WEEKLY UPDATE – FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2026

Letter from Mr Simmonds, Headteacher

This week at Kendrick we have been celebrating National Poetry Day and I am keeping my update extra short to give you every chance to read the rest of the weekly update and especially Mr Dilley's report and Kendrick's Miracle Fair poem.

I am delighted by the number and popularity of the clubs and societies running in school and I am especially grateful to all the staff and students that run these activities that enrich the lives of so many students. There are now 61 clubs up and running in school all listed on the school's website in the Extra Curricular section.

I spent two days this week working in my capacity as an Ofsted Inspector and had the great privilege to spend time in another school. I always bring back from these visits fresh ideas and insights but it is great to be back at Kendrick after a couple of days away.

I hope everyone has had as varied and exciting a week as I have had.

Dum Spiro Spero.

Mr Nicholas Simmonds
Headteacher

National Poetry Day and Kendrick's Miracle Fair Poem

National Poetry Day took place on Thursday, and we marked this with an online assembly led by Mr Dilley, Head of English. Picking up on this year's theme of wonder, the assembly explored the Polish Nobel-prize winning poet Wisława Szymborska whose poems often encourage us to pay attention to the small but wonderful things in the world around us. The assembly featured two A Level Further Maths students reading Szymborska's poem about the number Pi, and a video of students around the school (including some students reading a poem while playing Twister!) reading her poem 'Miracle Fair' in which she describes lots of everyday miracles that we can often take for granted. Inspired by this poem, students and staff were invited to contribute to our own 'Miracle Fair' poem by sharing examples of everyday miracles they are grateful for. We received so many responses that the full poem runs to five pages, but you can read a shorter version of our poem below. – ***Mr Stephen Dilley***

Kendrick's Miracle Fair *after Wislawa Szymborska by the staff and students of Kendrick School*

First miracle of the day:
an alarm of feathers, sweetly waking us up,
indifferent to whether or not we are ready for the new day.

A miracle, standard-issue:
the way that steam rises from your morning tea,
like a plume of whispered promises

A miracle, off the record:
hearing the birds chirp every morning on the way to school
and feeling alive when I hear them.

Just another miracle going about its business:
through my bus window,
I see gentle pink rays of sunshine
peeking through purple clouds as it rises,
smeared across the sky like paint.

A pocket-sized miracle, easily mislaid:
how music can change my mood
within five seconds.

A miracle, easily mistaken for background noise:
seeing my family and friends every day.

Disguised as routine, a modest miracle:
the greenery outside with birds singing
and squirrels collecting acorns.

A miracle caught out of the corner of your eye:
a young blackbird leaves the nest,
as though leaving were nothing much at all.
The air holds it, and the sky becomes possible.
Somehow, the small bird is flying.

Nothing short of a miracle, technically:
that each of us is a unique expression of genetic code
from an unbroken chain of life
spanning billions of years,
connecting us to the earliest life forms on Earth.

Three miracles for the price of one:
every day, a new creature is born,
every day, a child will laugh
and every day, a new lesson is learnt.

An accidental miracle, caught off guard:
the sunlight sidling through the trees,
filling me with quiet hope.

A miracle, given half a chance:
I wake up every morning tired,
but go to sleep wishing I could repeat the day again.

A miracle working the late shift:
closing our eyes in a noisy world,
to retreat into the safe kingdoms of our imagination,
where every memory and quiet hope is kept,
waiting for us to visit.

The miracle of miracles:
that our hearts keep beating,
even as we close our eyes
and dream of places far from here

Last but not least:
waking up the next day -
tomorrow is not guaranteed.

School Notices

Whitley Park Food Cupboard

Thank you to everyone who has generously donated to our food bank collection - we have received over 150 donations so far but there is still time for people to bring in more. We would be particularly grateful for donations of:

- tins of sweetcorn and chopped tomatoes
- pasta sauces
- breakfast cereal
- bake-at-home bread rolls
- toilet roll, shampoo, soap and toothpaste
- laundry tablets

Please can all donations be brought to one of our collection points (outside the Library or the vestibule in Main School) by Friday 9th October. It is also possible to donate money via ParentPay.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding at Kendrick School

Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport. Find out form the NSPCC what you can do to make a difference, from choosing safe clubs and activities, to supporting your child in a positive way.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental Health and Wellbeing at Kendrick School

Self Care – Sport

SEND

Reading's SEND Local Offer. The SEND Local Offer is here to help you find information about local services, support, activities and events for children and young people aged 0 - 25 years who have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

School Fund

Please donate to our School Fund here. You can make one-off payments through your ParentPay account or complete a standing order form for more regular payments. If you are a UK taxpayer, please ensure you also complete a Gift Aid Form.

A school fund is maintained by voluntary contributions from the parents/carers of students. Its purpose is to provide an additional source of funding for the provision of facilities and educational resources for the benefit of students. We use our School Fund to support so many activities **in and out of** school that have now become essential to school life.

Canteen

The Autumn/Winter menu will be shared in due course. **Please ensure that you regularly check your child's canteen balance on their ParentPay account and settle any 'overdrafts' quickly.** Overdrafts should only be issued on an exceptional basis and not as a regular occurrence.

Latest News on our Website

School Calendar

Week B

Tuesday 6th October – Year 13 Interview Skills

Wednesday 7th October – Senior Maths Challenge; Year 13 Slapton Trip (to 11th October)

Thursday 8th October – Trustee Resources Meeting, 4.30pm

Friday 9th October – KPS Year 7 Movie Night

Student Careers and Work Experience

Current Opportunities

Vacancies

We will shortly be advertising for an Evening Caretaker and a Science Technician.

ParentPay and Evolve Reminders

Latest Reminders for ParentPay and Evolve

KPS Updates

Please see the latest KPS newsletter here.