



4<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**Dear Parents,**

Happy New Year! I know the weather isn't all that great but it was so nice to see such warm smiles coming into school for the start of this new term. Well done for being on time too!

**Out with the old...**Last year saw big changes at Kingsway and I'm so pleased with the progress we have made together. Staff have changed with new faces entering and making such positive impact. So, well done everyone. So, a few details for you to know about other changes that happened suddenly during Christmas...Mrs Walsh has resigned from her position and so Miss Dowling will be taking over full time in Reception Class. This will ensure our children have continuity and consistency which I'm very happy to report. Miss Dowling is looking forward to working with you all again.

**In with the new...** new starters in Nursery have settled in so well today and are looking so lovely in their new uniforms. Welcome to Kingsway Nursery!

So, as we turn a new page at Kingsway Primary & Nursery school, I would like to tell you know some of the fantastic things coming up soon!

**Outdoor:**

Tomorrow (Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January) **ALL** our children will be going down into our **Woodland Warrior** area to see the new building and seating be officially opened! They will then be given short challenges to complete in the woods to re-ignite their love of the outdoors. **Therefore, your child will need to bring suitable outdoor clothing into school tomorrow which they will change into after lunch-time.**

Your child **WILL** need: A warm coat, Waterproofs (if they have them), Wellies (or old trainers/shoes you don't mind getting muddy/wet) and old, warm clothing. If any parents wish to help out on the afternoon please just let your class teacher know in the morning.

**Homework: Themed**

We explained last year that after parent's requests that we would evolve our homework and improve it. The spelling system has worked extremely well and I am pleased that reading has improved at home too. Last term we trialled our new, improved, creative curriculum which was based around a specific 'theme'. This gave all our children the opportunity to develop the core skills and knowledge in a more exciting and holistic way. We feel that the children gained a great deal of progress from this approach and so we would like to branch this out now to enhance our homework.

Each week your children will receive a '**Question**' from which they need to find out information to answer it. The class teacher will let the children know which subject(s) will be the focus, e.g.

**Question:** How could Theseus escape from the Minotaur?

**Subject:** Geography ~ Create a labyrinth/maze

**Answer:** Children would make their own maze with simple direction clues for Theseus to follow.

Or

**Subject:** Numeracy ~ angles

**Answer:** Children would have to make different mazes using specific angle of turns with direction clues for Theseus to follow.

The expectation will be that your child completes one page for each question. If they wish to complete more detailed homework (which we really hope they will) then they can ask for a Theme Folder from their Teacher to place their additional work inside. The amount of Homework and effort that the children put in **will help them** to improve the quality of the work they will produce in class when presented with the theme work.

If you need to know anything further please speak with the class teacher.

### **Safeguarding: Collecting Children from School**

As the nights are darker, earlier we always want our children to be safe when being collected from school. Therefore, if for any emergency where you are unable to collect your own child and need someone other than yourself to do this then please let the office staff know and your class teacher as soon as possible. Please be assured that if you wish your child to be collected by someone else and we have not been informed then please don't be offended if we contact you to ensure all is ok. Our children's safety is paramount and so thank you for your understanding.

### **World Book Day Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

This annual event will enable our children to enhance their love for books and I'm sure it will be an excellent day to have fun reading!

### **Sport Relief Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018**

Sport Relief is back for a week of epic activity, with the nation coming together to take part in one colossal Sport Relief Challenge. Whether you run, walk or even dance, whatever moves you, do it for Sport Relief and help change lives. Details will follow nearer the time.

### **Parental Help**

As you will know, I have always asked for anyone who is available to help within school. We have been very fortunate with parents who have helped in the past and we would like for this to continue this year. If you have **any** skills that we could utilise for the children to experience please come in and see us. We still have a high focus upon reading and writing development within school and we would like to know if you are able to spare any time to listen to our children read? Any time that is convenient to you would be more than welcome. Please see your class teacher.

### **SATs Week**

The week put aside for Key Stage 2 SATs in 2018 will be **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018:**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May** English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May** English reading

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May** Mathematics papers 1 and 2

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May** Mathematics paper 3

**It is very important that if your child is in Year 6 that they are present for each of these days. Year 2 assessments take place around the same time.**

### **School Term Dates:**

Half-Term: School will close on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018** and re-open on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

End of Spring Term: School will close on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018** and re-open **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018.**

**And finally . . .**

Let's stay positive, smile, be nice in our school and together we will make our vision possible where all of us can

*'explore, discover, reach for our dreams & have fun on the journey.'*

Thank you for all you support us with and I look forward to continuing our great work together!

**Iain M. Lewis**  
Headteacher