



Kington St Michael

CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 2 – Thursday 1st October

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a brilliant start to the academic year we have had! As I walked around the classrooms this morning, I felt so proud of how quickly all of our children have settled into the new academic year.

Our Christian value this term is Perseverance, and it has been wonderful to see this value coming to life across the school. Through our Bible stories, including Noah's Ark and the Parable of the Persistent Widow, the children have been learning about the importance of not giving up, even when things are difficult.

They have been putting this into practice through their own personal challenges, whether that is learning to tie shoelaces, roller skate, ride a bike, make something new or master a skill they have found tricky. We have even set a whole-school perseverance challenge: can you make an owl noise using just your hands and breath? So far, we have one very impressive child who has managed to achieve it, well done to Darragh! We are looking forward to seeing whether anyone else can master the challenge, it certainly takes patience and perseverance.

Around the school, our Blackbird Class have been making the most of their new garden which has already proved to be a big hit and our Year 4 children have started their swimming lessons with such a fantastic attitude, well done! A huge thank you to our Friends PFA for funding our Space Dome Dinosaur Experience, the children absolutely loved it! Finally, thank you to Miss Waylen for organising such wonderful Forest School sessions with our Hawks Class this term.

We have a brilliant year ahead of us, with so much to look forward to. The best is yet to come!

Best wishes,

Mrs. Victoria O'Brien
Head Teacher

Diary Dates

Friday 9 th October 9am	Blackbirds Class Stay and Play
Thursday 15 th October 9-10am	Parents' Coffee Morning – please let the office know if you would like to join us
Friday 16 th October	PFA Non-Uniform Day - £1 Donation
Wednesday 21 st October 2pm	Harvest Festival Church Service – parents of Blackbirds, Sparrows and Eagles Classes are welcome
Wednesday 21st October	Last day of term 1
Monday 2nd November	First day of term 2
Monday 9 th November	Flu Vaccinations – All Years
w/c Monday 16 th November	*No Teacher led clubs this week – Up & Under continues*
Tuesday 10 th -16 th November	Scholastic Book Fair in School – more details to follow
Thursday 12 th November	KS1 Parents Phonics Information Morning
Monday 16 th November	Individual and Sibling Photos
Monday 16 th November	Odd Socks Day
Tuesday 17 th November 3:30pm	Christmas Jumper and Nativity Costume Swap in the school library

September 2027 Admissions

We have been busy showing prospective parents around our school who would like their children to join KSM in September 2027. If you would like to book a tour, please email admin@ksm.wilts.sch.uk

Applications for September 2027 can be made online through Wiltshire Council's website, or you can download a paper application. The recommendation is for parents to apply online:

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1657/Apply-for-a-school-place>

The deadline dates are: Primary Reception 2027 entry – 15th January 2027 and Secondary Year 7 2026 entry – 31st October 2026

Science Dome Visit

The Science Dome visited Kington St Michael Primary last week, which was hugely enjoyed by the whole school! An enormous inflatable dome, placed in the hall, provided us with a surround sound and viewpoint of both space and how the land has evolved through the Ice Age and prehistoric times.

Such an experience really elevated current topics, the children are exploring, from dinosaurs to space! Key Stage 2 went on a journey into space and explored the planets whilst Key Stage 1 enjoyed going back to prehistoric times and how the landscape has changed due to natural phenomena. A huge thank you to Friends PFA for funding this educational explorative event.

Forest School Update

Hawks Class Forest School Adventures

This term, Hawks Class are embracing every opportunity to challenge themselves, work together and enjoy the outdoors at Forest School.

The children have developed their practical skills by learning how to safely use tools to whittle sticks, showing patience, concentration and resilience. They have also learnt about fire lighting, understanding how to build and maintain a safe fire before enjoying the well-earned treat of toasting apples over the flames.

Working collaboratively has been at the heart of many of our sessions. The children have designed and constructed impressive dens, solving problems together and sharing ideas to create shelters. The mud kitchen has been a hive of creativity, with plenty of imaginative concoctions being mixed, stirred and proudly presented.

There have also been lots of opportunities to step outside comfort zones and take managed risks. The children have shown great courage and determination while using the slackline and rope swings, building confidence, balance and perseverance along the way.

Capture the flag has been a class favourite, encouraging cooperation, communication and teamwork. It has been wonderful to see the children support one another, celebrate successes and learn from challenges together.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, resilience and sense of adventure shown by Hawks Class. Whether they were balancing, building, whittling, fire lighting or simply getting wonderfully muddy, they have demonstrated the true spirit of Forest School: being curious, taking risks, working together and enjoying the natural world.

Well done Hawks Class for your fantastic outdoor learning and muddy adventures!



Wiltshire Biodiversity Award

We are delighted to share that our school has achieved the Wiltshire Biodiversity Award!

Last year, during their Forest School sessions, Eagles Class carried out a range of wildlife, habitat and outdoor space surveys around the school grounds. The children explored different areas of the site, learning about the plants, animals and habitats that help make our school a great place for nature.

A small group of children from Eagles Class then worked together to write a short report about their findings and their ideas for improving biodiversity around the school.

To celebrate this achievement, the school received a certificate along with a hedgehog house, bird boxes and litter-picking equipment to support our ongoing work to care for and improve our outdoor environment. We are incredibly proud of the children for their enthusiasm, teamwork and commitment throughout the project. Achieving the Wiltshire Biodiversity Award is a fantastic accomplishment, and we look forward to continuing to make our school grounds an even better place for wildlife to thrive.

Worship Council and School Council

Our Worship Council and School Council members have been announced this year and badges have been presented. Mrs. Hussey leads the Worship Council, along with Mrs Greenhalge from St Michael & All Angels Church. Mrs O'Brien runs the School Council, along with Mrs Bridle, who is one of our school governors. We have many exciting plans for the year ahead and we will update you in due course.

School Council

Year 1 – Avery and Joseph B
Year 2 – George and Zachary
Year 3 – Bertie and Olive
Year 4 – Thomas and Charlie
Year 5 – Alice and Harry
Year 6 – Pandora and Esme

Worship Council

Year 2 – Summer, Betsy and Maisie
Year 3 – Charlie R
Year 4 – Elsie
Year 5 – Alex and Millie
Year 6 – Hannah and Elliott

Musician of the Month

Our Musician of the Month celebrates a different well-known musician each month. During our music lessons and assemblies, pupils will learn about the musician, listen to and appraise their music, and explore the musical features that make their work unique. This month, we will be discovering the music and traditions of **Fisherman's Friends**, exploring their sea shanties and the messages of friendship, community and life at sea found in their songs. Please see the attached Musician of the month PDF for more information.

Can you discuss Fisherman's Friends at home?

- What do you already know about Fisherman's Friends and sea shanties?
- Can you listen to one of their songs together? What do you notice about the music?
- What instruments and voices can you hear?
- Why do you think people used to sing sea shanties together?
- What message or feeling do you think the song is trying to share?
- Which Fisherman's Friends song do you like best, and why?

Harvest Donations – Supporting Doorway Charity in Chippenham

Food is at the heart of Doorway's service, providing welcome, comfort, warmth and essential nourishment to those facing difficult circumstances. Donations are used to provide weekly food bags and emergency supplies, with items suitable for people with or without access to a kitchen. Some donations also help provide their Monday cooked breakfast and Thursday drop-in lunch.

We would be incredibly grateful for any donations from KSM families **from Monday 5th October, please leave any donations in the front entrance of the school on our Harvest table.** These donations will help Doorway to continue supporting people in our local community while making their financial resources stretch further.



In preparation for our Harvest Festival church service, we will be collecting tins and packets of food which will be donated to the Doorway Charity in Chippenham; details of donations needed will be attached.

Our Harvest Festival Service will be held in St. Michael and All Angels Church on Wednesday 21st of October at 2pm. We would like to invite the parents of Blackbirds, Sparrows and Eagles classes to join us in this celebration.

Governor News

There is currently a vacancy on our governing board for a Non-Parent Governor. If you or someone you know may be interested in the role or finding out more then please speak to Mrs Davis in the school office for more information. We especially welcome enquiries from any member of our community who have a Christian faith and would consider joining us as a Foundation Governor.



Wow Moments

An exciting time for Darcey! Not only did she perform with the National Youth Ballet at Sadler's Wells, but she also got to meet her idol, Darcey Bussell! Well done Darcey, what an amazing experience to treasure.

We love hearing about all the brilliant things the children get up to outside of school.

If your child has a wow moment they would like to share for the next newsletter, please email the School Office at admin@ksm.wilts.sch.uk

The Nest Wraparound Care

We have some exciting activities at the Nest next week. As well as yoga each morning, the children can look forward to:

Monday: Games/Craft Afternoon

Tuesday: Rice Krispie Cake Making

Wednesday: Just Dance

Thursday: Bingo Night

Friday: Film Night & Hot Chocolates

The Breakfast Club:

7.40am-8.40am - £4.50 per session - includes breakfast

8.15am-8.40am - £3.00 per session - does not include breakfast

After School Club:

Monday - Thursday

3.25pm-5.00pm - £9.00 per session. Includes a welcome snack and a drink

3.25pm-6.00pm - £14.00 per session. Includes a welcome snack, drink and a light tea

Friday

3.25pm-5.00pm - £9.00 per session. Includes a welcome snack and a drink

Booking a place and payment are to be made through SCOPAY. The Nest also accepts payment using childcare vouchers.

If you require a booking at short notice, please contact the school office. Should you need to contact The Nest staff during club hours please call 07483 325482.

Please note that places cannot be cancelled with less than 24 hours' notice. Thank you for your understanding.

