



King's Hall School
TAUNTON



Pelican News

Pre-Summer Term

I do hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing Easter break and that your children are rested and ready to make the most of their final term in their current academic year groups. The summer term is always an exciting one with the prospect of warmer weather, playtimes on the field, opportunities to dive into the swimming pool, longer Forest School sessions and, of course, the Summer Show and Sports Day.

We welcome the following children to Pre-Prep this term who I am sure will soon feel settled and part of our family in no time.

Nursery 1: Emmy

Nursery 2: Lucy

Year 2: Oscar

Summer Uniform, Kits and Accessories

All children should return to school in their summer uniform; a link to this can be found below. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should wear their blazers and hats/caps to and from school each day.

<https://www.kings-taunton.co.uk/assets/uploads/pdf/nursery-and-pre-prep-uniform-march-2022.pdf>

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should have a named swimming kit (swimsuit, towel, flip-flops or equivalent, armbands/goggles if needed and **swimming hat for any child with long hair**) which can be left in school ready to make the most of any sunny afternoons. We also strongly recommend **all** children should have a rash vest as this protects them from direct sunlight and helps to keep them warm when exiting the pool.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should bring their PE kits to school with them on the first day back as we will return to changing for our PE lessons at school this term.

All children should have a named sunhat in school (preferably legionnaire style) every day.

In the hope that the weather continues to be its glorious best over the course of the term, I remind you that we do supply (and apply) sun cream for the children. However, if you wish to supply your own (named) bottle of sun cream please hand it to your child's class teacher as soon as is possible. **Please remember it is important to apply a generous dollop of sun cream to your child before school.**

Hobbies

Thank you to everyone who managed to return their Hobby forms before the end of last term. The lists are being compiled and, once the final forms have been returned, will be displayed on the main notice board. The full hobbies programme will commence on Monday 25 April, although Ballet will start back on Thursday next week.

Year 2 Ballet: please note that if your child is in Year 2 and they do not wish to continue taking lessons in Year 3 you will need to give notice by the start of this term, otherwise it will be assumed your child will continue with lessons in Prep.

Questionnaire

Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete the bi-ennial Pre-Prep questionnaire last term. The feedback was hugely positive and helpful in helping us continue to develop our practice and provision as we move forward. One area we would like to address more comprehensively is that of communication as it would seem that there is still some work to do in this area to meet the needs of all of our parent body. However, it could also be a case that we need to remind you of both the informal and formal communication points through the year in order you know what to expect and when.

The most useful reference for knowing about what is going on week to week is this newsletter and I have been reliably informed by many parents over the years that reading this each week ensures they are ready for the week ahead. I appreciate not all of it is relevant to every child but a regular scan each week should keep you on track.

At the beginning of each term, each year group posts a curriculum overview on Seesaw which details a snapshot of what your child will be learning during the course of that term. We have reduced the volume of this communication over the years to avoid 'information overload'. However, it should give you an idea of any topics your child is covering and of how you might support this learning at home.

We have always maintained an Open Door Policy whereby we encourage parents to come and speak to their child's class teacher should they have any questions or concerns. We are very happy to arrange a time to meet with you, if necessary, at a mutually convenient time. We hope no parent feels they need to wait until a more formal occasion to meet such as a Parent-Teacher meeting to ask a question/share a concern as attending to issues as they arise is a far more effective way of dealing with them. Staff try hard to share any highlights of the school day at pick-up and/or drop-off times but this might not always be possible and we really don't mind if you ask!

Staff in Nursery and Reception aim to post 'wow' moments on Seesaw for you to celebrate with your child. We appreciate these posts are fewer than those you may have received on Tapestry in the past but that is in line with the statutory reforms put into place from September 2021 which emphasised Early Years staff were to spend less time documenting the children's learning and more time co-playing and supporting the learning. We fully embrace and support this reform as it will almost definitely have a greater impact on the children's development.

The more formal occasions for meeting/communicating are as detailed below:

Nursery / Reception	Year 1 / 2
OPAL 2-Year-Old Progress Check	Two Parent-Teacher Meetings per year (Michaelmas and Lent term)
Two OPAL Spotlight Reviews per year	Two written reports per year (Michaelmas and Summer term)
Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Report at the end of the Reception year	

Grandparents' Afternoon

We are very much looking forward to welcoming lots of grandparents to Pre-Prep next Friday afternoon. Please inform those who are attending to make their way to the Arts Centre for a 2pm start.

Reception

Please could you recycle any small cardboard boxes with us for some projects based around building and construction. Thank you.

Year 2

The children should wear their Forest School kit as normal next Wednesday.

Termly Reminders

- Please make sure your child has their PE kit, fleece, waterproofs, welly boots and art overall in school and that it is all named and that anything which needs to be hung from a peg has a secure label sewn in. Please also check that all zips are in good working order.
- A reminder that Early Morning Club begins at 8.00am. If you arrive earlier, we cannot guarantee supervision of your child as we will still be preparing for the day. Please also encourage your child to be prompt in dropping off their things into their classrooms if arriving before 8.30am in order staff can make best use of this precious time in setting up for the day.
- Another reminder that TT Club charges start at 4.30pm prompt (4.00pm on Wednesdays) and that any child not collected from their classroom by 4.25pm will be taken to the TT Club room.
- Please inform your child's class teacher if there are any changes to your child's dietary / medical requirements that we should be aware of.
- We are happy to celebrate the children's birthdays with a cake but must insist that it be shop bought to fulfil the school's Health and Safety policy.
- Long hair should be tied back in either a ponytail, bunches or plaits with **navy blue** clips and hair ties, including Forest School days.
- Forest School clothing must comprise of a thin long-sleeved top, a long-sleeved jumper/hoodie, long trousers, and normal school shoes. Dresses / skirts / shorts are not appropriate.

Diary Dates

- 20 April:** Summer term begins
- 22 April:** Grandparents' Afternoon, 2.00pm – 3.30pm
- 26 April:** Year 1 'Window of Learning', 2.00pm – 3.30pm
- 28 April:** Year 2 'Window of Learning', 8.30am
- 29 April:** **No TT Club**
- 2 May:** **Public Holiday**
- 9 May:** Nursery, 'Stay and Play', 3.00pm
- 20 May:** Reception, 'Stay and Play', 8.30am
- 23 May:** Invitation to parents of children in Year 1 and Year 2 to view their children's work, 3.30pm - 6.00pm
- 27 May:** Half Term begins at 4.30pm **No TT Club**
- 6 June:** Term resumes
- 7 June:** Informal Concert, Arts Centre, 3.30pm
- 13 June:** Shuffle-Up Afternoon / Welcome Afternoon, 2.45pm, Arts Centre

- 17 June:** Year 2 Big Sleepover
- 23 June:** 'Open' Ballet Lessons
- 29 June:** Year 2 Parents invited to Final Assembly, 2.45pm
- 30 June:** Pre-Prep Summer Show and Sports, 10am – 12 noon **END OF TERM**
- 1 July:** Prize Day Crèche

Lunch Menu

Week 1

We are looking forward to seeing you all next week.

Claire Luckhurst

Head of Pre-Prep