



Kingfisher Class-Welcome Letter – September 2021



General Information

Welcome to Kingfisher Class. I am looking forward to working together to ensure that all children continue to reach their full potential, feel confident, listened to, and continue to love their time at school. Mrs Manship will be supporting and leading in our class throughout the week, as our Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA).

Your support with your child's learning and development is invaluable and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance. As a partnership (home and school), we will be able to help your child reach their full potential and support them to invest in their own learning. Your child, their learning and wellbeing are of upmost importance to all of us. We care about helping them grow as individuals, as a team, as well as their academic progress.

Both Mrs Newman and I are excited about joining together for collaborative sessions, as well as ensuring the children have time as individual year groups. It is important to us that we create our own class communities as Falcons and Kingfishers, but that we also maintain those links between classes for existing friendships to still flourish. On the timetable included, you will see how we have mapped in opportunities for this. This will be explained further during our Welcome Meeting.

We have also started to arrange a residential experience for the end of May. In the past, this has been an experience offered to Year 5 and Year 6. However, with the merging of the classes, it has been a great opportunity for us to look at running a larger residential where Year 4, 5 and 6 will be able to experience this together. This will be at Great Wood, where the children will take part in a range of outdoor adventurous activities. More information on this residential will follow this term.

Kingfisher Projects

There are some great enquiry projects for the year ahead in Kingfisher Class! We have begun the term with an Author Study and our Class Book, *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. This book, written by Onjali Q Rauf, a children's author, tackles current real-life issues that can often be difficult to understand and talk about, such as refugee crisis and homelessness.

Alongside this for the Autumn term, we are exploring the Ancient Greeks... 'It's All Greek To Me'. This will give us opportunities to investigate the over-arching question of 'What did the Greeks do for us?' whilst we explore evidence of the Ancient Greeks that still remain today in our world. We will develop our chronological understanding, explore Greek roots in our language, discuss achievements and inventions, look into daily life, explore changes from 'then' and 'now' and look at aspects such as culture and Gods. Our English work will complement our Enquiry project, by exploring the text 'Who Let The Gods Out', alongside Greek myths.

For more information and our long-term plan, please see the Kingfisher class page on the school website.

Reading

Reading continues to be a large focus and it is essential that all children enjoy reading. Their journey to discovering authors and text types they enjoy will continue. All children should aim to read at least four times a week to an adult where possible and record this in their yellow reading record. These will be checked weekly and share a brief comment, recognition of reading, or reminder.

PE and Forest School

PE will be on a Monday and Friday. Please see the school website for a reminder on our school PE kit. As well as PE lessons, children will have regular movement breaks and daily track times. We will begin our day with some speedy laps, before we start our classroom learning, and break our afternoon with more active laps too.

We are lucky to have a Forest School area at school as one of our outdoor spaces. The previous Year 6 children did a lot of work to improve the space, which I know Y6 Falcons are looking forward to continue leading. This is a great place to play but also conduct Forest School activities, which we will carry out on a Friday with Falcons. It is important that children have wellies and coats in school every day so that they can use this area at any time.

Uniform

As role models for younger children, it is important that they set a good example. Please ensure that your child is wearing the appropriate clothing and footwear. For those children who have their ears pierced, it should be plain studs, which will need to be removed or covered with tape during PE. Other than a watch or medic alert bracelet, there should be no other jewellery/accessories. Any child with longer hair needs to have their hair tied back. In addition to our standard school uniform, you may wish to provide your child with an oversized shirt to use as an Art apron. Please see the school website for a reminder on our uniform.

Bottles

Your child is encouraged to have their own water bottle in school. Please do not put these in the same bag as their books, as we have had many ruined through bottle leaks. Children keep their water bottles with them during lesson time, so they can access these when needed.

Responsibilities in Kingfisher Class

In Kingfisher Class, our focus will be on growing and developing our personal confidence, academically and with our friends. In Kingfisher Class, we will continue to promote thinking positively about ourselves, developing our self-belief and self-esteem and recognising our individual progress. We will continue to develop feeling 'proud', feeling proud of the work we achieve, the behaviour that we radiate and of who we are.

Communication

I think it is important that there are strong communication links between us. Class Dojo messages and emails have been brilliant this past year in helping us maintain those links. I

am delighted that we will be able to see each other again on the playground at the end of the school day, but the use of Class Dojo messages and emails will continue to be our main forms of communication. This ensures that I can focus on making sure that children are released safely at the end of the day, as well as supporting children with this transition period. If you need to discuss any issues, concerns or general queries further, then I will be happy to arrange a phone call or meeting. Thank you for your understanding and I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Behaviour expectations

Already this term, we have worked on remembering and re-establishing our school rules (Ready, Respectful and Safe) and learning behaviours (Accuracy, Resilience, Collaboration, Independence and Reflection). Children will continue to earn Class Dojo points when they are seen to be going above and beyond the standard expectations. This may be in pieces of work they produce; answers they give and how they conduct themselves around the school.



Home Learning

It is important that children's learning habits get off to a good start. In school, we will establish and maintain a routine to meet all children's needs and promote curiosity, engagement and success. Key Stage 2 is an important stage in your child's primary journey and it is essential that children complete the home learning set. We understand that children have other commitments as well as a need time to switch off, which is why we have created a whole school home learning timetable to support their continued learning and engage them through the choices on offer.

Home learning will be set each week (unless stated otherwise) on a **Wednesday** and will need to be completed and shared by **Tuesday morning**. Their home learning will be shared on the **class page** on the **school website**.

St Aldhelm's Home Learning Autumn 1 2021



Weekly skills practice as a minimum
Read and Respond for 10-15 minutes four times
Spelling Shed for 5 minutes 3 times
Times Tables Rockstars for 5 minutes 3 times per week

as well as

Choose one pick and mix activity each week		
Any highlighted yellow (Hotspot activity) must be completed during this term		
Spelling	Science	RE Reflection
Grammar / Writing	Maths	Art or DT
PE	Enquiry	Enquiry
Reading	Wellbeing	PSHE
Completed	+ Each Tuesday, submit the activity as a portfolio on your child's profile on Class Dojo using the blue add sign. Remember, your child will need to be on their profile on Class Dojo to do this.	

Children will have three lists of spellings set for them and checked fortnightly. Two of these lists will be taught spellings from work in class and one of these will be a revision list. Times Tables Rockstars will also be checked fortnightly. Weekly, I will check the children's reading records and discuss their reading and responses with them. This will also be when I look at the work from the pick and mix tasks your child will have submitted on their Class Dojo portfolio. These pick and mix tasks above will have an activity set under each of the subject titles.

Class Welcome Meeting

Mrs Cohen will be leading the Class Welcome Meeting on Tuesday 14th September from 3.30pm until 4pm in our classroom. During this meeting, she will share key information for Kingfisher Class and will suggest ways in which you can support your child further at home.

I am looking forward to an exiting and enjoyable year!

Kind Regards,

Miss Juden

Kingfisher Class Timetable Example

	9 : 10	9:00- 10:00	10:00-11:00	Break1 1:00- 11:15	Session 2 11:15-12:15	Lunch 12:15- 13:15	Session 3 1:15-2:00	Session 4 2:00-3:00	3:00- 3:25 home		
Monday		Learning together for life in all its fullness	Reading		PE		Y4 SPAG Y5 R4P	Enquiry	RE	Story	
Tuesday		Worship 9:05-9:30	Science Y4- Teeth and digestion Y5- Living things		Maths		Y5 SPAG Y4- R4P	Art/ DT)	Enquiry	Story	
Wednesday		Worship follow up	Reading		Maths		Writing	Computing	Art	Reading .	Story
Thursday		Reading	Maths		Writing		Handwriting and Music (PPA cover)				Story
Friday		Singing Assembly	Y4 PSHE Y5 Problem Solving Maths (Y5/6)		Y4 MTC practice Y5 PSHE		Spelling	Teambuilding games (Y4/5/6)			Story