

Creativity  
Curiosity  
Collaboration



## KINOULTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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# Kinoulton Primary School Newsletter

Issue No 4      2022/2023

January 2023

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Dear Parents

### Mystery Reader

Last Friday afternoon our first 'mystery reader' parents came into school to read to the children. This was very successful and we are very grateful to those first volunteers, who were brilliant! We need more mystery readers so if you are available to come into school to read on a Friday afternoon, please get in touch and volunteer!



### Absences and Changes to Arrangements

I would like to remind parents about our attendance protocol regarding absences. The policy states that "[parents are required to inform the school of the reason for any absence and the likely return date, on the first day of absence before 9am.](#)" Please try to stick to this as it makes things much easier for us. If you call the office before school you can leave an answer phone message to report an absence; these messages will be picked up. Likewise, if you choose to inform us via email, these messages will definitely be seen. Please try your best to contact us before 9am.

I would also like to remind parents that any changes to arrangements (e.g. whether your child is going home on the bus or whether they are having school meals or packed lunch) need to be reported to us as soon as you can. Many thanks.

### School Bags

The cloakrooms at Kinoulton can become quite crowded at this time of year with big winter coats, hats and scarves. While winter coats are essential in this cold weather, lots of space on the pegs is being taken up by big school bags (e.g. rucksacks). Most children do not need these big bags in school as they only need to bring their water bottles, reading books and organisers. Please help to keep our cloakrooms from becoming messy and over-cluttered by NOT sending the children into school with big rucksack-type bags.

## Contact Information

I would like to remind everyone to keep us up to date with all of your contact information (email address, mobile phone number, etc.) and to inform us of changes as soon as you can. If we ever need to contact you, we need the up-to-date information. If you change your mobile number or work phone – please let us know as soon as you can.

## Music at Kinoulton

You are probably aware that we have some very talented singers and musicians at our school and I like giving them opportunities to perform. At Christmas our choir sang at church, at the Belvoir Vale care home and at the December meeting of the Rushcliffe Borough Councillors. We also had the KS1 nativity and the KS2 World War II performance. We also give the children opportunities to learn musical instruments at school with paid-for extra-curricular piano, drums and vocal lessons.



I am keen to extend these opportunities and I am looking into the possibility of offering woodwind lessons in the summer term. These lessons would be for KS2 children only (initially) and would cost £71 per term (for at least 10 lessons). The lessons would be taught by a specialist woodwind teacher. While some of these lessons may take place in school time, some of them could be straight after school as well. If you would be interested in your child learning a woodwind instrument (e.g. flute, clarinet, saxophone) please let us know. If there is sufficient interest we will aim to start these lessons next term.



Also, Mrs Westmoreland is going to be starting a recorder club soon which will take place during lunchtimes. If anybody still has a school recorder at home, please could you return it to us? Additionally, if anyone has a recorder that they do not want/no longer need that they would like to donate to the school, we would be very grateful!

## Clubs in School

As well as the music lessons and recorder club, we also have several other clubs happening, including hand bell lessons, homework club, French, Clay Creators and chess club. I have been particularly impressed with how many children enjoy chess and choose to attend the chess club at lunchtimes. At present, due to the numbers, I am only offering this to Key Stage 2 children. If any children in KS2 would like to join chess club, they are very welcome. We are using a league ladder system where players can only climb the ladder by beating a player ranked above them. Rory and Jack have both been at the top of the ladder, with Christopher just missing out on the top spot. I am currently fifth and I haven't dared challenge any of the top four players yet! Also, in a club mainly attended by boys it is fabulous to see Poppy in seventh place – the only girl in the top ten at the moment. She is a very good player who nearly beat me recently!

## **Joint-Use Play Area**

As you probably know, there is a longstanding agreement with the parish council that allows children to use our play area outside of school hours.

A reminder of the details of the licence agreement:

- The play area can be accessed by under-12s only and they must be accompanied by an adult.
- The play area can be used from 3.30pm until sunset on weekdays and from 9.00am until sunset at weekends/during school holidays.
- Children up to the age of 16 are also permitted to use the playground and field during these times too, as long as they are playing ball games and as long as they are accompanied by a responsible adult/parent guardian. No other equipment (e.g. bikes, scooters, skateboards) is allowed to be brought onto these areas.
- The licence agreement is for the play area, playground and school field ONLY and nobody should be trespassing on any other parts of the school site.

Our popular play equipment is in the process of being repaired and updated as, through natural wear and tear, some sections are in need of some attention. If you are accessing this area after school, or at the weekends, please ensure the children do not use any areas that are taped off. I am hoping that the play area will be fully operational again by the time the warmer weather returns. The parish council and the school share responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the equipment and we met recently to discuss which parts need repairing or replacing. I have also been asking the children for their views on which elements they enjoy the most. The swings are particularly popular so we are hoping to get them fully operational as soon as possible!

## **Reading Provision in School**

A reminder that we are continuing to overhaul our reading provision in school. We have begun updating the school library and have also begun acquiring many new books. If you can buy us a book or two, it will really help!

The wish list is below:

<https://amzn.eu/bjPaWWy>

If you do decide to purchase a book, please make sure you write a 'note' to say who you are before you complete payment, as this means we are able to write which family donated the book inside the cover. As always, we really do appreciate your support.

We would also be grateful for donations of any books you have at home that your children no longer need. As long as the books are in good condition and are reasonably new (a few years old) they would be very welcome additions to our library!

Thank you to everyone who has already helped by purchasing or donating books; it really is appreciated.

### **Thank You, Mrs Allen**

We would all like to say a huge thank you to Ruth Allen who comes into read with Class One to help boost reading progress with some of our youngest children. She has recently purchased some new reading books for the school, for which we are extremely grateful! The children are already enjoying the new books!

### **Key Stage Two Ancient Egyptian Day**

Today has been Key Stage Two's Egyptian Day as part of their topic on Ancient Egypt. Each class is going to be learning about a different aspect of the ancient Egyptian civilisation, including farming, land use, religion, temples, pyramids, etc. Today, the whole Key Stage has been taking part in different activities including playing Egyptian toys and games, building pyramids and learning about mummification. Our expert visitor brought in many wonderful resources and I am confident the children have learned lots (and had lots of fun too!)





### Key Stage One Art

Our Key Stage One children have been working hard on their 'What Makes Me Marvellous' topic. Part of this topic involved them creating artwork – specifically self-portraits. The children have used paint and pencil sketching to create these brilliant images, as well as cutting up and manipulating photos of themselves to produce abstract Picasso-style portraits too. I think these pictures look amazing and I am sure you agree!



### School App

For updates and messages from the school, don't forget to download our app!  
You can download it from:

**Google Play Store** (Android users)

<https://bit.ly/2GRPx3U>

**Apple App Store** (iOS users)

<https://apple.co/2oGDD64>

Upcoming Calendar Dates		
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	4pm-6pm	Parents Evening
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	4pm-7pm	Parents Evening
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	7pm-9pm	Spring Term Governors Meeting
13 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> February		Half Term
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	7pm-9pm	Governors Development Meeting
6 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> March	Afternoons	Swimming (Y4+ some others) Details to follow

### Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your continued support of our school.  
It is always appreciated!

Simon Paramore  
Headteacher