



AUTUMN

8th September 2023

Nurturing each and all. Guiding, Trusting, Inspiring and Celebrating

Dear Families,

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a lovely Summer break. It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back into school. We would like to extend a special welcome to all our new families; we hope you will soon become immersed in our lovely school community.

The term has started in a whirlwind of activity and we have even had international media attention! More of that later. We are greatly encouraged by the way all the children have returned to school and how quickly they are all settling into their new classroom routines. It has been an incredibly calm start to the new school year (if a little hot) and we are very proud of all the children; they are a credit to you.

Teachers have been busy planning and preparing for this term and there is lots to be done! Termly topic webs are on your child's class page, on the website, along with lots of useful information to help you support your child this year. Little Minster are starting the year learning all about themselves, Dovecote are taking a trip down Memory Lane, Wenrisc will be finding out about Planes, Trains and Automobiles, Charterville are going on an Amazon Adventure, Cotswold class are learning about Ancient Greece and Lovell are being transported back to Ancient Worlds!

Class teachers are organising curriculum meetings that you are invited to attend (please see below). If you are unable to make the meeting, please do not worry as handouts will be available. Our SENDCO, Hannah Staniford, will also be holding a welcome session to meet you. This is an opportunity for her to introduce herself to you if you have not already met. This is not a time to discuss individual children or needs but a "Hello!"

Little Minster (Reception)	Tuesday 26.9.23	2.30pm
Dovecote (Year 1)	Wednesday 20.9.23	2.45pm
Wenrisc (Year 2)	Monday 18.9.23	2.45pm
Charterville (Year 3)	Thursday 21.9.23	2.45pm
Cotswold (Year 4/5)	Tuesday 19.9.23	2.45pm
Lovell (Year 5/6)	Thursday 14.9.23	2.45pm
SENDCO Meeting	Wednesday 13.9.23	2.45pm

Our Value

This term our value is *friendship*; always a good one to start the new year with! Throughout the school, we will be discussing and thinking about the importance of friendship and how we need to work at it and to accept that friendships change and challenges can arise.

Respect, Honesty, Friendship, Compassion, Thankfulness, Wisdom

School Grounds

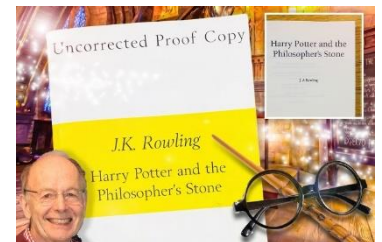
THANK YOU!

I hope you have noticed how fantastic the playground is looking with the newly painted lines. This has very kindly been funded by G.Hill and Sons. I am sure you will agree that it makes a huge difference to our school grounds.



As part of the School's Development Plan this year, we are looking to spruce up our school environment. We are hoping to refurbish the Trim Trail and are looking to replace the AstroTurf, rejuvenate the pond area and smarten everything up. If you have skills and wish to offer your help to enable us to achieve this goal, please contact your class teacher or myself.

Harry Potter Book Discovery!



So, have you heard the news? Have you heard St Kenelm's School mentioned on the radio or read about us online? If you haven't, then you are probably wondering what all this is about!

In the Summer holidays, whilst tidying the Office, we came across an extremely rare copy of a Harry Potter book, that the school had purchased in 1997 – at the very start of all things Harry Potter. It was purchased from Red House Books in Witney for £1 and, along with all the other books purchased on that day, ended up on a book shelf in a classroom for pupils at the time to read. Now, luckily for us, Mr Alder, who was the Head at the time, had the foresight to remove the book from the classroom and put it into safe keeping. However, that *safe keeping* proved to be extremely safe and, when Mr Alder retired in 2017, we believed the book had been lost... until this Summer, when it resurfaced!!

At the point of its discovery, we hoped that it might have some value, as it was an unedited proof copy. Mr Alder took the book to an auction house, that specialises in Harry Potter, and they thought that it had a value of between £15,000 and £20,000, as they had never seen one before! We couldn't believe it.

So, on Tuesday morning, Key Stage 2 gathered in the hall to watch the online auction. Our book was Lot number 1, and so we waited patiently for the bidding to commence. We couldn't believe that our book initially started at £7,000 and were even more flabbergasted when the gavel came down at £13,000. At this point, we believed our book had sold and so were somewhat perplexed when the BBC were reporting that it had not sold. We later discovered that it had been removed from the auction because the auctioneer believed that it was worth more!

Despite not selling, our book had attracted much interest and private buyers contacted the auctioneers after the sale. Further bids were placed after the auction and finally, yesterday, our unedited proof copy of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was sold for £15,000!

We are hugely indebted to Mr Alder for realising the books potential and having the foresight to put it into safe keeping back in 2002. It certainly has made the start of this school year a very memorable and exciting one. Thank you Mr Alder!

Communication

If you have a concern, or need to speak to your child's class teacher, then please contact us through the following channels:

- Messages can be relayed via the staff member on the gate in the morning,
- The best route, during the school day, is to email the school office. Messages can be passed on to teachers, who will then get back to you when they are not teaching. Please email: office.3125@st-kenelms.oxon.sch.uk
- You can phone on 01993 775394 and leave a message on the answerphone.

School Lunches / Packed Lunches

Please be reminded that the cost for Key Stage 2 school dinners is £2.40. Lunch money must be paid on a Monday and will not be accepted on any other day unless your child has been absent. This is due to the administrative time this takes up, both in the office and the classroom. Should you wish to pay via BACS, please contact the Office to arrange this.

Please can you ensure that if you provide grapes for your child in their lunch box that they are cut in half. Whole grapes pose a choking hazard.



Letter from King Charles

This week, Year 3 received an exciting letter from Buckingham Palace! King Charles had written to them in response to their letters that they had sent to him back in the Summer congratulating him on his coronation.

Science Day

Next Wednesday, we will all be involved in Science workshops throughout the day. These have been kindly organised by Science Oxford.

St Kenelm's School Association

SKSA are a small group of parents, who work together to fundraise for our school. They now urgently need new members or volunteers to help out at individual events. If you think you could help them, then why not give it a try. Please contact them on: ksa@st-kenelms.oxon.sch.uk

Macmillan Coffee

We will be holding our annual Macmillan Coffee morning on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th September. This is a chance for you to join us to support the work of the Macmillan nurses, whilst having the opportunity to visit your child's class. We will be inviting Key Stage 1 and Reception parents/carers to join us on the afternoon of Thursday 28th and Key Stage 2 parents/carers on the afternoon of Friday 29th. Further details will follow shortly.

Medication

If your child needs to have medication during the school day, you are required to complete a consent form to enable us to administer it. Please email the office to obtain a consent form when required. We are unable to administer medicine unless it is in its original packaging. Please also ensure that you inform the school of any allergies that your child has.

Attendance

As a school, we have a duty of care to safeguard all our children. Ensuring children attend school regularly is part of the safeguarding duty for both school and parents/carers and absences MUST be recorded in registers with reasons for the child not attending each day. If your child is absent, please notify the school office each day that your child is away, either by email or telephone. All absences will be followed up. Please ensure that your contact details are up to date.

We want all our children to strive for 100% attendance.

Since September 2015, the government classifies a child to be a persistent absentee if their attendance is 90% or below.

Attendance Percentage	Number of sessions missed	Equivalent number of days missed	Equivalent number of weeks missed	Equivalent number of lessons missed
100%	0	0	0	0
95%	19	9 ½	2	48
90%	38	19	4	95
85%	57	28 ½	6	143
80%	76	38	8	190
75%	95	47 ½	9 ½	238
70%	114	57	11 ½	285

Holidays:

- A 2-week holiday means you can't get more than 94.7% attendance that year, and you miss 100 lessons... That's a lot to catch up on!
- If a holiday isn't requested, or is refused permission by the school, parents/carers could be issued a Penalty Notice if they still take their child on holiday. If you seek to take holiday time during term time, you will be asked to make an appointment with me to discuss this.
- Penalty Notices are a fine of £60 per parent per child, which rises to £120 if not paid in 4 weeks. If the £100 is not paid after a further 2 weeks, the parents could be taken to court.

Punctuality:

- Missing 15 minutes of school every day adds up to 9 whole days throughout the year!

Best wishes,

Catherine Souch