

Kinsale Infant School

September 2021 Newsletter



Developing a love of learning for all. Always ready to learn.

Welcome to the first newsletter of this new school year!

I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing summer break, and are refreshed and ready for a new school year. I extend my thanks to all parents and carers for supporting your child to return in such a positive, happy way. We express a warm welcome to our new Reception children and also several new children joining us in Year 1.

This is my 12th year as Head teacher at Kinsale, and I am still amazed at the positive way our children return to learning in school. As you know, Mrs Hazard (our Deputy Headteacher) has the role of Head teacher on a Friday each week when I am not working. Please talk to her should you need to on a Friday.

I hope you have seen that we have a member of our Senior Leadership Team outside each morning from 8.40am. We hope this will enable any questions to be answered should they arise.

Monday & Tuesday – Miss Robinson

Wednesday – Mrs Clennell

Thursday – Mrs Wallace

Friday – Mrs Hazard

- **School drop off is: Between 8.50am and 9am**
- **School collection is: Between 3pm and 3.10pm**

Covid Update

As you will be aware, guidance has changed dramatically for school settings. We no longer have to organise our children in ‘bubbles’ and they are allowed to mix with each other again. They are enjoying spending lunchtimes with different year groups.

We are continuing with assemblies on line until later this term, when we can more fully assess the risks in our community.

Symptoms of Covid: If your child has Covid symptoms, they are still required to isolate while arranging a PCR test. Please inform us. If your child tests positive, they are required to isolate at home and not attend school. Others in the household do not need to isolate. Learning at home will be provided for your child in this case.

If your child is a ‘close contact’ of someone testing positive, they MUST still attend school as normal. We will not be informing you if there is a positive case in your child’s class – this is in line with Government guidance.

(Please do contact the school office should you have any queries about the Covid guidance)

Classes

Our class structure this year is as follows:

Year Group	Class Name	Class Teacher	Teaching Assistants
Reception	Leopards	Mrs Clennell	Miss Matthews Mrs Leeper
	Tigers	Mrs Coughlan (Mondays & Fridays) Mrs Godwin (Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays)	
Year 1	Pandas	Miss Galley	Mrs Plunkett Mrs Miller Mrs Horner Miss Steele
	Lions	Mrs Kelly (<i>previously Miss Gook!</i>)	
Year 2	Elephants	Miss Humphrey	Mrs Cletheroe Mrs Godden
	Giraffes	Mrs Hazard (Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday am) Mrs Wallace (Thursday pm and Fridays)	

Senior Leadership Team includes: Miss Robinson, Mrs Hazard, Mrs Clennell and Mrs Wallace

We have welcomed Mrs Clarke and Mrs Hills to our office staff team this year.

Mrs Clarke is our new Office Manager, so can answer any queries or questions you have.

The school office is open 8.15am until 3.45pm.

Mrs Hills is our new Finance Manager; dealing with Finance and HR matters.

We also welcome Miss Humphrey to our staff team. Miss Humphrey will teach in Year 2 Elephants class.

We hope all our new staff will feel very welcome at Kinsale!

Diary Dates

September 2021		
Tues 14 Sept	pm	Elephants Y2 start Forest Schools
Wed 15 Sept		Reception children start full time
Thur 16 Sept	lunchtime	Top Table starts! (<i>see below</i>)
Fri 17 Sept		Y1 & 2 Home Learning out via Tapestry
Wb 20 Sept	3.15pm	After school clubs start
Mon 27 Sept	pm	Hot chocolate Monday starts! (<i>see below</i>)
October 2021		
Thur 7 Oct	Am	Individual Photographs in school
Thur 14 Oct		Flu Immunisation for all year groups – consent details to follow (These immunisations are <u>optional</u> for Rec, Y1 and Y2)
Tues 19 Oct		Last Forest School for Elephants Y2
Wb 25 Oct		Half term
November 2021		

Mon 1 Nov		Children back to school
Tue 2 Nov	pm	Giraffes Y2 start Forest Schools
Mon 8 Nov	3.30-6.30pm	Parents Evenings day 1 – further details will be sent out booking these
Thur 18 Nov	3.30-6.30pm	Parents Evenings day 2 – further details will be sent out booking these
Wb 29 Nov		After school clubs finish this week
December 2021		
Mon 6 Dec		Christmas card post box out!
Tue 7 Dec		Last Forest School for Giraffes Y2
Fri 17 Dec		End of Term – finish at normal time
January 2022		
Tue 4 Jan		INSET – no children in school
Wed 5 Jan		Children back to school
Tue 11 Jan		Lions Y1 start Forest Schools

Reminders...

School Uniform www.myclothing.com or via the school website

Boys	Girls	PE <i>(In draw string bag to be kept on peg in class)</i>
Grey trousers / shorts White polo shirt Navy sweatshirt Grey / black socks Black school shoes (not trainers please)	Grey skirt / dress / trousers Navy & white checked summer dress White polo shirt Navy sweatshirt or cardigan Grey tights / white or grey socks Black school shoes Navy hair accessories	Navy shorts White t shirt Plimsolls or trainers Tracksuit trousers Tracksuit top

All children need tracksuit top, trousers and trainers or plimsolls in their PE kit **all year**, as outdoor PE happens all year round. PE kits must be kept at school, and will be returned at the next holiday for washing. Children should not wear trainers as part of their everyday school uniform please. Black school shoes are required.

Earrings must be stud earrings and will need to be removed or taped for all PE sessions. Other jewellery (except watches) or nail varnish is not to be worn for school. Long hair should be tied back for school EVERY DAY.

Please save the school holiday time if you wish to have artistic lines and patterns shaved into children's hair.

Thank you.

Rucksacks

It is incredibly helpful for children to bring a rucksack to school each day. This means all their belongings are kept together, and their hands are also free to use the hand sanitiser on entry to school. If you have already provided your child with a rucksack – thank you. If you are able to; that would be most helpful.

A reminder that they only require the following items in their bag please: named water bottle, lunchbox, coat if needed, PE bag (at start of a new term) and reading book to be changed.

Please try to ensure the bag is an appropriate size for all their belongings. Many thanks.

Bikes and Scooters

Children are welcome to bring their bike or scooter to school and leave it securely locked in the racks outside the Breakfast Club room (for bikes) and Giraffes class (for scooters).

Bikes and scooters are left at your own risk, and **MUST** be locked securely each day.

Helmets must be worn if riding a bike or scooter to school, and please take the helmets home each morning.

Please remind children to walk with their bike / scooter when they enter the Kinsale site at the large gates.

(The racks are only to be used by children who attend Kinsale Infant School please)

Reading and Home Learning

All children (Year 1 & 2) will now have a new reading book and reading record book. Please ensure that the reading record book is signed every time your child reads. Every class has a book changing box for your child to put their book in order for it to be changed. This will happen on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week. Please ensure your child reads at home AT LEAST 3 times a week.

Please talk to your child's class teacher if you have any concerns regarding reading or would like further support.

Children in Year 1 and 2 will have termly Home Learning activities to complete please.

These are really important as they support the learning which takes place in school.

The activities will continue to be added to Tapestry (as they were last year) so please look out for these on Friday 17th September, and talk to your class teacher if you are unsure.

Texting Service

In order to ease communication in school we use a texting service, which will allow us to text important information to parents. We don't send numerous texts, but will inform you of crucial events such as; club cancellation, parents evening reminders, school closure due to bad weather and other important information. If you don't receive text messages from us – please come and tell us so we can find out why!

Please ensure we always have your current mobile number on our system. (Update forms available from the school office – please ring or email Mrs Clarke)

Healthy Schools Award

We are a Healthy School and we aim to ensure this philosophy is evident throughout school and promoted with the children. The children are all encouraged to enjoy the daily fruit or vegetable snack, and water is available all day.

In order to reinforce our status as a healthy school, we do not allow sweets, chocolates or cakes to be given out in class for birthdays. Please support us by encouraging your child to eat healthy options in their packed lunch box and water in their bottles in the classroom. *(There is a useful guide to healthy packed lunches on our website)*

School lunches

We are delighted to continue having our meals provided by Edwards and Blake; cooked at Sprowston High School.

Children may order a hot meal each morning (meat option, vegetarian option or jacket potato). They are also able to bring a packed lunch from home if you prefer.

We would appreciate you supporting your child to use a knife and fork, and to help them practice cutting up their own food if they have a hot lunch here.

If your child has a food allergy, you must complete a food allergy form and provide medical evidence to be returned to Edwards and Blake. They will then prepare a separate suitable menu.

NUT FREE SCHOOL

As we have children in school who have severe allergies to nuts, we are a nut free school.

Please ensure your child's lunchbox does not contain any food containing nuts.

Top Table and Hot Chocolate Monday!



We follow a positive behaviour policy in school. All children have a named peg which is on **green** at the start of every day. They must behave well in order for it to stay on green. If they choose not to make good behaviour choices, their peg will move to **orange**. They can also be moved to **red** for severe behaviour challenges (this is VERY rare in our school!)

If their behaviour is OUTSTANDING, they will move to GOLD!

In our Monday celebration assembly, all children who have been on 'gold' from the previous week, will have their names read out so we can congratulate them with the whole school. One child from each year group will then be randomly chosen as winners. These children come and eat their lunch at the Top Table on a Thursday with me or Mrs Hazard. They bring a friend with them, and the Top Table is a special table with decorations, special chairs and place mats etc!



Children who have kept all our learning dispositions in school will be chosen by the staff to have hot chocolate with Miss Robinson on a Monday at the end of the month.

This is a relaxed and very enjoyable time!

Our dispositions are:

Collaborative (like a bumble bee)

Resilient (like a penguin)

Resourceful (like a squirrel)

Curious (like a cat)

Reflective (like an owl)

Creative (like a bird)

Talk to your child about these – they will know these words and what they mean!

Breakfast Club (From 8am everyday)

This is a very popular facility, but we do have a couple of spaces available on a couple of days. If you require a place please contact Mrs Cletheroe (Breakfast Club manager) via the school office.

All fees for the club **MUST** be paid in advance of the session, and any children who do not attend sessions that have been booked, will be charged.

Forest Schools

Mrs Secker is our qualified Forest School lead, and she will work with every child in school throughout the year. Year 2 will start the sessions this term, Year 1 in spring term and Reception in summer term. You will receive a letter when your child is due to start their sessions.

The sessions are very popular with the children; and support their self-esteem and wellbeing.

Attendance

Good school attendance and punctuality is crucial and impacts hugely on learning and progress.

Unauthorised absence from school may result in a penalty fine being issued.

Please ensure children are at school promptly.

Medical and dental appointments **MUST** be made out of school hours or in the holidays please.

Our school bell rings promptly at 9am as the doors are locked, so please enter via the office if you are late.

Please ensure you inform us if your child is unwell. The office opens at 8.15am each morning.

School drop off is: Between 8.50 and 9am

School collection is: Between 3pm and 3.10pm

Please wait near your child's class door, but don't queue, as this is causing a problem for parents walking round to the back of school. Thank you.

Communication

In addition to our texting service every class has a whiteboard near their classroom door. Staff will ensure important information is recorded on here, so please ensure you read it daily.

School newsletters are distributed at the beginning of every month, and in addition every year group produces a specific newsletter with class information.

Reception – Newsletter emailed home every Friday

Year One & Two – Newsletter emailed home at the beginning of each half term

Other letters are emailed out to you, unless a reply slip needs to be returned, and these will be sent in paper format.

Should your child have a parent not living at home who would like to receive important information and school reports, please provide Mrs Clarke (Office Manager) with an email address.

All newsletters are available on our school website.

Please may I politely remind parents that Kinsale Infant School has an open door policy. Staff are only too happy to answer questions from parents – teachers have more time after school to talk at length, so please keep morning messages brief please.

If you have a question or concern, we would encourage you to contact school to ask us, rather than using social media to air concerns – we want to work with you for the benefit of your child!

Parking on school site – Polite reminder.....

With limited spaces for staff, even our visitors struggle to find space to park. The car parks and in particular the access road up to the schools and between the Junior and Infant / Pre-School is particularly hazardous, so it is essential that we keep this access as free as possible since some of the road is shared between pedestrians and vehicles. Immediately upon entering the site there are clear yellow lines showing where the pedestrians should walk to avoid any accidents between cars and pedestrians.

The only exception is for Blue Badge holders and those collecting unwell children during the school day. Please let us know if you are a Blue Badge holder so that we can amend our records accordingly, and provide you with a school parking permit.

We hope you will respect these restrictions and understand that they are in place simply for the safety of the community.

FREE FURNITURE!!!

We have 3 pieces of storage furniture available – first come, first served...

We have 2 of these available:

84cm across

140cm tall



1 of these available:

115 cm across

140cm tall



WANTED PLEASE...

Our Site Manager, Mr Hoare sadly left Kinsale over the summer break. This was due to difficult personal circumstances, and he sends fondest best wishes to all the children he had got to know during his 6 years with us.

We are currently without a Site Manager, so thank you for bearing with us as we tackle various site issues which needs attention.

We have a LONG list of jobs which were planned to be completed in the summer holiday (painting, minor repair work, building small sheds, putting shelves up etc). We hope to find a handy DIY person who may be interested in working in school for 2 or 3 weeks to complete these tasks.

If you know anyone, please ask them to contact the school office. Thank you!

On behalf of the staff and governors, we look forward to working with you all this academic year. Should you wish to discuss anything please do not hesitate to talk to your child's class teacher or make an appointment to speak to me.

Miss Louise Robinson
Head Teacher