

# Kendrick School - Weekly Update

## Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

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Welcome back to everyone: staff, students and parents and a very warm welcome to our new students and parents in Years 7 and Year 12 and in Year 9. I hope everyone has had a great summer and feels refreshed and rejuvenated for the new term and academic year.

It has been a very busy week as it always is at the start of the new year. Following a morning of settling in activities and a whole school assembly on Tuesday, students and staff very quickly settled into the new year timetable with lessons and activities resuming as normal in the afternoon. Of course, the disruption to the start of term for all schools regarding the possibility that our school buildings may contain RAAC (reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete) has been difficult. I am pleased to say that at Kendrick School there is no sign of RAAC in our buildings. Our buildings of the period when RAAC was used all have a pitched roof and the places where they are not pitched, the enclosed corridors, these are not surfaced with RAAC. This was confirmed to us by a survey we commissioned last autumn which was reported to the DfE and more recently, by a Structural Surveyor's visit.

There are a number of articles on the website celebrating events that students were involved in last term. Please take time to read these:

- [Biology Olympiad and Challenge Results](#)
- [Cambridge Award for Rowena](#)
- [Cara Achieves Karate Grading](#)
- [Plant Parenting at Kendrick](#)

All parents will have received email letters this week from the Pastoral Leaders of the cohorts across the school: Years 7-10 from Mme Hulley and Years 11-13 from Mrs Hearn. Lots of information for the coming year is in each letter, including dates of the Welcome Information Evenings for parents of students in Years 7, 8, 10 and 12, Parent Consultation meetings and other key events. We begin these events next week with the Welcome Evening for all Year 12 parents on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September, from 5.00pm in the Hall.

As it is the start of the new year, some parents may be interested in becoming more involved with the Kendrick Parents' Society (KPS) and support the school with social as well as fund raising activities. There is a message from the Chair of KPS, Gayatri Hariharan below for you to read with specific information about upcoming events, as well as a link to the first committee meeting which is next Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm.

We have had a good first week of term and I hope that students have enjoyed being back in school in the company of their friends, teachers and staff. At our whole school assembly on Tuesday, I suggested to everyone that the start of a new year is an opportunity we all have for a fresh start to school, to assess and reshape our thoughts, plans and practices for the future and make any changes that we need to make so that we can look forward to a positive and exciting new year.

With those thoughts in mind, I wish everyone a great weekend.

Please read below for lots of other important messages and notices

**Ms Christine Kattirtzi**  
**Headteacher**

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## KENDRICK SCHOOL'S SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

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Kendrick School has several social media platforms and sites. Please follow us to get the latest news and information about the school. The links are in the logos below.



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## SAFEGUARDING/WELLBEING

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### WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School, please email [studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) or telephone 0118 9015859 and ask to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Officer.

If you're worried about any child or young person and you are contacting us out of hours (before 8am and after 4pm and at weekends and holidays), you can contact the NSPCC helpline for support and advice for free - call us on **0800 800 5000** or **contact NSPCC online**. Children can contact **Childline** any time to get support themselves. **In an emergency please call 999 or for a non-emergency call 101.**

We have created a library of resources for parents, carers and students including support avenues which you can find on our website via this [link](#). We will be adding to these on a regular basis.

[CAMHS Resources](#) - This site was created for young people, carers and professionals to pool together lots of helpful resources from across the internet that are available to help support your mental health and well-being.

**For well-being support in school please visit the Student Welfare Team in the General Office or Sixth Form Office or email [studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:studentwelfare@kendrick.reading.sch.uk).**

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## SAFEGUARDING - TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

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Source: [NSPCC](#)

- Make sure your child knows their address and your telephone number by heart, in case they get lost or have to navigate home from somewhere new.
- If they have a mobile phone, remind them to fully charge it before leaving the house, and make sure they have all your contact numbers saved.
- Talk to them about road safety. They should always look both ways before crossing the street, and never be on their phone whilst crossing a road.
- Remind them never to accept a lift from someone they don't know or let a stranger into the house. They should never give personal information away – in real life or online.
- Remind them that if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable at any time, they can call you or a trusted adult.
- If they ever feel like they're in immediate danger, they should call the police straight away on 999.

## LEARN LIVE – DANGERS OF TRAIN TRACKS

Network Rail in partnership with Learn Live are working to help raise awareness by educating children about the dangers of the train tracks through interactive digital delivery.

They want to get three simple messages across:

1. Being on the railway tracks is extremely dangerous
2. Trains can run at any time of day or night, even when not shown in the timetable, or on station information displays, or online.
3. On the Wessex and South Western Railway network trains are powered by a 'third rail' which carries 750v of electricity. This is always live, even when there are no trains running.

Please share the relevant safety videos via the links below with your child. The session is less than 15 minutes and explains why it is important to stay safe near the tracks.

**Please click on the link below to view the safety video:**

<https://learnliveuk.com/wessex-network-rail-safety-presentation-secondary/>

Over 19 million students, parents and teachers from across the UK have already watched these videos which has led to a significant decrease in the number of incidents in their area through watching the safety videos.

Remember 15 minutes can help save lives and provide important safety information to young people.

They have made things easier for you to watch the free safety videos by just entering the email

[railsafety@learnliveuk.com](mailto:railsafety@learnliveuk.com) into the "I am registered field" when you first watch the videos.

Please note these are the recommended age ranges, we would always advise you to view the clips first to gauge suitability for your child.



**National  
Online  
Safety®**

### STAYING SAFE ONLINE

WHAT PARENTS AND CARERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIVE STREAMING

Like a lot of digital services, live streaming really found its niche during the pandemic – think of Joe Wicks' at-home fitness classes, Billie Eilish's virtual gigs and Miley Cyrus' chat show, for example. Real-time broadcasting of video content over the internet isn't solely the province of celebrities, however: anyone with a device and something to say (or show) can take part.

With platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, TikTok and Twitch all offering routes to a vast online audience, young people have enthusiastically taken up the baton – streaming on subjects from gaming to sports to live shopping (yes, really!). Potentially having strangers among one's viewers, though, is just one of many concerns. Please click [here](#) for the National Online Safety's key information.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING – RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

School is a big part of life, so it is important to feel happy there. Going back to school after the holidays can bring up lots of feelings. You may be happy to go back! But if you're scared or anxious, there are things you can do to make it better.



Kendrick School

Wellbeing Newsletter

Wellbeing

RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

School is a big part of life, so it is important to feel happy there. Going back to school after the holidays can bring up lots of feelings. You may be happy to go back! But if you're scared or anxious, there are things you can do to make it better.

### FIVE WAYS TO COPE WITH GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

1. Talk to a teacher, parent or carer
2. Get support from the [Childline Message Boards](#)
3. Find out how to be [assertive](#) so you can stand up for yourself
4. Use the [Childline Art Box](#) to draw a picture of how you feel and what you want to change
5. Read the Childline top tips for [making friends](#)

The Student Welfare Team are also here to support you.



### TOP TIPS FOR GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

#### Write down your worries and hopes

Write down everything you're looking forward to at school, and everything you're worried about. You could show the list to an adult you trust so that they can help you cope with the worries.

#### Ask questions

Ask your parents, carers or teachers about anything you're not sure about. You could ask about things you'll need at school, who will be in your lessons or anything else that's on your mind.



#### Talk about what happened over the holidays

A lot may have happened while you were off. You might have had problems at home, felt unsafe, struggled with your mental health, or know someone who's died. Whatever's happened, talking about it at school can help. Remember, if you don't know who to talk to, you can always talk to Childline.

#### Prepare yourself before going back

Make sure you pack your bag before going back, and that you've got your uniform if you wear one. If you're not used to getting up early, it can help to start setting an alarm and going to bed earlier before you start back.

#### Use a mood journal

The mood journal can help you to let your feelings and worries out. Why not use it to write about how you're feeling before going to school, and how it's gone



#### Take your time

It can take time to adjust to being back at school, and it's okay if it doesn't feel comfortable at first. Even when you're back at school, make time every day to do something you enjoy.

## KENDRICK SCHOOL WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

For all our Wellbeing Newsletters please click [here](#).

## SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 1, 2023-24

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September

INSET DAY

First day of Term 1, 2023-24, for all students, 8.25am

Year 12 Welcome Evening, 5-7.30pm (in school)

Admission testing for entry into Year 7 in September 2024

Year 7 Welcome Evening, 6pm (in school)



Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October

Kendrick School Birthday  
Bronze DofE Awards, 5pm  
Year 10 Welcome Evening, 6pm (in school)  
Governor L&T Committee, 4.30pm  
Former Students' School Birthday celebrations  
Year 8 Welcome Evening, 6pm (in school)  
Governor Resources Committee, 4.30pm  
Upper School and Sixth Form Chamber Concert  
Year 13 Slapton Residential (until 15th September)  
Governor P&R Committee, 4.30pm  
Biology Week  
Oxford/Cambridge Tests (to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September)  
End of Term 1, 3.25pm

The school calendar for the academic year can be found [here](#). For the Term Dates for 2023-24 please click [here](#)

## NEWS, NOTICES, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS



### BEAT THE STREET IN WEST READING

The Beat the Street initiative returns to West Reading from Wednesday 20 September. The activity challenges children to see how far they can walk, cycle, run, scoot and wheel in six weeks. There are opportunities to earn points for their teams and to win prizes. The free project is all about getting physically active, spending time with family and friends and enjoying the great outdoors. We support the scheme as part of our [Move More](#) campaign to encourage children to be more active. Find out more about Beat the Street at: <https://www.beatthestreet.me/westreading/>.

### TEEN PPP – POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAMME

The flyer for the Teen PPP Positive Parenting Programme features a photograph of a family (a man, two girls, and a woman) smiling. A logo for 'Brighter Futures for Children' is in the top right corner. The title 'Teen PPP' is in large blue letters, with 'Positive parenting programme' below it. The dates are 'Thursday 14 September - Thursday 16 November 2023' and the time is '9.30-11.30am'. The location is 'Berkshire Record Office, 9 Coley Avenue, Reading RG1 6AF'. Three bullet points with star icons ask: 'Is your child aged 11-19 years old?', 'Do you want to support your child when they show distressing behaviour?', and 'Do you want to help your teenager make positive choices?'. It describes the programme as evidence-based and flexible, aimed at strengthening relationships and promoting development. It notes that sessions are held weekly on Thursdays. Contact information includes an email and a phone number. A 'Triple A Approved Partner' logo is in the bottom right.

**Teen PPP**  
Positive parenting programme

Thursday 14 September - Thursday 16 November 2023  
9.30-11.30am  
Berkshire Record Office, 9 Coley Avenue, Reading RG1 6AF

- ★ Is your child aged 11-19 years old?
- ★ Do you want to support your child when they show distressing behaviour?
- ★ Do you want to help your teenager make positive choices?

Join our evidence-based flexible parenting programme.

The group aims to strengthen your relationship with your teenager, promote your teen's development and equip you to help them recognise and avoid risky situations.

The programme is delivered in nine two-hour group sessions held weekly on Thursdays, term-time only.

To enquire or book your place, please contact:  
[parenting\\_reading@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:parenting_reading@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)  
or call 07812 462799

### SEND - READING FAMILIES' FORUM EVENT – SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

An Information and fun day is being held by Reading Families' Forum at The Avenue School, in Tilehurst, on 16 September, 2.30-5pm. There will be lots of information and advice for families of children with additional needs

aged 0-18 as well as entertainment for the children. Coffee and refreshments will also be on offer. Find more details and book a place at: <https://www.readingfamiliesforum.co.uk/events>.

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## SEND - ME2 CLUBS

**Include Me** is a club for young people with additional needs, and their siblings, aged 8-25 who want to raise awareness, meet new friends, build self-confidence and have fun. The next meeting is Tuesday 12 September, 5.30-6.50pm. For more information, visit: [Reading Directory | Include Me2 - New Club for Young People with Additional Needs aged 8-25 years](#).

**Me2 Teen Club** is a new group for teenagers, aged 13-19, with additional needs. The group meets monthly and choose activities and help with planning and fundraising. The next session is Wednesday 27 September, 6-7.20pm. Visit: [Reading Directory | Me2 TeenWeRD Short Break Club - for teenagers with additional needs](#) for details.

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## VACANCIES

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We have a vacancy for a **Biology Teacher for 0.8-full time** to join us in January 2025 to cover a maternity leave. More information will be posted on our website next week.

*Kendrick School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure check by the Disclosure & Barring Service. Kendrick School is an Equal Opportunity employer.*

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## KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

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### WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE

KPS Committee welcomes all parents and students including new Year 7s and Year 12s to another exciting and memorable year with Kendrick. We hope your first week back with Kendrick has been eventful. KPS works to make it even more exciting and here we give you some snippets of things that's being planned and executed. A detailed newsletter will be sent to you on Monday- we strive to keep it bi-monthly!!

### NEW OFFICIAL KPS WHATSAPP GROUPS

Our Class Rep Coordinator, Pauline Phillips (Y8 Parent) has found a new way to communicate with all of you apart from the email channel and has created links to 'NEW' official Whatsapp group. An email was sent to all of you earlier this week on Tuesday asking you to join the groups. This way we will be able to communicate with you faster and can reach every parent when a comms needs to be circulated. If you haven't already done it, kindly check your inbox. If you need any help, please contact Pauline at [kpsclassrepcoordinator2022@gmail.com](mailto:kpsclassrepcoordinator2022@gmail.com).

### OPENING OF PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP AND REQUEST FOR DONATIONS

The shop will be open this Saturday, 9/9, 9-11am in the Conservatory. Due to building work, you are not able to use the Cedars car park on this occasion. More details in the email sent to you yesterday, email dated 7th Sept.

If you have a uniform or PE kit to donate, it can be left either at Reception or the students can leave it in a collection box by the Servedy on a school working day.

### FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING - ONLINE

We invite you to the KPS ONLINE meeting on 13th September (6:00-7:30 p.m.). Please use this Skype Meeting Link for Meeting: <https://join.skype.com/CGrtmpYLFQz3>

*(In case of issues copy-paste the above link in Internet browser and join WITHOUT signing in to Skype app)*

## **YEAR 7 MOVIE NIGHT**

Our first event is always for the new Year 7 students and we plan for a movie night for them. **This will be on the 1st or 2nd week of October.** We will be discussing this in our committee meeting on Wednesday. If you want to be a part of this and provide a memorable experience for Y7 students, please come along to help us.

We wish you a relaxing weekend!!

### **KPS Team**

Gayatri Hariharan (Chair) and Shikha Pathak (Vice-Chair) Kendrick Parents' Society

Reg. charity no.: 1104281

Email: [KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:KPSChair@kendrick.reading.sch.uk)