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Headteacher's Update

Dear Families,

Spring is a wonderful time of year. As the daylight hours lengthen, the first warmth of the sun is felt and trees burst into blossom, it lifts our spirits and fills us with renewed energy. At King Offa, we are always growing and thriving, but this season has felt especially rewarding as we see the seeds sown earlier in the year begin to flourish.

In particular, we are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils, who have now completed their Standard Assessment Tests (SATs), and our Year 2 pupils, who successfully completed their Key Stage 1 assessments. Our pupils approached the test period with confidence, secure in the knowledge of how hard they had worked and how well they had been supported. There was a buzz of excitement during our pre-test breakfasts – and the bacon rolls were enjoyed by all! The tests themselves became a celebration of learning and the skills our pupils have developed. Every pupil, member of staff and supportive family member should feel immensely proud. Thank you all for your commitment and determination, shown in true King Offa spirit.

As one year group prepares to reach the end of their journey at King Offa, we also look ahead with excitement to welcoming new members of our school community. In April, we were delighted to meet our new Reception pupils who will be joining us in September. The increasing number of children reflects the growing popularity of our school and the strength of our community.

Families commented on our inclusive, friendly and purposeful environment during their visits, which was a pleasure to hear. We greatly look forward to building strong partnerships through our transition and settling events in Term 6. Inclusivity and belonging are values we hold close at King Offa, and we actively seek opportunities to strengthen them. During a recent staff INSET day, we welcomed Hannah Wilson, author of *Cultivating Belonging in Schools*, who worked with our team to further develop our practice around diversity, equity, inclusivity and belonging. Hannah was very impressed with our approach, and her guidance will help us continue to grow. As a community, I encourage us all to celebrate our individuality and continue to support one another.

As we head into the final term of the year, it is also a time to reflect on our successes. Thank you to those who have already completed the family survey – your feedback is invaluable in helping us to continually improve. If you have not yet shared your views, there is still time (please scan the QR code below). We are grateful for your recognition of our strengths and for your constructive feedback. Individually we can achieve much, but together there are no limits to what we can accomplish.

Please read on to enjoy a glimpse of just some of the fantastic achievements from this term. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES TOWNER
Headteacher, King Offa
Primary Academy



Building Works Update

Progress continues on the Camelot building, with the external walls completed and the roof now in place. The next stage will see windows, doors and internal fittings installed.

Thank you for your patience while the construction team completed work along the wall by the public footpath.

Any temporary disruption will be well worth it once the project is complete.

Thanks to your generous fundraising contributions, plans are also moving ahead for the redevelopment of the Key Stage 2 playground. A further update will follow in Term 6.

Bikeability and JOLF Events



At the start of the term, students from Year 1 participated in Balance-ability, the entry course of Bikeability.

Students took part in a session every day, from Monday to Thursday, on our Key Stage 2 playground. They learned how to balance on the bike, push off, as well as stopping and navigating obstacles.

During the same week, a small group of our Year 5 pupils completed their Bikeability Level 2 course. This course ran through the week and saw pupils taken around the local area to demonstrate their understanding of road safety and cycling skills. We look forward to seeing more of our pupils enjoying an active journey to and from school now the weather is warming up.



On Wednesday 29th April, all pupils, from Nursery to Year 6, took to the field to participate in JOLF (Junior Golf).

All of our pupils enjoyed JOLF as a play-first, inclusive experience where they learned through gameplay and exploration.

Through a series of mini games, the children worked alongside other children from different year groups, creating a safe, engaged and supportive environment. There was a notable buzz about the school and we are all looking forward to the next JOLF day!



Year 3 Trip to Herstmonceux Science Centre

Our Year 3 students made us incredibly proud during their recent visit to the Herstmonceux Science Centre, where they fully embraced the wide range of exciting activities available. Throughout the day, the children showed great enthusiasm, curiosity and excellent behaviour as they explored the hands-on exhibits and learnt through discovery.

One of the highlights of the trip was taking part in a fascinating light workshop, where pupils deepened their understanding of how light works through interactive demonstrations and experiments. They also enjoyed watching an engaging and entertaining science show, which sparked their imagination and brought scientific concepts to life in a fun and memorable way.



The children relished the opportunity to get involved in a variety of practical experiments, allowing them to test ideas, predict outcomes and learn through doing. A particular favourite was the outdoor water park area, where they worked collaboratively to build dams and operate pumps, exploring concepts such as water flow, forces and problem-solving in a playful environment.

Overall, it was a fantastic day filled with curiosity, teamwork and discovery, leaving the children inspired and excited about science.



ACHIEVEMENT

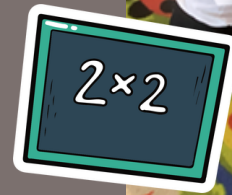


Nursery

This term, we are proud to have introduced daily tooth brushing for all our nursery children as part of our ongoing health offer, and what a fantastic success it has been. The children have shown great enthusiasm and independence, taking part in group tooth brushing sessions with confidence. It has been wonderful to see them take pride in caring for their teeth, with many eagerly demonstrating their brushing skills to staff and their friends. They are building important self-care routines that support their overall health and wellbeing. To continue this learning at home, each child has taken home a toothbrush and toothpaste. We are encouraging families to join us in promoting good oral hygiene routines, strengthening our partnership with parents to achieve the very best outcomes for every child.

Reception

The reception children have been working incredibly hard to learn their doubles to 10. They have explored this concept in a variety of ways, including using their fingers, practical resources, and by verbally explaining their understanding of doubles. Through this, they have developed a strong and secure understanding that a double means having two of the same number.



Year 1

In Year One this term, we have been working hard to answer our Science concept question - 'Why do all plants need roots?'. We have learned about different types of flowers: wild and garden flowers and also about different types of trees: deciduous and evergreen. We went on a walk around the school grounds to see if we could identify the different varieties. The children have then explored real life plants including some fruits and vegetables to explore different types of roots. The children then enjoyed exploring these, thinking about what they could see, smell and feel.

Year 2

In Year Two this term the children enjoyed challenging themselves to achieve in a new sport. We were lucky enough to have the expertise of Neil from JOLF (Junior Golf) to guide the children around an exciting circuit of different golf challenges. The children showed resilience, creativity and good team work. The children also had the opportunity to work with the Year Five classes who supported, guided and encouraged them to succeed and try their best. A child from each class was awarded the Golden Golf Ball for demonstrating perseverance and rapid achievement during the session.





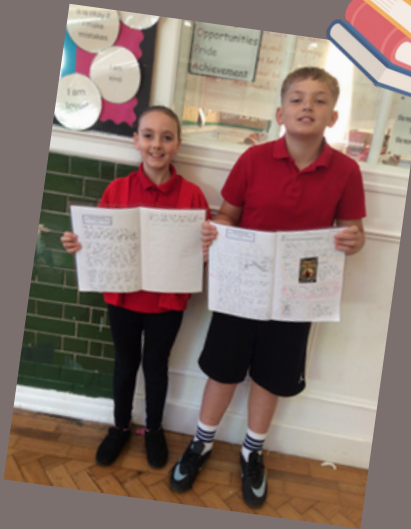
Year 3

Year 3 had the most amazing trip to Herstmonceux Science Observatory last week. Every child achieved a whole day of exemplary 5-star behaviour. They were fantastic representatives of our school and made us feel so proud. This trip was a huge success for us because Year 3 children were able to experience hands-on science that links to our last two topics, Light in Term 4 and Forces in Term 5.



Year 4

Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed visiting Michelham priory after completing some fantastic learning about Henry VIII and the Dissolution of the monasteries. Children particularly enjoyed finding out about Henry's 6 wives and how he made himself rich and powerful. Look out for colourful Tudor collages inspired by Andy Warhol and Hans Holbein!



Year 5

Year 5 were fortunate to welcome the lovely Emma back from Groundwork, another engaging and informative session all about trees. The children explored fascinating facts about how trees grow and why trees are vital for wildlife and the environment. The children especially loved becoming a "human tree", where they acted out the different parts of a tree. It was a fantastic way to bring learning to life and helped the children develop a deeper understanding of the natural world. This experience strongly linked to our school value of achievement, as the children showed enthusiasm, curiosity, and excellent teamwork throughout the session while building their knowledge and confidence.

Year 6

Year 6 students at King Offa have given themselves the very best chance of success as they began their SATs this week. They have approached every practice test with determination, resilience and maturity, making all of the adults extremely proud. Throughout the year, they have worked exceptionally hard in every lesson, showing a fantastic attitude towards their learning and always trying their very best. Their commitment, perseverance and positive mindset have been wonderful to see, and they should all feel very proud of what they have accomplished so far. No matter the outcome of the tests, the effort and progress shown by every child has been truly outstanding.

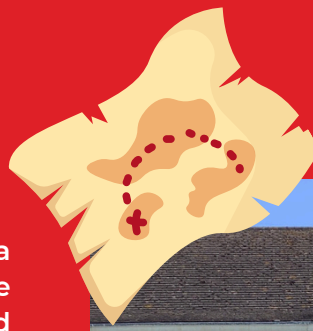


Happy Lunchtimes

A Fresh Start for Happy Lunchtimes

Spring provided the perfect opportunity for a fresh start to King Offa's Happy Lunchtime provision. We began with a good old-fashioned spring clean of the playground sheds! With the enthusiastic help of Mrs Irving's children, the leadership team bravely tackled the cobwebs and refreshed our lunchtime resources. The result was a rich and inviting range of activities, ready for the lunchtime team to enjoy and share with our pupils.

In our first assembly of the term, we proudly relaunched Happy Lunchtimes to the whole school. Together, we revisited our shared expectations and the five STAR behaviours, setting the tone for a positive term ahead. Lunchtimes quickly became vibrant and purposeful, with activities such as parachute games, skipping, Lego, bubbles and ball games. Activity spaces were rotated by year group to ensure everyone felt included, and our Year 6 Sports Ambassadors took on a valuable leadership role alongside the playground coordinator.



The impact was instant. A walk around the playgrounds revealed smiles, teamwork and kindness in abundance. In addition to the structured activities, children created their own games, used spaces imaginatively and returned to the classroom energised and ready to learn.

With Happy Lunchtimes now firmly established, the next step was to increase pupil involvement even further. We were delighted to welcome Steve from Wellbeing Education, who trained our Year 4 and 5 pupils as future Play Leaders. Steve was blown away by the creativity, imagination and enthusiasm shown by our pupils. Lucy in Year 5 was particularly impressive, leading a wonderful activity involving collective chalk hands and a line of names.

The impact of Happy Lunchtimes has been remarkable. Behaviour incidents and the need for first aid have halved, and pupils' readiness to learn in afternoon lessons has significantly improved. Congratulations to everyone involved for helping to create happier playtimes, more smiles, and an even stronger sense of belonging across our school.



KING OFFA PTFA



The King Offa PTFA is a newly formed charity dedicated to raising funds for King Offa Primary Academy. Made up of parents, teachers and friends, we work together to enrich the school experience through events, fundraising and community spirit. Since launching in January, we've been busy planning, sharing ideas (and lots of tea!) and have been truly encouraged by the support from families, staff and the wider community.

Our committee includes 11 members alongside supportive teachers: Kirsty M (Chair), Emma D (Co-chair), Emma A (Vice Chair), Kayleigh F (Treasurer), Emily L (Secretary), and team members Gemma S, Scott L, Nicolene A, Clare A, Crystal L and Emily B. We always welcome new members and helping hands, whether you can spare a little time or bring great ideas.

Our first event, the school disco, raised an incredible £717.75. We've donated £100 to the King Offa Bakery (because great cake matters!) and the School Council will soon decide how to spend £200 on something special for the pupils.



We're also preparing for our Summer Fair on Saturday 4th July 2026. Opening at 11am, it promises fun for all, including games, food, raffles, performances, a bouncy assault course and even "Soak the Teacher"!

Thank you for your donations as part of the Mufti Day on Friday 22nd May — the after-school ice lolly sale was a real hit.

We'll also be at Sports Day (24th–25th June) with refreshments to keep everyone going. Thank you for your continued support — together we can make a real difference and have plenty of fun along the way!

Our £20.26 Challenge is underway, encouraging creative fundraising — with a reward for the class that raises the most. Every contribution helps enhance school life.

We look forward to working with our fantastic school community from now and in years to come.



Save the date – Upcoming events



1st June

Phonics Fred Friday

1st - 12th June

Multiplication Table Checkers

8th - 12th June

Phonics Screening Check

17th June

Year 4 - Big Summer Sing

18th June

Year 5 - Geography Coastal Trip

24th June and 25th June

Sports Days (Nursery/Reception 24th - Years 1-6 25th)

26th June

INSET DAY

4th July

Summer Fair

8th July

Sharnfold Farm Trip (Year 1) and Meet the Teacher

13th July

Rock Steady Concert

15th July

Year 6 - Leavers Disco

16th and 17th July

Pirates of the Curry Bean School Production

20th July

Sponsored Swimathon

21st July

Year 6 Leavers Assembly

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