



Kendall Church of England

Primary School

'We Strive for a Bright and Wonderful Future!'

20th September 2024

Newsletter 3 Autumn Term 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been such a positive week for all of us here at Kendall. On Wednesday we hosted councillors from the Local Authority alongside the Head of Education and Early Years and the new Assistant Director of Education for Essex. They came to see the work that the school has been doing as the Communication Hub for Colchester. They saw children busy at work in the woodland, in class and in interventions; they made us all very proud of how they represented the school. Our visitors left with a very positive view of the provision we have in place for all of our students.

Today, I have been lucky enough to accompany the Year 5 children on their trip to the Henry Moore Foundation. The children enjoyed a guided tour from experts about the collection and then spent time sketching some of the amazing sculptures that peppered the landscape. The children looked carefully at positive and negative spaces, texture, light and shadow and made their own sketch books look magnificent.



Year 2 Local Area Walk

Year 2 have started the year with their topic 'Kendall and Beyond' and have been busy learning about the area around our school, looking particularly at land use. This week we took a walk to Distillery Pond and along to the River Colne.



Home Made Packed Lunches – A reminder to parents

In preparing packed lunches, parents are asked to provide **non-fizzy cold drinks** only, in spill proof containers. Water is freely available in the dining room. **No glass bottles, hot drinks (or soup) or cans** are allowed in the packed lunches. **No food items containing nuts (including sesame seed products)** are allowed in school because for those children with allergies, allergic reactions including anaphylactic shock can be severe and life threatening. We also ask that **chocolate spread is not used in sandwiches as many of these have a nut content. Chocolate bars and sweets must be avoided.** If children bring grapes or cherry tomatoes, please ensure that these are cut in half as they are a serious choking hazard when left whole. We encourage parents to only provide healthy home-made sandwich meals for their children and to talk to their children about this.

ASDA Cash Pot Update

The Asda cash pot is at £76 at the moment, so is going up with the shopping taking place! Thank you for your continued support.

Online Safety Information

For Parents – Video Games and Children

Unicef have shared an article with some nice, clear and simple advice for parents/carers about online gaming. The article covers how to create a positive and safe gaming environment, how parents can engage with their children, what the benefits of gaming are and more. You can view the article on the Unicef website [HERE](#).

YouTube – Parental Controls for Teens

Google (YouTube) have, in the past, always argued that YouTube is strictly for over 13's, much like most other social platforms. This age is predominantly for marketing/advertising purposes. However, that argument has never stood up given that Google have never had a means to prevent under 13's using the platform with or without an account. Back in 2021 YouTube introduced new parental features, called **Supervised Experience**, and this was for parents of children under 13 who were using YouTube. Now, it looks like YouTube is extending Supervised Experience for parents of teenagers. In early September they announced that parents/carers will be able to link their teenager's account to the parent account where parents will have the ability to see some limited information such as number of video uploads, comments etc. I think some parents may be disappointed that this is quite a limited set of features and I would agree. You can read more about this **HERE**.

Reminder! Holidays Taken During term Time

We would like to remind parents and carers that we **do not** authorise term time holidays and the local authority may issue a penalty to both parents. Please find our attendance policy on our [website](#).

Please note that the Government have brought in new statutory attendance guidance since the 19th August 2024 which outlines the new measures that schools and Local Authorities must take to reduce persistent absence and term time holidays amongst its pupils. This includes increasing fines and prosecution for parents who allow their children to have irregular attendance.

The statutory guidance states:

- A leave of absence **must not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances and must be requested in advance**
- A leave of absence must be requested **in advance** by a parent who the pupil normally lives with
- Schools must judge **each application individually**, considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request
- Where a leave of absence is granted, **the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school**
- **A need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance**
- A school **cannot** grant a leave of absence retrospectively. If the parent did not apply in advance, the leave of absence should not be granted
- Where this guidance refers to a parent, the school and/or local authority will need to decide which adult(s) is most appropriate. Generally, parents include:
 - All natural parents, whether they are married or not;
 - All those who have parental responsibility
 - Those who have day to day responsibility for the child

Please note all schools are expected to regularly inform parents about their child's attendance and absence.

Taking your child out of school during term time could be detrimental to their educational progress. If the absence is not authorised and the leave is taken, schools may refer to the Local Authority for legal action.

Unfortunately, in previous academic years, applications for leave of absence for holidays have **not** been made by some parents and on some very rare occasions, we have been informed that their child/children are ill. This has led to the school being informed by other parents (via social media evidence) or the children themselves upon their return, telling us they have been on holiday. This is an awful position to put children in! Where the school believes this has happened, the burden of proof that a term time holiday was not taken, now falls on the parents and not the school to prove that they did. The Local Authority will pursue a fine or prosecution, if when we ask, parents are unable to provide satisfactory evidence to the school that their child was ill.

We are completely aware that this government legislation appears to pit the school against parents, but this is what the law now requires of us. We understand that holidays taken during the 13 weeks of school holiday periods are much more expensive – we have to take them too. To try and mitigate that this year, we are breaking up at the end of the academic school year two days early (so the last day of the academic year will be on the 18th July). We hope that this will help negate additional costs you may otherwise incur.

Secondary School Applications for Current Year 6 Pupils

The new secondary school admission round opened on Thursday, 12 September 2024, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2025. The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2024. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. All of the application information is available on this website.

Forest School Diary 20th September 2024

The children in EYFS took part in their very first Forest School session this week. Activities such as bug hunting, digging and mud kitchen play were on offer for the children to enjoy. Others were happy finding the soft toys and arranging them in number order on the washing line. We also found a baby toad who caused a fair bit of excitement amongst the group.



Year 1 learnt how to safely whittle a stick using a potato peeler. Once the children had successfully whittled their stick, they then decorated them with coloured wool, pine cones and feathers. Meanwhile others kept busy playing on the rope swing and creating a miniature fire circle.



Year 2 have been learning about signs and symbols as part of their classroom topic so we decided to bring that out into the woodlands. The children made some of their own symbols on the woodland floor using sticks, pine cones and acorns.



This week Year 3 took to the high ropes for the very first time. Every single child gave it their all as they tried their best to get to the top of the cargo net, showing encouragement and praise to one another which was a joy to hear.



Year 4 set to work this week making Anglo-Saxon round houses. First the children hammered sticks into the ground to create the frame before weaving strands of ivy throughout the sticks to fill in the gaps. The children worked really well and it did not take long until we had an Anglo-Saxon village in the making.



Utilising only resources we found in the woodland, Year 5 created these amazing forest skeletons. We were able to work together and came up with some very imaginative results.



This week Year 6 have been busy dismantling the shelters built previously. The children are making preparations to create their own shelters in the near future. While turning over and moving logs, various critters were unearthed, such as the spider you can see in our photo. One of the children was also brave enough to hold it and move it to a place of safety.



Supporting local events, health and adult education in the community



Online E-Safety Magazine for parents

#DITTO is a free online safety newsletter in PDF format for parents to keep you up to date with online safety risks, issues, advice and guidance related to keeping children safe online, with a view to enjoying and learning about technology. You can sign up for this newsletter at <https://www.esafety-adviser.com/latest-newsletter/>

Amazing Attendance? Free Tuck Friday!

Free Tuck Friday - All classes who have achieved the required attendance of at least 96% are highlighted in green. Well done **Year 4** for having the best attendance this week!

EYFS	96.7%	
Year 1	95.3%	
Year 2	96.15%	
Year 3	97.5%	
Year 4	97.9%	★
Year 5	97.25%	
Year 6	97.8%	
Overall Attendance	96.95%	

(Week ending 13/09/2024)

Food Bank Vouchers

Please don't forget that the school is an agent for food bank vouchers. Please speak in confidence to a member of the school office or Mrs French if you need to use this service.

Happy Birthday!

Please join us in saying happy birthday to:

Florence W, James P, Teddy H, Lotus L and Esme E.



Golden Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils who received Golden Awards this week:

Tadiwa M, Damien S, Albert MB, Dexter S, Neel P, Albie R, Charlie FS, Arlo S, Peyton E, Andre I, Jana F, George P, Rosa H and Ayla K.

Maths Challenge

Don't forget to enter!

Writer of the Week

Congratulations to **Evie** in **Year 3** who received our Writer of the Week award and took home a new stationery set and journal – keep up that good writing!

Kendall Team Points

Congratulations to the Weekly Team Winners: **Ash!**

Elm	Ash	Birch	Yew
4th	1st	2nd	3rd

We hope you have a restful weekend!

Yours sincerely,



Clare French
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

September 2024	
Tuesday 24th	Kendall SEND Support Group 1pm-3pm
Thursday 26 th	PTA Meeting, 3.20pm - meet at school office
October 2024	
Tuesday 1 st	Maths Parent Information Event 9:15am
Wednesday 2 nd	EYFS & Year 1 Phonics Parent Information Event 9:15am
Wednesday 2 nd	Year 4 Visit to West Stow
Monday 7 th	Individual Photos
Tuesday 15 th	Harvest Festival at St Stephen's Church 10am
Friday 18 th	Kendall Conker Competition
Monday 28 th – Friday 1st November	Autumn Half Term Holiday
November 2024	
Monday 4 th	Non- Pupil Day
Tuesday 5 th	First day of 2 nd half of autumn term
Tuesday 5 th	Year 6 Bikeability
Wednesday 6 th	Year 6 Bikeability
Thursday 7 th	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 8 th	Year 6 Bikeability
Friday 8 th	Year 6 Bikeability
Friday 15 th	Non- Pupil Day
Monday 18 th	Non- Pupil Day
Tuesday 26 th	Parent Consultations 3:30pm-6pm
Wednesday 27 th	Year 1 Arctic Explorer
Wednesday 27 th	Parent Consultations 5:30pm-8pm
December 2024	
Tuesday 3rd	Year 5 Greek Day
Monday 9 th	EYFS/KS1 Nativity 2:20pm
Tuesday 10th	EYFS/KS1 Nativity 9:30am & 2:20pm
Friday 20th	Christmas Service at St Stephen's Church 10am
Friday 20th	PTA Discos KS1 5pm-6:15pm KS2 6:30pm-8pm
Friday 20th	Last Day of Autumn Term 2024

Schedule of Trips and Visits 2023/2024

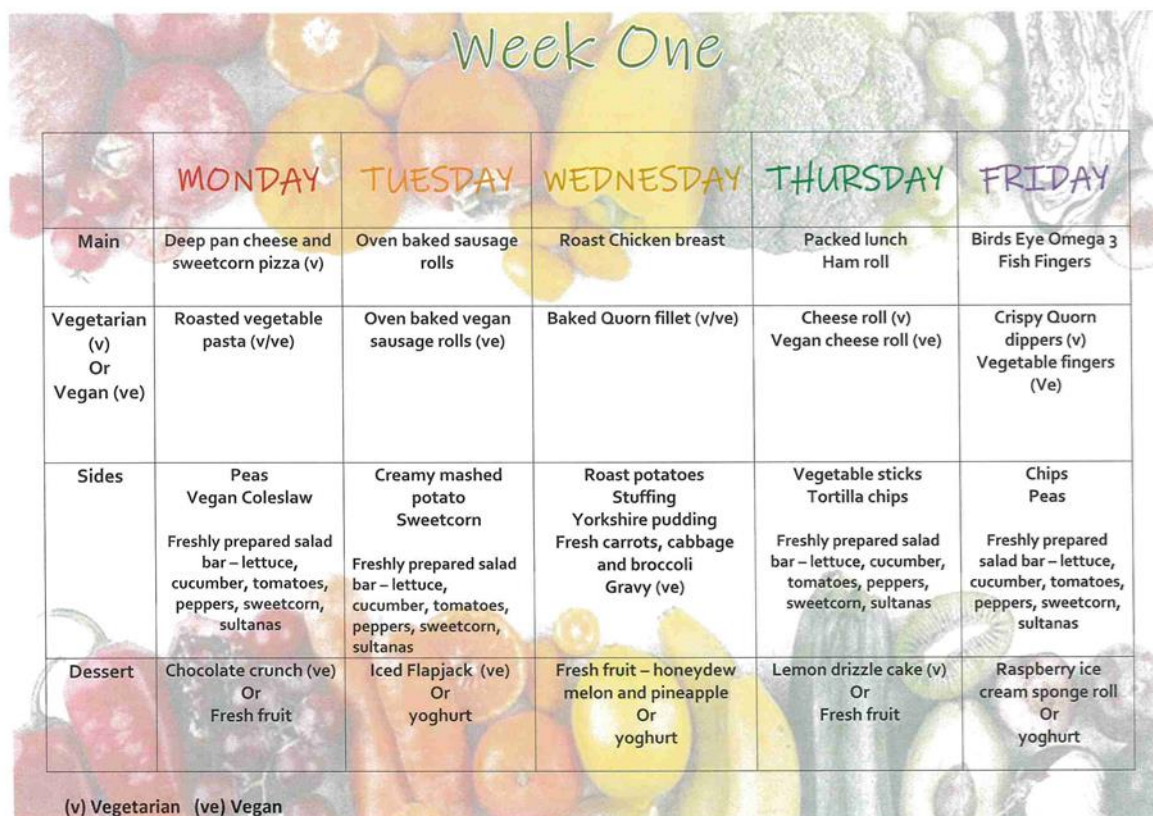
Budgeting £20 a quarter (£80 a year – or approximately £2 a term-time week) should cover the cost of trips. Where a trip is more expensive, for example £40, we will always try to make sure that over the academic year, the cost for all 4 Quarters comes to no more than £80 for the trips and visits we organise. Sadly, with school funding being at an all-time low in real terms, the school is financially unable to subsidise trips and visits to the extent it has done in the past. If we do not receive enough contributions to cover the cost, we will reluctantly have to cancel trips or visitors to the school. As promised, to help you with budgeting, please see Mrs Nicholson's schedule and the associated charge for each trip for the next 2 quarters below:

Quarter 1

Year Group	Trip/Visit	Cost per child
EYFS	No trips/visits this quarter	n/a
Year 1	No trips/visits this quarter	n/a
Year 2	Local walks	n/a
Year 3	Stone Age Day	£15.60
Year 4	West Stow	£24.20
Year 5	Henry Moore Sculpture Garden	£15.50
Year 6	PGL	Already paid

Quarter 2

Year Group	Trip/Visit	Cost per child
EYFS	No trips/visits this quarter	n/a
Year 1	Arctic Explorer	£7.50
Year 2	Roman Circus	£4 (tbc)
Year 3	Colchester Castle	£5.50
Year 4	French Day	n/a
Year 5	Ancient Greek Day	£20
Year 6	London Seaquarium & Houses of Parliament	£35.30



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main	Deep pan cheese and sweetcorn pizza (v)	Oven baked sausage rolls	Roast Chicken breast	Packed lunch Ham roll	Birds Eye Omega 3 Fish Fingers
Vegetarian (v) Or Vegan (ve)	Roasted vegetable pasta (v/ve)	Oven baked vegan sausage rolls (ve)	Baked Quorn fillet (v/ve)	Cheese roll (v) Vegan cheese roll (ve)	Crispy Quorn dippers (v) Vegetable fingers (Ve)
Sides	Peas Vegan Coleslaw Freshly prepared salad bar – lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, peppers, sweetcorn, sultanas	Creamy mashed potato Sweetcorn Freshly prepared salad bar – lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, peppers, sweetcorn, sultanas	Roast potatoes Stuffing Yorkshire pudding Fresh carrots, cabbage and broccoli Gravy (ve)	Vegetable sticks Tortilla chips Freshly prepared salad bar – lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, peppers, sweetcorn, sultanas	Chips Peas Freshly prepared salad bar – lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, peppers, sweetcorn, sultanas
Dessert	Chocolate crunch (ve) Or Fresh fruit	Iced Flapjack (ve) Or yoghurt	Fresh fruit – honeydew melon and pineapple Or yoghurt	Lemon drizzle cake (v) Or Fresh fruit	Raspberry ice cream sponge roll Or yoghurt

(v) Vegetarian (ve) Vegan

Kendall KS1 Fortnightly Maths Challenge



Sanjay harvested 28 carrots.

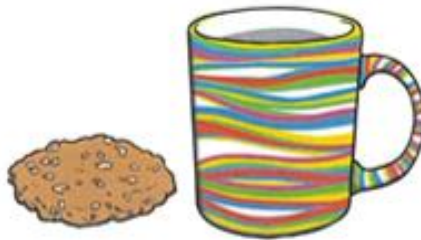
13 had been pecked by birds.

How many carrots had not been pecked by birds?

If you think you know, write your name and answer on a slip of paper and post it into the correct box on the table. The winner will be announced in two weeks. Good luck!

Kendall KS2 Fortnightly Maths Challenge

The church has a refreshment stall at the harvest festival. Drinks cost 40p and biscuits cost 24p. Felicity buys a drink and two biscuits.



How much change would she get if she paid with a £1 coin?

If you think you know, write your name and answer on a slip of paper and post it into the correct box on the table. The winner will be announced in two weeks. Good luck!

Academic Year 2024-2025

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024							December 2024							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6						1	2	3						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	X	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	X	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	X	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30																					30	31						
January 2025							February 2025							March 2025							April 2025							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
			1	2	3	4	5						1	2						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					
														31														
May 2025							June 2025							July 2025							August 2025							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
				1	2	3	4						1		1	2	3	4	5	6						1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	X	X	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
							30																					

= Schooldays

= School holidays

= Bank holidays

= Weekends

= Non Pupil Days

DRAFT School Term and Holiday Dates for Academic Year 2025-2026

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
									1	2	3	4	5							1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					
29	30																											
January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
			1	2	3	4							1							1				1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				
														30	31													
May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5					1	2		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
																					31							

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days. These are to be confirmed.