

KINGS ASH
ACADEMY

Newsletter

19th May 2025



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Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of the first half of the summer term, we want to take a moment to celebrate the many achievements across our school community.

A huge congratulations to our Year 6 pupils who have shown incredible resilience, independence, and collaboration during SATS week – we are all so proud of you!

Thank you also to everyone who took part in and supported our Mini Marathon – it was inspiring to see our whole community come together with such energy and enthusiasm.

Looking ahead, we're excited for a very busy and exciting second half of the summer term, with highlights including Year 6 plays and leavers' assemblies, sports days, new class transition days, end-of-year reports, and much more. We wish all our families a safe, restful, and enjoyable half-term break!

Warm regards,

Mr Fitzsimmons



End of half term

**Please be reminded that
school finishes at 3:20pm for
all children on Friday 23rd
May.**

**Children return on Monday
2nd June at 8:40am**

Thankyou

**A special thank
you from Kings
Ash to Golden
Palm
Amusements,
Torquay for a
kind donation of
sensory toys and
pastoral supplies
for the school.**



Summer on a page

June 2025

July 2025

4th – Phase 3 Sports Day – Years 4, 5 & 6 – 1:30pm – Parents are invited

5th – Pupil Voice, student council

11th – Phase 1 Sports Day Reception & Nursery – 9am Parents are invited

12th – Phase 2 Sports Day Years 1, 2 & 3 – 2pm – Parents are invited

18th – Reception beach day – further info to follow

25th – Reception beach day – further info to follow

12th-6LH, Rounders Festival @ Paignton

19th-4/5CW, Rounders Festival @ Paignton

26th-1/2VR, Rounders Festival @ Paignton

****Refreshments will be available during sports days****

3rd & 4th – Year 6 Secondary transition days (Please check the arrangements for your Secondary School)

3rd – In school transition days – Meet the teacher

3rd – Charlie & the Chocolate Factory – after school theatre visit

8th – Year 4 & 5 Create Day

8th – Last Swimming lesson for 4/5NE

9th – One Night Only Talent show @ Torquay Boys Grammar

10th – Reception, Multi Skills Festival @ Paignton

11th – Year 3 trip to Kents Caverns

14th – Year 6 play to parents – 2pm

15th – Violin Performance to parents 2:30pm

15th – Year 6 play to parents – 5pm

16th July – Unsung Hero – Invite only

21st- School Disco afternoon

22nd Leavers Assembly 9:15am

Material World Project

Six children from year 4/5 were chosen to take part in the Material World Project before Easter. The project took three afternoons and involved the theme of 'reuse and repurpose' as well as exploring natural materials to make shapes and patterns. They all created at least one beautiful clay shape with a beach theme, which were then used to decorate some mirrors instead of them being thrown away and sent to landfill.



Mini Marathon

Children from year 1 – 6 have taken part in this years Mini London Marathon 2025.

We had 108 children take part in this years run, jog or walk around our course over three consecutive Fridays adding up to a mini marathon total of 2.6 miles. This may not be a full Marathon of 26.2 miles but a huge achievement for all of our children.

The weather was warm but all of the children showed determination as well as all the Kings Ash Academy values, supporting and collaborating with each other with (mostly) smiles on their faces.

All the children who completed the 3 weeks received a special certificate, race number and commemorative pin badge to mark their amazing job.

The children were asked to get sponsored by friends and family with money raised going to our pupil opportunities fund. **At the time of writing we have raised over £1500!!**

This money will make a huge difference to our pupils, families and the wider community.

The children enjoyed it so much that we are planning on getting our children and families involved with Junior Park Run, a brilliant community event which takes place every Sunday morning at Torbay Velo Park. Keep watching out for an announcement very soon and how Team KAA can join in.

Once again, thank you so much for all of your support with this amazing event, we could not be prouder of each and every one of you.

Football Finals Night

On the 8th of May Kings Ash took part in this year's football finals night, where each team in the school managed to qualify through their brilliant hard work and determination.

All who participated demonstrated the school values and highlighted collaboration fantastically.

The 5/6 Boys won their first game on penalties against Collaton St Mary and just missed out on winning the cup against Oldway.

And the 3/4 mixed team managed to make it to the plate final, where they just missed out on beating Curledge Street.



Football Finals Night

The 5/6 girls' team beat Oldway 5-1 and then went on to beat Roselands 2-0 winning the cup for the first time!



Marathon
Photos



School Council Buddy Bench

We are thrilled to share that, thanks to the incredible fundraising efforts of our Student Council and the generous support from our school community, we have purchased and installed a Buddy Bench in the playground!

This special bench is a symbol of friendship, inclusion, and kindness—providing a safe, welcoming space for children who may be feeling lonely or in need of a friend. It plays a valuable role in promoting our school's commitment to anti-bullying and fostering a caring, supportive environment for all students.

Our next goal is to raise enough funds to install a second Buddy Bench in the KS2 playground, ensuring that children across all year groups can benefit from this initiative. Fundraising is ongoing, and we appreciate your continued support as we work together to create a more inclusive and compassionate school community.



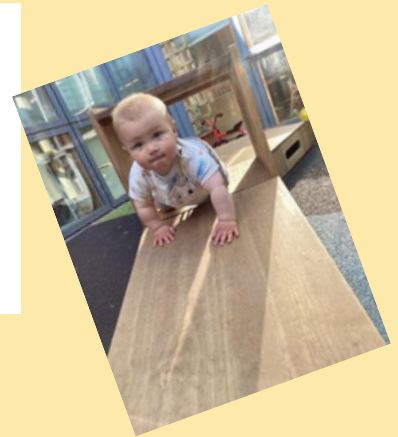


LITTLE THINKERS NURSERY



Lighting Up Learning

As a 'Thinking' nursery we understand the importance of developing thinking skills. In our setting we employ strategies to develop the strengthening of memory as well as a curriculum that encourages curiosity and develops questioning skills. We use the term 'I wonder' to help the children recall facts and think about events and objects in different ways.



How much does it cost to send my child to Little Thinkers?

	Times	Cost (with own food provided)	To include meals & snacks	Cost (including meals)
Full Day	8.00 am - 5.00 pm	£63.90	Breakfast/Lunch/ Tea & Snacks	£72.15
School Day	8.45 am - 3.15 pm	£46.15	Lunch/Snacks	£50.75
Breakfast Club	8.00 - 8.45 am	£5.35	Breakfast	£7.00
AM Session	8.45 - 11.45 am	£21.30	Snack	£22.60
PM Session	12.15 - 3.15 pm	£21.30	Snack	£22.60
After School Club	3.15 - 5.00 pm	£12.45	Tea	£14.45



Can my child receive any free hours of childcare?

If your child is eligible for government funding, they can receive the following hours free from:

15 hours (9 months - 2 years) - free from Little Thinkers

15/30 hours (2, 3 and 4 years) - free from Curledge Street Academy/Kings Ash Academy Nurseries

Contact us at office@kingsash.littlethinkers.org.uk

WELL DONE

Congratulations to our pupils
who have shown our key values:

Independence
Collaboration
Creativity
Respect



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Unsung Hero - Spring



We are so proud of you!



Attendance

Thank you to all of you for making such a positive contribution to attendance and lateness. Punctuality is much improved overall as a school and attendance is also steadily improving .

This has allowed the children to be settled and in class ready for their learning to begin.

It is important that we continue to all work together to ensure that our attendance is at its highest possible level whilst also reducing our lateness where possible



Attendance Rewards & Celebrations

As a school we want to show all children just how important attendance is to us and so we will be launching a new range of rewards

- Each week- children will be acknowledged for making a significant effort to improve their attendance or lateness in our weekly celebration assembly.
- Every half term- children will be awarded with bronze, silver or gold certificates depending on their attendance.
- At the end of each term- the class with the highest attendance will be able to celebrate with a class reward



Lateness

Our classroom doors open at 8:40am and all children are expected to enter through these doors before the 8:50am close.

After this point, your child will then be classed as late meaning that they are missing vital learning time. Should your child arrive at school later than 9:00am this will have to be marked as an unauthorised session.

The new national framework states '10 unauthorised sessions in a 10 week period can lead to a penalty notice'.

Absence

As we see a rise in coughs, colds and other illnesses and would also remind you that children should only be absent from school when it is absolutely necessary.

I would encourage you to help support your children from any missed learning by encouraging them to come to school whenever possible.

To record any absence please contact the office or Mr.Fegan to discuss the reason for this.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Feeling a genuine sense of belonging is essential for the emotional and social development of children and young people. Belonging significantly boosts self-esteem, resilience, and mental wellbeing, reducing feelings of isolation and anxiety. This guide provides practical strategies to help parents and educators cultivate inclusive environments, enhancing both academic outcomes and overall happiness among young people.

1 CELEBRATE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Acknowledge and celebrate the uniqueness of every child. Promoting diversity and inclusion creates an environment where differences are valued rather than stigmatised. This acceptance empowers children to confidently express their identities and feel genuinely included, fostering a robust sense of belonging within both school and home settings.

2 CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

Regularly communicate and actively listen to children, showing genuine interest in their thoughts and experiences. Creating open communication channels helps young people feel heard and valued. This approach not only builds trust but also reinforces children's perception of themselves as a vital part of their family, school and community.

3 MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Give children opportunities to actively participate and contribute, whether in classrooms, at home, or in community activities. Meaningful participation helps children feel their input matters, reinforcing a sense of purpose and value. Including them in decisions and responsibilities enhances their self-worth, promoting a deeper sense of belonging and inclusion.

4 FOSTER STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Support and encourage positive relationships between peers, educators, and families. Strong, healthy relationships significantly impact a child's sense of belonging, providing emotional support and reducing feelings of loneliness. Facilitate social interactions through group activities, teamwork, and collaborative learning to strengthen these vital connections.

5 CREATE INCLUSIVE SPACES

Design environments that reflect diversity and are welcoming for everyone. Inclusive spaces where all children see themselves represented can dramatically improve their feelings of safety and acceptance. Consider classroom displays, books, and resources that celebrate various cultures, abilities, and backgrounds to visibly reinforce inclusivity and belonging.

6 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Adults play a crucial role by demonstrating inclusive, empathetic, and respectful behaviours. Modelling positive interactions and attitudes sets a clear standard for children to follow. Children are likely to replicate inclusive behaviour, creating a supportive community atmosphere where everyone feels accepted and valued for who they are.

7 BUILD EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Teach and encourage emotional expression and understanding among children. Developing emotional literacy enables young people to articulate their feelings and empathise with others. An emotionally intelligent environment cultivates mutual respect and compassion, fostering a deeper sense of belonging and interpersonal connection within groups.

8 SUPPORT PEER MENTORSHIP

Encourage peer mentorship or buddy systems within educational settings. Peer support enhances feelings of connectedness and security, reducing feelings of isolation. When children support one another, they naturally build community bonds, nurturing a supportive culture where belonging and friendship thrive.

9 RECOGNISE EFFORTS REGULARLY

Consistently acknowledge children's contributions and achievements, however small. Recognition reinforces a child's understanding that their presence and efforts are important. Celebrating individual and collective successes helps cultivate a positive environment where children feel acknowledged, motivated, and deeply connected to peers and adults around them.

10 ADDRESS BULLYING PROMPTLY

Quickly address any incidents of bullying. Promptly intervening demonstrates a clear commitment to an inclusive and safe environment. Creating a culture where incidents are swiftly and effectively addressed reinforces trust, security, and a sense of belonging for everyone involved.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Holcayn Education Ltd and Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust. With extensive experience in systemic mental health in schools, she supports educational leaders across the UK to develop inclusive, resilient, and supportive learning environments. Anna is also the lead expert for mental health at The National College.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/fostering-a-sense-of-belonging