

14th Nov 25

KEPS Courier



Success Through Teamwork

Welcome Back!

We've truly hit the ground running since returning from half term, and it's been wonderful to see our pupils embracing so many exciting opportunities.

Year 5 enjoyed an unforgettable residential trip, full of adventure and teamwork. We also welcomed Gary from Carymoor who delivered workshops on recycling as well as Ash and Oak Class beginning the Stumpy Programme with our coach, Malcolm, from the Somerset Cricket Board, giving them a fantastic chance to develop their cricket skills and teamwork.

This week, we paused to reflect for Remembrance Day, honouring those who served and sacrificed. Each class presented their own Poppy Wreath as we observed the 2 minute silence.

It was also lovely to see so many pupils letting their hair down at the School Disco! Their dance moves could easily rival those on Strictly Come Dancing. A huge thank you to our incredible PTA team for organising and running such a successful event.

I had the pleasure of attending the PTA AGM last week, and it was inspiring to hear about the creative fundraising ideas planned for this year. We also discussed how previous funds have been used and explored exciting plans ahead that will positively impact all our pupils.

As we look forward, Christmas is beginning to sparkle on the horizon. The choir is sounding absolutely wonderful in rehearsals for their upcoming concerts, and Beech Class has started practising for their Nativity performance. We can't wait to see them shine on stage!

Thank you for your continued support, it makes all the difference in creating these memorable experiences for our children.

Kind regards

Mr T



Cricket Fun at KEPS

Ash and Oak classes started the STUMPY programme run by Somerset Cricket Board.

The 6 week programme includes class-based lessons exploring the ingredients to be successful in sport and a practical cricket session each week.



Congratulations Beech Class!



Huge congratulations to Beech Class!

They have won the Tesco Langport Schools Halloween Colouring Competition!

A big thank you to Tesco's Community Champion, Wendy, who visited us to present the class with their trophy and individual winners' medals.

We are so proud of our talented artists.



Sporting Dates for the Diary

18th November - Girls' Football Tournament - Huish Academy 3G Astro Pitch 4-5.30pm
21st November - Tri-School Football Tournament - Westonzoyland Primary School - 2pm
2nd December - CLP Year 5 & 6 Basketball Tournament - Huish Leisure 4-5.30pm

Beech Class Nativity

The wonderful children from Beech class will be performing their Nativity play for their parents and carers on **Thursday 11th December 2025 at 5.30pm - Save the Date!**

More details to follow.



Remembrance Day

On Tuesday 11th November, we joined the nation in observing a two-minute silence for Remembrance Day.

At 11am, we stopped and reflected on the significance of this day with each class presenting their own beautiful wreaths to honour those who served and sacrificed.

We are so proud of our pupils for showing such respect and creativity in commemorating this important occasion.

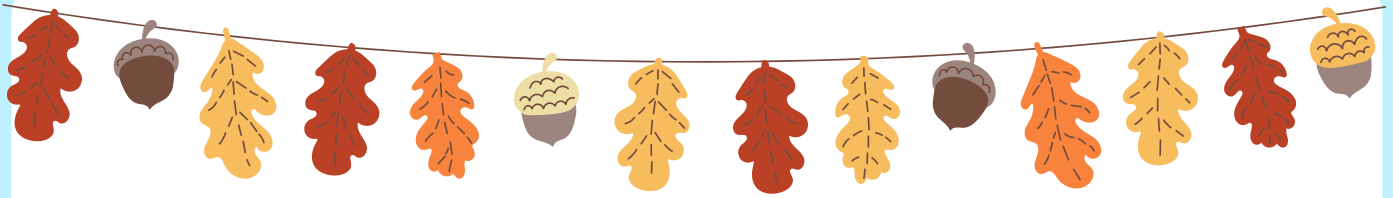


Year 5 Residential to Leeson House

Year 5 had a fabulous Residential trip to Leeson House in Dorset and came back tired, but full of enthusiasm.

Their travels had them exploring Wareham and completing the historical town trail, doing a coastal study at Knoll Beach, visiting old Harry Rocks, star gazing, having a campfire and stories, making sand models and a tour of Corfe Castle. Phew - Year 5, it was a blast!





Autumn Term PTA Fundraising Events

Fri 14th Nov - 3.30pm - Ash Class Cake Sale

Fri 21st Nov - 6pm - Christmas Bingo and Raffle at the Community Centre

Fri 5th Dec - Secret Santa

Sat 6th Dec - 10am and 7pm - Wreath making workshops at 10am and 7pm in the Church Rooms. £35 per person, to include drinks and nibbles. See www.kepspta.co.uk/events to book.

Christmas hamper donations

Each year the PTA make festive hampers using the generous donations from KEPS families. These hampers are the highlight of our Christmas Raffle.

If you are able to donate, we would gratefully accept festive items such as:

Mince pies Christmas puddings Yule log
Wine, fizz or spirits Jams, pickles or chutneys
Sweet festive treats Savoury festive nibbles
Selection box Brandy sauce Cheese biscuits

Please take your donations to the school office before Wednesday 19th November.

The Raffle will be drawn at our Christmas Bingo evening on 21st November. Thank you for your continued support!



After School Clubs

The After School Clubs for Autumn Term 2 are now on Wisepay and available to book. Please log in and book as normal.



Day	Club	Open to	Taken by	Location	Cost for Half Term	Max Number
Monday	Dodgeball	Yr 4 - 6	Mrs Cleasby	School Hall	£21.00	15
Tuesday	Christmas Crafts	Yr 1 - 6	Mrs Carson	Willow Class	£14.00	12
Tuesday	KS2 Sports	Yr 3 - 6	Mr Thompson	School Field	£15.00	25
Due to two CLP Sports Events being held on Tuesdays, KS2 Sports Club will not run on 18th Nov or 2nd Dec, as will plan to enter KS2 teams into these events - this has been reflected in the price.						
Wednesday	Cricket	Yr 3 - 6	Somerset County Cricket Club	School Field	FREE due to Grant received by KEPS	20
Thursday	Choir	Yr 2 - 6	Mrs Sowter & Mrs Colton	School Hall	ongoing	

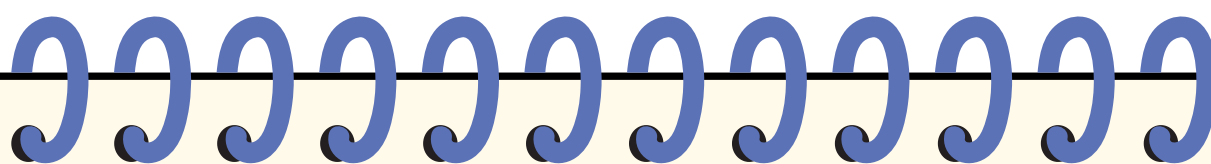
Please be aware that there will be no After School Clubs on the last week before Christmas - w/c 15th December.

School Governor Vacancy

KEPS has a vacancy for a Co-opted Governor – could this be you?

The position is open to anyone with suitable qualities – you do not have to be a parent or staff member at the school.

If you are interested in applying, please email sfaull@keps.school or contact the school office.



Dates for your Diary...

3rd December - KEPS Choir singing at Christmas Celebration at Huish Academy

5th December - KEPS Choir at Christmas Fair at KE Community Centre

8th December - KEPS Choir singing at Wells Cathedral

11th December - Christmas Jumper Day

11th December - 17.30pm - Beech Class Nativity

12th December - Christmas Story Day

(Children come to school in PJs for an afternoon of stories and hot chocolate)

16th December - School Christmas Lunch

19th December - Last day of Autumn Term

Class Updates

The below links are for each class, these will take you to the KEPS website for their updates.

Preschool [Pre School Updates | Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School](#)

Beech Class [Reception/Year 1 - Beech Mr Bell | Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School](#)

Willow Class [Year 1/2 - Willow Mrs Carson | Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School](#)

Ash Class [Year 4/5 Ash - Mrs Cleasby | Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School](#)

Oak Class [Year 5/6 Oak - Mrs Lane | Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School](#)



Safeguarding

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are **Mr Thompson** and **Mrs Carson**.
Our safeguarding governor is **Mr Simon Faull**.

If you have concerns about your child at home or school, contact the office to book an appointment. Alternatively, if you are worried about a child or young person who could be in danger, please contact Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224, by email at childrens@somerset.gov.uk or the police.

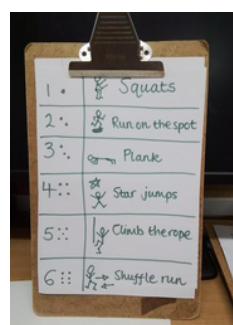
You can contact the police directly by dialling 101 and they will discuss with Children's Social Care what action should be taken. In an emergency always contact the police by dialling 999. If you would like to speak to a social worker outside office hours, please phone the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on 0300 123 2327.

KEPS Preschool Update

Welcome back to Preschool! We have been exploring Autumn. The leaves are falling and changing colour which is a good starting point to discuss the change of season and use all our senses to experience this time of year, the weather, the smells of autumn and sounds we hear. We've explored these autumn resources to do collage, cutting leaves practising using scissors, played counting games and lots of construction.

We have also been doing exercises using a sequence of body movements and counting the dots on the dice or recognising the total.

Outside we are using footballs, riding scooters and sweeping up the leaves.



Online Safety

Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time; they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMIND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are **not** to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Updated Attendance Policy – Important Information for Parents

As part of our statutory responsibilities, we have updated the **KEPS Attendance Policy**. The full policy is available on the school website and we encourage all parents to read it carefully.

Key Updates to Note:

1. Unauthorised Absences and Penalty Notices

Unauthorised absences include:

- Arriving after registration closes
- Term-time holidays without approval
- Absences without a valid explanation

If a pupil has **10 or more unauthorised sessions** (equivalent to 5 days) within a rolling 10-school-week period, the school is required to consider issuing a **penalty notice**.

Penalty notices are issued **per parent, per child**, and carry a fine of **£160** (or **£80 if paid within 21 days**). Repeat offences may lead to prosecution.

2. Changes to Signing In/Out Procedures (Effective After Half Term)

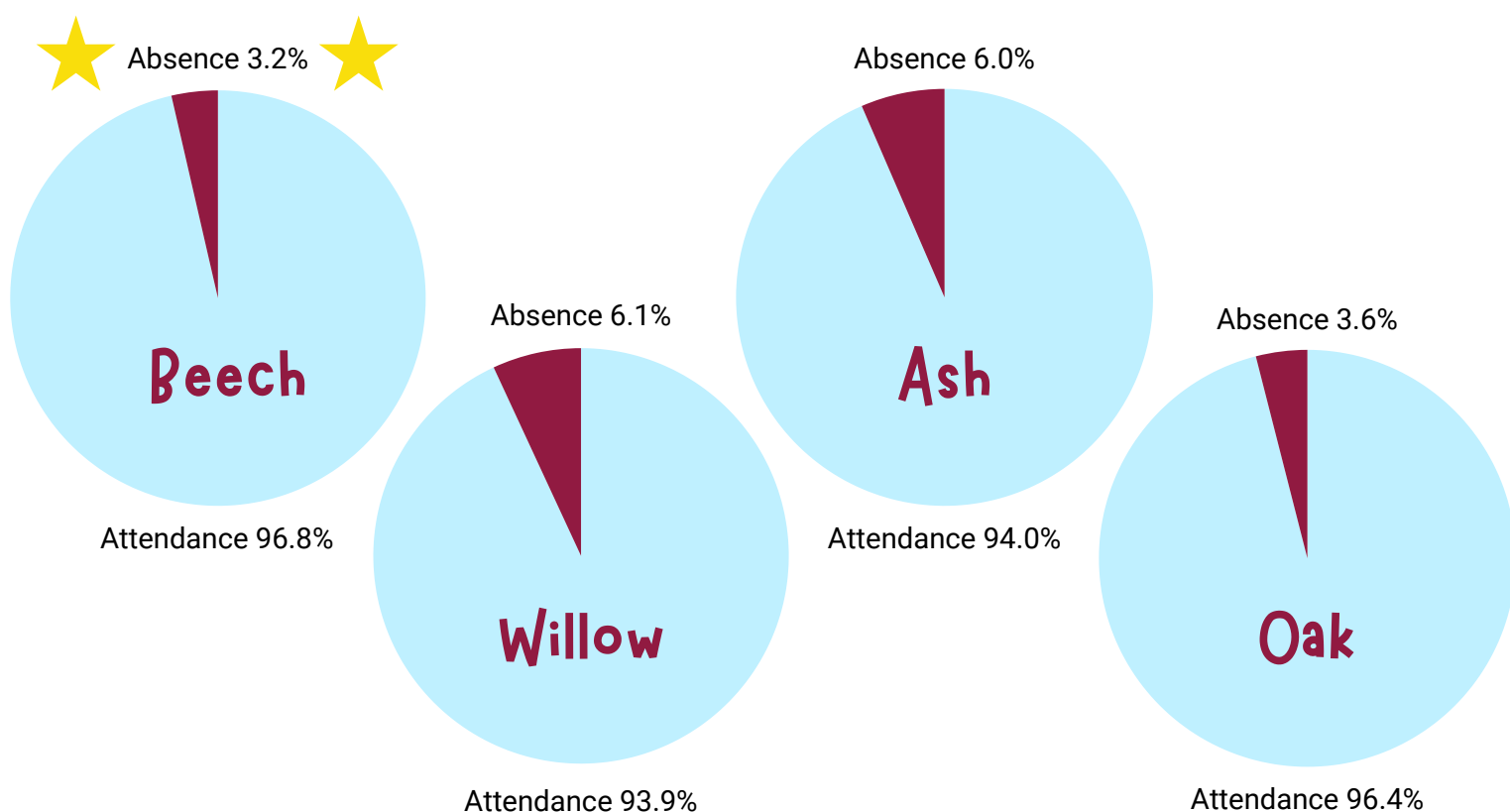
To support accurate attendance recording and safeguarding:

- Pupils arriving after the gates close at **9:00am** must be signed in by a parent or guardian at the school office.
- This includes late arrivals due to medical appointments.
- Parents must also sign their child out at the office if collecting them during the school day.

These changes are being introduced to ensure we meet statutory guidance and continue to prioritise **safeguarding and punctuality**.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

KEPS Class Attendance Figures so far This School Year



ATTENDANCE

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1

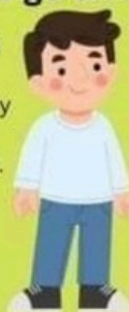
I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything.

Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine.

The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160



2

FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.



+ £160



+ £160



+ £160



+ £160

4 children & 1 parent = £640

Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

10 IN 10

5

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1 Day = **2** Sessions

3

FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS



+ £160

+ £160

+ £160

+ £160



4 children & 2 parents =
£1280

Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

4

2ND TIME

2 parents and

1 child = £320

2 children = 640

3 children = 960

4 children = 1280

No discount for early payment



3RD TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.

A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child

1 parent & 4 children = £10,000

2 parents & 4 children = £20,000

School Tours

Is your child starting school in September 2026?

The deadline for Primary School applications is **15th January 2026**. Even though our Open Events have passed, we still welcome prospective parents and children to explore our wonderful school ahead of admissions for September 2026.

Come and meet our dedicated staff, see our vibrant classrooms in action, and discover what makes Kingsbury Episcopi Primary such a special place to learn and grow. Please **call 01460 240507** or **e-mail office@keps.school** to register interest.



'Tuning into Kids' Course

**Dates for the Tuning into Kids course
run by Victoria Gould – PFSA**

Tuesday 9th December
9.30-11.30 at Somerton Library

If you are interested in joining,
please contact the school office
and we will pass your details to the organisers



Wraparound Provision

The Willows Childcare provides a wraparound provision. The hourly rate is £6.00 and available to all children either on a regular or ad-hoc basis. For more information contact The Willows Childcare on: Nic 07557 952 753 / Jackie 07909 005 066

Facebook: The Willows Childcare
Email: Jackie@thewillowschildcare.co.uk

Breakfast Club from 07.30 until 09.00 Monday to Friday.
Breakfast served until 08.10 (extra 50p charge).
After School Club operates from 15.30 until 17.30 Monday to Thursday only.

PE Days for 2025/26

Please send your child/children to school in their PE kits on PE Days. PE kits should be burgundy shorts/black leggings/tracksuit bottoms, white house coloured t shirt. A school jumper, cardigan or KEPS PE hoody (hoody is optional).

PE days for 2025/26 are:

Monday – Beech and Willow
Tuesday – Ash & Oak



Success Through Teamwork

School Calendar for 2025/26



Somersexton
Council

KEPS School Terms and Holidays 2025/2026 Academic Year

September 2025						October 2025						November 2025									
M		1	8	15	22	29	Mo			6	13	20	27	M			3	10	17	24	
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			7	14	21	28	Tu			4	11	18	25	
W		3	10	17	24		We	1	8	15	22	29	29	W			5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th	2	9	16	23	30	30	Th			6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		Fr	3	10	17	24	31	31	Fr			7	14	21	28	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		4	11	18	25		Sa	1	8	15	22	29		
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		5	12	19	26		Su	2	9	16	23	30		
December 2025						January 2026						February 2026									
M		1	8	15	22	29	M			5	12	19	26	M			2	9	16	23	
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			6	13	20	27	Tu			3	10	17	24	
W		3	10	17	24	31	W			7	14	21	28	W			4	11	18	25	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th	1	8	15	22	29	29	Th			5	12	19	26	
F		5	12	19	26		F	2	9	16	23	30	30	F			6	13	20	27	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		3	10	17	24	31	Sa			7	14	21	28	
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		4	11	18	25		Su	1	8	15	22			
March 2026						April 2026						May 2026									
M		2	9	16	23	30	M			6	13	20	27	M			4	11	18	25	
Tu		3	10	17	24	31	Tu			7	14	21	28	Tu			5	12	19	26	
W		4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29	29	W			6	13	20	27	
Th		5	12	19	26		Th	2	9	16	23	30	30	Th			7	14	21	28	
F		6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24			F	1	8	15	22	29		
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa		4	11	18	25		Sa	2	9	16	23	30		
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su		5	12	19	26		Su	3	10	17	24	31		
June 2026						July 2026						August 2026									
M		1	8	15	22	29	M			6	13	20	27	M			3	10	17	24	31
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			7	14	21	28	Tu			4	11	18	25	
W		3	10	17	24		W	1	8	15	22	29	29	W			5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th	2	9	16	23	30	30	Th			6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		F	3	10	17	24	31	31	F			7	14	21	28	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		4	11	18	25		Sa	1	8	15	22	29		
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		5	12	19	26		Su	2	9	16	23	30		

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Days

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 02 September – 24 October 2025 (39 days)	
Term 2: 03 November – 19 December 2025 (35 days)	
Term 3: 05 January – 13 February 2026 (30 days)	
Term 4: 23 February – 02 April 2026 (29 days)	
Term 5: 20 April – 22 May 2026 (24 days)	
Term 6: 01 June – 22 July 2026 (38 days)	TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2025/26

Christmas Day	25 December 2025	Easter Monday	06 April 2026
Boxing Day	26 December 2025	May Day Bank Holiday	04 May 2026
New Year's Day	01 January 2026	Spring Bank Holiday	25 May 2026
Good Friday	03 April 2026	Summer Bank Holiday	31 August 2026

Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with the individual schools for their term dates.