



**October 17**

### Website

Do make sure you regularly check out our website [www.kingsteignton-school.org](http://www.kingsteignton-school.org) for up to date news, dates and weekly blogs about what is happening at school including lots of photographs of the children at work and play.

### Phonics workshops

Miss Bull welcomed Rowan Class parents into her classroom this week after school to take them through a typical early phonics session. If any parent thought they were going to get away with a quiet sit and watch, Miss Bull had other ideas!

Parents were treated to a phonics session just like the children have every day and had to become 4 year olds for the duration!

The sessions were very successful and if any parents missed them please contact Miss Bull and she will be happy to put on more workshops after half term. We will be uploading a video onto the school website showing parents how to pronounce the sounds that the children use to blend together to make words. This is because it is very important that you reinforce the correct way to pronounce each sound when you are practising at home with your child. As adults, we tend to add an -uh sound to for example t so that we say - Tuh when the sound should be a very short t. The same is true for many other sounds such as d, p, g etc - this is then very confusing for your child and also makes blending the sounds very difficult. Try blending Tuh-a-Buh - can you make it easily into the word Tab? No you can't because of those - uh additions. Try saying t a b very lightly and blend them together and you get the word 'tab' easily.

We will be running early maths workshops next term so that you will be better able to support your children in their learning of essential early maths skills. The home-school partnership is very important and the more you can do at home to support and

encourage your child in their learning, the better. There is no doubt that children who are encouraged to read, write and do simple maths at home make the best progress so your help really does have a huge impact! Just make sure it is FUN!! We can help with ideas and strategies to learn through a wide range of games and APPs.

### Attendance

I would like to say a huge thank you and well done to all the children who attend school regularly and on time every day - attendance at school is so important for your child and their learning.

Our school target is for all children to have at least 97% attendance over the course of the school year. If a child's attendance falls below this then a letter will be sent home to invite you to come and meet with your child's class teacher to discuss the reasons why attendance is below where we would like it to be and look at how we can support you with this.

If a child's attendance falls below 90% then a letter will be sent home inviting you to meet the Principal to discuss attendance. At this stage, the Educational Welfare Officer at Devon County Council will be informed and will be involved in helping improve attendance.

If a holiday is requested during term time this cannot be approved by us as a school unless there are exceptional circumstances around the request. If the holiday is taken during term time or the school believes a holiday has been taken during term time, we are legally obliged to contact Devon County Council who will decide if they wish to take any action against this.

I apologise if this all sounds rather heavy handed but also feel it is very important that everyone is clear on procedures and also our legal obligation to improve attendance at Kingsteignton School. Thank you once again to everyone who works so hard to get children here on time and regularly. Here's to a great year in all ways including attendance!

### Contact Details Update

If any of your contact details change e.g. address, landline or mobile numbers, please let Mrs Smart know as soon as possible as it is essential that we are able to contact you in an emergency.

### Christmas Production

The date of the Christmas production has been set so please make sure you put it in your diaries. The production, which is called 'Christmas with the Aliens' and which will involve both Rowan and Aspen Classes, will be performed on the afternoon of Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December. Further details will follow shortly.

### Rowan Class Trip to Kent's Cavern

Rowan Class will be off to visit Kent's Cavern on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December. We have booked a coach and we will be asking for volunteers to accompany us. Please let Miss Bull know if you are able to help on the trip.

### Voluntary Contributions for Trips

You will notice that when we ask for funds for school trips and visits we ask that parents make a voluntary contribution to the costs of the trip. The word 'voluntary' is as it sounds but I need to say that without voluntary contributions from all parents, we might have to cancel trips as we will not be able to afford to pay for it without your support.

### Free School Meals

The application process for applying for Free school meals has changed this year and you will need to follow this link [Citizen Portal](#) if you think you are eligible for free school meals.

Parents will need to register, if they don't already have an account, then fill in the form. It only takes about a minute, so Mrs Smart tells me!

The criteria for eligibility are: in receipt of *Income Support; Income-based and Contribution-based Job-seeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance; Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance; Income-related Employment and Support Allowance; Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit; Child Tax Credit without Working Tax Credit (WTC) and annual income below £16,190 a year; entitled to Working Tax Credit run-on (for a further four weeks after no longer qualifying for WTC); Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.*

All Reception and KS1 children automatically receive a free school meal but if your circumstances are such that you would be entitled to a Free School Meal if your child was in Year 3 and up and as outlined above, by applying for Free School Meals, your child will receive additional funding which comes directly to the school to support your child in his/her education. This is a very important source of funding for the school

so please make sure that you apply NOW if you are eligible.

### Newcross new building site

It is really good to see that the site of our new school has now been cleared of a huge mound and made ready for the builders to start.

I can't wait to see the building start to go up and we will make sure the children are involved as much as is possible by making regular trips down to the site and keeping a photographic record of the build.

### DATES for your Diary

October	
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term
30 <sup>th</sup> October	Back to School
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Work Showing 3.15 - 4.15
November	
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need fund raising day
21 <sup>st</sup> November	International Day
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Rowan Class visit to Kent's Cavern
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Production
15 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term

Dr Penny Fitch  
Principal