

# MKPS School Newsletter

## Autumn Term 2017

Welcome to all our families, old and new, at the start of the 2017-2018 school year!

This newsletter contains details for this term, up to Christmas.

We welcome our many new children throughout the school!

### Parents' Meetings

#### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September

5.00pm **Class 4 Parents and Parents who are new to the school in Class 5: Curriculum Meeting**

You are invited to an important meeting about the curriculum and in particular, the teaching of Reading and Mathematics.

Children do not attend this meeting, which will end by 6pm.

#### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

4pm - 6pm Class 8 parents are invited at any time between 4pm and 6pm to meet their children's form tutor to discuss how they are settling into the prep routine.

### Staff News

We welcome several new members of staff this term:

Mr Shepherd and Miss Brouwer to the Preparatory Department  
Miss Johnston, Mrs Exton, Mrs Shamuyarira and Miss Randall to the Pre-Prep Department  
Miss Shooter as Deputy Registrar  
Mrs Button as Purchasing Clerk

Mrs Gemma Herran, our new Bursar, joins us after half term

We congratulate Mr Cater on the birth of his son, Mrs Lynch on the birth of her daughter and Mrs Garwood on the birth of her daughter.

## **Theme for the Term**

Our theme for this term is British Values and Back to Basics: democracy, friendship, fairness, inclusion, kindness.

## **Term Dates 2017 to 2018**

Term dates can be downloaded from the school website, or you can collect a copy from the rack outside the reception office.

## **Parent Zone of the Website**

In the Parent Zone section of the website ([www.mkps.co.uk](http://www.mkps.co.uk)) you can find information about the school, by department, view this term's diary dates and letters, sports department information and Parents' Association news. There is also a calendar section.

## **Parent App**

Please remember to keep in touch with what's going on at school by using the school's app.

If you search **myprep** in the app store you will find it.

It keeps you up-to-date with events on the school calendar and provides you with other useful tools which help improve the flow of information. Should you need any help using it, please ask in the reception office.

We recommend that you create a PIN which is private. This will be used if you wish to submit an absence notification via the app, ensuring that only you can use this feature.

## **Sports Department News**

We offer a wide range of sports clubs, team training and activities before and after school, in addition to timetabled Games and PE lessons.

### **Out-of School Achievements**

We enjoy hearing about children's achievements out of school, whether in sport or other areas.

Please let Miss Sothcott have a photograph and short piece of text for the Celebration of Success section on the Sports Department noticeboard.

### **Sports Zone**

You will find up to date information on fixtures, clubs, results and achievements in our Sports Zone area inside the Parents' Zone of the school website.

### **Sports Trip to Arnheim, Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

Our first teams in football and girls' hockey are visiting Arnheim for a week, where they will train with professional coaches, play matches and be taken sightseeing.

## Music Department News

This is a busy term for the Music Department, preparing for Christmas and arranging for our Chamber Choir to sing in various local venues.

- Classes 8 and 9 production in the sports hall on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm.
- Classes 10 and 11 production in the sports hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm.
- Classes 4, 5, 6 and 7 will perform their Christmas plays in their year groups to their parents in the sports hall, during the afternoon of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December.
- Class 3 children will perform at 9.15am on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

There are many opportunities for prep department pupils to get involved in music groups and choirs after school or at lunchtimes – please see the Music noticeboard and the Prep Clubs Leaflet for details.

## School Council

Representatives from senior prep are ready for another busy year on the School Council.

We look forward to seeing what new ideas pupils come up with this academic year.

## Fund-Raising

This year we are going to support The Children's Ward at Milton Keynes Hospital. We are going to ask them to identify a piece of equipment for which we can raise money.

Thank you to all families who donated through various events in the last year for the Neo Natal Unit at the hospital. We raised almost £3000 and will be arranging for someone to come to assembly to receive our cheque.

## Residential Trips for Preparatory Department Pupils

We have 3 residential trips for our preparatory department pupils:

### **1. October 2017                      Arnheim Sports Tour**

Our first teams in football and girls' hockey will visit Arnheim from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October, where they will train with professional coaches, play matches and go sightseeing.

### **2. March 2018                      Ski Trip to France**

Our ski trip for classes 9 to 11 takes place from Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

### **3. May 2018                      Junior Prep Trip**

Mrs Robson, Mr Cave and members of junior prep staff will take a group of class 8 and 9 pupils to an activity centre in Weymouth from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018, to enjoy a variety of physical challenges and activities.

## **Christmas Fair Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

From 3pm – 5.30pm, we will be holding a Christmas Fair in the sports hall. There will be stalls, games, Father Christmas's Grotto and much more – something for the whole family to enjoy. Please come along to join in the fun!

Our Parents' Association will be arranging the details of this and lists will appear for you to sign against an activity that you could offer a little time to run or organise. Meanwhile if you would like to get in touch, please contact Mrs Jackson whose son is in class 10:

[laurandavid@yahoo.com](mailto:laurandavid@yahoo.com)

All profits will be given to the children's ward at Milton Keynes Hospital.

## **This Term's Events**

### **a) First half of term (in chronological order)**

#### **Curriculum Meeting - Class 4 Parents and Parents who are new to the school in Class 5**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 5pm.

You are invited to an important meeting about the teaching of Reading and Mathematics. Your children do not accompany you. It will finish by 6pm.

#### **Harvest Festival**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Today the older children will celebrate Harvest Festival in assembly.

We are collecting dried and tinned foods for the Milton Keynes Food Bank. Donations are welcome from everyone in school and should be brought in on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **Class 8 Parents: Meet Your Child's Form Tutor**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October between 4pm and 6pm

Class 8 parents are invited to come and meet their child's form tutor at any time between 4pm and 6pm, for an informal chat to see how he/she is settling into the preparatory department.

#### **Classes 9 and 10 Parents' Workshop**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 5pm.

We are running a workshop for classes 9 and 10 parents on the preparation for senior school entry.

This is solely for parents, not children.

## **Open Mornings for Prospective Families**

This term we have 3 Open Mornings for prospective families, all of which run between 10am and 11.30am:

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

If you have friends or colleagues who may be interested in the school, please give them these dates or ask them to telephone for further information.

## **Halloween Cake Sale**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October Children may bring 50p to school to buy a cake

Our cake sales are always very popular and demonstrate that you possess great "Bake-Off" skills!

We rely on your generosity to make some individual cakes, tray bakes, biscuits, to sell. These will be sold as individual items to the children in the morning.

Further details will be sent out by our Parents' Association closer to the time. All profits will be donated to the children's ward at MK Hospital.

## **b) Second half of term (in chronological order)**

### **Revision Week, Classes 10 and 11**

Week beginning Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Open Morning for Parents in Classes 4 and 5**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November from 9.15am – 10am.

This is for any parents in classes 4 and 5 who would like to see the older classes at work. Appointments are not necessary.

### **Exams and Results Cards, Classes 10 and 11**

Exams: Week beginning Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November  
Results cards will be sent home on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Classes 8 and 9 Assessment Cards**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, assessment cards will be sent home.

## **Parent Consultations Class 8**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November

There are parent consultations for class 8 parents, with form tutors, during the day. Appointments will be made via our on-line booking system.

## **Parent Consultations Class 9**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November

There are parent consultations for class 9 parents, with form tutors, during the day. Appointments will be made via our on-line booking system.

## **Parent Consultations Class 10**

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November there are parent consultations for class 10 parents, with subject teachers, which will take place during the day.

Appointments will be made via our on-line booking system.

## **Parent Consultations Class 11**

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November there are parent consultations for class 11 parents, with subject staff, which will take place during the day.

Appointments will be made via our on-line booking system.

## **Parent Consultations - Classes 3 to 7**

Parent consultations take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

The dates per actual class will be given after half term, in the class newsletters.

Appointments will be made via an on-line booking system.

## **Pre-Prep Christmas Productions**

We would like to invite you to our concerts on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December:

<b>Class 3</b>	9.15am	<b>Class 4</b>	1.15pm		
<b>Class 5</b>	2pm	<b>Class 6</b>	2.45pm	<b>Class 7</b>	3.30pm

## **Prep Christmas Production, classes 8 and 9**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm

This year we will stage a production in the sports hall. Everyone welcome!

## **Prep Christmas Production, classes 10 and 11**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm

Senior prep's production will take place in the sports hall. Everyone welcome!

## **Christmas Fair 3pm – 5.30pm**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Please see page 4 for information and contact details if you would like to get involved.

## **Class Parties Nursery and Pre-Prep Departments**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Nursery and Pre-Prep classes 3 to 7 will have parties in the morning, with a party lunch.

Children may come to school in party clothes that day, but please remember that shoes should be suitable for school and outdoor jackets will be required.

Part-time children, who do not attend on Thursday mornings, are invited to come in for the party and to be collected by 1pm.

## **Final Assembly on the Last Day of Term**

Final assembly on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December is primarily an occasion for the children and staff but we invite parents to join us from 3.15pm.

## **Christmas Holiday and Closure Dates**

Term ends: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. The building will be open until 6.30pm.

Playscheme: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, for those who have booked.

**Please note that Nursery closes and playscheme finishes for the Christmas break on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm.**

**Building Closed: from 4pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December to 7.30am on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 inclusive.**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018: Nursery reopens, playscheme for one day

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018: Spring Term begins for Prep and Pre-Prep

# Reminders

## **Parent Contact Details**

Please make sure you give us any change in your contact details immediately.

## **Arrival at School**

- The front door opens at 8am.
- The Early Morning Room opens at 7.30am and children arriving at that time will be registered there until 8am. There is an extra charge for this half hour.

## **Registration Times**    **Please ensure that children get to school on time!**

- Prep children are registered in their classrooms at 8.30am.
- Younger children should be in their rooms for registration at 9am.

## **Collection at 6pm**

Children booked until 6pm **MUST** be collected on time.

This pre-booked facility from 6pm – 6.30pm is charged according to the time of booking.

## **The Farm**

Children in classes 5 to 11 will visit The Farm, our Environmental Studies Centre, this term. If you have not visited The Farm and would like to do so, please let us know.

## **Medical Conditions/Medicines**

Any medication must be brought into the building by parents. Children should not bring in their own medicine and please never leave any in your child's bag.

**Parents in classes 3 to 11:** please come to the reception office and sign the relevant book, leaving the medicine there and collecting it from there when your child goes home.

**Nursery department parents:** please see a senior member of staff to sign the book and hand over your medicine.

## **Sickness and Diarrhoea**

If your child has diarrhoea or vomiting, he/she must stay out of school for **48** hours after the last bout, before returning, in order to protect our whole school.

## **Public Telephone**

The telephone outside the reception office may be used by prep pupils to telephone their parents in cases where, for example, they have forgotten games kit.

## **Stevensons Uniform Selling Event**

The next selling event will be on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 8.30am – 11.30am.



# DATES SHEET    AUTUMN TERM 2017

## SEPTEMBER

Weds 20 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Class 10 boys to Bedford School for the morning Class 10 girls to Bedford Girls' School	8am – 12.30pm ditto
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	6M and half of 6E to Tesco – Farm to Fork	morning
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Curriculum Meeting class 4 parents	5pm
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Yrs 5 & 6 girls to Northampton High all day	8.15 – 4pm
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Class 7 to Cecil Higgins Museum, Bedford	9.30am – 3pm
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Class 4 to Woburn Safari Park	9.30am – 3pm
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Open Morning for prospective parents	10am – 11.30am

## OCTOBER

Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Call in to meet your form tutors, class 8 parents Harvest Festival Assembly	4pm – 6pm
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	6S and half 6E to Tesco – Farm to Fork	morning
Weds 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Morning 10 – 11.30 Workshop re senior school, classes 9 & 10 parents	5pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day to book for half term playscheme	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Class 9 to The Safety Centre	9.15am – 12 noon
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Class 9 to Verulamium	10am – 3.30pm
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Sports Tour leaves for Arnheim	
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Halloween Cake Sale Sports Tour returns	
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Half term week	
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Prep revision week	

## NOVEMBER

Weds 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Open Morning for Classes 4 & 5 parents Open Morning for prospective parents	9.15am – 10am 10am – 11.30am
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Exam week senior prep	
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Class 11 to Victoria and Albert Museum	9am – 4pm
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Classes 8 & 9 Assessment Cards home Classes 10 and 11 Assessment Cards home	
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Consultations: Pre-Prep classes 3-7 Class 8 with form tutors	from 3pm all day
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Parent Consultations: Pre-prep classes 3-7 Class 9 with form tutors	from 3pm all day
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Parent Consultations: Classes 3 – 7 Class 10 with subject staff	from 3pm all day
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Parent Consultations: Classes 3 – 7 Class 11 with subject staff	from 3pm all day
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Prep Christmas Decorations, Day One	

## DECEMBER

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Decs Day, Prep and Pre-Prep	
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Pre-Prep dress rehearsals	morning
	Prep dress rehearsal	afternoon
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Pre-Prep Concerts	class 3 at 9.15, others pm
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Prep Production (junior prep parents)	5pm
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Prep Production (senior prep parents)	5pm
	Tickled Pink Theatre Prod, pre-prep	9.15am
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair	3.30 – 5.30pm
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Class 8 to pantomime, Aylesbury	10.30am
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Pre-Prep class parties	morning plus lunch
	Magician for classes 4 & 5	1.15 – 2pm
	Magician for classes 6 & 7	2.15 – 3pm
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term	
	Christmas lunch, all departments	
	Final Assembly	
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Playscheme. Nursery open.	
	Stevensons Selling Event	8am – 11.30am

Tues 19<sup>th</sup> December    Playscheme and Nursery close **at 4pm**  
**The building closes at 4pm**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018**

**Playscheme for one day  
Nursery reopens**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Prep and Pre-Prep: Spring Term begins**