



✦ Learning together, aiming high ✦

Kington St Michael C.E. Primary School

NEWSLETTER - 1

September 2025

We have enjoyed a wonderful start to the Autumn Term and there is so much to look forward to this academic year at KSM.

We are delighted with how well everyone has settled back into school this term. A very warm welcome to our new Blackbirds Class, who have already joined us in assembly and enjoyed blackberry picking to make a delicious crumble. Our Sparrows Class have created a very special Autumn table, and their Percy's Hut home corner is proving very popular. Our Eagles Class and Hawks Class enjoyed a wonderful trip to Longleat, while the Kingfishers Class visited the Bristol Museum and have produced some very exciting work around Ancient Egypt.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all parents and carers for your kindness, support, and generous donations to the Harvest Doorway Appeal.

We have made some exciting plans for the year ahead and we look forward to sharing more as the year progresses.

With best wishes,
Mrs. Victoria O'Brien
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Friday 26 th September	Blackbirds Class Pyjama Day
Wednesday 1 st October 8.15pm	Friends AGM - KSM Social Club, Kington St. Michael Village
Monday 6 th October	Individual class photos
Thursday 9 th October	Hawks PJ and Movie Day
Friday 10 th October 10am	Blackbirds Class Stay and Play
Tuesday 14 th October 9-10am	Parents' Coffee Morning
Thursday 16 th October AM	School photographer – website photos
Friday 17 th October	Last day for Harvest Festival donations
Monday 20 th October	Sparrows Class and Blackbirds Class Trip to Westonbirt
Wednesday 22 nd October	Harvest Festival Church Service – parents of Blackbirds, Sparrows and Eagles Classes are welcome
Wednesday 22 nd October	Last day of term 1
Monday 3 rd November	First day of term 2

September 2026 Admissions

We have been busy showing prospective parents around our school who would like their children to join KSM in September 2026. If you would like to book a tour, please email: admin@ksm.wilts.sch.uk

Applications for September 2026 can be made online through Wiltshire Council's website, or you can download a paper application. The recommendation is for parents to apply online:

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1657/Apply-for-a-school-place>

The deadline dates are:

Primary Reception 2026 entry – 15th January 2026

Secondary Year 7 2026 entry – 31st October 2025



Harvest Festival

In preparation for our Harvest Festival church service, we will be collecting tins and packets of food which will be donated to the Doorway Charity in Chippenham; details of donations needed will be attached.

Our Harvest Festival Service will be held in St. Michael and All Angels Church on Wednesday 22nd of October at 1.30pm. We would like to invite the parents of Blackbirds, Sparrows and Eagles classes to join us in this celebration.

School trips and visits

We have already been busy with two trips this term, both thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Kingfishers Class had an amazing visit to Bristol Museum and Art Gallery to support and inspire their Egyptians topic:



'What I enjoyed in the museum was the fact how they had real ancient things such as a ball they used but it was wrapped in string and was shaped like a square and did not bounce. Also, something else I found interesting was the workshop and how realistic it felt trying to figure out where the boxes needed to go and the things that were inside of them were very questionable' – Phoenix, Kingfishers Class

Eagles Class and Hawks Class went to Longleat Safari Park to support their learning about Rainforests and Australia:

'We saw lots of animals such as koalas, otters, sloths, bats and meerkats. It was a very good experience and to go with friends. We learnt a lot of new facts about koalas. One of them was that koalas eat 900 different types of Eucalyptus leaves and one of the leaves is heart-shaped. We also learnt that wombats are solitary when not breeding and have cube-shaped poop!' – Issy, Hawk Class



'I had the most amazing time at Longleat. I enjoyed the splashing sea lions. I liked going in the bat cave; the bats were swooping past me. I was happy to see a slow, strong sloth.' – Sophia, Eagles class



A beautiful picture of a toucan by Emilia, Kingfishers Class



The Nest Wraparound Care



The Breakfast Club:

7.40am-8.40am - £4.00 per session - includes breakfast

8.15am-8.40am - £2.50 per session - does not include breakfast

After School Club:

3.25pm-5.00pm - £8.00 per session. Includes a welcome snack and a drink

3.25pm-6.00pm - £12.00 per session. Includes a welcome snack, drink and a light tea

Booking a place and payment are to be made through SCOPAY. The Nest also accepts payment using childcare vouchers (please contact the school office for details). If you require a booking at short notice please contact the school office. Should you need to contact The Nest staff during club hours please call 07483 325482.

What is UIFSM?

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) in England provide a **free**, nutritious school lunch to all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, regardless of family income. Parents do not need to apply for this entitlement; it is automatically offered by state-funded schools. Taking up this meal supports children's health and concentration.

If you would like to book your child in for a free school meal, please contact the school office to register with Lataca, our catering provider.

Governor News

The full governing body held its first FGB meeting on Wednesday 24th of September. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive governing body at KSM who work tirelessly behind the scenes on behalf of our school community.

A special thank you goes to Mrs Joanna Merry for her dedicated service as Chair of Governors. Jo has made the decision to step down from the role this year, but we are delighted that she will remain on the board as a Foundation Governor.

Congratulations to Sara Pierson, who has been voted in as our new Chair of Governors and to Matthew Scarsbrook who has been elected Vice Chair.

We are also grateful to Rob Griffin (Co-opted Governor) and Andrea Bridle (Local Authority Appointed Governor) for continuing their valued support this year. Our thanks also go to Mrs Burfoot and Mrs Myers for their service as Staff Governors. Mrs Burfoot will now step down from this role but will continue to attend board meetings to present on curriculum matters. Mrs Davis, our new School Business Manager, will also join meetings to present on finance.

We are very pleased to welcome Catherine Harris who will shortly be joining us as a Parent Governor.

There is currently a vacancy for a Non-Parent Governor, as well as a paid position for a part-time Clerk (approximately two hours per week). If you or someone you know may be interested in either role, please speak to Mrs Davis in the school office for more information.

Pupil Responsibilities

Congratulations to all the year 6 pupils who made fantastic applications to volunteer for a number of roles in school. We look forward to seeing them take on their new responsibilities at KSM. A big thank you to:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| ▪ School Council Chair | Martha |
| ▪ School Council Secretary | Issy |
| ▪ Charity Ambassador | Ollie |
| ▪ Charity Ambassador | Lucy |
| ▪ Saxon House Captain | Bella |
| ▪ Tudor House Captain | Olivia |
| ▪ Viking House Captain | Finlay |
| ▪ Roman House Captain | Lacey |
| ▪ Tudor Sport Captain | Phoenix |
| ▪ Saxon Sport Captain | Arthur |
| ▪ Viking Sport Captain | Sophie |
| ▪ Roman Sport Captain | Freddie |
| ▪ Learning Ambassador (Maths) | Megan |
| ▪ Learning Ambassador (English) | Sophie |
| ▪ Learning Ambassador (Science) | Logan |
| ▪ Librarian | Lola |
| ▪ Librarian | Erin |
| ▪ Digital Leader | Eva |
| ▪ Digital Leader | Jayce |



Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

What is the Pupil Premium?

- The Pupil Premium is an additional amount of money given to schools by the government to improve the educational outcomes of disadvantaged pupils.
- The funding is allocated to schools based on the number of eligible pupils they have each school year.

Please can we ask you to check if you are eligible to receive free school meals. For every child that receives a free school meal, the government will give the school a Pupil Premium of £1,300. We use this money to give extra support to Pupil Premium children. The quickest way to apply is online at:

<https://parentportal.wiltshire.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home>



Well Done, Bella!

During the holidays, Bella visited Dorothy House and handed in the money made from the fundraising cake sale - they were very pleased!



Car Park, Parking and School Drop-Off

Thank you so much for your continued support in not using the school car park. This has allowed easier access for the school bus and enabled our after-school club teachers to park.

A reminder, and for our new parents:

When dropping off and collecting your child from school, please use the pavement and do not walk across the road or the roundabout. This is important for everyone's safety and will also help to teach your child road safety.

May we also remind parents to be considerate of the safety of children and other road users and residents by remembering the following:

- Please **park considerately in the village** and do not park across driveways, or at the entrance to our car park
- Please be aware that the bus struggles to get through KSM if cars are double-parked anywhere in the village
- Please be patient and **do not overtake cars** that are using the morning drop-off system
- Please drive **slowly through the village** – it is very busy with pedestrians crossing the road
- Please only drop your child off in the marked Drop-Off zone when a staff member is present
- **No children should be left unaccompanied at the school gates, at any time**

Parents may only park on school grounds when dropping off and collecting their child from The Nest or after school clubs.



Norbot

We are very excited that Norbot's artwork was completed at the end of Term 6 last year and he is currently on display with other sculptures in the Mall at Cribbs Causeway. Several staff went to see him in situ this week, as did Lucas from Sparrows Class!

The Norbot gnome was part of the *Gromit Unleashed 3* charity art trail in Bristol, which ran in summer 2025. Our school took part in a readathon as part of the programme and raised a huge £2323 for Bristol Children's Hospital.

We look forward to having Norbot back in school soon, where he will be displayed with pride.

Forest School at KSM

We are looking to develop our Forest School area within school so that we can offer more regular Forest School sessions for all classes. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to explore, learn and connect with nature. To help us enhance these experiences, we are kindly asking for donations of the following:

- Pots and pans for the mud kitchen and music walls – in good condition
- Scaffold planks
- Pallets to make music walls
- Dry bags
- Large water carrier
- Trowels
- Secateurs
- Potato peelers
- Sieves
- Tin plates and cups for mud kitchen
- Wooden and metal spoons
- Plastic jugs



If you have any of these items at home and are happy to donate, please bring them into the school office or speak to a member of staff. Your support makes a real difference and will help us develop a fun, creative and inspiring Forest School at KSM.

Thank you for your generosity.

Friends

A big thank you to the Friends of KSM for their tireless and creative fundraising. The Friends are planning lots of fun fundraising activities for this year and will confirm dates shortly.

Friends will be holding their **Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 1st October** at the Kington St. Michael Social Club in the village at 8.15pm. Please come along and find out more about the Friends and help decide how we spend the amazing fundraising efforts. The Friends are such a great benefit to all the children at the school and the more people who get involved, the better! You do not have to be a member to join the AGM and we are always ready to welcome new members if you do want to find out more about being involved.



The Friends also hire out a **Party Kit** which can cater for 36 children, with bunting and washing up included - all for £15.

The **preloved uniform** is well-stocked - thank you for your patience in orders getting through in the first week of school - we are now up and running again via Scipay.

Easy Fundraiser - Raise free money for the school as you shop online. You can find our Easy Fundraising page at:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ptfakingtonstmichaelschool/?searchSessionId=fff9bef5-d03d-4087-a4cc-82c37c4495fc>

The Friends will soon be organising the annual sponsored litter pick for later this term, with more information to follow.

The Friends would love any additional help or support. If you would like to join them and help to support the school please contact friendsksmschool@gmail.com



Gentle Reminder

To help support our healthy-eating ethos, please could we request that sweets are not included in children's lunchboxes. Many thanks for your support.

School Census Day – Thursday 2nd October – Special Lunch Menu!

Why is taking a meal on Census Day important?

- **Funding:** The number of children receiving a free school meal on Census Day directly affects how much funding the school receives.
- **School Provisions:** More funding allows the school to provide better provisions for the children.
- **Government Record:** The school provides information to the Department for Education (DfE), and the meal count on this day gives the government a snapshot of how many children eat school meals.

What can you do on Census Day?

- **Encourage your child to take the free school meal:** If your child is in Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1, or Year 2) or is otherwise eligible, encourage them to take the offered free school meal on Census Day.
- **Consider packed lunches less often:** If your child normally brings a packed lunch, consider letting them try the school meal on Census Day.

Lataca, our catering provider, are offering a special menu on Census Day of hot dogs / veggie dogs, chips and ice cream with chocolate sauce and sprinkles. (There will be other menu options available too).

Please order in the usual way.



Assembly Theme - Generosity

Each term we focus on a different Christian Value. We discuss the meaning, use and benefits of the Value in assemblies and circle time and encourage its use around school. We look at what the word means, different words meaning the same thing, and why it is important in our lives.

Our school value this term is **Generosity** and we have already seen many wonderful examples of this in action. Mrs O'Brien now has a beautiful homemade sign for her office, our children have been inviting new friends to join in with their games at playtime, and we are so grateful for the generous donations you have made to the Doorway charity appeal.



We have been hearing about acts of generosity at home, from making get well cards for family members, to children offering to set the table and help with washing the dishes.

In assembly we have been learning about the Aesop's fable, 'The Lion and the Mouse' and the inspiring Bible story of Jesus feeding the 5000. Please do encourage your child to think of ways they can offer generosity at home, at school, or in the wider community.

