

Kings Worthy

Primary School

Newsletter



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Dear Parent/Carer

Not the second year I'd hoped for...

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of the summer term and another academic year. I believe there is much to celebrate from the year that has passed and there are many successes and achievements of which all of us within school should be justifiably proud. On the other hand, there are things we would all rather forget and the fact that so many of our children have not been in school since the end of March is something we all hope never has to happen again.

Thank you to everyone who spent a few moments over the last couple of weeks to fill in the online questionnaire. 174 questionnaires were completed which is a 51% return rate.

It seems quite surreal now to think back to the moment when, like all of you, we watched the announcement from the Prime Minister about school closures back in March where we were given only 48 hour's notice to only being open to key worker and vulnerable children. We didn't know how long it would last at that time and we were told that our role in school, and at home, was to keep each other and our children safe.

Fast forward to the end of May when it was announced that year R, 1 and 6 would be returning to school from June 1st, which no doubt resulted in cries of glee and anguish in equal measure, as some of you knew that your children could return to school, whereas others realized that it would be September before a return. At least on this occasion we were given a week's notice, but the wealth of safety measures which we had to prepare for was unique in my time as a headteacher.

The 100% positive response to the question, '*my child has attended school since lockdown and my child feels happy and safe at school*', was testament to the hard work of the whole team to prepare the school site during this time.

Throughout all of this, there are many things which we could have done better and if we went into another lockdown in the future, the way that work is uploaded and feedback provided would be completely different. We are always looking at ways to improve and we didn't need a survey to tell us that this was an area where we could have been better. We understand that each family is living in different circumstances, and so we have tried our very best to meet our duty to the children no matter how or where they have been learning.

Thank you to so many of you who left positive comments. Many of those who did so used the word 'unprecedented'. It is important to remember again that none of us have experienced anything like this before in our lifetime and hopefully never will again. As leaders, teachers, parents and as individuals we continue to make decisions to do with our jobs, home life and our children that are completely new to us.

Rest assured that we will provide the catch-up required to those children who have been away from us for so long and come September I know they will all show a remarkable and resilient attitude to be the best they can be. Of this I have no doubt.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone – children, parents, staff and governors – for the support they have provided and for their unstinting and dedicated commitment to the school. Our two inset days next week will mean that we will be fully prepared for the autumn term and there is much to look forward to in the new academic year. Especially, welcoming back all those of you who have been away for so long as well as the many new members of staff who can't wait to join our team.

We also bid farewell to members of staff who have given so much towards the school. As mentioned previously, Mrs. Gaunt and Mr. Ewins are moving onto challenges new and Mrs. Caldbeck informed me just a week ago that she has decided to retire from Kings Worthy for the second time.

After 8 years at Kings Worthy we say good bye to Mr. Ewins. He created a memorable first impression soon after his arrival as many staff members first met him in the staff room dressed as Henry VIII. He has been an integral part of many children's last experience at primary school, having taught year 6 for 6 out of his 8 years here, prepping children for SATs and then getting fully stuck in with the activities at Osmington Bay. Mr. Ewins will be missed for his love of football, his sense of humour and above all his legendary puppet shows. We wish him all the best (written by Mrs. Smallwood).

It is with great sadness that the school are saying goodbye to Mrs Gaunt today. Mrs Gaunt joined Kings Worthy Primary School in 1990 as Miss George, a newly qualified teacher. Over the years she has taught hundreds of children and inspired so many colleagues. She will leave a legacy that will be hard to follow.

The high quality of Mrs Gaunt's teaching has been valued by children and parents but also recognised over time by Hampshire's education authority. Her expertise is respected and admired by teachers across the Winchester district. As a longstanding member of the school leadership team, Mrs Gaunt has had a significant impact on the strategic direction of the school over her time at Kings Worthy.

Mrs Gaunt has made many valuable contributions to the wider community, not least on the day the Olympic torch passed through the village in 2012. She organised a whole afternoon of memorable events for families from the village in Eversley park, mirroring the Olympic values of excellence, respect and friendship. It has not been unusual for Emma's children, Poppy & Felix, to support school events, together with her husband Richard.

In the classroom and beyond, Mrs Gaunt has nurtured and encouraged children to be the best they can be. With a big smile, a kind heart and creative teaching she enables children to truly believe in themselves. Whether she was dressed as a pirate; a tag rugby coach; burning houses; taking children on ski trips; winning cricket tournaments; hosting early morning running clubs; organising nativities or leading staff dance routines – Mrs Gaunt encourages everyone to participate, have fun and make memories that stick.

Mrs Gaunt is the embodiment of a truly remarkable teacher – a very special lady. We cannot thank her enough for all she has done for the community of Kings Worthy Primary School. While we will miss her dreadfully, we wish her lots of luck and love on the new chapter of her life (written by Mrs. Weatherup).

We also say good-bye to our YEAR 6 PUPILS – they have been a fabulous year group, have worked so hard over their time at the school and have matured in a way that should stand them in good stead for the years to come. It has been an unusual end to their time at Kings Worthy and we hope that those who have returned have enjoyed their days here as much as possible, and to those who have stayed at home we have very much missed having you in class. We wish them well at secondary school and look forward to hearing how they are doing

I sincerely hope you all have a peaceful and happy summer holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone single one of you back on **THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER** after an enjoyable and restful break.

Lunchtime help



If you are interested in playing games and supporting the children outside at lunchtimes, we would love to hear from you. Our lunchtimes run from 12 until 1:10pm and we would welcome anyone who would like to help for as many lunchtimes as you would like. Please speak to the school office or Miss Eggleston for more information.



Provisional INSET day dates

The following dates are provided as our provisional inset day dates for the following school year. They have yet to be agreed by governors, but I see no problem with this.

Friday 23rd October

Monday 2nd November

Friday 29th January

Monday 19th April

Monday 19th April

Monday 7th June

A message from the PTA

Hello All!

On behalf on the PTFA I would like to thank you for all your support this year. We are so sad we couldn't organise any further events due to COVID19 and hope you are all your families are safe and well.

The events we could organise were great and as always raised lots of vital money for our school. We were able to contribute towards the YR 6 leavers Hoodies - thank you to Linda Tan for organising this. At least the leavers could still have this tradition! To the YR 6 leavers, parents and carers good luck in your adventures and thank you for supporting us in the school events!

Who knows what the future holds for PTFA events, but rest assured we will still continue to support KWPS in 20/21!

Have a safe and wonderful Summer and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Best Wishes,
The PTFA Committee
Kind Regards
Natalie Devereux

Our 2020 Y6 mandala is complete!



For the past 5 years, the Y6 children have designed their own individual mandalas with colourful patterns. The designs are displayed and Y6 hold an anonymous vote to choose a winning design for the latest mandala which is painted onto the side of a huge cable drum. This year, the winning mandala was created by William W. from 6K. Mr. Carr's daughter Megan, who has just finished studying at Winchester School of Art, worked with all the Y6 children currently in school to paint William's vibrant mandala design onto the cable drum. We're thrilled with the finished artwork, which now sits alongside the winning mandalas from the last four years. It's certainly been a year of two halves and William's mandala is a perfect memento to an unusual year. All five mandalas are very different to each other and are a real talking point - adding colour to the school grounds. We're delighted with the outcome!

Jamie Dodson

Headteacher