

16th Jan 26

KEPS Courier



Success Through Teamwork

Happy New Year, everyone!

I hope you all enjoyed a restful and refreshing break. It has been wonderful welcoming pupils back to KEPS for the start of the Spring Term, full of energy, curiosity, and excitement for the term ahead.



We are delighted to share that **Pachamama's Forest School** has now joined us at KEPS. They will be leading Forest School sessions every Thursday morning, starting this term with **Willow Class**. The children have already shown great enthusiasm for outdoor learning, exploration, and building confidence in nature. We are very hopeful that this partnership will continue to grow, enabling more of our pupils to access Forest School opportunities in the future.

This term also marks the start of our **whole-school focus on reading**. We are launching our new **Reading Challenge**, please see this week's edition for full details on how it works and how your child can take part. Alongside this, we are introducing **DEAR Time** (Drop Everything And Read). Every other Wednesday, staff and pupils will pause together to enjoy shared reading. These moments create a calm, uplifting atmosphere in school and help nurture a genuine love of stories.

As we step into this new term, I also want to acknowledge something important: **it's completely normal to feel a bit low at this time of year**. The festive rush has passed, the days are still short, and the pressure of "new year, new you" can feel overwhelming. Please remember to be kind to yourself, you're doing great. And as always, we're here to help. If you or your child need support, a conversation, or a little extra reassurance, please do reach out.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to all the wonderful learning and achievements the term will bring.

Warmest wishes,

Mr T





Launch of Our New Whole-School Reading Challenge!

We are excited to announce the launch of our brand-new **Reading Challenge**, designed to inspire a love of books across our school community and celebrate the many benefits that reading brings to children's learning and development.

From this week onwards, pupils are encouraged to **read a minimum of four times each week**. Every time a child completes **four reads**, recorded and signed by an adult in their reading diary, they will earn a **raffle ticket**. These tickets will be entered into a **special prize draw at the end of term**, and of course, the more you read, the more tickets you earn... and the more chances you have to win!

After all, you have to be in it to win it! 🎉



Why Reading Matters

Reading is one of the most powerful ways to support a child's development. Research consistently shows that:

- **Reading regularly boosts vocabulary and language skills**, helping children express themselves more clearly.
- **Children who read frequently develop stronger comprehension skills**, which support learning across all subjects.
- **Reading builds imagination, empathy, and emotional understanding**, allowing children to explore new ideas, perspectives, and worlds.
- Even just a few minutes of daily reading can **improve focus, reduce stress, and enhance overall wellbeing**.
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By taking part in our Reading Challenge, pupils are not only working towards exciting prizes, they are also investing in skills that will support their learning for years to come.

How to Take Part

- Aim to read **at least four times a week**.
- Record each reading session in your **reading diary** and have it **signed by an adult**.
- For every set of four reads, pupils receive a **raffle ticket**.
- All tickets go into the **end-of-term prize draw**.

We can't wait to see our pupils diving into new books, discovering new favourite stories, and celebrating their reading achievements. **Happy reading, everyone!** 📖✨

Sporting Dates for the Diary



20th January - Year 5/6 Hockey Tournament - Huish Academy 3G Astro Pitch 4 - 5.15pm
 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

Wraparound Provision

From **Friday 30th January 2026**, The Willows will cease providing our Breakfast & Afterschool Childcare provision.

We are happy to inform you that Mrs Nic Bullock has agreed to continue to provide this service within our school and all bookings will be made and paid for via WisePay.

Should you have a last-minute requirement you will need to either call or email the school office to request this, however this will be during normal school hours. A doorbell will be placed on the school gate for you to use when you drop off/pick up your child/ren.

Drop Everything And Read

Every other Wednesday at 3pm we have started holding DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read).

Classes mix together and share their reading books, listen to each other read and so on.

We had our first DEAR time on Wednesday and it was wonderful to see everyone sharing their love of books!



Forest School at KEPS

We are thrilled to welcome Pachamama's Forest School to KEPS!

This half term, they'll be working closely with some of our pupils from Willow Class, bringing outdoor learning to life.

The session shown in these photos was all about perseverance and teamwork—and what a fantastic start it was! The children had great fun exploring, collaborating, and challenging themselves in nature.

We can't wait to see what adventures the rest of the term brings!



Ukulele Time!

Last Friday, we have a super morning of music for our Year 4's as they began their Ukulele lessons with Mr Male from Somerset Music.

We can't wait to hear them perform.



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.

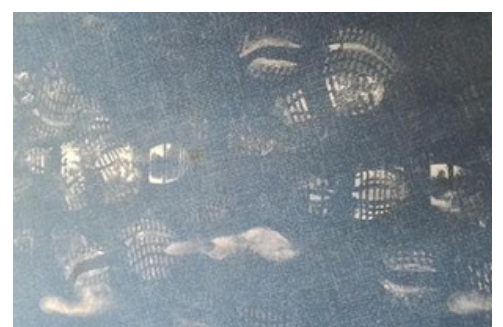
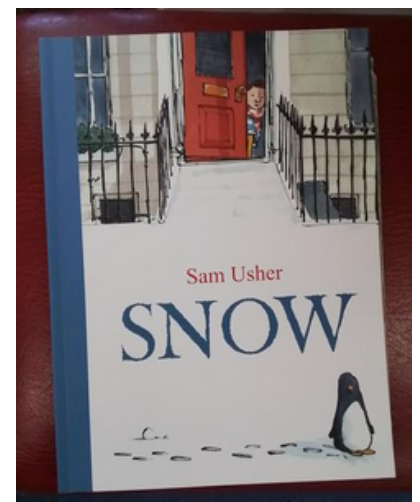
KEPS Preschool Update

Happy New Year!

We're exploring the season of winter and so made snow from flour as a lovely sensory activity and to fill containers and roll toy cars through. It created snowy footsteps too. This beautiful book was a fun story to share about the magic of snow and that somethings are worth waiting for.

These activities promote the development of muscles and coordination that supports writing skills development. Writing on the whiteboard and wiping it away is great fun.

Manipulating playdough develops fine motor muscles and newly made playdough is delightful to play with and knead.



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)

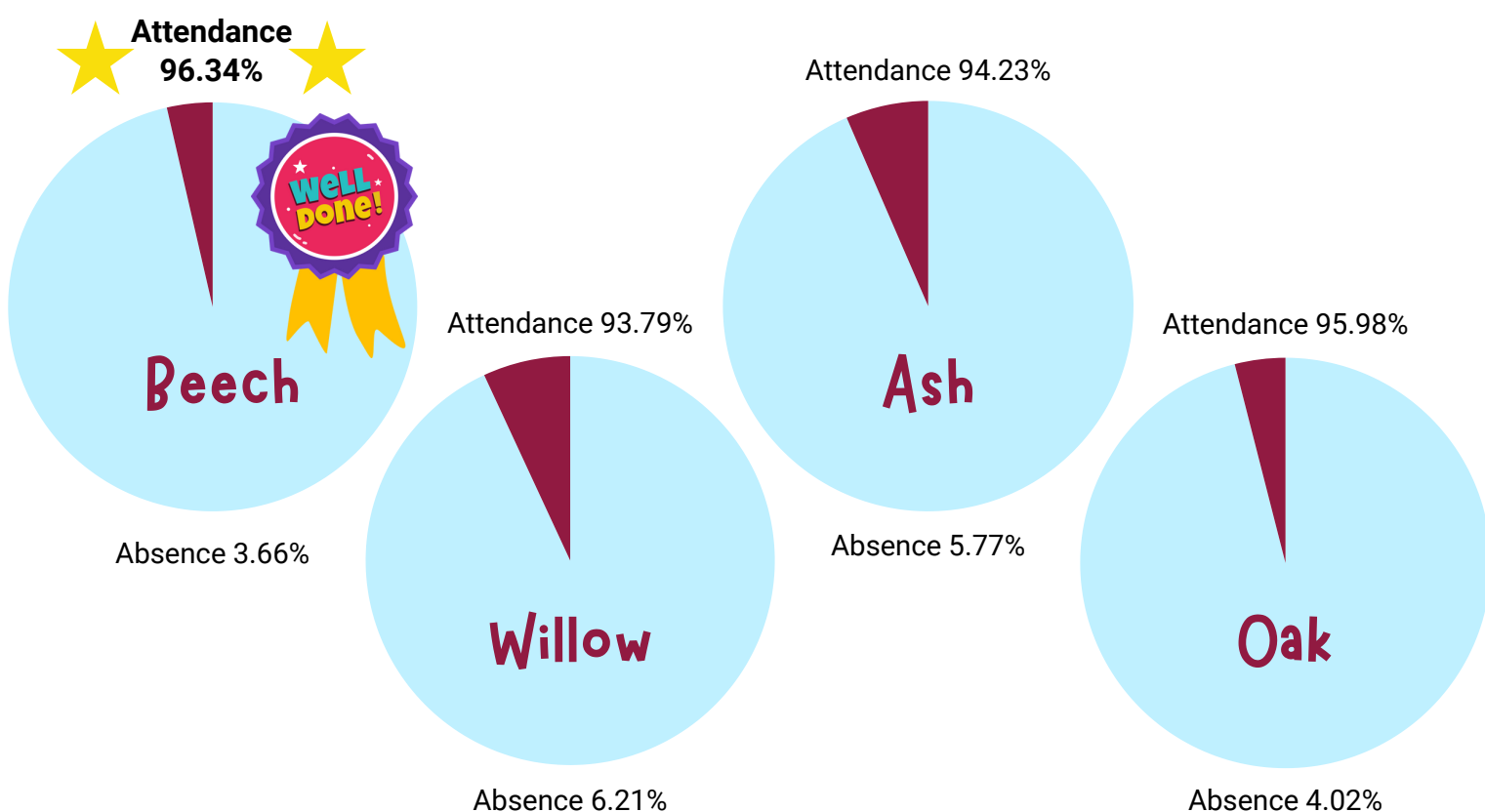
To support accurate attendance recording and safeguarding:

- 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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INFLUENCERS

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM

A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising; this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.

THE SOFT SELL

Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions – and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.

PRVACY CONCERNS

Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online – which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routine. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.

UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM

Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP TALKING

Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.

SET SOME BOUNDARIES

Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). Try to keep an eye on your child's online activity and discuss it regularly with them – including reminding them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.

SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media – and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous. If possible, highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.

PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY

Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.



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	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.