Kimberley Primary School & Nursery

Newsletter 1 – Autumn Term 2026

A Message from Mrs Clarke

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school and to work alongside both our existing families and those who are new to KPS. We are looking forward to another exciting year, working together to achieve the very best for every child. Thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued engagement, encouragement and support with your children's learning. It really does make a difference.

Platinum OPAL Award – a fantastic achievement!

We are absolutely delighted to announce that KPS has achieved the Platinum Award at our very first OPAL accreditation! This is an amazing achievement and a reflection of the transformation of our lunchtimes over the past 18 months.

A huge well done and thank you to Mrs Heysmond and our entire OPAL lunchtime team, who give up hours of their own time to dream up new ideas, create resources and search for and collect equipment to make playtimes even better for our children.

I would love to share this extract from our assessor's letter, which captures exactly why we invested in OPAL and the difference it has made:

> *"The confidence and pride demonstrated by the children during my lunchtime observation was truly wonderful to witness. The children moved through the space with such a strong sense of ownership and belonging. They were confident in their choices, absorbed in their play and proud of their environment. And then came the most extraordinary moment — the almost whole-school singing session. It was genuinely magical. Seeing and hearing so many children coming together in such a joyful, spontaneous and shared experience perfectly captured something very special about the culture you have created. It was a powerful reminder that play is about far more than equipment or activities; it is about connection, creativity, expression, belonging and joy."*

We could not be prouder of our pupils for the way they have embraced this new approach to play throughout our 18-month journey.

Can you help us continue to grow OPAL? We would be very grateful for volunteers who can spare some time to help build or paint new creations. We are also always looking for donations of old saucepans, pots and dressing-up clothes such as shirts, ties and cardigans—not just character costumes—to inspire imaginative play.

You may have seen our sponsored bounce announcement on Class Dojo. **This will take place on Thursday 5th November and all children are asked to wear school PE kit that day.** Please support it if you can: we are raising money for further OPAL equipment chosen by the children. One of their requests is a seesaw, and we would love to make this a reality in the future!

Parents' Evenings – book through Arbor

Our first Parents' Evenings of the year will take place on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 November, from 3.30pm to 6.30pm, in the school hall. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to celebrate the progress your child has made since September and work with their teacher to agree their next steps.

Where possible, please attend without children, as space in the hall is limited and waiting can be difficult for them.

Booking window: 5pm on Friday 16 October to 5pm on Friday 6 November 2026. Please book using the Arbor app. After the closing time, bookings will no longer be available through the app. We look forward to seeing you!

EMET Music Concert – our pupils shine!

Last week, I had the pleasure of accompanying a group of Year 2 and Year 3 pupils, together with Mrs Ward and Mrs Read, to The Kimberley School for an East Midlands Education Trust (EMET) music concert. Each primary school performed a song from a musical film, and our children gave a wonderful performance of "The Candy Man" from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Other schools commented on our pupils' confidence, enthusiasm and talent on stage, as well as their excellent behaviour throughout the event. We were incredibly proud of them all. A special thank you to Mrs Ward and Mrs Smith for the time they spent preparing our singers.

PTA – thank you for supporting reading

Following our successful Summer Fayre, thank you to everyone who donated, helped and supported the event. The funds raised have been spent directly on the children: brand-new books have been purchased to refresh and update our school reading scheme. It is lovely to see pupils enjoying these books and showing renewed enthusiasm for reading.

Reminders:

As we move forward, I would like to take this opportunity to remind families of some important matters that help us maintain our school standards and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils. Regarding break time snacks, we ask that these are limited to fruit or cereal bars. We would appreciate if crisps, chocolate, lollies and similar items are not sent to school. We also ask that each child brings a water bottle to school, which should be filled with water rather than juice or squash. This supports our pupils' hydration and concentration throughout the day.

Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform and PE kit. Our uniform policy can be found on our website, and should you have any questions about the requirements, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. We also ask that all coats, jumpers and cardigans are labelled with your child's name. This enables us to return lost items in a timely manner. Should you require any uniform items, please be aware that we do hold some preloved uniform which may be available.

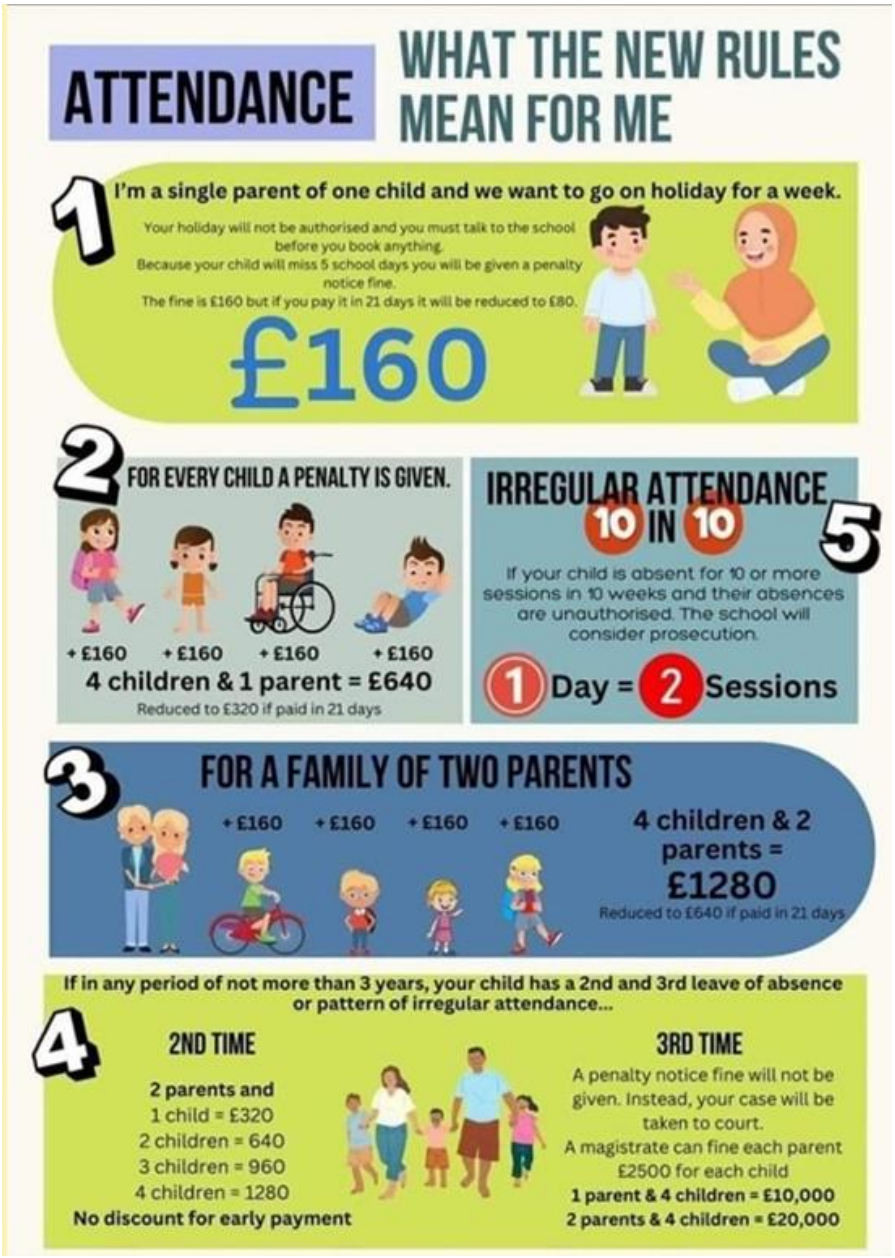
A reminder that our school gates open at 8:30am at the start of the school day. **We ask that all adults are off site by 8:45am**, as we need to secure the site as the children begin to move around the school. If you arrive at 8:45am, you will be asked to enter via the main entrance to facilitate this. I would also ask that parents and carers are mindful of where they are parking during drop off and pick up times. Enforcement teams will be conducting spot checks, and we want to ensure the safety of all members of our community. Finally, if your child rides a bike or scooter to school and travels unaccompanied, please ensure they are road aware and doing so safely.

Attendance matters

All parents and carers can check their child's current attendance through the Arbor app. We monitor attendance regularly and will write to families when a child's attendance percentage is causing concern. If we contact you, please work with us so that we can understand any barriers and support your child to attend school as regularly as possible. Our lessons and interventions can only have their full impact when children are here to benefit from them.



Please remember that holidays during term time cannot normally be authorised. I have a duty to report relevant unauthorised absences to the Local Authority in line with the national attendance framework. Any penalty notices are issued by the Local Authority and are not payable to school.



Important upcoming dates

Please see the important dates below for the coming term. These are also added to the school calendar on our website and to the Class Dojo calendar where applicable.

DATE	EVENT
Friday 16th October	End of Term
Monday 19th October – Friday 30th October	Half Term
Monday 2nd November	School opens at 8:30am
Thursday 5th November	Harvest Festival with Reverend Barbara. Please send a donation into school on this date for the Harvest Collection if you are able to.
Thursday 5th November	Sponsered Bounce-a-thon for OPAL. All pupils to wear school PE Kit .
Friday 6th November (2:00 – 2:30; 2:30 – 3:00; 4:00 – 4:30; 4:30 – 5:00)	Open afternoon for Parents applying for Reception places in September 2027
Tuesday 10th November 3:30 – 6:30	Parents Evening
Wednesday 11th November 3:30 – 6:30	Parents Evening
Thursday 26th November 3:30-5:00	Winter Disco (Years Rec – Y6)
Thursday 3rd November	Whole School Panto Trip to Nottingham Playhouse
Wednesday 9th December 9:30 – 10:00 and 2:15 – 2:45	Nursery & Reception Nativity to Parents/Carers
Thursday 10th December	PTA Event: Decorate a cake with Santa
Thursday 10th December 2:30 – 3:00	Children having Rocksteady Music Lessons are performing to the whole school and their parents/carers.
Friday 11th December 9:15 – 10:00 and 2:00-2:45	Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity to Parents/Carers
Friday 18th December 9-9:45 and 2-2:45	KS2 (Years 3,4,5&6) carol Service to Parents/Carers
Friday 18th December	End of term. **No KPS Club after school on this day.**
Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4th January 2027 8:30	Start of Spring Term
Friday 12th February 3:30	End of Term
Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February	HALF TERM
Monday 22nd February 8:30	Term Starts
Thursday 11th March 2:30 – 3:00	Children having Rocksteady Music Lessons are performing to the whole school and their parents/carers.
Monday 22nd March – Wednesday 24th March	Y4 & Y5 Residential to Walesby
Thursday 25th March	End of term. **No KPS Club after school on this day.**
Friday 26th March	Good Friday – School Closed
Monday 29th March – Friday 9th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 12th April 8:30	Start of Summer Term
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Monday 10th May – Thursday 13th May	Year 6 SATs Week – All Year 6 children must be in school.

Wednesday 26th May	SPORTS DAY on School Field - Parents/Carers invited Nursery & Reception 9-10 Year 1 & Year 2 10:15 – 11:15 KS2 1:15 – 3:00
Friday 28th May	End of Term
Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June	Half Term
Monday 7th June	Start of Term
Monday 7th June – Wednesday 9th June	Year 6 Residential at Boggle Hole
Monday 7th June – Friday 18th June	Y4 MTC Assessments – Y4 children must be in school
Monday 14th June – Friday 18th June	Y1 Phonics Assessments – Y1 children must be in school
Thursday 15th July 2:30 – 3:00	Children having Rocksteady Music Lessons are performing to the whole school and their parents/carers.
Friday 23rd July 9-10	Y6 Leavers' Assembly to Parents/Carers
Friday 23rd July 3:30	End of School Year for pupils. **No KPS Club after school on this day.**
26th, 27th & 28th July	INSET Days. School CLOSED to all pupils.
29th July	Start of Summer Holidays