

## Message from Shona Pitcher

## Headteacher

As we come to the end of the first half of the Autumn term, I wanted to take this opportunity to look back on the wonderful start we have made in this academic year. We have welcomed many new children into the school, with the children in Nursery and Reception settling well into their new surroundings and making new friendships. I hope that they have enjoyed their first half term with us.

There have been so many trips, workshops, visits and sporting events. I would like to thank all our staff who work so hard to make these activities possible. I have also been very impressed with the progress children have made in their learning this term. On our recent prospective parent tours, handwriting and presentation were particularly praised across the school.

The booking system for Parent/Teacher meetings is now open for bookings and we look forward to welcoming you into school to meet with your children's teachers and discussing their progress.

I wish you all a relaxing half term and look forward to seeing you all back on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Reception have also been exploring the celebration of Diwali through the creation of Diya lamps, lanterns and 'Happy Diwali' Cards. Attending the Diwali Dance Workshop on Monday really sparked their curiosity and they have enjoyed finding out more about the story of Rama and Sita and how Diwali is celebrated. The children made Rangoli Patterns.



The workshop was funded by the cake sale money for Year Three. A huge thank you to everyone for organising the cake sales and to everyone who purchased cakes!

We hope that all our families who celebrated Diwali on Monday enjoyed this special day.



Ten Year 4 children enjoyed themselves enormously at Chessington School yesterday, playing cricket with 6 other schools at the Kingston Schools Sports Partnership festival. The fantastic Chessington student sports champions led the activities and the children were really chuffed with their medals, feeling like they had won the Olympics! They were sporting and gave everything a go, representing the school admirably. We were all pleased to see some previous GA staff accompanying other schools, too, showing what a wonderful community we have in Kingston schools.



The girls had a wonderful experience at the Fulham football ground, taking part in the Premier League Primary Stars Competition. They showed great team spirit and comradery, coming third in the competition.

All players took a turn in goal and the referee gave a special mention to the team for their sportsmanship and fair play.

The children put in a supreme effort at the recent Cross Country event. In a highly competitive field with over 150 runners in each event they all performed brilliantly. A special mention to Isabel (6CM) who came second place overall in the girls competition.



Thank you to all our parents who have supported the children and assisted with transport to and from the events.

Year 5 had a fantastic day at the Science Museum on Monday! The children loved exploring the Wonderlab, where they had the opportunity to experiment with a variety of exciting hands-on exhibits. They were also captivated by the 3D IMAX showing of An Amazing Planet, which brought science to life in a truly unforgettable way. It was a day full of curiosity, discovery and learning for everyone involved.



### Year 2 trip to the Tower of London

Year 2 had a fantastic day out at the Tower of London! We explored the historic White Tower, where we saw suits of armour and learned about its fascinating past. Everyone was amazed by the dazzling Crown Jewels and enjoyed an engaging workshop all about the history of the Tower. It was a brilliant day full of learning, discovery and excitement!



#### Understanding Autism

Please follow the link below for information of a seminar taking place at the school on Thursday, 20th November.

[Understanding Autism seminar flyer](#)

#### School photographs

A reminder that school photographs will be taken on Wednesday, 5th November. If you would like to have a sibling photo taken please complete this short survey by 9am on Tuesday, 4th November.

[Sibling photo survey](#)

Social Media Bullying - Childline

Social media means children can face harassment anytime, often without adults knowing. Childline has useful advice for children about online bullying, giving them practical steps on reporting abuse, blocking bullies, and coping strategies.

You can find their advice here: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/types-bullying/bullying-social-media>

**Weekly House Points**

Here are this weeks house points.  
Well done to Painshill.

Painshill	133
Wisley	129
Richmond	109
Claremont	103
Norbury	100
Kew	93

**Spotlight on attendance**

Congratulations to **1S & 2O** who have had the highest attendance this week (99.6%).

**Action-attainment: Parent Detectives and Navigating Inclusion- Understanding neurodiverse children with sensory and communication needs**

Action-attainment's online workshop programme is for parents and teaching staff of children with hidden, neurodiverse, sensory and communication needs. It examines how we can use vital primary years to implement strategies, plan and prepare for secondary school.

The first workshop from 6, will take place from 7:30-9pm, online, on the 23 October.

Recordings of the workshops will also be available, if it is not possible to attend the live event, as well as concession places.

More information on the [parent detectives news-letter](#).

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Fortnite**

Fortnite continues to reign supreme in the gaming world, drawing in millions of players with its bold graphics, fast-paced action and constant stream of new content. This guide looks at the latest developments in the game, such as themed updates, crossover characters and limited-edition cosmetics and what they mean for young players and the adults who support them.

It also unpacks some of the key online safety risks associated with Fortnite. With in-game purchases, cross-platform communication and regular seasonal updates creating an 'always on' experience, it's vital that trusted adults understand how to help children and young people enjoy the game without being exposed to unnecessary risks.

**Dates for your Diary**

Mon 27th—Fri 31st Oct	ALL	HALF TERM
Mon, 3rd Nov	ALL	FIRST DAY AUTUMN 2
Tues, 4th Nov	ALL	Booking system for parent/carer teacher meeting closes at noon
Tues, 4th Nov	REC	Weighing & Measuring
Weds, 5th Nov	ALL	School photos
Weds, 5th Nov	Y6	Weighing & Measuring
Thurs, 6th Nov	ALL	Parent/carer teacher consultations (school closes at usual time)
Fri, 7th Nov	ALL	Parent/carer teacher consultations <b>NURSERY CLOSED ALL DAY</b> <b>RECEPTION TO YEAR 6 SCHOOL—EARLY CLOSE</b>
Tues, 11th Nov	R –6	Flu immunisations ( <b>deadline to provide consent Thurs 6th Nov</b> )
Weds, 12th Nov	ALL	Parent Forum @ 9am
Fri, 21st Nov	ALL	Year 4 Cake Sale
Sat, 29th Nov	ALL	GASPA Christmas Fair
Fri, 19th Dec	ALL	Last day of Autumn Term

**BINGO!**

Thank you to the GASPA team who organised the Bingo night last week. A special thank you to Martine and Becky who hosted this fun night.

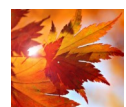
There was a huge turnout of parents and staff who joined in the games.

This event raised £815.75! This is an amazing amount and will go towards the new fundraising total for the playground.



The clocks are changing on Sunday 26th October!

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night.



**School Applications**

If your child is due to begin Reception or move to Secondary School in September 2026, please visit the Kingston eAdmissions site to make your applications. Please follow the below link:

[Kingston Council eAdmissions](#)