



The New School Year

Friday 15th August 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and the children are all well and that you are enjoying a wonderful summer break together with family and friends doing some lovely things and making some lovely memories.

Whilst we are still part way through the summer holiday, I just wanted to write to you ahead of the new school year with information, a few updates and reminders. But before I launch into the new year, I just wanted to once again say a sincere 'thank you' for your continued support for KWS last year. We ended the year with a bumper busy few weeks including wonderful sports' days'; celebrations events and picnics for our EYFS children; a number of brilliant 'Rock Steady' band performances; a successful KS2 production of 'Oliver' with an amazing cast of children who shone at each performance; excellent Y6 SATs results which put KWS either in line with or above the National Average in all subjects; a momentous celebration and fond farewell to our Y6 children and their families. We are always incredibly proud of the children with who they are as wonderful young people, their personal successes and their personal achievements, and I am sure after a busy year for them last year, they were more than ready for a break.

The end of last year saw us wave a temporary 'goodbye' to Mrs Butler, our Nursery Teacher. Mrs Butler is due to welcome her baby anytime now and she will begin her maternity leave in September. She will be back, but for now, we wish her and her husband all the very best as they begin their new chapter as a family.

On the theme of babies, in September we officially welcome back Miss McHugh from her maternity leave. Miss McHugh will be teaching in Y4 next year, and in her role as Assistant Head she will lead the Y3 and Y4 teams. It will be great to have her back.

For those of you who had children in KS1 last year, you will know that Mrs Hinchley was away from school for some time whilst she had a medical procedure. I am so pleased to say that Mrs Hinchley is fit and well and she will be returning to work in September and her normal service will resume. I know she is incredibly eager to be back up and running as normal.

We are saying a very sad 'goodbye' to our wonderful Mrs Vernon. Mrs Vernon has taught at KWS for the last 16 years and she has been an asset to the school. Many of you will have had children who have been taught, nurtured and supported by Mrs Vernon over the years. Over the last two years, those of you who have had children in Mrs Vernon's class will be aware that she has sadly suffered with and battled with ill health challenges. She has tried so hard to keep going, to not let anyone down and to be in school as much as possible for the sake of the children in her class. However, Mrs Vernon has made the very difficult decision to take early retirement. I am sure you will join me in sending Mrs Vernon our deepest thanks and love and we hope that this gives her the opportunity to rest and just take the time she needs to do the things she enjoys at her own pace. She will be missed.

Moving onto the new school year – apologies in advance for a bombardment of information! If there is anything you would like clarifying or any questions if you are unsure about anything, please do feel free to email and we will get back to you ASAP.

Start date for the new school year

Just a reminder that **the first day of school is Tuesday 2nd September** and school will start as usual at 8.45am. If your child is in EYFS from September, please refer to the additional information you were sent last term with days and times for your child as part of their transition.

Drop off / pick up arrangements

There are no changes to these arrangements, there is a reminder below to help those of you who have children either moving into Y1 or Y3 from September where the routine will be different to what you have been used to:

- The gates open at **8.40am** and they will be locked at **8.55am**.
This will be the gate at the far side of the playground leading to the jitty, and the gate at the bottom of the drive leading to the path up to the playground. All other gates will remain locked.
Children need to be in class for **8.50am** when the register will be taken.
- Teachers will open their classroom doors at **8.45am**.

Kirkby Woodhouse School, Main Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. NG17 9EU

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- Parents with children in KS1 to walk straight up and wait outside your child’s classroom for the doors to be open. Parents will need to wait with their child. Children must not be left unattended.
- KS2 to walk round and wait outside their classroom door as detailed in the table below.

All children in Y3 and Y4 must be accompanied by an adult to and from school every day. They are not allowed to walk to and from school on their own or with an older sibling from KWS. We only allow children in Y5 and Y6 to walk to and from school independently if parents give their permission, but this is very much down to parental choice. **If you have a child in Y5 and Y6 and you wish for them to walk to/from school on their own, please email their class teacher/s to let them know.**

Class	Where children need to go to in a morning
Y3 Mrs Davidson and Mrs Wilkinson	Children to wait along the path that runs by the bottom of the Dragonfly Theatre
Y3 Miss Pritchard	Children to wait outside the classroom door on the playground side (not in the Quad)
Y4 Mr Aldridge	Children to wait outside the classroom door opposite to Miss Pritchard’s door (not in the Quad)
Y4 Miss McHugh and Mrs Sammons	Children to wait outside the classroom door along the path that runs along the back of Y4, Y5 and Y6
Y5 Miss Bobillon	Children to wait outside the classroom door along the path that runs along the back of Y4, Y5 and Y6
Y5 Mrs Clay	Children to come down to the Quad and wait outside the red doors to the left-hand side
Y6 Mr Stimpson	Children to wait outside the classroom door along the path that runs along the back of Y4, Y5 and Y6
Y6 Mr Libecans	Children to come down to the Quad and wait outside the red doors to the right-hand side

- Picking up arrangements at home time remain the same as last year. EYFS and KS1 children need to be collected from their classroom door. KS2 children need to be collected from the playground where their teacher/s will bring them out to you.

Contacting class teachers

Your child’s class teacher/s will already have or will be contacting you to introduce themselves and to provide you with the necessary information you will need for the start of the new school year. Our teachers are happy for parents to have their school email address. Obviously, teachers can’t reply to emails during school hours because their priority is the education and learning of our children, but they will always get back to you at their earliest convenience. We find that email is an efficient and effective form of home/school communication because it is direct between you as parents and the teacher, so it helps with communication, efficiency, information and messages. It is also easier than trying to relay a message at the start of the school day when 30 other children and their parents are arriving at school. Obviously if parents have an urgent message that needs to be passed on, then feel free to talk to the Class Teacher or Teaching Assistant when you drop your child off at school in a morning in case the teacher hasn’t seen their emails. Parents can also contact the School Office or myself if you need to get in touch with someone. My email is at the bottom of this letter.

School uniform, jewellery and mobile phones

Our School Uniform Policy remains the same (with the exception of OPAL – see below). For reference, a copy is attached to this letter. We pride ourselves on being a ‘KWS Family’ and our children always look incredibly smart whether this be in their school uniform or PE kit. By having a uniform policy, it provides fairness and equality for all children; it enables every single child at KWS to feel a sense of pride and belonging; and it prepares our older children for the expectations at secondary school and beyond. Please ensure your child begins the new school year with all the correct school uniform and PE kit.

Please also take note of the jewellery and hair section to this policy.

We ask that children’s uniform is clearly labelled to help reduce the amount of lost property items.

As per the Government and DfE guidance – mobile phones should not be brought into primary schools – please refer to our school uniform policy attached.

OPAL

As you already know, we will become an OPAL School from September. We are really looking forward to having more inspiring, engaging and exciting outdoor activities for our children to access every lunchtime come rain or shine. More information will come your way when we come back to school in September. But for now, please just refer to the School Uniform Policy attached where there is an OPAL section.

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Meet the Teacher 'Open Classroom'

On Wednesday 10th September, there will be an opportunity for parents to come into school to meet your child's Class Teacher/s and Teaching Assistants; to have a look at the classroom and environment your child works in; to have a look at the initial work your child has produced at the start of this year; and to just become familiar with how day-to-day life in school looks for your child. This is an informal 'drop in' session that will run straight after school from 3.30 until 4.15pm. There will be no formal presentations, we just feel it is a nice opportunity to welcome parents into school. Children are also more than welcome to come along, and I am sure they will enjoy assisting in showing you around.

Diary Dates

Our diary dates for the next school year will be available at the start of the new term and we will keep you updated as and when new things are added. In the meantime, below are the school holiday and inset days for next year:

Autumn Term		
Start of the new year	Tuesday 2 nd September	Children back to school today
October Half Term	Monday 20 th October – Friday 31 st October	Children finish at 3.20pm on Friday 17 th October
Inset Day	Monday 3 rd November	Children return after October Half Term on Tuesday 4 th November
Christmas Holiday	Monday 22 nd December – Friday 2 nd January	Children finish at 3.20pm on Friday 19 th December
Spring Term		
Start of the Spring Term	Monday 5 th January	Children back to school today
February Half Term	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February	Children finish at 3.20pm on Friday 13 th February
Inset Day	Monday 23 rd February	Children return after February Half Term on Tuesday 24 th February
Easter Holiday	Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	Children finish at 3.20pm on Friday 27 th March
Summer Term		
Start of the Summer Term	Monday 13 th April	Children back to school today
May Day	Monday 5 th May	Children not in school today
May Half Term	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May	Children finish at 3.20pm on Friday 22 nd May
Inset Day	Monday 1 st June	Children return after May Half Term on Tuesday 2 nd June
End of the school year	Friday 24 th July	Children finish at 3.20pm on Friday 24 th July for the Summer Holidays
Inset Day	Monday 27 th July	Children not in school today

Nuts

Just a reminder that we are 'No Nuts' school. We ask that children do not bring food into school that contains nuts. We ask parents to please be vigilant before sending food in for snacks or packed lunch. Thank you for your support with this.

That just leaves me to wish you a happy second half of the Summer Holiday. The KWS staff team and I very much look forward to welcoming everyone back. It will be lovely to see you all and to embark on a whole new year with the children and yourselves.

We will have a number of new children and new families joining the KWS family in September, including our new EYFS children and their families. I extend a very warm welcome to you all and we look forward to the journey your child/ren will take at KWS. We know that the start of the new school year will be a huge and significant day for you as you bring your little people to school for the first time. Please be assured that they will be in excellent and caring hands, and we will look after them.

I will write to you once we start the new year with more information about what the new year at KWS has in store.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions at any point and I will always do my best to help.

My email is: rjones@kirkbywoodhouse.notts.sch.uk

Take care and Happy Summer

Mrs R Jones
Head Teacher

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