

30th Jan 26

KEPS Courier



Success Through Teamwork

A Message of Thanks to the Kingsbury Community

Thank you to the entire Kingsbury community for your patience and understanding this week. We hope that you and your families have not been too badly affected by the recent flooding.



As a school, our priority during situations like this is always safety. Decisions to close the school are never taken lightly, and there are many factors we must carefully consider. These include the safety of the school site, the ability of staff to travel safely, the safety of pupils and families on their journeys, and of course ensuring that everyone can return home without risk. Adverse weather often makes this decision-making process particularly challenging.

It has been eye-opening to witness first-hand how quickly water levels can rise and fall. This rapid change adds an extra layer of complexity to decision making, as conditions can shift dramatically in a very short space of time.

Living on top of the Polden Hills near Bridgwater, I am very aware that weather conditions can vary significantly even a short distance away. What I experience at home can be very different from what is happening in Kingsbury. I am extremely grateful to the members of our staff who live locally and have provided timely and accurate updates to help inform each decision.

While we will always strive to keep the school open whenever it is safe to do so, the safety of our community must remain paramount. Given the school's location, we know that flooding and adverse weather will always be considerations, especially through the winter months.

With further rain forecast in the coming weeks, please be assured that we will continue to monitor the weather and road conditions closely and endeavour to make the right decisions to keep everyone in our community safe. Thank you again for your continued support, patience, and resilience during this unsettled period.

Warmest wishes,

Mr T



Did you know?

You can follow KEPS on Facebook by following the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/kingsburypiscopiprimaryschool>



FOLLOW US

KEPS Orchard Club – Wraparound Care

Following the closure of The Willows Childcare, we are now managing the wraparound childcare provision directly within the school.

As you know Mrs Nic Bullock is still running the club for KEPS, along with new support of Mrs Tha Sylvester.

All bookings from February are now to be made and payed for via WisePay and we ask that you contact the school office for any matters regarding Orchard Club going forward. If you are paying via Childcare Vouchers, please note this at the end of each of your bookings. Should you have any questions regarding the new process please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please make sure your places are booked in via Wisepay in advance - many thanks!

Car Park Reminder

Please can we kindly remind parents and carers to park with consideration for others when using the school car park.

We ask that all spaces are used sensibly to ensure that everyone can access the site safely when dropping off and collecting their children. Your support in keeping the flow of traffic smooth and safe for all families is greatly appreciated.



★ Thank You, Oak Class Families! ★



A huge thank you to all the parents and carers from Oak Class who joined us for our History Afternoon yesterday!

It was wonderful to see so many of you getting hands-on with the pupils, using junk modelling to create buildings inspired by the Indus valley Civilisation in India.



It was a fantastic afternoon of creativity, curiosity and collaborative learning. We hope you enjoyed engaging with the children and experiencing their learning first-hand.

Thank you again for your support - Oak Class loved having you there!

Sporting Dates for the Diary



3rd February - Year 3/4/5/6 Swimming Gala - Huish Leisure 2 - 3.30pm

10th March - Cross Country 2 - Huish Academy 3 - 4pm

24th March - Cross Country 3 - Huish Academy 4pm start

After School Clubs

The After School Clubs for Spring term 1 are on Wisepay and available to book. Please log in and book as normal.

Day	Club	Open to	Taken by	Location	Cost	Max Number
Monday FULL	Lego Club	Yr R - 2	Mr Bell	Beech Class	£15 / Half Term	FULL
Monday	Micro:bit Club	Yr 3 - 6	Mrs Lane	Oak Class	£15 / Half Term	15
Monday	KS1 Sports Club	Yr R - 2	Mr Thompson	School Field	£15 / Half Term	20
Tuesday	KS2 Sports Club	Yr 3 - 6	Mr Thompson	School Field	£12 / Half Term	25
Due to two CLP Sports Events being held on Tuesdays, KS2 Sports Club will not run on 20th Jan or 3rd Feb , as will plan to enter KS2 teams into these events - this has been reflected in the price.						
Thursday FULL	Choir	Yr 2 - 6	Mrs Sowter & Mrs Colton	School Hall	£30 / Whole Term	FULL

Sporting Success

A huge well done to our Year 5/6 dodgeball team who took part in the County Dodgeball Championships on 16th January at Buckers Mead in Yeovil. The children played brilliantly, demonstrating great teamwork and skill throughout the event.

They experienced a mix of winning, drawing, and losing matches, showing resilience and positivity throughout. They also displayed excellent behaviour, which was praised by the person leading the event, and were fantastic ambassadors for our school.



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



Another busy few weeks despite the heavy rain. We've been out in the water suits rolling cars through puddles, waving the ribbons and playing football. All great for physical development and coordination.

Using scissors develops the muscles in the hands so this week we had cutting challenges of different materials. We did dancing, exercises, climbing and using the balance beam as part of our theme of being healthy. Role play doctors is always popular, looking after the baby dolls. We've been practising counting with the play fruit, and sorting into colours or fruits.

Inside we've been painting, doing construction, role play, bring creative with collage and listening to some fantastic stories. Shark in the Park for its rhythm and fun, Have You Seen Elephant for its humour and prompting use of positional language.



PTA News

Welcome to the Spring Term from the KEPS PTA and welcome to our new committee member Zoe Lane. Thanks to your continued support we have successfully raised the majority of funds needed to renew the main play area and equipment. This term, it would be great to reach our goal.

KEPS PTA

Upcoming Events

Easter Bingo - Kingsbury Episcopi Community Centre

- Friday 20th March - details to follow

Easter Disco - date to be confirmed

Easter Raffle

Willow Class Cake Sale/Preloved uniform - to be confirmed

Last week was the launch of **Challenge 2026**. Let's make this year a great success. A chance for the children to think up their best fundraising ideas. Half-term is the perfect opportunity and we look forward to sharing your achievements.

You can find full details on the class chat groups.



You may have a few **unwanted gifts** that we can make good use for our fund raising efforts. There is a donation basket in the school reception area (office).

Donating your old clothing and textiles helps us raise £100s each year. Look for the big donation bin in the far corner of the car park. Please bag all items.





Shopping online?
Raise free funds for
us at the same time

Sign up



and 8,000+ online retailers...

You spend, brands donate to Kingsbury
Primary School.

Help us when you shop with 7,000+ brands. Join now.
www.easyfundraising.org.uk

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kingsburyprimaryschool>

If you shop online please take a moment to visit the easy fundraising page use the above link to raise free funds for the school. So far we have raised over £600 using this site. It's easy to set up.



'Tuning into Kids' Course

Dates for the next round of the 'Tuning into Kids' course
run by Victoria Gould – PFSA

Thursday 26th February
Thursday 5th March
Thursday 12th March
Thursday 19th March
Thursday 26th March
Thursday 2nd April

9.30-11.30am - venue to be confirmed

More details will be sent out via email asap.

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)

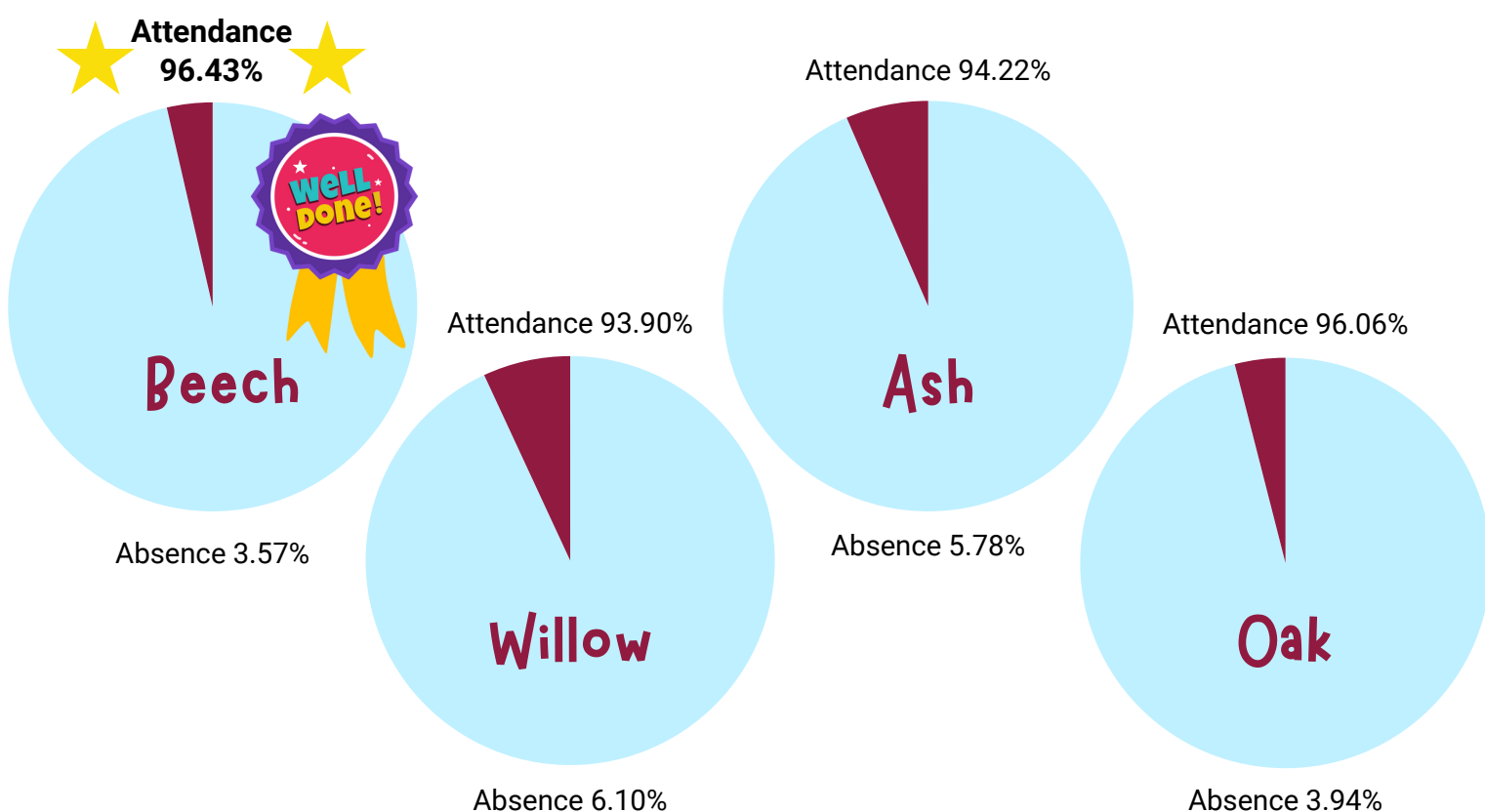
To support accurate attendance recording and safeguarding:

- 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





Online Safety



The Switch is a hybrid console released by popular video game company Nintendo in 2017. It's classed as a hybrid because it's designed to be played both at home on a television, like traditional consoles (think a PlayStation or an Xbox) or out and about like a portable console, such as a GameBoy. It uses two detachable and wireless 'Joy-Con' controllers on either side of the console's screen, which can be used by one or two players. The Switch can be played on the internet with the purchase of Nintendo Switch Online, in the living room together or on the go during long journeys, but bear in mind it needs to be charged just like anything else!



What parents need to know about

NINTENDO SWITCH



NINTENDO SWITCH ONLINE

Nintendo Switch Online is a paid service that allows the console to be played (you guessed it) online, by linking to other Switch consoles around the world. It can be purchased through the Nintendo eShop for a single account on the device, or with a family membership plan which covers 2 accounts. The purchase options come in three tiers: 1 month, 3 months and 12 months but be aware these auto-renew unless you specify otherwise.



ONLINE DANGERS

While online, your children will be able to play with and chat to people on compatible games, which will mostly be good-natured fun, but could potentially expose them to vulgar language, indecent images or worse. There are options to limit this though, which are detailed below. It's worth remembering that many games can be played offline, so while it's not essential to get Nintendo Switch Online, it is certainly something to consider.



NINTENDO eSHOP

The Nintendo eShop is where games can be purchased over the internet and downloaded directly onto the device. If you choose to enter your bank details (or PayPal account) onto the Switch, you can save them for easy access later on. Do note however that these can be viewed by anybody with access to the console, unless you specify otherwise. A child might accidentally purchase a game or item from the shop if these details are left improperly protected, which could leave you with a nasty surprise.



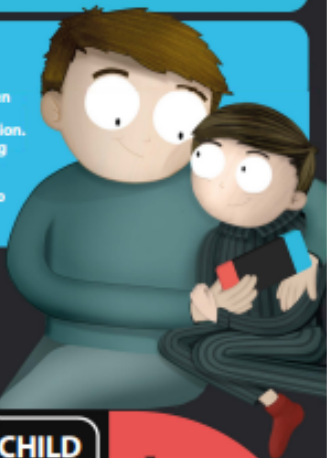
NINTENDO'S VIDEO GAME SELECTION

Nintendo as a company offers some of the most entertaining and safe video games on the market. Games featuring characters like Super Mario, Donkey Kong and Yoshi are always a safe bet for a child-friendly experience. It's always prudent to check each game before you buy it (especially if the game hasn't been made by Nintendo) but as a rule of thumb, anything official containing well-known names like these will be great for your children, giving you peace of mind while they enjoy them.



PORTABLE GAMING

Being able to take the Switch anywhere is a huge bonus when travelling. What's more is that almost every game can be enjoyed without the need to 'dock' the console with a television. Battery life on the Switch varies depending on what it's being used for but typically it will last around 3 or 4 hours before needing to be recharged. When the time comes, any USB-C charger will be able to do the job, but it's best and quickest to return it to the dock, which requires a normal plug socket.



Top Tips For Parents

PARENTAL CONTROLS

Nintendo released a free downloadable app that can be used in tandem with the Switch called Nintendo Switch Parental Controls. Once you've got the app on your mobile device, it's a simple process to pair your two devices, giving you a suite of options to help make sure your child is having fun in a safe and structured environment curated by you.



ONLINE RESTRICTIONS

Another major inclusion in the app is the ability to block your child from seeing anything to do with age restricted games. There's also an extremely helpful feature that restricts access to games that have free communication features between strangers on the internet. This includes things like private messages and unsolicited images. Should you be concerned that strangers might be using the games to talk to your child, a simple press of a button will disallow any access they might have.

PLAY WITH YOUR CHILD

One of the wonderful things about the Switch is that there are an abundance of great games you and your child can enjoy together, and even with the whole family. Nintendo has a long history of making and supporting fun, family friendly games like Mario Kart and Mario Party, both of which can be played with two or more players using the Joy-Con controllers.



NINTENDO ESHOP SETTINGS

In the Nintendo eShop you can set up a password to help stop your child or somebody else from accessing any sensitive information, such as bank account details. The options here include entering a password to access the eShop to begin with, when any saved credit card information access is attempted, or when PayPal is accessed. Choosing which areas are password protected helps ensure you're deciding what level of access is given on the device. For example, if you're happy to have your child browse the shop for games they might want, you can allow access to the eShop but introduce the password before a purchase is made ensuring no mishaps occur.



LIMITING PLAY TIME

By linking the app with the Nintendo Switch, you can set time limits and reminders when you think enough time has been spent playing. It also lets you see if a game is still being played and gives you the option to automatically put the console into sleep mode if the message is ignored. This should only be used as a last resort though as it could cause some friction between you!

SET PLAY TIMES

Another handy feature is the ability to set different playtimes for days of the week, allowing you to tailor play time around you and your child's schedules. This is great for setting boundaries and encouraging gaming as part of a healthy routine. It will also help your child organise with their friends when they can all be online.



SEE PLAY HISTORY

The Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app can also send a report telling you how much time your child spends playing each game. This is a great way to spot their favourite or most played games and might be a nice way for you to find out more about a title before talking to your child about it. It could also help identify any possible issues around playtime before they arise.





Success Through Teamwork

School Calendar for 2025/26



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	W		5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		Fr	3	10	17	24	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	Th		5	12	19	26	
F		5	12	19	26		F	2	9	16	23	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	W		6	13	20	27	
Th		5	12	19	26		Th	2	9	16	23	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	W		5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		F	3	10	17	24	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.