



# KESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Newsletter 1 - September 2018

I am very pleased to welcome back all the children and their families for the start of the new school year and I hope you all had a very pleasant summer break. I would like to extend a special welcome to our new families, both those who are entering the Early Years and those who have joined further up the school. We hope your children will be both happy and successful at Keston.

As always we have had a busy summer with projects going on to improve the school for the children. Alas, due to a variety of circumstances, these have not all been completed before the children's return to school.

We do have a new infant library in place of our old technology room which is now in use; the new technology room, which is being completed with funds raised entirely by parents, will hopefully be completed by the end of this week.

You may also have noted that the nursery gate is currently out of use, this is because the work on the field is incomplete but this, along with the renewal of the nursery safety surface, should be completed by the end of the week. The work on the field is to put in an all-weather track which will enable all the children to take part in the 'Keston Kilometre'. The classes will, on the days that they do not have swimming or PE, have 15 minutes each day out on the track.

Both the technology room work and the Keston Kilometre are part of the school's initiative to improve the health and wellbeing of all the children and enhance their curriculum opportunities.

### **Julie Maudsley Award**

Each year a special award is given in the name of Mrs Maudsley, a much valued and sorely missed member of staff. This award carries no prize value but is a recognition of a child or children who have gone beyond what is expected of them in many areas of school life; children who Mrs Maudsley would have been proud to work with and whose success she would have been happy to celebrate. The 2017 – 2018 award was given to: Edward Bridges-Pugh for 'his positive attitude and the joy he has brought to children and staff at Keston'. His name will be entered onto the shield which is kept in the school trophy cabinet in the office entrance.

### **School Fund**

I am sorry to start the school year with a plea for funds but, as we cope with rising costs and funding cuts, we continue to strive to ensure that neither of these issues has an impact on the range of activities or facilities which we are able to offer the children. We are fortunate that we have a strong PTA and many parents who are willing to contribute to their efforts and therefore funds are available for projects such as the technology room. However on top of projects like this we continue to provide additional music provision (year 2 recorders and year 4 ukuleles), a range of additional resources for the classrooms and activities such as the pantomime for the children.

Therefore we would request donations to school fund of £10 for the first child and £5 for any additional children to enable additional provision. This payment can also now be found on Parent Pay.

### **Autumn Term Swimming**

The swimming lesson contribution for the autumn term for years 1 to 6 is £18.00; this payment goes towards the upkeep of the pool which is monitored on a weekly basis by a pool management company. Without a good level of parent contributions we will not be able to maintain this very valuable resource. Payments should be made via Parent Pay.



## **PACE**

The process for the school's transition to academy status and membership of the PACE Academy Trust is moving forward in a positive manner and we expect this to be in place for the proposed date of 1st October. As mentioned previously it is unlikely that parents will notice any changes.

## **Curriculum Information Sessions**

In previous years we have held curriculum information evenings to keep you informed about curriculum changes and also to support you in helping your child. We have moved this session from the spring term to the autumn term however every year the attendance at the sessions seems to be low. We are therefore going to try something a little different this year.

There will be three curriculum information workshops all of which will be held at the start of the day following drop off and last no longer than an hour.

- The first session on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 9.15** is for parents of children in **Nursery and Reception** and will give you information about the teaching of phonics and how to support your child with learning to read.
- The second session will be for parents of **KS1** children (years 1 and 2) on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15** and will focus on supporting your child with reading and comprehension.
- The third session will be for parents of **KS2** children (years 3 -6) on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15** and will also focus on supporting your child with reading and comprehension.

The KS1 and KS2 workshops are looking at reading comprehension skills development as this is an area of the curriculum which has become much more challenging for the children in recent years.

## **McMillian Coffee Morning**

This event will take place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 9am in the infant hall. Although this is run by year 6 children all parents are encouraged to attend. Not only is this an important charity to raise funds for, but it is also an opportunity for parents (particularly those new to the school) to get to know each other.

## **School Dates**

I have sent out with this newsletter a list of school dates for the year. This list includes the dates of Christmas events, class assemblies, parents' evenings and sports day to mention a few. Every year the office is told by parents that they were not aware of dates of events so please take this opportunity to enter these dates in your diary or print off the list for future reference. I am aware that parents often book time off work in advance to attend these events so we will always do our best not to amend the dates unless absolutely necessary.

## **Secondary School Transfer**

Year 6 parents should note that all applications for secondary school places must be in by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 at the latest. The online application system is now active. Further details about applications and open days can be found on Croydon Council's website: <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/school-admissions/starting-secondary-school>. For schools in other boroughs please look at the relevant Local Authority website.

If you require any support with obtaining this information or completing the application form please speak to the school office, myself or Mrs Green.

## **Reception 2019 Admissions**

Online applications for primary school places is now open, details about the process can be found at: <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/school-admissions/starting-primary-school-reception-year>. Applications must be in before midday on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

## **Nursery 2019 Admissions**

Applications for admission to Keston Nursery should be made directly to the school; forms and details of admission criteria are available from the school office or on the school website. The closing date for nursery applications is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019; applications made after this date will be placed on the waiting list.



## Open Morning/Afternoons for 2018 admissions to Reception and Nursery

These will take place on the dates listed below:

Reception Open Morning	Thursday 9th October	9.30 to 11.30
Reception Open Afternoon	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30 to 11.30
Reception Open Afternoon	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30 to 11.30
Reception Open Morning	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30 to 11.30
Nursery Open Morning	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	9.30 to 11.30
Nursery Open Morning	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30 to 11.30
Nursery Open Morning	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30 to 11.30

If you intend to visit the school on one of these dates it would be helpful if you let the school office know.



Mrs Claire Murphy  
Headteacher