



September 17

This is the first monthly newsletter of the academic year and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new children, parents, siblings, grandparents and other extended members of the family. It has been wonderful meeting so many of you over the last week or so. I would also like to welcome back our existing parents and know that you will continue to be a great support to the school and also to the new parents and their children. I am really looking forward to working together towards making sure that Kingsteignton School children get the very best in terms of education and care.

Welcome to our new staff

I am delighted to have been able to welcome three new members of staff to our school. Mrs Karen Peters, who has the role of classroom teacher to Aspen Class; Mrs Kate Burnham, who is the teaching assistant in Aspen Class and Miss Jess Pollard who is looking after the children at lunchtime as our mealtime assistant. I would like to thank them all for the very positive start they have made both in Aspen Class and across the school.

Rowan Class

It is a very big (and rather scary) day when your child starts school for the very first time. We are so proud of the way our newest children have settled into school - they have been fantastic and a great credit to you as parents/carers. We also want to thank Rowan Class parents for being so supportive of the organisation of the first few weeks and for letting go of your very precious child into our care so bravely!

Miss Bull has introduced 'The Big Question' into Rowan Class - this is child-led and is entered into the 'I Wonder....' Book. The question is then investigated and researched over the period of two weeks when hopefully 'The Big Answer' will have been found. This allows the children to develop questioning and investigative skills and forms part of our Philosophy

for Children work and the development of Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) across the school.

Planning, Preparation and Assessment time

As the role of a teacher is extremely demanding, the Government, quite rightly, ensures that they get some time out of the classroom each week to carry out essential planning, preparation and assessment. This is vital so that they can carry out their very important role effectively.

Whilst the teachers are out of class, they are covered by another member of staff who teaches and looks after the children in that class. In the case of Aspen Class, I cover PPA for Mrs Peters; in the case of Rowan Class, Mrs Burnham covers Miss Bull. Mrs Burnham has trained as an HLTA (a higher level teaching assistant) and is eminently qualified to take on the role of teacher in Rowan Class; she teaches with the assistance of Mrs Hewings. In addition, on our PPA morning, both classes have an hour's PE session with Coach Joules (see PE).

Dementia Friendly Initiatives

One of the aims of our school is to teach children how to live healthy lives particularly as it links to dementia and we do this in a variety of ways: through healthy balanced meals at lunchtime; toast and fruit as break snacks; plenty of PE and outdoor time; We will also be holding arts and craft afternoons to be shared with grandparents and, in time, Sing-a-Longs and shared lunches with our more elderly members of the local community. We are very committed to focusing on the Dementia Friendly aspect of the school over the next year so that it becomes really embedded into the fabric of the school and so that the local community associate us with working towards making Kingsteignton a friendlier and more supportive place to live in if you live with the disease.

Walking/Cycling/Scootering to School

As part of our Dementia Friendly work, we would also like to encourage all children to walk, cycle or scooter to school on a regular basis. Even if you have to drive to school, park a little further away (and also help

ease congestion at St Michael's) and get healthier and fitter by walking, cycling or scootering to school. Bikes and scooters can be left at school for the day.

Communication

We operate an open door policy in that we will always be available at the beginning and the end of the school day for you so that you are able to bring up any concerns quickly and have them dealt with equally quickly. If you feel you need a little longer than a brief conversation, please just make an appointment to see Miss Bull or Mrs Peters in the first instance and if you then need to see me, I will make sure I provide that opportunity as soon as I am able.

Volunteers

We would be happy to welcome in parent/grandparent volunteers to help out with, for example, one to one reading and working with small groups. However we will probably wait until after half term or even until after Christmas for this in Rowan Class so that the children can settle in really well before we introduce new adults into the classroom. Volunteers will need to have a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check which we can help you to complete if you need. Very many thanks to parents who have already offered to volunteer both in Aspen and Rowan classes

PE

Southampton Saints coaches come into school on a Thursday morning to do PE with both Aspen and Rowan Class so please make sure that PE kit is in school on a Thursday without fail. Children will also take part in PE sessions during the rest of the week but, as these are shorter, we may not change the children, however it would be useful to have PE kit in from Monday to Friday just in case!

Website

Do make sure you regularly check out our website 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.

Parent's Evenings

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our first parent's evening this week focusing on classroom organisation and curriculum. Generally, parent's evenings will be individual and allow us to share celebrations but also share any concerns and it is also a chance for you to ask questions and find out how your child is getting on.

Work Showing

You will see on the dates for your diary at the end of this newsletter that a work showing has been arranged on the 31st of October. This is a chance for

you to come into school and have a look at the work your child has been doing over the last half-term. Your child can show you their achievements and you will be able to see the progress they have made in just the very short time they have been in school.

Contact Details Update

If any of your contact details have changed e.g. address, landline or mobile numbers, please let Mrs Smart know as soon as possible as we need to be able to contact you in an emergency.

Christmas Production

I know you will all be delighted to hear that we will be putting on a Christmas Production towards the end of term. Dates will be communicated as soon as they have been arranged.

DATES for your Diary

October	
15 th October	Half term
30 th October	Back to School
31 st October	Work Showing 3.15 - 4.15
November	
10 th November	Children in Need fund raising day
21 st November	International Day
15 th December	End of Term

**Dr Penny Fitch
Principal**