



North Kidlington Primary School Newsletter



Nurturing Potential, Growing Success

Key Dates

December

10th—KS1 Play (1:30 & 6pm)
12th—KS2 Carols by Candlelight
16th—Church Service (afternoon)
18th—Christmas Lunch
18th—Christmas Jumper Day
20th—1:30 Finish
23rd—Christmas Holidays

January

6th—INSET
7th—Back to school
7th—Science Week

[Term dates can be found here](#)
(This is a link)

Tom & Fluffy

Our school welfare officers, Tom and Fluffy, often visit classrooms throughout the year and the children are given an opportunity to hold them and give them a stroke. If you don't want your child to touch the guinea pigs, please let the class teacher know.

The Burrow

Calm, caring and fun before and after school provision.



Christmas at NKS

As always, we have a lot going on at NKS over the festive period. The reception play, A Twinkly Nativity, was an absolute delight and we were so proud of all the children. I am very much looking forward to the KS1 play next week: A Bundle of Joy. They had a very successful rehearsal yesterday and looked super in their costumes.

Yesterday, Miss Claxton took some of the NKS choir to Lincroft Meadow residential Care home to sing a mixture of traditional and modern Christmas songs. This was incredibly well received by the staff and residents and is turning into a lovely annual tradition. Next week, a different choir group will be going to sing at Moorside place—something we are really looking forward to.

Next Thursday, KS2 will be hosting Carols By Candlelight at 6pm. This is a relaxed and fun event where the children perform some popular Christmas songs and get us in the festive spirit. Mrs Müldür and I will be serving mulled wine, apple juice, mince pies and some other nibbles. Everyone is welcome to come along. A parent has very kindly offered to hold a raffle for us at the event. We could be very grateful for some donations for this (chocolate, biscuits, wine etc...). Please drop off any items to the school office by Thursday morning so we know what we have.

On the afternoon of the 16th we will all (Reception through to Year 6) be heading down to St Mary's Church for our annual service. NKS is not a church school - we celebrate and welcome all religions (and none). We do though enjoy this annual traditional celebration and reflection at the church. Everyone is welcome and we invite parents and carers to attend too. 1:30pm St Mary's Church. Please speak to your class teacher if you have any questions about the service.

Finally...on the 18th we will be having our Christmas lunch and jumper day. Always a very jolly occasion for all of us. Children can also wear hats and other Christmas items.

Hopefully this has given you all the information you need to get to the end of term. It's a fun time of year but also lots to remember.





OPAL Playtimes

So what is going on with lunchtimes at NKS? Hopefully your child/ren has been coming home with positive comments about lunchtimes since half term. We have signed up to a programme called [OPAL](#) (Outdoor Play and Learning) to improve the quality of play at NKS. We know that play is a vital part of children's development. We also know that children get less and less outdoor creative play nowadays and more screen time. Even kids who go to lots of clubs and activities do this in a highly supervised and structured way which means there are limited opportunities for them to be creative, imaginative, think and problem-solve for themselves. Not to mention screen time...

I am personally convinced this is a fundamental reason for the rise in mental health problems in children.

So, with this in mind, with support from Louise our OPAL liaison, we are making changes to playtimes. OPAL provide us with a tried and tested structure, training and experience on risk and hazard assessing to keep everything safe. We are starting gradually and educating the children and ourselves as we go—they are very much part of the process with both ideas and being responsible for safe play.

So far, we have opened the playground up to everyone at lunchtime (no more KS1 area, Apple area) which has led to children from a variety of year groups playing together. It has also brought about more thoughtfulness from the older children who look out for the little ones.

We have also put music, construction and dressing up out every day (thank you for the donations —please keep it coming!).



Here is a link here to a webinar for parents run by the leader of OPAL (click on the image).

It is quite long, so if you would like a shorter taste of what we want to achieve — the image below takes you to a video from a school which is further along the OPAL journey.





Donations Welcome!



We are super excited to become an OPAL school and are keen to get our children enjoying more creative play at break and lunchtimes.

We would love to start collecting some of the following items to help get things moving...

Dressing up

- Anything goes: old skirts, coats, dresses, trousers and accessories in child or adult sizes. See the examples photos below for ideas:



Music and noise making!

- any old metal pans, kitchen utensils and containers that the children could fashion into musical instruments



If you have any items you would like to donate, please bring them into school and hand them to your child's class teacher or at the office.



Calpol & other medications

I am sure you have seen in the news that school attendance is a concern nationally. We are so happy that at NKS our attendance rates are really good. We want to thank you for working with us to maximise the children's education.

As many of you know, we do have school Calpol we use with your permission. We are finding though that our stocks are running very low and I think we are nearly ready to buy shares in the company.

If you know your child will need Calpol during the day, please can you bring a bottle to the office with their name on and we will happily administer it at the appropriate time.

Medicines, even over the counter ones, should NEVER be left with a child to administer themselves.

Be Kind to Others

We heard from the Royal British Legion this week that NKS donated **£463** to the charity through the sale of poppies, slap bands etc... Thank you so much for your generosity. The Children in Need mile run earlier on in the term was a huge success. I was so impressed with the determination all the children showed to completing the mile run and a huge amount from Apple Class up ended up running more than a mile. Many even continued running laps into their break time!!

I will let you know the total NKS children donated to Children in Need when it is finally all tallied up. Please ensure any final money is in as we are off to the bank very soon.



Exciting News

I was just about to send the newsletter off when Miss Dalimore-Gray got a very exciting delivery. We have just been awarded Equal Access School 2024 by the Girls' Football School Partnerships by England Football.

Access to sport for all children is very important at NKS and it is really wonderful to have been recognised for what we do. It has been great to see more and more girls playing football in their free time and with increasing confidence. Thank you as always for all of the amazing support you give us.





Fun and exciting ideas for play and learning for 5-11 year olds in Oxfordshire. Try all 50 Things, learn new skills and discover your local area!

[Click Here](#)



Cross Country

We had a super group of children compete at the Kidlington Cross Country event a couple of weeks ago. Cross Country is not an easy event as children



find pacing themselves hard, especially when they are excited. It can feel like a really long way if you have sprinted at top speed at the start! The kids were all fantastic though and represented NKS incredibly well. So well in fact, we have a group of them off at the county finals today!!

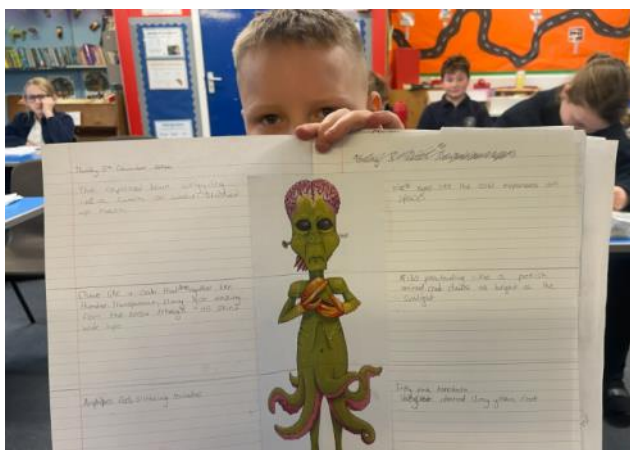
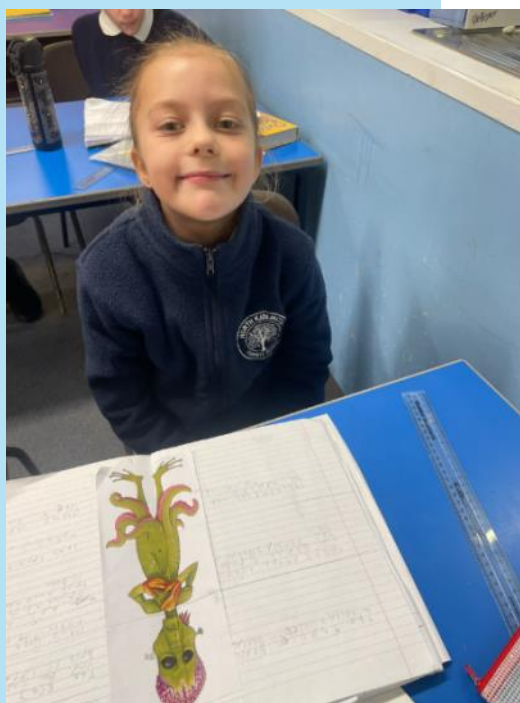
Well done to: Rocco S. Jake M., Freddie K-L., Sammy J., Zack T., Annabel D., Leo J., Tayo O., Rohan D., Theo H., Thomas U., Megan M., Milana D., Safi H., Ruby W., Evie E., Bonnie P., Harriet E., Indi C., & Hannah D.

Year 6 Residential

What a privilege it was to be able to go with the Year 6s on their residential trip. We went to Yenworthy Lodge in North Devon right on the coast and next to Exmoor National Park. The area was stunning and we got to take part in a wealth of outdoors activities. The group were so good at taking part in the activities with a positive attitude and were regularly praised by the staff at the centre. There were so many highlights it is hard to pick out key ones but I have to say my personal favourite was surfing (the sea was pretty warm - thank you gulf stream) and the waterfall climbing. Although it is not always easy staying away from home when you are 10 and 11, it is a valuable experience which sets the children up for secondary school and beyond. Mr Leach is organising all the pictures and they will be shared on Google Classroom soon.



I went for a wander and look what I saw...





JOIN THE JUNIOR PARKRUN FAMILY

WALK, JOG, RUN, VOLUNTEER

or simply come and watch – it's up to you!

FAMILY-FRIENDLY 2K EVENT

Every Sunday morning

FOR 4 – 14 YEAR OLDS

Adults can join in with the kids too

EVERYONE WELCOME

Walk, jog, hop, skip or jump – it's up to you!

FREE AND EASY TO TAKE PART

No special kit needed – wear whatever you like

HAVE FUN BEING ACTIVE

Share high fives and big smiles!

MAKE FRIENDS

Meet lots of new people

LEARN NEW SKILLS

Kids and adults can volunteer in lots of roles

FEEL HAPPY AND PROUD

Try your best and celebrate your achievements

Park Hill Recreation Ground Junior parkrun

Starts at 9:00 am, every Sunday morning at:

Park Hill Recreation Ground (off Benmead Road), Kidlington, OX5 2DB.

Register your child for free at www.parkrun.org/register and bring their unique barcode with them.

For more information, check our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/parkhillrecreationgroundjuniors or email us at:
parkhillrecreationgroundjuniors@parkrun.com