS1/KS2 Harvest Services. However, please keep an eye out on our social medial platforms for photos of our Harvest Services.

The details of our KS1/KS2 Harvest Services are as follows:

For our Year 1, 2 and 3 children the Harvest celebration will proceed on Monday 2nd of October at 9:30-10:30am
For our year 4, 5 and 6 children the Harvest celebration will proceed on Monday 2nd of October at 11:00am-12:00pm

Thank you for your continuing support and co-operation.

Miss Hands - RE Lead

Homework

Homework is often a contentious issue with parents as families lead such busy lives. Our view as a school is that homework can be very helpful and supportive for our KingEdwinners. Learning can be consolidated and positive learning routines are often very beneficial for children.



We have a range of Doodle platforms opportunities (English/Maths/Spelling) that teachers set for children to work through for homework and we also use other Apps such as Times Table Rock Stars. 'Bingo Homework' is also set across the school and many families enjoy engaging with this.

Reading daily is a key recommendation that we hope all families engage with. Not only is this a positive parent/child interaction but it's often enjoyable for children as they become engrossed in a good book.

Asides from the activities mentioned above, we know that many families have their own activities that are both educational and enjoyable. We love hearing about all of these activities and as a parent myself, I am often inspired by the children sharing their recounts of what they get up to outside of school.

We are very aware of how busy families are and fully understand that children are not always able to engage in every aspect of the schools homework routine. Sometimes we see children that are perhaps attending 15 or more hours of elite sport training or something similar and this can have an impact on what they are able to access. Parents should always communicate with the school regarding such instances. We always want to work together to support the child as much as possible with achieving their potential.