

Kedington News

Welcome Back to Kedington!

A very warm welcome to the new school year. We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to another successful and happy year at Kedington.

My biggest piece of summer news is that I became a grandmother for the first time to a granddaughter, little Billie! It has been a wonderful few weeks for my family, and I am delighted to return to school refreshed and excited for the year ahead. I am delighted to be back at Kedington full time, allowing me to focus on one school and become fully involved in the day-to-day life of our community once again.



It has been wonderful to visit classrooms over the first few days and see how brilliantly the children have settled back into school. The calm, positive atmosphere and the focus on learning have been a real pleasure to see. I have also been struck by the kindness that seems to be woven through our school community. The children's manners have also really stood out, from holding doors open for others and greeting staff with a cheerful "good morning" as they come through the gate, to asking about my summer holidays. These small acts of courtesy and thoughtfulness make a big difference and help make our school what it is. It has been an absolute delight to see so many children demonstrating such respect, kindness and consideration for others.

Welcome to Our New Staff

We are pleased to welcome several new members of staff to the Kedington team:

- Miss Caves, Year 3 Teacher
- Mrs Hunter, Reception Teacher (working alongside Mrs Reeder)
- Mr Long, Year 5 Teacher
- Miss Solt, Learning Support Assistant
- Miss Fisher, Learning Support Assistant

We would also like to wish Mrs Wreathall every success as she steps into the role of Deputy Headteacher for this term and to congratulate Ms Morey who has gained a place to complete a post-graduate teaching qualification apprenticeship this year. Our congratulations also go to Ms Glen who got married during the holidays (after a very long engagement) and is now Mrs Gould.

Exciting Building Improvements

Over the summer holidays, the school site was a hive of activity as our building project reached completion on 1 September.

As you will have seen from yesterday's video, the transformation has created a more modern, welcoming and practical entrance area, including:

- Additional office space for school leaders
- A new meeting room with kitchenette facilities
- A larger, more open reception area
- A dedicated Family Room for meetings with parents, ELSA sessions and supporting children who may need a quiet space.



We are delighted with the finished result and hope families enjoy the improved facilities. Please bear with us with any teething problems.

Morning Drop-Off Reminder

To encourage independence, we ask that children from Year 2 upwards make their way to their classrooms independently. A member of the Senior Leadership Team will be available at the gate each morning to take messages.

We know that many parents wanted to accompany their children to their new classrooms during the first days back this week, and we completely understand that. However, now that everyone is settling into the routine, from Monday we ask that children in Year 2 and above make their way to their classrooms independently. Encouraging this independence is an important part of helping children grow in confidence and responsibility. A member of the Senior Leadership Team will be available at the gate each morning to pass on any messages, and an LSA will be positioned along the path to offer reassurance, encouragement and support to our younger children as they come into school.

For Reception and Year 1 families, we understand that there are occasions when information needs to be shared with class teachers. However, mornings are a busy time as staff focus on welcoming and settling children. Where possible, please send a message or arrange another time if you need a longer conversation.

🎵 Calling All Musicians! 🎵

As part of our plans for an exciting Music Week we are hoping to hold in October, we are looking for musicians from our school and local community who might be willing to share their talents with our children.

Do you, a family member, friend, neighbour or grandparent play an instrument, sing in a choir, perform in a band, or take part in an orchestra? If so, we'd love to hear from you!

Our vision is to give children the opportunity to meet a wide range of musicians and discover the many ways that music can enrich our lives. In most cases, we are simply looking for volunteers to make a short visit to school for a "Meet the Musician" session, where they could perform a piece of music, demonstrate their instrument and answer a few questions from the children.

We would also be delighted to hear from anyone who has links with local choirs, orchestras, bands or other musical groups who may be willing to visit the school. A full performance would be an incredible experience for our pupils, but even a short visit with a small ensemble could inspire the next generation of musicians!

I am certain there are some hidden musical talents within the Kedington community, and this is a wonderful opportunity to share them with our children.

If you think you, or someone you know, could help, please contact the school office. We'd love to hear from you!



Smartphone Free Childhood

It has now been over a year since we launched our participation in the **Smartphone Free Childhood** initiative.

The aim is simple: parents pledge to delay giving their child a smartphone until they start high school. We regularly see the impact of unrestricted access to smartphones, social media and unsuitable online content, and we strongly encourage families to consider joining the pledge via this [link](#). There is no need to complete the form if you have already done so,

Many parents tell us it is easier to delay smartphones when they know exactly how many other families are making the same choice.

For information about alternative devices that allow you to stay in touch while reducing risks, visit: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>

Classroom Staffing

There were a few last minute changes to staffing. This is who will be working in which class

Class	Teacher	Learning Support Assistant
China Class (YR)	Mrs Reeder (Mon – Wed) Mrs Hunter (Thurs Fri)	Mrs Lawlor Miss Fisher
Brazil Class (Y1)	Ms Mackenzie (Mon – Wed) Mrs Dearman (Thurs, Fri)	Mrs Bradnam Miss Mills
Kenya Class (Y2)	Mrs Kimber (Mon) Mrs Beard (Tues – Fri)	Mrs Norden
Italy Class (Y3)	Ms Caves	Ms N Thompson Mrs Hallinan (Mon – Wed) Mrs Harris (Fri)
Egypt Class (Y4)	Miss Morey (Mon – Wed) Mrs Kimber (Thurs, Fri)	Ms D Thompson Ms Solt
Antarctica Class (Y5)	Mr Long	Mrs Gould Ms Livett
Jamaica Class (Y6)	Mrs Weaver (Mon – Wed) Mrs Wreathall (Thurs, Fri)	Ms Livett

Class Newsletters

Class newsletters will be shared by the end of next week. These will outline things like:

- Curriculum learning for the term
- PE days
- Homework expectations
- Any trips and visits
- Other class-specific information

Who Should I Contact?

We know it can sometimes be difficult to know who to contact about different school matters.

Here is a guide about who to contact about what and the best way to get in touch:

Office	Class Teacher	SENCO Mrs Wreathall	Headteacher Mrs Doherty
admin@kedingtonprimary.co.uk 01440 702787 In person	Dojo In person (ideally at the end of the day) A message via the school office	Dojo Via school office	Dojo Via school office
Information about: • Trips • School dinners • Payments • After school clubs • Term dates • Policies • Special events Reporting: • Pupil absence (by phone or absences@kedingtonprimary.co.uk) • Medical appointments • Reporting a change in your child's collection • Changes in address/ contact details • Medical conditions or medication	Learning progress/achievement Home learning Queries about incidents that have happened A planned change in who is collecting your child known in advance Something that has happened at home that might affect your child Class trips and events	Concerns about a known or possible additional need (we recommend that you speak to the class teacher first) Concerns about mental health (it might be best to speak to the class teacher first)	Serious concerns Safeguarding concern (as safeguarding lead – DSL) Query or comment about school policy or procedures If you are not satisfied with the response from someone you have contacted

Class Dojo remains a valuable communication tool, but please remember:

- Teachers are not expected to respond outside working hours;
- During the school day, teachers are busy teaching and may not see messages immediately;
- Urgent or time-sensitive messages should always be sent via the school office.

New Parent Forum

We are launching a new **Parent Forum** this year to strengthen the partnership between home and school. The forum will meet with me approximately once each month or half term and provide opportunities for parents to discuss and give feedback on whole-school topics such as:

- Communication
- Uniform
- School trips
- Enrichment opportunities
- Behaviour
- School events and wider school life



The forum will focus on whole-school matters rather than individual concerns, ensuring discussions remain productive and beneficial for the wider school community.

If you would like to join, please contact me via **Class Dojo** or through the **school office** by the end of next week.

Lost Property

Last year, we collected bags and bags of unclaimed clothing and belongings, so it was wonderful to see that, at the end of the first day back, there were only **two unnamed items** in our lost property collection. Let's keep up this fantastic start!

You can help us keep lost property to a minimum by:

- Labelling all clothing and belongings clearly

- Encouraging children to take responsibility for their own items

- Checking throughout the year that names remain visible on uniform, coats, water bottles and lunch boxes;

A few moments spent naming items can save a great deal of time and money and help ensure that lost belongings are quickly returned to their owners. Thank you for your support.

School Website Update

Our school website has been refreshed over the summer and contains a wealth of useful information for families.

In particular, please take a look at the [Parent Welcome Information booklet](#), which includes general school information you might find useful to refer to such as administering medicine and uniform.

Updated Allergy Policy

Following the introduction of **Benedict's Law**, we have reviewed and updated our [Allergy Policy](#).

While this has not significantly changed our existing practice, all staff have completed statutory allergy awareness training and we continue to prioritise pupil safety.

Please remember not to send any products containing nuts into school.

If your child has a known allergy, the school office will contact you if any additional information or action is required.

PTFA

Our PTFA does a fantastic job raising money for the school and helping to make many of the extra opportunities our children enjoy possible. Their fundraising supports smaller events such as the **Easter Egg Hunt**, larger projects such as **playground equipment and structures**, and popular experiences including our school **discos** and other special events throughout the year.



The PTFA plays a vital role in enriching school life, and we are always keen to welcome new members, whether you can help regularly or just occasionally at events.

The **PTFA Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held in school on **Wednesday 23rd September at 3.15pm**. New members would be very warmly welcomed, so please do come along if you would like to find out more about how you can get involved and support our school community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our PTFA volunteers for their hard work, enthusiasm and continued support of the school. Their contribution makes a real difference to our children.

Key Dates for Families

We have been super organised and mapped out key dates for the year ahead to help families plan work commitments, childcare and special events. Further details about each event will be shared nearer the time. Whilst we will do our best to keep to these dates, please note that there may occasionally be unavoidable changes.

A full list of dates for the entire academic year is available below. **Please note that they may be subject to change**

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to working together to ensure every child has a happy, successful and enriching year at Kedington. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Dates for the Year

September 2026

- **3rd** – Children return to school
- **23rd** – Year 3 Lion King Trip
- **23rd (3.15pm)** – PTFA AGM
- **30th (2.00pm)** - Reception Phonics Workshop

October 2026

- **5th (2.00pm)** – Harvest Service at the church (all welcome, with doughnuts afterwards in the school hall)
- **9th** – Hello Yellow Day (children wear yellow and bring a £1 donation to YoungMinds)
- **13th (9.00am)** – Mini Marathon (parents welcome to spectate)
- **14th** – Reception Parents' Lunch
- **16th** – School Disco
- **19th (3.15pm-3.45pm)** – Show and Share (an opportunity to pop into school and look at your child's books with them)
- **20th (8.00am-8.35am)** – Show and Share (an opportunity to pop into school and look at your child's books with them)
- **20th (3.15pm-6.00pm)** – Parents' Evening
- **21st** – Open Morning for Prospective Reception Families
- **22nd (3.15pm-6.00pm)** – Parents' Evening
- **26th** – Half term begins



November 2026

- **9th** – Children return to school
- **11th** – Year 1 Parents' Lunch
- **11th (10.45am)** – Remembrance Commemoration (Years 1-6)
- **13th** – Children in Need Day, wear something spotty
- **16th** – Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week (no donation needed)
- **18th** – Open Morning for Prospective Reception Families

December 2026

- **8th (9.15am)** – Year 1 & 2 Nativity Dress Rehearsal
- **9th (9.15am)** – Year 1 & 2 Nativity Performance
- **10th (11.00am)** – Reception Nativity Performance
- **10th (2.15pm)** – Year 1 & 2 Nativity Performance
- **14th (2.00pm)** – Christmas Service at the Church
- **16th** – Christmas Jumper / Break the Rules Day
- **16th** – Christmas Dinner
- **17th (1.30pm)** – Christmas Pantomime
- **18th (8.45am)** – Role Model Assembly (invitation only)
- **18th** – Last Day of Term (finish at normal time, 3.15pm)

January 2027

- **5th** – Children return to school
- **13th** – Year 2 Parents' Lunch

February 2027

- **5th** – Children's Mental Health Week: Wear something that makes you happy
- **15th** – World Book Day Celebration
- **15th** – Half term begins
- **22nd** – Children return to school

March 2027

- **9th (3.15pm-3.45pm)** – Show and Share
- **10th** – Year 3 Parents' Lunch
- **10th (8.00am-8.35am)** – Show and Share
- **16th (3.15pm-6.00pm)** – Parents' Evening
- **18th (3.15pm-6.00pm)** – Parents' Evening
- **22nd** – Easter Service at the Church
- **25th** – Easter Egg Hunt
- **25th** – Last Day of Term



April 2027

- **12th** – Children return to school
- **20th** – Mini Marathon (parents welcome to spectate)

May 2027

- **3rd-7th** – Year 6 SATs Week
- **10th** – Bollywood Day (parents invited from 2.45pm)
- **28th** – PD Day (school closed to children)
- **31st** – Half term begins

June 2027

- **7th** – Children return to school
- **9th** – Year 5 Parents' Lunch
- **9th** – Year 6 Residential Trip
- **14th** – Sports Day
- **24th** – Reserve Sports Day

July 2027

- **1st** – PD Day (school closed to children)
- **2nd** – Summer Fête (TBC)
- **16th** – Year 4 Sleepover
- **16th** – Leavers' Assembly (TBC – will depend on high school transition dates)
- **21st** – Role Model Assembly (invitation only)
- **21st** – Last Day of Term (finish at normal time, 3.15pm)