

# Kedington News

## Magical Moments

Wow! What a fantastic day and evening at the **O2 Young Voices** concert. The children sang brilliantly, behaved beautifully, and represented the school with pride. It was a memorable experience for everyone involved.

A huge thanks to Mrs Dearman and Mrs Bush who have spent many weeks afterschool learning the songs and preparing the children so well.



Dear Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed some special time with family and friends. We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the thoughtful Christmas gifts - your kindness and generosity mean a great deal to the whole team.

The children have made an excellent start to the new term. They have returned with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a positive attitude towards their learning.

### Staff Updates

As many of you know, Mrs Haytread has been covering Mrs Reeder's maternity leave and will be leaving us at the end of this half term due to Mrs Reeder returning to her post. We want to express our grateful thanks for everything she has brought to our school. She has been an exceptional teacher, offering warmth and dedication to our youngest children. Thanks to her care and skill, they have had a wonderful and confident start to their learning journey.

She will be greatly missed by staff, children and families alike and we really hope she continues to stay in touch.



**SUFFOLK BORDERS  
TEACHING ALLIANCE**



*Copies of this newsletter and previous editions are available on our website.*



## Careers' Week Success

One of the highlights this month has been our Careers' Week, which was a truly inspiring experience for the children. We want to say a huge thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to come in and deliver presentations about their professions. The children across the school had fourteen talks by parents and friends of the school. The range of careers shared - from practical, hands-on roles to highly specialised fields - captured the children's imaginations and sparked so many meaningful conversations.

Your contributions have encouraged them to think deeply about their own future aspirations, the skills they might need, and the incredible range of opportunities available to them.



## Attendance: A key part of belonging

At Kedington, we believe that fostering a strong sense of belonging is key to ensuring our children feel connected, engaged, and excited about coming to school every day. This year, we are continuing to enrich our pupils' experience, not only by offering a range of enrichment activities, but also inviting families into school more to support with activities in class, assemblies and participate in workshops. We have been delighted with the many parent volunteers for careers' week.

Our staff will be reaching out to families proactively, using telephone calls and Dojo messages to check in with children and parents, and ensure everyone feels welcomed back to school after any absence.

We are pleased to report that the attendance data for each class this term has been positive, with all classes achieving attendance rates in and around 95%. We continue to celebrate weekly class attendance in family assembly.

## Parking Concerns

We would like to remind everyone of the importance of parking considerately around the school site. Although parking has generally improved, we are still receiving occasional concerns from residents and members of our community. We kindly ask all parents and carers to continue supporting us by parking safely, lawfully and respectfully to help maintain positive relationships within our community.

## **A message from Bridget Phillipson**

We are delighted to share the attached letter which we have received from the Secretary of State for Education recognising the strong outcomes achieved by our disadvantaged pupils last year. The letter highlights the hard work of our children and staff, and the commitment across our school community to doing the very best for every pupil.

### **A message from Bridget Phillipson**



Dear Vicky,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Kedington Primary Academy achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:

- engaging actively with [your region's RISE networks](#) and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;
- contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context; and
- sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

Yours sincerely,



**Bridget Phillipson**

Secretary of State for Education



## A Gentle Reminder About Using ClassDojo

We kindly ask parents and carers to use ClassDojo with consideration. Over recent weeks, teachers have noticed an increase in the number of messages being sent throughout the day. While we absolutely value open communication and want to stay connected, we also need to ensure that staff can focus on teaching and supporting children without feeling overwhelmed.

Please remember:

- Teachers are with children most of the day and cannot respond instantly;
- Dojo should be used for essential messages only, rather than ongoing conversations;
- For urgent matters, contacting the school office is always the best route.

Being mindful in your use of messaging helps protect staff wellbeing and ensures workloads remain manageable. Thank you for your continued support.

## Supporting Children's Safety Online

The Children's Commissioner has published a new guide to help parents navigate children's digital lives. Created with input from young people across England, the guide highlights the challenges of balancing online safety with healthy digital habits. It offers practical advice for setting firm, informed boundaries - something children themselves say they value. We encourage all parents and carers to read this helpful resource. The useful resources can be found following this link

['What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England](#)

## Smart Phone Free Childhood

We still need more to sign up especially our younger children!

**Smartphone Free Childhood Initiative**

At Kedington Primary Academy, we know how harmful the use of smartphones can be for children and urge all our parents and carers to pledge to delay giving their child a smartphone until they go to high school. This only becomes binding when we get 10 or more in each class so about a third of the children won't have a phone.

**UPDATE 27.01.26**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PLEDGES = 63**  
**PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN = 30.3%**

Year Group	Number of Pledges	10+ pledges?
R	5	
1	8	
2	15	YES
3	11	YES
4	11	YES
5	7	
6	6	

Parents and carers can pledge at any time using [this link](#) or the QR code.

Smartphone Free Childhood Pledge





# Kedington Primary Academy

## Dates For Your Diary

February 2026	Event
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Children Mental Health Week
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term begins
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Children return to school

March 2026	Event
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	OM Health in school - pupil workshops
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 Parents' lunch
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Theatre company in school
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Show and Share 3:15-4:15pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Show and Share 8:00-8:35am
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Easter Church Service
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of term (3:15pm collection)
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter holidays</b>



# Kedington Primary Academy

## Dates for your diary

June 2025	Event
Monday 2nd June	Pupils return to school Year 4 MTC tests begin
Wednesday 4th June	Year 4 Swimming begins 2.30pm PTFA meeting- all welcome
Monday 9th June	Year 1 Statutory Phonics tests begin
Tuesday 10th June	Linton Village College transition visit
Monday 16th June	Year 6 Bikeability begins
Tuesday 17th June	5.30pm Children's University Graduation
Friday 20th June	PTFA non-uniform day and bring sweets! Year 1 Class trip to Shepreth Year 3 Class trip to Colchester Castle
Monday 23rd June	Year 6 Bikeability continues
Wednesday 25th June	Year 6 STEM Class trip
Thursday 26th June	China Class trip to Hollow Trees Farm
Friday 27th June	PD day
Monday 30th June	New Parents' Information Session Year 2 Trip to Flatford Mill
July 2025	Event
Tuesday 1st July	Sports' Day Year 6 Performance to parents
Wednesday 2nd & 3rd July	Linton transitions
Thursday 3rd July	Year 6 Performance to parents
Friday 4th July	Year 6 Crucial Crew PTFA Summer Fete after school
Monday 7th July	OM Health in school - pupil workshops
Friday 11th July	End of term reports Year 4 sleepover at school
Tuesday 15th July	Year 6 Final assembly & Leavers' Lunch
Wednesday 16th July	Samuel Ward transition days begin Whole school move up morning
Friday 18th July	Last day of term