



Message from Mrs McWilliams-Bowe

This week has been another very positive one in school, with the children continuing to settle back into routines and approach their learning with enthusiasm and confidence.

In assembly, we built on last week's theme of fresh starts by exploring how the choices we make each day affect others. Using the story 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today?', the children learned how kind words, positive behaviour, and being ready to learn can "fill" one another's buckets, while unkind or unsafe choices can empty them. It was a thoughtful and engaging way to reinforce the importance of how we treat each other at school.

It has been lovely to see these ideas being put into practice around the school. Children are supporting one another, showing kindness, and taking pride in their learning. Many pupils have earned Headteacher stickers for their effort, positive attitudes, and thoughtful behaviour, and it has been a pleasure to celebrate these achievements.

As I continue to get to know the school community, I would like to invite parents and carers to join me for a series of coffee sessions. These will take place from 8.45-9.30 am in the School Hall (entrance via the school office). During each session, I will share a short introduction about myself and my background, and there will be time to enjoy a tea or coffee, meet members of the Senior Leadership Team, and offer feedback. The sessions will also provide a relaxed opportunity to reconnect with other families after the Christmas break.

While families are welcome to attend any of the sessions, some dates will have a particular year-group focus:

Year 5 & 6 - Monday 26th January

Year 3 & 4 - Wednesday 28th January

I hope many of you will be able to attend, and I very much look forward to meeting as many families as possible over the coming weeks.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRD WATCH 23rd - 25th January

Big Garden Bird Watch

This month, we're inviting all the children to participate in the Big Garden Bird Watch 2026! 'Big Garden Birdwatch is the UK's biggest citizen science wildlife survey'. By taking part, you can help the RSPB understand how our garden birds are doing right now. Our Eco Ambassadors, led by Mrs Wilkinson, will be supporting this survey through their creation of bird feeders around the school grounds. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

Well Being

Returning to the usual routine after the holidays can be a stressful time for anyone and that includes those children and young people who are making their way back to school. Difficulty readjusting to a structured schedule, worries about reuniting with classmates and teachers, and potential pressures around continuing their education cannot only impact children's academic performance, but have further negative effects on their emotional wellbeing. Of course, there's plenty we can do as parents and educators to help make the transition back to education as easy as possible for the youngsters in our care.

1. **Create a sleep plan:** Sleep can present as one of the biggest challenges as children can become night owls. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music.

2: **Focus on nutrition:** Make sure children are receiving a balanced diet putting them in the best possible state to learn.

3: **Communicate openly:** Talk with your child about how they're feeling about the return to school and how the first week has gone. Validating their emotions makes them feel supported and understood.

Best Attendance for this Week

The class with the highest attendance this week is 3KC with 99.18% well done!!

Attendance Matters

- Good attendance is key to your child's safety, wellbeing, and education.
- Children who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve and build positive friendships.
- When a child misses school, it can mean missed learning and missed opportunities to be part of our school community.
- If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please contact the school office by 9 am on the day of absence.
- Our pastoral team is here to support families if attendance becomes difficult - please reach out, we are here to help.

Reporting an Absence

If your child is ill, please can you telephone the school office before 9.00am on 01256 326713. There is an answer phone that you can leave a message regarding absence. The school office will contact you if you do not contact the school to report an absence., if you do not report the absence it will be marked as "unauthorised absence". If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they will need to remain at home for a clear 48 hours following the last episode.

FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY School Holiday Club

INFANT CHILDREN ARE WELCOME

We are taking bookings now, 16 - 19 February
9.00 - 4.00pm £30 per child, £27 for siblings.

If you are interested in booking a place for your child, please contact the school office on 01256 326713 or email adminoffice@kempshott-jun.hants.sch.uk

Clubs - Spring Term

Clubs for the Spring Term will start from Monday 19th January and will run until Friday 20th March.

Positivity Club / Just Dance Club - All who applied have a place.

Tissues

We are currently experiencing a high number of requests for tissues from children with colds, please could parents send in their child with a box of tissues if they are suffering with a runny nose/cold, this would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.

The Children's Commissioner has recently published this new guide.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play. I hope you find this guide useful.

General Reminders

Year 6 Liddington Residential - Final Payment due by 2nd March 2026

Year 5 Stubbington Residential - Final Payment due by 2nd March 2026

Driving and Parking Around Buckingham Parade and Old Down Close

Please can we remind parents to drive and park safely around the roads and car parks close to the school. A local resident witnessed a very unsafe incident on Old Down Close that resulted in a car leaving the small car park at high speed - all whilst children and parents were in the area.



Together we can make a difference

✦ **KSA Weekly Update** ✦

Happy Bags Recycling – Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone that donated for the Happy Bags Recycling on a very wet and soggy Tuesday morning earlier this week. We're pleased to say your donations helped us raise £168.30!

If you have any questions, please message us on social media or email ksaevents10@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting the KSA! ✨

Disclaimer: From time to time information will be sent out from various organisations about activities for children. Please note that these are provided for your information and are not endorsed by the school. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure the suitability of out of school activities for their own children.

Diary Dates

Spring Term 2026

Spring Term 5th January 2026 – 27th March 2026

Half Term 16th February 2026 – 20th February 2026

Summer Term 13th April 2026 – 22nd July 2026

Half Term 25th May 2026 – 29th May 2026

Inset Days for 2025/2026

13th April

1st June

January 2026

19th – Clubs Start

26th – Year 5 & 6 Parents - Coffee and Meet Mrs McWilliams-Bowe 8.45 am – 9.30 am

28th – Year 3 & 4 Parents - Coffee and Meet Mrs McWilliams-Bowe 8.45 am – 9.30 am

February 2026

13th – Coffee & Chat with Mrs Clifton and Miss Williams

27th – Y6 to Winchester Cathedral

March 2026

2nd - Final Payments due for Y6 Liddington Residential and Y5 Stubbington Residential

9th - Y5 to Stubbington Residential

16th - Y6 to Liddington Residential

20th - Clubs Finish

Please note: dates are subject to change/cancellation