



Kington St Michael

CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 18 – Thursday 16th July

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic year it has been!

As we reach the end of another busy school year, we just wanted to say a huge **thank you** to our wonderful children, parents, carers, staff, governors and the wider KSM community. Together, you have helped make our school such a happy, caring and vibrant place to learn, work and belong.

When I asked the children about their favourite memories from this year, their answers made me smile and reminded me just how much we have squeezed into one school year! We have had a great year and enjoyed exciting class trips, welcomed inspiring visitors, celebrated Book Week, had brilliant KSM Days, cheered each other on at sports matches, sung our hearts out at the KS1 Nativity and Christmas celebrations, performed in Rock Steady concerts, raced at Sports Day, wowed our way through the amazing Matilda production, shared moving celebration services, visited our local church and, of course, had a wonderful time at the KSM Fête. No wonder everyone is ready for a well-earned rest!

It has been a truly successful year, but what makes KSM so special isn't just the events, it is the people and most importantly, our exceptional children.

A special thank you goes to our fantastic governors for their continued support and to the Friends of KSM (PTA), who somehow always manage to make the impossible look possible! In particular, I'd like to thank Helen Scarsbrook, who went above and beyond to organise this year's school fête. She works tirelessly behind the scenes, often without any fuss or recognition, and we are all incredibly grateful. A special thank you too to our Chair of Governors Sara Pierson for leading the KSM Governing Body this year.

Finally, to our amazing Year 6 children, thank you for being such wonderful ambassadors for KSM. We are so proud of everything you have achieved. You will be missed enormously (who's going to help us now?), but we know you are more than ready for your next adventure. Good luck! You will always be part of the KSM family.

Have a wonderful summer filled with sunshine (but not too hot we hope!), adventures, ice creams, paddling pools, lie-ins and plenty of time to relax. We can't wait to welcome everyone back in September for another exciting year.

Have a safe, happy and restful summer holiday.

With very best wishes,

Mrs. Victoria O'Brien
Headteacher



Diary Dates

Friday 17 th July	House Treat Day
Wednesday 22nd July	2pm Leavers' Service at St Michael & All Angels Church End of Term 6
Tuesday 1st September	TD – No children in School
Wednesday 2nd September	First Day of Term 1
Monday 7 th September	Kingfishers Class - Meet the Teacher
Wednesday 9 th September	Eagles Class - Meet the Teacher
Thursday 10 th September	Sparrow Class - Meet the Teacher
Friday 11 th September	Hawks Class - Meet the Teacher Year 4 Swimming Begins
Monday 14 th September	*Term 1 Teacher Led Clubs start this week* Blackbirds Class – Meet the Teacher

Staffing Update

Goodbyes

We say goodbye to Miss **Elly Myers**, who will be moving on to university. We will be lost without you! A special thank you for all your support in the classrooms, the office, and The Nest. You have so many talents, including your wonderful guitar playing, and you will be missed very much. We wish you every success and happiness at university.

We also say farewell to **Mrs Karen Kirkman**, who will be retiring from KSM after many years of dedicated service. A special thank you to Mrs Kirkman for her long-standing commitment to our school community, for being our trusted Lead First Aider, and for all of her work supporting children across the school, especially in maths. Your care, dedication, and kindness have made a lasting difference to so many children and families. We wish you a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

Goodbye to **Miss Rose Gardner** from the admin team, who will be moving on to pastures new. Thank you for all of your hard work and support behind the scenes. We wish you every success and happiness in the future.

Finally, goodbye to **Ms Hayley Sanders**, who will be leaving us at the end of the school year to move to a bigger school. We would like to thank her for setting up and leading The Nest. We are so grateful for all the little, often unnoticed, things she does every day to look after us, for organising beautiful activities for the children and running her fabulous candy floss station at the school fête. Your dedication and enthusiasm have meant so much to our school community.

Our wonderful TA's will work together to lead The Nest in September, as we advertise and recruit for a new Nest lead.

Hellos!

As we say goodbye to some valued members of our team, we also say a very warm hello to some exciting new faces and roles.

We are delighted to welcome **Miss Charlotte Samuels**, who has been appointed to work at The Nest in both the morning and evening sessions. Miss Samuels loves baking, playing games, and crafting, and we know she will bring plenty of sparkle and magic to The Nest. She is already famous for making her beautiful shortbread biscuits with Eagles Class at Christmas, watch this space!

A warm welcome also goes to **Miss Bowler**, who will be working closely with Miss Samuels at The Nest. Miss Bowler currently works in Eagles Class, and we are delighted that she will also be joining The Nest next year. She is already a huge hit with the children, and we know she will make a wonderful impact on all the children who attend The Nest.

KS2 Production- Matilda the Musical

This term we were treated to an exceptional acting masterclass with the KS2 production of Matilda the Musical. The amazing set, singing, dancing and acting showed just how much effort and dedication had gone into the performance from both staff and pupils.

Year 6 did a superb job in the lead roles, memorising a huge number of lines, following stage directions and really getting into character. A special mention goes to Ollie, Lacey, Finlay, Erin and Megan - we certainly have some stars of the future!

Thank you and well done to everyone who played a part in bringing the production to life



We have received some wonderful comments from some parents and carers who came to see the show. Thank you for taking the time to send us a message with your thoughts, we really appreciate it!

'I just wanted to say a huge congratulations, well done and thank you to all the KS2 children and staff for the wonderful Matilda performances this week, especially in the heat!'

'It was absolutely brilliant to see what they had all worked together to achieve and what a talented bunch of children they all are. Each one shone in their own way and it was such a pleasure to watch. And huge thanks as always to all the staff involved. Your hard work and dedication to the children was clearly evident in supporting them to put on such a memorable show.'

'Please pass on to the staff and children that this year's performance was really fantastic!

The whole thing was very professionally done, from costumes, to dancing, to singing and I was absolutely blown away by the quality of the acting - I think there are some future stars in our midst!

Most importantly, you could see how much each child enjoyed putting on the performance, which was wonderful to see. The teachers really did put in a mammoth effort to get it all together and looking so polished.'



'I just want to say how fantastic Matilda was yesterday. It was exceptional and an absolute joy to see how much the children got out of it. What an amazing effort from all the staff and students - my two boys absolutely loved just being part of it and they couldn't wait for us to see it! So, a huge thank you to you and your team, it's so important for us as parents that the children get to be part of things outside of their usual academic studies, and we are so thrilled that KSM places such huge emphasis on the performing and expressive arts too.'

Year 6 and Reception Forest School Collaboration

Last week, we were delighted to bring together our Year 6 and Reception children for a special joint Forest School session. It was wonderful to see pupils of different ages working together so positively, supporting one another and learning new skills.

Throughout the session, the children showed fantastic teamwork and creativity. They worked together to build some fabulous dens, creating imaginative shelters using natural materials. The children also enjoyed exploring the art of Hapa Zome, using leaves and flowers to create beautiful nature prints, and there was

plenty of excitement in the mud kitchen, where some truly amazing concoctions were carefully mixed and served!

One of the highlights of the day was seeing the older children take on leadership roles, encouraging and helping the younger pupils, while Reception children confidently shared their ideas and enthusiasm. The friendships, cooperation and kindness on display reflected the very best of our school community.



Music Performances

Rock Steady Performance

Our Rock Steady Concert was a fantastic success! We were incredibly lucky to enjoy beautiful sunny weather, allowing everyone to perform outside on the stage. The children amazed us with their confidence, enthusiasm and musical talent, making it a truly memorable event. To round off the concert, every class performed a song, creating a wonderful celebration of music across the whole school.

A huge thank you goes to Alex from Rock Steady for her dedication, encouragement and excellent teaching throughout the year. We also say a fond farewell to Alex as she moves on to work with schools closer to home, still remaining with Rock Steady. We wish her every success in her new role and thank her for inspiring so many of our children through her lessons. We look forward to welcoming a new band leader in September.



Music Lessons Showcase

We also enjoyed a wonderful morning at our Music Lessons Concert where the children showcased the fantastic progress they have made this year. The audience was treated to a wonderful variety of performances featuring the piano, guitar, recorder, ukulele and saxophone. It was a delight to see the children's confidence and musical talents shine through!

A huge thank you to our dedicated peripatetic music teachers, Christine, James and Sophie, for their hard work, encouragement and support. We are so grateful for the inspiration and opportunities they provide for our young musicians.

Summer Fete

We are thrilled to announce that this year's School Fete was a great success raising over £2000! The fete is only possible with great teamwork, and we are so grateful for everyone who played a part.

To our incredible volunteers: Thank you to everyone who baked treats, set up gazebos, ran the stalls, and stayed behind to clean up. Your energy, time, and smiles kept the day running smoothly. We literally couldn't have done it without you.
To our local business sponsors: We extend our warmest thanks to the local businesses who generously donated prizes for our raffle and auction prizes.

To everyone who attended: Thank you for showing up, buying raffle tickets, downloading the easy fundraiser app and making the most of the shade/hot weather!

A shout out to 'The Girls' team (Darcey, Kayla and Esme) who won the ball pit challenge in 14.25 seconds and to all the children taking on some of the dads on the tug of war and winning!

The money raised will go directly toward funding activities for all of the children at the school: Including Forest School, Interactive Science Workshops, Explorer Dome and Dance Experience.

Thank you to everyone who made the day memorable for the kids and great news that the money raised will keep adding to the fun and experiences for all the children.

House Treat 2025 – Get Ready to Roll!

We are delighted to reveal this year's **House Treat**, and it's one of our most exciting rewards yet!

As a special reward for all of their hard work, teamwork, and determination throughout the year, the winning house will enjoy an action-packed **Skateboarding Experience** delivered by the fantastic team from **Rubicon!**

The treat will take place tomorrow, Friday 17th July.

Fidget Toys and Learning

At our school, we are always looking for ways to help children feel comfortable, settled and ready to learn. For some children, fidget toys (or manipulatives) can be a useful tool to support concentration, attention and self-regulation in the classroom.

The decision to use a fidget toy is made carefully by the class teacher, SENDCo and the child, taking into account their individual needs and how the tool can best support their learning. If we feel that your child would benefit from using a fidget toy in school, we will be in touch to discuss this with you.

We have a selection of fidget toys available in school that have been chosen specifically because they are suitable for use in a busy mainstream classroom. While many fidget toys can be helpful, others can sometimes become a distraction to the child using them or to those around them.

For this reason, we kindly ask that children do not bring fidget toys from home unless this has been discussed and agreed with the class teacher or SENDCo. A fidget toy that works well at home may not always be suitable for the classroom environment and can sometimes have the opposite effect to what it is intended for.

Thank you for your support and understanding. By working together, we can ensure that any resources used in the classroom help children to stay focused, engaged and successful in their learning



Thank you to the whole KSM community for helping make this happen, plus our supporters

Bliss	James Dyson Foundation	Real Cinema
Boomerang Soft Play	Kington Cafe	Rise and Shine Equestrian
Calcot Spa	KSM Village Shop	Roves Farm
Castle Combe Circuit	La Flambe	Smiles Photography
Coffee Gems	Marshfield Dairy	Stanton Manor
Cotswold Wildlife Park	Monarch Crossfit	Swindon Wild Cats
Eve Cale Gift Wrapping	Morrisons	The Pewsham
FitzGraham Dance	Olympiad	The Radnor Arms
Hazelwood Beauty	Perfection	Westonbirt

Thank you to everyone who helped, donated their time, prizes, baking, gazebos and more, helping the operations behind the scenes and on the day - making the fun possible!



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO - THE PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF KINGTON ST MICHAEL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL (REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1109716)

Updates about your children – Polite reminder

If you move house, change phone numbers or any other personal information we may need to know about, can you please let us know in writing.

We also request that you inform us of any medical updates, such as changes to asthma medication, allergies or dietary intolerances, as soon as possible. We may require you to complete certain forms so we know we are caring for your child the best way we can.

Please email any changes to admin@ksm.wilts.sch.uk so we can ensure we have up to date records.



Summer Reading Challenge 2026

The Summer Reading Challenge invites children aged four to 11 to read six books, or the equivalent, over nine weeks of the summer and collect rewards along the way. It is the biggest free reading for pleasure programme in the UK.

In Wiltshire libraries, the challenge runs from Saturday 4th July to Saturday 5th September. Children can sign up for free at any Wiltshire library and will receive a special sticker booklet, sticker and joiner's bookmark. Registration remains open throughout the summer. The first two weeks are for signing up only, and from Saturday 18 July children can begin collecting stickers for the books they read. They will receive a sticker for each book read and a certificate and medal on completion.

Families can join the adventure at their local library and discover how music and stories can make the world come alive. Children must be library members to take part, but joining is free and easy. For more information, visit: wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries-join-the-library.

Please also see the attached poster for other activities happening over the summer at Chippenham Library.

Help Over the Summer

Free family breakfasts at Morrisons throughout the summer holiday

Morrisons and Kellogg's have announced the return of their school holiday 'Breakfast Clubs', offering free meals to families across the UK to help ease the financial pressure over the summer holidays.

Families visiting their local Morrisons Café throughout the summer holidays can enjoy a free 'Kellogg's Breakfast', which includes a bowl of cereal and a portion of fruit. The best part, it's not just for kids, adults get to eat completely free too. Both kids and adults can choose from much-loved favourites Corn Flakes or Rice Krispies, topped with their choice of dairy or non-dairy milk and a free apple or banana.

The summer holiday offer will be available from 29th June to 6th September across all Morrisons Cafes nationwide. For more details, please see the link below.

[https://www.kelloggs.co.uk/en_GB/press-release/Free Breakfasts Feed Families.html](https://www.kelloggs.co.uk/en_GB/press-release/Free_Breakfasts_Feed_Families.html)

Kinship Programme

Wiltshire Council is trialing a new government-funded scheme offering financial support to people who step in to care for a child who cannot live with their birth parents. Kinship carers may be able to get financial help and practical support. Please see the attached poster for more information.

FUEL Programme

FUEL is a programme that offers free fun activities and food to eligible children during the three main school holidays. Once families are in the system, the programme will reach out when bookings are open.

Please see further details on Wiltshire Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure/fuel-programme

Family First Magazine

Please see the latest edition here: <https://familyfirst.co.uk/magazines/family-first-issue-3-2026/>

Save the Date

Parachuting Teddies and Family Fun!

Kington St Michael's much-loved teddy parachuting and family fun afternoon will be returning on **Sunday 6 September from 2pm - 4.30pm** at St Michael & All Angels Church.

Don't miss what is now a firm family favourite in the annual village calendar! There will be a chance for your teddy to parachute, refreshments, cream teas, stalls, raffle, tombola and more – so save the date and watch this space!

All proceeds will go to St Michael & All Angels Church. More info will follow over the summer via the village newsletter and Facebook page.

WRAPAROUND CARE AT THE NEST!

We would like to let you know that, due to the increasing costs of providing our wraparound care service, we need to make a small increase to our Nest charges from **September 2026**.

We remain committed to providing a safe, welcoming environment for your children, along with quality food and activities. Unfortunately, rising staffing and running costs mean that this increase is necessary to help us continue offering the high standard of care you expect.

Our new charges from September 2026 will be:

Session	Cost	Includes
7:40 am - 8:40 am	£4.50	Breakfast
8:00 am - 8:40 am	£3.00	No breakfast
3:25 pm - 5:00 pm	£9.00	Snack and a drink
3:25 pm - 6:00 pm	£14.00	Snack, drink and a light tea

We appreciate your understanding and continued support. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please also note that the Nest will be closing at 5pm on a Friday from September 2026.

Booking Information

Booking is **super easy** — just pay through **SCOPAY!**

We also accept **childcare vouchers** (contact the school office for details).

Need a **last-minute space**? No problem!

 Call the school office on 01249 750454

