

Kemble Primary School

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Goodbye

I can't believe how quickly it has come about, but I find myself sitting here and writing my last Kemble newsletter. I will, of course, see most of you over the next week, and I am really looking forward to the Christmas Service and Fair next Friday. I would like to say a huge thank you for letting me be a small part of this wonderful school. I can honestly say that the four years that I have spent here have been the best of my teaching career and, when people have commented on the long drive that I have each day, I have always been able to answer with sincerity that it is worth it because I do an amazing job working with lovely children.

It has always been my firm belief that for all children, no matter what their starting point, they (and their parents and teachers) should have ambitious aspirations and be firm in the knowledge that we can all change our futures for the better. I have loved seeing the children developing towards this over the past four of years and seeing them take pride in their work and their school; striving to be the best that they can be as well as improving things for others.

I have had the privilege of working alongside an excellent staff and governors who have all worked incredibly hard to ensure that all the children who come to our school have access to the highest quality teaching and an enjoyable, challenging curriculum that engages the children, enthuses them and enables all children to excel.

I have loved working alongside all the parents who are so pivotal in helping to educate children, shaping them into wonderful people who are able to leave our school and become successful as well as compassionate, respectful, courageous, truthful, and thankful. Our children are a dream to teach because they come in ready to learn and that is thanks to you. The school is very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of parents that run clubs etc and so thank you to everybody who has supported in that way.



Dates for your Diary

15/12/14 – Tim doing a drum demo assembly (it is often loud)

15/12/14 – Secret Room

16/12/14 – Mr Connors Farewell Tea

2.30pm-4.30pm

17/12/14 – Christmas Lunch and Class parties (children can bring in party clothes but not wear them to school)

19/12/14 – Carol Service 10:00am at the church

19/12/14 – Christmas Fair in school hall 2:30pm

5/1/15 - Start of term 3

13/2/14 – End of term 3

23/2/15 – Inset Day

My final thank you is to the amazing community in which we sit and which plays such a vital role in educating our children. There are too many to thank here but I would like to mention Open The Book (I am sorry that I have not been around to see many this term) who are an absolutely exceptional group who educate as well as entertain our children, Anton Wynn who leads a weekly assembly for us and Steve Marsh who, along with Therese has been running our successful Code Club for almost two years.

After Christmas Mrs Newton will take over as acting headteacher for the first half term and Mrs Carol Dougill will be spending two days a week working across the partnership. After the February half term Carol will officially take up the post of headteacher. I wish them and all of you the very best for the future and look forward to hearing about all the great things that the school is accomplishing.

Mr. Conners

Christmas things to come!

Secret room is on Monday 15th December. Don't forget to send your child with £2.50 per gift, if you want them to take part.

Our Christmas Service is on Friday 19th December at 10:00am at the church. You are all very welcome to join us for that and then mince pies and a cup of tea back at school.

KPG Christmas Fair is at 2:30pm on 19th December.

Christmas lunches and parties are on Wednesday 17th December.

Purple Pens of Progress

Marking and feedback is an important part of ensuring that children make good progress in their learning. Previously I have written about (and you will have seen in books) 'success and improvement marking' which involves using growing green and tickled pink pens to highlight two or three areas that the children have made good progress against the objective for the work and one area in which they could have done even better. Teachers then use a constructive comment to help the children improve against the identified area. A final stage in the marking is that children are given time to actually improve their work according to the comment. When we looked through books recently we found that, at times, it was difficult to distinguish the children's corrections/ improvements and so we have introduced 'Purple Pens of Progress'! From now on, every time children respond to teachers' comments after they have completed success and improvement marking, they will respond in purple so it is really easy to see.

Emergency Closure

It is getting to that time of year where the colder weather hits and the forecasts are filled with the threat of snow! We try our hardest to stay open during difficult weather but occasionally have to make the decision to close. We close the school if: we were unable to get the school to heat sufficiently; there is no running water or we do not have enough teachers to keep the school open. If the weather is snowy then please use the procedure below to find out whether the school is open or closed.

Visit the website: www.glosclosedschools.com

Or

Telephone the emergency closure number: 01452 426767 and enter our school number: 2073

At that point you will be informed whether the school is open or closed.

Seat Belts

A member of the public approached me to say they were concerned that they had seen two parents picking their children up from school who had not made them wear seat belts. Please can I ask that you all check that your children are wearing seat belts when they are in the car as it is both the law that they do so and safer for the children.

Reading Awards

Don't forget that we have reading awards in school in which children's are able to tick off their chart if they read at home to an adult. I am really keen that all the children read as often as possible at home as it is proven to have a very positive impact on their reading outcomes and, in turn, how confident they are with their learning in all other areas of the curriculum. Please can I ask that you really push this at home and remember to write in the reading diaries.

Absence Letters

As you know, the government is very strict with schools insofar as targets for attendance and they state that all children should have attendance of at least 95%. In line with our policy on attendance, we regularly check children's attendance figures and monitor those children who are less than 95%. During next week we will be sending out letters to those parents whose children have fallen below 95%. If you receive a letter and would like any help or support please come in and see me.

Lunch Payments

At the moment we have quite a number of parents who owe significant amounts of money for school lunches. Please could I ask that all parents check how much they owe and pay any outstanding bills by Friday 19th December. Ultimately the meals do have to be paid for and so if parents do not pay what they owe, the school has to pay and that means that we have less money available for the education of all pupils.

