



# Kemble Primary School

25th April 2017

**This Terms Worship Theme is:**

**Courage**

26th April  
Swimming starts for  
Horse Chestnut

5th May  
Parent Head Chat  
9.20am

8th May  
SATS Week—no  
absences for all  
classes

24th May  
Beech assembly  
9am

26th May  
Last day of school

5th June  
Return to School

7th June  
District Athletics  
Deer Park Y3-6

8th June  
Leavers Service  
Gloucester Cathedral

12th June  
Year 1 Phonics check

30th June  
Parent Head Chat  
9.20am

4th July  
Non Uniform Day  
Sports Clothing

**Dear Parents,**

**WELCOME BACK TO TERM 5** – we hope that everyone had a lovely, restful Easter break. What super weather we had - long may it last! Term 5 is quite a short one, and quite a busy one! We will be having our assessment weeks from 9<sup>th</sup> May - we do keep things quite low key and the children are very used to assessments being carried out, so please try not to mention SATs as exams or tests! See also item below.

We are pleased to welcome 2 new members of staff to our team - Mrs Phelps will be working as a MDSA and Mrs Topp will be assisting in breakfast club - we look forward to working with you!

I want to thank all the children who played, sang and danced in our Arts Evening before we broke up. Our older children showed what they have learnt from their clubs and lessons. Everyone did so well and teachers and parents were thrilled and so proud. We will look forward to next year...

**IN THE NEWS** There have been a few high profile, school related news items recently and I thought I would let you know how we are dealing with the issues in our federation.

**FUNDING IN SCHOOLS** We are 'lucky' as we are two small schools (less than 105 pupils) so we have not had the severe cut backs that larger primary schools have had. However, we have known about the new funding proposals for a few years and since my appointment have made some changes and decisions with the funding issues in mind.



I have had to increase pupil numbers so that we were not vulnerable to closure and this has meant that I have been able to increase support staff. I put the bid in for the school development at Kemble so that in the future when cutbacks to buildings were made we were safe and the more expensive changes were in place. The increase in classes at Siddington (and smartening up areas that were poor and play spaces) used capital funds that may well be cut further in the future.

We have set a 3 year budget plan and with the increased pupil numbers are in a good position to continue with the staffing and resource budget without any detrimental cutbacks for our children. I do not foresee having to ask parents to buy things for school or pay for staff, but we would like parents to continue fundraising with KPG and the PTA and when asked to contribute towards trips and visits, to do so, so that we do not have to supplement these.

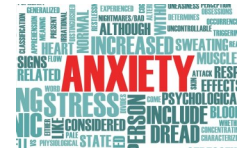
## **SATS**

The government has said that testing at the end of Year 2 will cease in the future and a baseline assessment will be carried out in the first year of primary school. At our schools we assess pupils at the end of every term so that we know what progress the children have made and what areas they need to develop in - children get used to these and they are low key and made as fun as possible. At the end of the year (usually in May) we carry out assessments as usual, but additionally, Year 1 pupils are assessed on their phonics, Year 2 children and Year 6 children have assessments in maths, spelling, punctuation, grammar and writing. We use these as other assessments, but we also share the results with county and nationally. Schools share the results on the school website so parents can see that we are good schools. Teachers make sure that they keep them fun, and children are not pressured in any way. Children will have carried out all the types of questions through the year and if we feel a child will not cope well we put in support for them. We ask parents to make sure children come to school as normal during these weeks - thank you.



## MENTAL ILLNESS IN CHILDREN

Teachers have been aware for many years of the increased frequency of mental health issues in children. It has been noted that last year up to one third of children leaving primary school has had or can be experiencing mental health issues before starting secondary school.



At school we have continued our Personal, Social, Health Education (PHSE) teaching, even though it was removed from the statutory curriculum. All children at our schools have 1 hour of PHSE per week. This may be in the form of a 1 hour lesson, or daily mini sessions. The lessons teach children about feelings, socialising, friendships, growing up, including death, health and when older, sex education lessons. The children are taught how to react and what to do about bullying including cyber-bullying. If there are issues specific to year groups, then these are discussed in more detail, such as dieting, body image and self-harming.

We provide support staff in each school in case children need to talk or have time out (usually with a cuppa and biscuit!). We have encouraged pets in school so that children not only learn to care, but also have environments that are calming. We encourage playtimes to be happy times and make sure staff play with children and know what to do when children are lonely or sad.

We have good transition with secondary schools so that children can move schools easily with less stress. We liaise with outside agencies such as CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services) when we need extra support. We have counsellors we can recommend to parents if needed.

## QUESTIONNAIRES

Thank you to everyone who took time to fill these out for us. There were so many positive comments and such good ideas to add to our school development plan areas that I want to share these with you as well as using them to inform our governor / staff discussions for the next year. I attach the results and have added some comments so parents have feedback. However, do come and have a chat if you want to discuss things further.



## PARENT HEAD CHATS

I am pleased to say that I will be back meeting with parents again. Our next meetings will be Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 9.20 am. Many parents have said that they wish to contribute but cannot attend the meetings, so I have spoken with governors and they have decided on the following to ensure that all parents can have a say:

### **PARENT HEAD CHAT STRUCTURE TO ENSURE ALL PARENTS HAVE A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE AND COMMUNICATION IS STRENGTHENED**

*The parent head chats are in place so that Carol can ask parents advice (sometimes the areas to be discussed are highlighted in the newsletter), share ideas or concerns and find out if there are any things to celebrate or areas for concern. In the past Carol has typed up notes and shared them with staff and any things that she felt were important to share were added to the next newsletter with any actions noted.*

*Some parents have said that they have wanted to contribute but were not able to attend the time available. In order to move forward the following will take place:*

*Parent head chats to go ahead as normal with Carol letting parents know the areas for discussion in the previous newsletters and parents letting Carol know if there are any significant concerns as it is more effective when data / views can be sought to help with the discussions.*

*At the parent head chat notes are taken and these are checked by a parent. The notes are sent out in a letter so that any other parents who want to participate can have their say. The outcomes of any decisions or overall views are then shared in a newsletter and with staff.*

*Parents please email the school office or head@ if you have areas to raise at the meetings or you want your comments / ideas shared at the meeting – thank you.*

The following items will be discussed at the next meeting:

- Homework, following research and parent / staff views.
- Continuing the playground development and happy playtimes for children.

It was mentioned on the questionnaire that I am not available enough. The following timetable shows how my time is spent between the two schools, but I can pop back to the other school for a meeting if needed. When I am at a school for the day, I can still pop back, or Mrs Newton or Mrs Hamlett are usually available. I check my emails frequently and will aim to respond the same day. I start work very early and can always meet parents from 6:30am or in the evening if I do not have meetings. I always try to be on the playground when I am in school, but sometimes a parent will catch me for a meeting. I hope this helps.

**Carol's Timetable Summer Terms 5 & 6 2017**

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Lunchtime</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Siddington & worship	Siddington	Kemble
<b>Tuesday</b>	Siddington		
<b>Wednesday</b>	Kemble & worship	Dedicated headship time	Siddington
<b>Thursday</b>	Kemble		
<b>Friday</b>	Kemble & Worship	Kemble	Siddington & Worship

## **NEW FENCES**

I do hope everyone has noticed the fencing around the play area. We do have a few more things to replace and do so that the children have super safe playtimes and lunchtimes. Keep watching!

**Cricket ALL Starts Programme** - Just to let you know that the English Cricket Board are launching a cricket All Stars programme in May for children aged 5-8 who haven't played much cricket before. The website takes you to an enrolment page and finds your nearest participating club. It is an 8 week programme.

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars>

## **CLUBS**

A reminder that all after school and lunch time clubs start next week.

## **SWIMMING GALA RESULTS**

A Y5 and Y6 team recently took part in the School swimming Gala and performed incredibly well. The team finished 3rd overall; Here are the results: Ampney Crusis 23

Avening	13
Hatherop	19
Kempsford	9
Sapperton	6
Siddington/Kemble	22
Southrop	26



## **May Birthdays**

**Elizabeth, Beth, Sebbie, Imogen,**

**Harry S, Florence, Callum**