

## Kingfisher Class-Welcome Letter – September 2023

Welcome to Kingfisher Class! I am looking forward to working together to make sure that all children continue to reach their full potential, feel confident, listened to, and love their time at school. This year, Kingfisher Class will be supported by Mrs Horton, as our Higher-Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA).



In Kingfisher Class, the main focus will be on growing and developing personal confidence, both academically and socially. Priorities include ensuring children think positively about themselves, develop their self-belief and self-esteem, and ensure that they can recognise their own individual progress. We will continue to develop feeling 'proud', feeling proud of work achieved, the behaviour that we radiate, and of who we are.

Children within Kingfisher Class will take part in many lessons as a whole class and some lessons in their single year groups, this may vary as the academic year progresses. It will be important to ensure a whole class cohesion, as well as maintain the strong year group relationships that have developed too, and this is carefully considered where it will be most beneficial for the children.

For Year 5 parents, where children have remained in the same class, please be reassured that curriculum coverage will not be repeated and enquiry projects are different too. As the children will relay from experiences last year, there are small, subtle but clear differences to how the mixed age class dynamic works within the classroom. More information about when single year group teaching will occur can be shared at the upcoming Welcome Meeting.

### Residential

As you will know, we have arranged a residential for the end of February. Running a larger residential every other year, where Year 4, 5 and 6 will be able to experience this together, has been a brilliant experience; we look forward to providing this opportunity again. This will be at Kilve, where the children will take part in a range of outdoor adventurous activities. More information on this residential will follow once the deposit has been paid and we can guarantee we have sufficient interest to run this experience. Please remember that the **£50 deposit** needs to be paid via School Gateway by **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

### Kingfisher Projects

We are kicking things off this year with an exciting World War 2 history project in the Autumn term and will be considering 'how did normal life continue during the war?' as well as considering 'how do we know the war came to Somerset?' with exciting learning planned surrounding the Homefront. Our enquiry will also link to other curriculum subjects, as we begin with wartime dance! We'll be doing some 'Make do and mend' in DT, creating propaganda posters in Art and cracking Bletchley Park style code breakers in maths. We'll be using the historical fiction book *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll and the non-fiction book *Missing* by Michael Rosen, about his family and experiences in the war time for our English work. We'll end each day with a story too, and we'll be kicking off with 'The Lion Above The Door' by Onjali Rauf. Both Rauf and Carroll are great authors for children of Kingfishers age.

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

### Reading

Reading continues to be priority and it is essential that all children enjoy reading in some capacity. Children are encouraged to read books from school, the library, or books from home. Please ensure these are brought to school every day for reading opportunities within the classroom, or our reading area. In the 'supporting your child at home' document, some initial reading recommendations based on authors the children may already enjoy have been signposted. For more bespoke recommendations, please contact me through Class Dojo and I will recommend appropriate texts to suit individuals. All children should read at least four times a week, to an adult where possible, and record this in their yellow reading record alongside a brief comment, or response. These will be checked weekly on a **Tuesday**.

## PE

PE will be on a Wednesday and Thursday. Please see the school website for a reminder on our school PE kit. For the variable weather, please make sure children have an indoor kit, and warmer options for being outdoors, as well as suitable shoes (not daps for outside PE). As well as PE lessons, children will have regular movement breaks in class, in the form of track time and short dance breaks.

We are lucky to have a Forest School area at school as one of our outdoor spaces. It is important that children have wellies and coats in school every day so that they can use this area at any time.

Children in Kingfisher Class will be going swimming as well, this is likely to be later in the year, and communication will come through the School Office nearer the time.

## Uniform

As role models for younger children, it is important that they set a good example. Please ensure 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, or old 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 with their name on. 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.

## Communication

It is hugely important that there are strong communication links between home and school. Class Dojo messages and emails are brilliant at helping us maintain those links, as well as share what we get up to in the classroom. The use of Class Dojo messages, and emails, will continue to be our main forms of communication instead of conversations before and immediately after school. 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 meeting.

If sharing information about attendance or something for that same day, please also contact the School Office. This is because I may not always get the chance to check emails/messages before the end of the school day.

## 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, or how they conduct themselves around the school.



## Home Learning

Your support with your child's learning and development is invaluable and I would like to thank you in advance for the learning that will continue to take place at home. More information about home learning expectations are below. 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.

Home learning will be set each week (unless stated otherwise) on a **Wednesday** and will need to be completed and shared by **Tuesday morning**.

Home Learning will be as follows;

- As mentioned above, children will be expected to read at least four times a week, earning a Dojo point for x4 reads, and 2 Dojo points for a read every day.
- Children will have one list of spellings, set for them on Spelling Shed. They will be expected to play 6 games on Spelling Shed each week. Each game is on average two minutes long.
- Children will practice at home on Times Tables Rockstars for 15 minutes every week.
- Starting from **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September** children in Kingfishers will receive an additional piece of work to complete at home. This will be something linked to class work that will need to be returned either through Dojo, or on paper, depending on how the task is set. This will be a short activity, such as practicing the concept taught in maths that week.

### Class Welcome Meeting

The Class Welcome Meeting will be Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September from 3.30pm until 4pm in our classroom. During this meeting, I can share key information for Kingfisher Class and will suggest ways in which you can support your child further at home, as well as answer any questions you may have.

I am looking forward to an exciting and enjoyable year!

Kind Regards,

Miss Juden

	8.45 – 9am	9 – 10.45am	10.45 – 11am	11 – 12pm		1 – 1.30pm	1.30 – 3.25pm	
Monday	Morning activity	Split Maths	K S 2  B R E A K	English	L U N C H  12-1	French	PSHE	
Tuesday	Morning activity	English		Split Maths		Mrs Horton teaching Kingfishers for Miss Juden's PPA		
Wednesday	Morning activity	English		Split Maths		Science	PE	
Thursday	Morning activity	Whole Class Maths		PE		RE	Enquiry	
Friday	Morning activity	English		Whole Class Maths		DT	Music	