



Newsletter - April 2010

2010 school starters/ getting ready for school

During the first week of term we were able to take nearly all the 2010 school starters (whichever school they are going to) to Kineton's reception class for a brief visit. These visits help children build confidence in dealing with unfamiliar situations and to feel secure around large numbers of 'big' children - although some were our littlies only last year! We have also started longer settling in, or transition, visits with small groups of children, usually four at a time. There is a very complicated timetable on the main notice board showing when we intend to take each child. This year we are hoping that everyone will have at least four visits, as far as possible at least one each with Mrs Field and Mrs Rogers.

We have invited all reception class teachers to visit us at Helen's Place during the course of the term. We will let you know as soon as any dates are set. If there is anything you wish to discuss, or any feedback from your children following any visits to school or from their teachers, please let us know.

Inset days

Just a reminder that there are two Kineton Primary School inset days next half term, on 07 and 25 June. We will be closed for all sessions (Breakfast, playgroup and KASC) on Monday 07 June, but will be open for Playgroup sessions only (9.00am to 3.00pm) on Friday 25 June.

Parents' Handbook

A handbook is being prepared to give to all parents when their children start playgroup (to be followed by a version for KASC children and parents which we will be asking the children to help draft). It would be great to include any helpful hints or 'top tips' from you - perhaps things you know now you wish you knew before starting, or good ideas you have thought of over the time your children have been at playgroup e.g. freezing a drink to keep lunch boxes cool in summer. Sarah Hogben and Jo Webb are in charge of this project and have produced a short form for you to complete if you have any ideas - a copy is attached.

Tennis/ ball skills

Great fun was had by all last Friday morning at our first tennis session. This was the first one of a course of six sessions. The same children, in the same groups, will have a short lesson every Friday until 21 May. As there are no Woodland School sessions on Friday mornings it seemed an ideal opportunity to try out this new activity. If it is successful - and early signs are promising - we hope to extend the scheme. Do let us know if your children tell you anything about it.

Swimming

We are allowed to use the pool at Kineton Primary School on Thursday afternoons from 2.00 - 3.00pm. The school children start swimming on Monday 26 April, and we will decide after they have tested the general temperature if we start on Thursday 29 April or wait until after the May Bank Holiday and start on Thursday 06 May. Members of playgroup staff do not take the children swimming but simply provide First Aid and safety supervision for you to take your own children. The pool is 90cm deep and heated, there are basic changing facilities and a toilet but no shower. You must be in the pool with your child at all times - a maximum of two children per adult. We ask for a donation (£1 per person is suggested) to pass on to the school as a contribution towards running costs.

Summer trips

A separate note is attached about summer trips. As half term is as late as it can be this year our first trip, to Mary Arden's House, will be very soon after the break, so we need to finalise all arrangements as soon as possible. Please reply to Sally as soon as you can and by 10 May at the latest.

Outdoor play and sunshine

Apologies if writing this causes a change in the weather! Please ensure that your child comes to playgroup ready to play outdoors in the sunshine - they need a T shirt that covers their shoulders, a named cardigan or jumper and a named hat or cap, and shoes they can run in please. We will have some children's sunscreen to apply, but it would be really helpful if you could make sure your child is well covered in sunscreen before you bring them to any playgroup session. If you would prefer us to use your own sunscreen please bring some in a labeled bottle for us to use. All the children have access to drinking water throughout the session.

Woodland Schools

Vix has been working really hard on our 'patch' with some great results. The trees are coming into leaf, bulbs and wild flowers are coming out, and the willow arch is beginning to take. Do look at the display board and invite yourself for a visit when you are next on rota duty. We are also growing our own butterflies to release.

Leavers' photographs

A reminder - orders will be sent off very soon, so don't miss out!

Learning Opportunities

We are all having great fun looking at and learning about all things connected to St George, with a major diversion to castles! The drawbridge is extremely popular. We will stay with this general topic for a while - developments to look out for are the hedge and wood growing around Sleeping Beauty's castle, an outdoor castle with a moat and further construction of miniature castles. The children have been full of ideas on this topic which we are developing as far as we can. We have some discounted ticket vouchers for entry to Warwick Castle, for pre-school and school age children; free entry for under 4s with adult tickets £5.00 each (including free hot drink), Monday to Wednesday excluding all school holidays, until 30 November 2010. Please ask in the office if you would like a voucher.

Fundraising events - Table Top sale

Lis Knight is organising a table top sale on Saturday 08 May - take the opportunity to make some money from all those things you find you don't need anymore after spring cleaning! Or, alternatively, buy some new things to fill the gaps you have created. Details are set out on the notice board - please contact Lis on 01926 642507 for more information.

23 April 2010

General reminders:

Supermarket vouchers and printer cartridges

Remember we collect anything and everything! Collecting boxes are outside the office window.

Safety and security issues:

Gates

Remember the Market Square gate will be locked between 9.15am and 2.45pm. During these times, if you need to reach us in a hurry, please ring the office and, if we can, we will let you in! In addition please make sure you shut all gates after you come through them, both on the school site and at the entries to Helen's Place.

Vehicles and parking on school site

Unless you have a visitor's pass please **do not drive onto or park on** the school site after 8.30am or before 4.00pm. There have been a few near misses and one actual accident (although only damage to a car) and no-one wants anyone, especially a child, to be hurt.

Signing out

Please write the actual time you sign in and out next to your signature. This is vital from two points - the most important is that it helps us ensure the safety of your children. The second is that it ensures you receive correct invoices. If there is no signature, or no time, then it will be assumed that your child is either staying for the next session or that a late collection fee is due.

Dates for your diary

Summer term 2010: Monday 12 April to Friday 23 July 2010
Inset days: 07 and 25 June 2010, bank holiday 03 May 2010
(Half term Monday 31 May to Friday 04 June 2010 inclusive)

Autumn term 2010: Tuesday 07 September to Friday 17 December 2010
(Half term Monday 25 to Friday 29 October 2010 inclusive)

what	where	date	time
Fundraiser: Table Top Sale	Kineton Village Hall	Saturday 08 May	10:00am to 12 noon
Spring cleaning/ maintenance/ gardening/ woodland day	Helen's Place	Saturday 22 May	10:00am onwards
Kineton Primary School Inset Day: Breakfast Club, Playgroup & KASC closed.	Helen's Place	Monday 07 June	All day!
Summer trip to Mary Arden's House. 2010 school starters	Leaving from Helen's Place	Wednesday 09 June	9.15am - 3.00pm
Summer trip to Jephson Gardens. 2011 school starters	Leaving from Helen's Place	Thursday 17 June	9.15am - 12.30pm
Kineton Primary School Inset Day: Breakfast Club & KASC closed.	Helen's Place	Friday 25 June	Playgroup sessions only
Sports Day 2011 school starters	Helen's Place	Monday 12 July	tbc
Sports Day and family Picnic. 2010 school starters	Helen's Place	Tuesday 13 July	tbc