



March 2023

The Kymbrook Key

Hello everyone

Welcome to another Kymbrook newsletter. We are all hopeful that spring is not too far away now. The children are all very keen to get out onto the field again for playtime and lunchtime, but at the moment it is just too muddy, as we find out when we go out to Forest School!

We have had such a busy few weeks, with lovely events including all of our Key Stage 2 pupils (Years 3-6) having a wonderful enrichment morning of science at St Thomas More School in Bedford. They were thrilled to be let loose with Bunsen burners and microscopes and the experience gave them a valuable insight into what science might be like when they get to their secondary school. We are very grateful to the St Thomas More science team for giving us this opportunity.

This week, we were fortunate enough to welcome some visitors to help us celebrate Iranian New Year. The YR children and Miss Stewart had a wonderful afternoon of food tasting, fire jumping and egg decorating. The rest of the school then got to experience some traditional dances and we even joined in. Thank you so much to Shana's parents for organising this enrichment activity.

If you are on the playground in the next few days, you may spot our Year 6 children wearing their fabulous leavers' hoodies. These have been very generously provided for the children by our wonderful 'Friends' committee. Thank you so much, they are brilliant!

If your family is anything like mine, you probably get a "Nothing" or "Not much" reply when you ask your children what they have been doing each day. A reminder that each class (and Forest School) has a blog section on our website. If you look under the 'News and Events' tab, you will see a 'Class blogs' section. Here you will be able to see news from our classes.

We are looking forward to meeting with you all at parent/teacher consultations next Monday and Tuesday after school.

Finally, a message from Mrs Augustine. She wanted me to let you know that her cancer treatment is ongoing. It has not been an easy road so far, but she is taking it one step at a time. She misses everyone at both Kymbrook and Thurlleigh so much.

Thank you for all your support this term. I wish you all a very Happy Easter,
Mrs Smith

World Book Day and reading for pleasure

Thank you to the parents and carers who came into school to read to the children on World Book Day. We hope you enjoyed your time with the children as much as they did. We had a super visit from a local author, Helen Todd. She was able to give the children an insight into her writing process and how she got her books published. Helen also kindly left three books for us to read.

We have had feedback from some families to say they were disappointed that we didn't dress up for World Book Day this year. It really is a tricky choice for us to make, as for every family who love it, there is another one who finds it pretty stressful, both in terms of having the time to organise and the potential cost involved.

The whole purpose of World Book Day is to encourage reading for pleasure. The organisers of the event have carried out some research and have summarised 6 key behaviours which encourage reading for pleasure, at both school and at home.

These are:

- Being read to regularly
- Having books at home and at school
- Having a choice in what to read
- Finding time to read
- Having a trusted adult to help find a book
- Making reading fun!

At Kymbrook, we passionately believe that teaching children to read fluently and to love books is one of our most important roles. In every class children read throughout the day, every day, in lots of different lessons. Just recently, I have observed younger children learning how to blend and segment words in their daily phonics lessons, pupils reading information about geographical features in Africa, a group of children reading a play script written by one of the group and older children reading food labels to find out the country of origin, to learn about the economic activity of food distribution. Reading is everywhere!

In a 2022 survey carried out by the National Literacy Trust, only three out of ten 8-18 year olds said that they read daily. Although I know our school bucks this trend, we do have a responsibility to try and keep the positive reading habits going throughout their primary education, to ensure our older readers still read as they leave us and go to secondary school. I think the following statistics are incredibly powerful: A child who reads for 20 minutes a day will have been exposed to 1.8 million words in a year. A child who reads for 5 minutes per day will have been exposed to 282,000 words a year and a child who reads for 1 minute a day will have been exposed to just 8000 words in the whole year.

Another sad statistic highlighted on World Book Day is that in the UK, over 400,000 children do not own their own book. May I take this opportunity to remind you that we have a well-stocked library at school, which all children are very welcome to borrow from. Also remember that the Bedford Mobile Library stops outside school every other Friday lunchtime. If your child would like to visit the library van but doesn't have a ticket, please just let the office know and we can let you have a form to complete.

Our School Council are currently organising a book exchange, so please watch out for more details from Roop, our School Council Chair.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff here, could I say thank you for all the effort and commitment you put into supporting your child's reading over the years. We are fully aware that this is not always easy, when we all live such busy lives, but the results are definitely worth it!

Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event
Monday 27th March & Tuesday 28th March	Parent consultation evenings
Tuesday 28th March	Pre-loved uniform sale. 8.40am in the library
Friday 31st March	Break up for the Easter holidays
Monday 17th April	Inset day for staff
Tuesday 18th April	Children back to school
Monday 24th April	Y5/6 children to a Multi-sports event at Sharnbrook Academy (p.m.)
Thursday 27th April	Film Club after school - a Friends of Kymbrook event. More details to follow
Monday 1st May	May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2nd May	Y3/4 children to a Multi-sports event at Harrold Primary School (a.m.)
Thursday 4th May	A Coronation celebration event in the afternoon - more details to follow, but please save the date if you are able to.
Monday 8th May	Additional Bank Holiday for the Coronation
Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May	Year 6 children to sit the Key Stage 2 SATs tests. We would like to invite the Y6 children to come to school at 8.15am each day and enjoy breakfast together. More details to follow.
Thursday 18th May	Y5/6 children to a Multi-sports event at Lincroft (a.m.)
Friday 26th May	Crazy hair day - a Friends of Kymbrook fundraising event Break up for half term
Monday 5th June	Children back to school
Thursday 8th June	8 pupils from Y5/6 to an athletics event at the Bedford International Athletics Stadium. Details to follow for those pupils.
Tuesday 13th June	Y1/2 children to a Multi-sports event at Riseley Primary School (p.m.)
Tuesday 20th June	Y5/6 Girls football (1 team of 12) at Biddenham School (a.m.)
Friday 30th June	Sports Day - parents/carers welcome from 1.00pm for a 1.15pm start
Monday 3rd July	Reserve Sports day in case of bad weather
Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th July	Transition days for Y6 pupils who are moving up to Sharnbrook Academy
Thursday 13th July	KS2 (Years 3-6) Summer play performance. 2pm and 6pm
Friday 14th July	SAVE THE DATE: Year 6 CAMP overnight. More details to follow.
Friday 21st July	9.00am Leavers Assembly for the parents/carers of our Y6 children. Break up for the summer holidays.