

Kingsland Primary School Newsletter

Issue – 4

22 October 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back after the October holidays. This newsletter contains lots of important updates and several attachments. Please take some time to read through these. Thank you.

Staffing News

In December, we will be losing two long-standing members of staff at Kingsland. Our PE teacher Mrs Fletcher has decided to retire after 24 years at Kingsland. Mrs Fletcher has taught generations of Kingsland's children and supported countless sporting events over the years. She will be a huge loss to our school community. Mrs Angela Martin has also decided to retire. Mrs Martin has worked at Kingsland for many years, both as an Additional Needs Assistant and as an Early Years Practitioner. She too has supported many children throughout their time at Kingsland and her expertise and skills will be greatly missed.

COVID-19

At the moment, all current mitigations are to remain in place. We really appreciate your support with this. If there are changes we will share these with you using email- please make sure we have your up to date contact information. Over the past few weeks we have noted a reduction in the number of parents/carers wearing face coverings. I would like to remind you please that **face coverings MUST be worn at all times when you are on school grounds unless you are medically exempt**. This is particularly important at pick up/drop off times when the school grounds are busy. Please support us and work with us to keep everyone safe. If you forget your face covering we can supply you with a disposable one at the bottom of the hill. Thank you.

Winter Term

Please ensure children are coming to school wearing a warm and waterproof coat and appropriate footwear. We continue to promote outdoor learning as much as possible and children need to be comfortable so they can participate fully. Even if it appears dry in the morning, a coat is essential as we never know what the Scottish weather might decide to throw at us!

Building Resilience Programme

We are continuing with our Building Resilience programme to support children's health and wellbeing. This is delivered through class work and also our online assemblies. Attached to this newsletter you will find the parent/carers leaflet in relation to this term's unit of work 'Keep Connected'.

Parents Consultations

Class teachers will be holding telephone appointments in November to discuss progress in learning and next steps. These calls will take place between 15-26 November. You will find a letter attached to this newsletter with further details on how to book an appointment using an online system. Please follow the instructions carefully and contact the school office if you have any queries. Please note- the system will not open for bookings until 6pm on Thursday 28 October.

Digital Learning

At the end of this newsletter you will find some information from 'Thinkuknow'. This is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's Child Protection Command CEOP (NCA-CEOP) whose aim is to protect children and young people from abuse online. I hope you find this information useful. As a Digital School, we work hard to teach children how to stay safe online and encourage them to think about how their actions could affect others.

P7 Residential

I am pleased to tell you that we intend to go ahead with our provisional booking for Dalguise in May 2022. This will be subject to the public health guidance that is in place at that time. P7 families will soon receive a letter with further details regarding this. Please contact Mrs Hope if you have any questions about the P7 residential.

Halloween

A reminder that from Monday 25 October we are having a pumpkin carving competition! Children can bring in their carved pumpkin any day next week and we will add it to our display. We will have the pumpkins judged on Friday 29 October and a small prize will be given to the winner from ELC, P1-3 and P4-7. This competition is entirely optional. Classes will be given the chance to see all the pumpkins that have been brought in.

On Friday 29 October, all children are invited to come to school in costume if they want to. If your child doesn't want to wear a costume he/she can wear school uniform or dress down. We will also have some costumes to choose from in school. Class teachers and nursery staff will be organising some fun activities. Parent Council have kindly agreed to fund a small snack as a treat for each child. Children will be offered a fun size chocolate bar and some crisps. If you have notified us of any special dietary requirements we will accommodate these. If you do not wish your child to be offered a treat please let us know.

A few reminders regarding costumes if your child wishes to wear one:

- Nothing too scary please and no masks- these can be frightening for our younger children. Older children will be asked to remove these if they wear them to school
- No props (broomsticks, etc.)- these are not necessary and can be misplaced or lost/broken easily which causes upset
- Costumes need to be suitable for wearing all morning in school and not restrict movement or prevent/obstruct handwashing. So please save any very large, heavy or bulky costumes for guising and choose something a little more wearable for school to keep everyone safe.

We are looking forward to a spooky and fun filled Friday!



Christmas Cards

Next week children will be bringing home a sample Christmas card and order form. If you wish to place an order for cards, gift tags, mugs or coasters please complete the form and return it with payment in a sealed envelope to school by FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER. Cheques should be made payable to Kingsland Primary School.

Diary Dates

Mon 25-Fri 29 October	Bring a carved pumpkin (optional)
Thursday 28 October	Flu Immunisations in school (P1-P7 only)
Friday 29 October	Wear a costume or dress down for Halloween
Tuesday 9 November	Dental Inspections (P1 and P2 only)
Thursday 23 December	Last Day of Term

My last day at Kingsland will be Friday 5 November. I will write to you again before this. I will also share any information regarding Scottish Border Council's plans for a new Headteacher as soon as I receive it.

Thank you for your continued support.

Susan Ward
Headteacher



Online safety at home:

Parents and Carers Newsletter

October 2021

Children and young people are spending more and more time online doing their school work, playing games or watching videos. Technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However it's important we all consider how we can support children's online safety. Here's some information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help keep them safer:

Sharing pictures

Using devices like phones and tablets to share pictures and videos can be a great way for children to have fun and stay in touch with friends and family. It's really important your child knows what's ok to share online and what they should check with you first.

Read [younger children sharing pictures or videos online](#) for more information on the risks and how to support safer sharing.

Watching videos

Children love to watch videos and YouTube is always a firm favourite! But sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them. [YouTube Kids](#) is a safer way for children to explore their interests. You can find more information about this on [YouTube: what parents need to know](#).

Remember, primary-age children should be supervised at all times when online.

More information?

Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's Child Protection Command CEOP (NCA-CEOP) whose aim is to protect children and young people from sexual abuse online.

For more information, advice and guidance, visit their [parent's website](#) and download their [home activity worksheets](#) for fun, online safety activities to do with your family.

Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online

Parental controls: Parental controls have been designed to help you manage your child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so this shouldn't replace the support and guidance you give your child to help keep them safer. For more information and step by step instructions on setting up parental controls, visit [Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides - Internet Matters](#).

Supervise their online activity: Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as the living room or kitchen, where an adult is able to supervise. Primary age children should not access the internet in private spaces alone, such as in a bedroom or bathroom.

Explore together and chat little and often: Ask your child to show you their favourite apps, games and sites and encourage them to teach you how to use these. Ask them if anything ever worries them online. Make sure they know they won't be in trouble and can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried, sad or scared.