

Cha Cha and Mando

The new guinea pigs Cha Cha (Brown and red) and Mando (Black) have settled into KEPS and the children are already enjoying their time with them throughout each day! Thank you to all the parents who have already signed up for enjoying their company for the weekend or over the Easter holidays.



Parent and Guardian Consultations

Thank you to all of you for attending the meetings this week. It is always so wonderful to welcome so many of you into the school, we don't always get to see many of you regularly and it is always lovely to hear about how the children are getting on and how much they enjoy their time at KEPS. Thank you for all the positive comments, enthusiasm for the school, staff and the encouragement you give us it is warmly received and appreciated.

Thank you Angela Parker

As you all know the support staff in school are essential in supporting the children with their learning and positive outcomes. Angela is always on hand to help the children, staff and school. Sometime there are people who just make the world a better place just by being in it! Much appreciated as always!

Art Club Winner of Egg-cellent work!

An incredible effort by Jessica Crabtree this week who produced a cracking picture using the chalks outside. She used many skills from her Art lessons in Elm class and there was a clear inspiration from her work on Cezanne. Enjoy your Easter egg, kindly donated by families of KEPS!



Bingo prizes...

A huge thank you for all your donation we are doing incredibly well, much appreciated as the KEPS Bingo raises large amounts of money for the school and help the children in so many different ways. The basket is still at the front of the school. All selection boxes, wines, prizes, vouchers and goodies are warmly welcomed.



Success Through Teamwork

Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School

KEPS Courier

Friday 14th March 2025

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

- 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT**

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reading words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.
- 2 READING ON SCREEN**

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.
- 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS**

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.
- 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES**

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.
- 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS**

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.
- 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS**

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.
- 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS**

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.
- 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING**

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.
- 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY**

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.
- 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS**

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13-16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Red Nose Day

We will be raising money for Red Nose Day on Friday 21st March. Please join us by dressing up in red and spots. We will be taking a voluntary donation on the school gates, and we will be raising money in school by telling jokes, teachers will be dressing up and there will be several activities throughout the day. Please join in for this very worthy cause!



Joke Assembly – Wednesday 19th March

On Wednesday children will be invited to tell a joke in assembly in exchange for 50p

The jokes will need to be written down and given to Mrs Meeten by the end of Tuesday 18th so they can be checked and agreed before the children can tell them in assembly.

Mufti Day - Friday 21st March

Children can dress up in Red or 80's 90's disco gear for a contribution to comic relief for £1 cash only.

Daytime Disco - Friday 21st March

The teachers will be holding a KS1 disco and a KS2 disco for some funky fun, at some point during the school day. If your child wishes to participate, they will need to bring £1 to get onto the guest list for the disco.

Art Club With Mrs Lawson This Week



Huish Cross Country

Huge congratulations to all the children who took part in the Huish Cross Country on Thursday! What an amazing turnout from our school, with so many children representing KEPS with pride and enthusiasm. The course itself is historically known for being a real challenge, often becoming a tough, slippery mud fest, but this year was a pleasant surprise - the ground was surprisingly firm and much easier to navigate than in previous years. It was fantastic to see such determination and spirit on display throughout the event. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you!

Family Summer School 2025 4th-8th August 2025



We are intending to run another Family Summer School, similar to those carried out in the past two years. *You can get a good idea as to their nature and content by exploring :*

<https://www.kingsburytimetravellers.org.uk/category/heritage-matters/digging-about/>

The week's course is for a parent/ grandparent/ adult family member working together with a child on a variety of activities all in our local area. The opportunity would be most suitable for children in the 6-13 years age range. It's a low cost, low mileage, working-together holiday on your doorstep in the Parish, with all materials provided. **There will be three days of an introduction to archaeology. The other two days will be related creative activities.** The cost

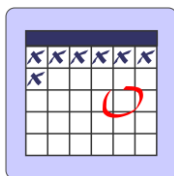
will be £75 for a child and adult. If interested you will be signing up for the week, since part of the ethos is – community group-work. To express an initial interest, use the contact information below.

Dates: Monday 4th- Friday 8th August. Places: **12 children with an adult family member.**

Contact: Adrian Wills: kingsburytimetravellers@btinternet.com or 01935 822654 or drop a note into Chimney Cottage, Church Street, Kingsbury Episcopi, along with your contact information. Thank you.

KEPS Diary Dates

Wednesday 19th March	Red Nose Day – Joke Assembly
Thursday 20th March	Praise Assembly
Friday 21st March	Red Nose Day – Dress In Red, Spots, 80s, 90s
Friday 21st March	Red Nose Day – School Time Disco
Wednesday 26th March	Elm Class Trip
Friday 28th March	Elm Class Cake Sale
Saturday 29th March	Easter Bingo & Raffle – Details To Follow
Wednesday 2nd April	Easter Disco
Friday 4th April	Inset Day



Praise Assembly

All parents, carers and family members are welcome to attend our Praise Assemblies!

The following children will be presented with their certificates:

Thursday 20th March at 3pm – Whole School

Beech Class – Malachi M & Ari O

Willow Class – Willow W & Rupert J

Elm Class – Edith W & Effie H

Ash Class -Kit G & Isla R

Oak Class – Keegan A & Poppy I

EE – Primrose C (Ash)



Class Updates

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

Preschool Update

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

Beech Class Updates

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

Willow Class Update

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

Elm Class Update

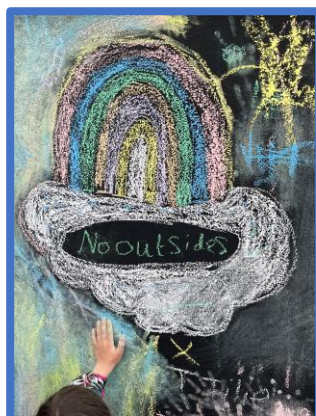
[Year 3/4 - Elm Mrs Meeten | Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School](#)

Ash Class Update

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

Oak Class Update

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



After School Clubs

Spring Term 2 2025

Clubs are available to book on Wisepay. If there are not 10 children per club, unfortunately we will have to cancel the club.

Clubs start on **Monday 24th February** and finish on **Thursday 3rd April**.

Day	Activity	Year Group	Cost	Location
Monday	Art Club with Mrs Lawson	Year 1 - 6	£18.00	Ash Class
Thursday	Choir with Mrs Sowter	Year 3 - 6	On going	School Hall
Friday	Dodgeball with Mrs Cleasby	Year 4 – 6	£15.00	School Hall

Welcome To KEPS PTA - [PTA | Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School](#)

Additional Information

The Willows Childcare provides a wraparound provision. The hourly rate is £5.50 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

As with last year, please send you 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 of KEPS PE hoody (hoody is optional)

Monday – Oak & Elm

Wednesday – Ash & Willow

Friday – Beech

Safeguarding

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are **Mrs Lawson** 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.

Additional Information

Governor News

Please see our governor page for more details on our wonderful governors who help to support the school.

Chair

Mr Simon Faull

Vice Chair

Jon Loxston

Co-opted Governors

Miss Charlotte England

Mrs Barbara Teale

Mr Michael Gulliver

Mr Jon Loxston

Miss Fiona Guest

Parent Governor

Mr David Harris

Mr Neil Burn

LFA Governor

Mr Simon Faull

Headteacher

Mrs Melanie Lawson

Clerk

Rebecca Lewins

Staff Governor

Mrs Elodie Carson

A Parent and Family Support Adviser (PFSA) can support you and your family if you are experiencing difficulties which may be influencing your child's education. Once referred to me I can: Give a listening ear, provide a friendly, supportive service. Support families in crisis. Be an advocate for parents/carers and children always aiming to empower them. Arrange to meet you at your home or school. Book appointments at times convenient to you. Help you and your family succeed. Work 1:1 with children. Use assessment tools such as EHA (Early Help Assessment). Difficulties can include Housing Benefits, Mental Health, Emotional Health, Drug/Alcohol misuse, Sexual Health – anything which many influence your child's education.

Twitter: @HUISHCLPPFSA / **Blog:**

www.huishCLPPPrimaryPFSA.home.blog / **Email:**

HuishCLPPPrimaryPFSA@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Based at Long Sutton Primary 01458 241 434

Victoria Gould, PFSA **Telephone:** 07825 833 566

Working days – Tues / Wed / Thurs 08:30 - 16:30 Fri 09:00 – 15:00



Success Through Teamwork

Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School

KEPS Courier

Friday 14th March 2025



KEPS School Terms and Holidays 2024/2025 Academic Year

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024						
M	2	9	16	23	30		Mo	7	14	21	28		M	4	11	18	25			
Tu	3	10	17	24			Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu	5	12	19	26			
W	4	11	18	25			We	2	9	16	23	30	W	6	13	20	27			
Th	5	12	19	26			Th	3	10	17	24	31	Th	7	14	21	28			
F	6	13	20	27			Fr	4	11	18	25		F	1	8	15	22	29		
Sa	7	14	21	28			Sa	5	12	19	26		Sa	2	9	16	23	30		
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su	6	13	20	27		Su	3	10	17	24			
December 2024							January 2025							February 2025						
M	2	9	16	23	30		M	6	13	20	27		M	3	10	17	24			
Tu	3	10	17	24	31		Tu	7	14	21	28		Tu	4	11	18	25			
W	4	11	18	25			W	1	8	15	22	29	W	5	12	19	26			
Th	5	12	19	26			Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th	6	13	20	27			
F	6	13	20	27			F	3	10	17	24	31	F	7	14	21	28			
Sa	7	14	21	28			Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	1	8	15	22			
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su	5	12	19	26		Su	2	9	16	23			
March 2025							April 2025							May 2025						
M	3	10	17	24	31		M	7	14	21	28		M	5	12	19	26			
Tu	4	11	18	25			Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu	6	13	20	27			
W	5	12	19	26			W	2	9	16	23	30	W	7	14	21	28			
Th	6	13	20	27			Th	3	10	17	24		Th	1	8	15	22	29		
F	7	14	21	28			F	4	11	18	25		F	2	9	16	23	30		
Sa	1	8	15	22	29		Sa	5	12	19	26		Sa	3	10	17	24	31		
Su	2	9	16	23	30		Su	6	13	20	27		Su	4	11	18	25			
June 2025							July 2025							August 2025						
M	2	9	16	23	30		M	7	14	21	28		M	4	11	18	25			
Tu	3	10	17	24			Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu	5	12	19	26			
W	4	11	18	25			W	2	9	16	23	30	W	6	13	20	27			
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Sa	7	14	21	28			Sa	5	12	19	26		Sa	2	9	16	23	30		
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su	6	13	20	27		Su	3	10	17	24	31		

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Days

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 03 September – 25 October 2024 (39 days)	
Term 2: 04 November – 20 December 2024 (35 days)	
Term 3: 06 January – 14 February 2025 (30 days)	
Term 4: 24 February – 04 April 2025 (30 days)	
Term 5: 22 April – 23 May 2025 (23 days)	
Term 6: 02 June – 23 July 2025 (38 days)	
TOTAL = 195	

Bank and public holidays 2024/25

Christmas Day	25 December 2024	Easter Monday	21 April 2025
Boxing Day	26 December 2024	May Day Bank Holiday	05 May 2025
New Year's Day	01 January 2025	Spring Bank Holiday	26 May 2025
Good Friday	18 April 2025	Summer Bank Holiday	25 August 2025

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.



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**Somerset
Council**

Somerset 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	
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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	
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