

# Kendrick School

## Weekly Update

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

#### WEEKLY LETTER FROM MR SIMMONDS, ACTING HEADTEACHER

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With only two weeks of term before a well-earned holiday, school life remains busy and purposeful. We are all following the COVID safe guidance and I am especially conscious that everyone deserves to have their holiday free from illness or self-isolation and the best way we can do that is to carry on our vigilance and awareness of each other. The Library has started its very special advent calendar of kindness with daily messages being revealed in the Library and sent out to all of us with the daily bulletin. On Thursday we were all asked to 'point out a good quality in a friend', perhaps something we could all do more often whatever day it is.

The Interform Dance competition is now complete and the standard of dancing and levels of fun have been as high as ever. Our in-house dance expert and judge Ms McDiarmid reports that 'this year the standard has been incredible, as good as entrants in Festival Competitions who spend months preparing under the guidance of dance teachers'. There will be a full report next week.

This weekend I will be having a go at School Council's 'Festive themed Bake Challenge' with an expectation of creating something tasty, a bit messy and unlikely to be in contention for a prize. Good luck to the other entrants and enjoy your baking. School Council have had a massive response to their candy cane message service and I am looking forward to topping up my decorations from their decoration make and sell initiative.

This week the government has reasserted that GCSE and A levels will be taken as live exams and the details of their proposed contingency arrangements are being released with more details to follow in January, with the aim of making these examinations fair and accessible to all. These plans include advance notice of some topics areas that will be examined and back-up exams for those who miss examinations because of illness or isolation. Centre assessed grades will only be used in extreme cases when a student misses all their papers. I think that this is the right approach and we can all be relieved that these examinations are going ahead as this takes pressure of the day to day business of learning without feeling that every pen stroke and mini test and answer in class is somehow 'counting' towards a final assessment.

It is a few weeks since I updated everyone on Ms Kattirtzi's progress and I am happy to say that her recovery continues to go well and for the last few weeks, since the October holiday, she has been reengaging with work and has been actively, if remotely, become involved again in school business.

Finally can I thank the parents that have taken time to send supportive messages to the school and staff with their appreciation for what we are doing and how events have been adjusted with safe COVID guidelines. The time and thought put into each of these messages is massively appreciated and are incredibly valuable to us, giving renewed motivation and energy. I hope as always that everyone is well and happy and news this week of an approved vaccine can give us all an extra boost as we approach the end of another fantastic, if different term.

**Mr Nick Simmonds, Acting Headteacher**

# SAFEGUARDING/WELLBEING

## WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School please email [safeguarding@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) or telephone 0118 9015859.

If you're worried about a child or young person and you are contacting us out of hours (before 8am and after 5pm), you can contact the NSPCC helpline for support and advice for free - call us on **0808 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.

## FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is illegal. All Kendrick School staff receive regular Safeguarding training and are aware of the signs of FGM. NSPCC has advice on this issue to help parents/carers to also keep children and young people safe. Please see the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/>

You may like to listen to a podcast, Unbroken, features Hibo Wardere a Somali-born campaigner against female genital mutilation who moved to London as a teenager in 1989, fleeing from the Somali Civil War. At the age of six, she was the victim of FGM, an event she has described as "being engulfed in pain from head to toe".

You can find the podcast in your usual place, or listen here: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1386718/6272863>

## PRIVATE FOSTERING

Private fostering is an arrangement whereby a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if the child has a disability) (**S.66 Children Act 1989**) is placed **for 28 days or more in the care of someone who is not the child's parent(s) or a 'connected person'**.

A connected person is defined as a 'relative, friend or other person connected with a child'. The latter is likely to include person(s) who have a pre-existing relationship with the child, for example, a teacher who knows the child in a professional capacity.

Private foster carers can be from the extended family, e.g. a cousin or a great aunt, **but cannot be a relative** as defined under the **Children Act 1989, section 105**:

*'A relative under the Children Act 1989 is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether full blood or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership) or step-parent'.*

If you meet the definition of a 'connected person', please see our page on **Family and Friends Care**.

It is imperative that Kendrick School and the Local Authority are notified if a child is living with someone who is not their parent or a 'connected person' for longer than 28 days. The local authority need to be satisfied that the placement is suitable and the child is safe. To be defined as 'private fostering', the child must be living with that person for longer than 28 days and this should be continuous but can include occasional short breaks.

If you have any information on the above or wish to discuss further, please contact [aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk). All information will be dealt with discretely and confidentially.

## WOMEN'S AID RAIL TO REFUGE SCHEME

Accessing money can be difficult for women experiencing domestic abuse, particularly if they are experiencing

financial abuse. This can stop women from travelling to safety and may be a huge barrier to support.

Launched in the March 2020 by railway station manager, Darren O'Brien, the Women's Aid Rail to Refuge scheme means that survivors with a confirmed refuge space can travel for free across England, Scotland and Wales. The cost of tickets is covered by the Rail Delivery Group and has been extended until the end of March 2021.

Once the person has contacted a women's aid service and a refuge vacancy has been confirmed a ticket can be allocated.

For further information see <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/rail-to-refuge/>

## NEWS AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

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### NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE, LOCAL PRESS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[Inter-House Reading Competition](#)

[An Evening with Chineke! At Wigmore Hall, London](#)

### CHRISTMAS TREE!

Our beautiful Christmas tree in Reception was donated to us by **Caversham Bridge Garden Centre**. For more information on the please see [www.cavershambridgegardencentre.com](http://www.cavershambridgegardencentre.com).

### INTRODUCING SCHOOL GATEWAY

We are very excited to be introducing School Gateway to Kendrick School – a parent engagement app that will allow you to communicate with the school and view your child's reports at anytime from anywhere.

All school related communication, newsletters, reports, timetables, and attendance will go through School Gateway from **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**. To stay up to date with what's going on at school make sure you download the app for free. Just search *School Gateway* in your App store and download.

Apple iPhone users, download the app here: [schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload](https://schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload)

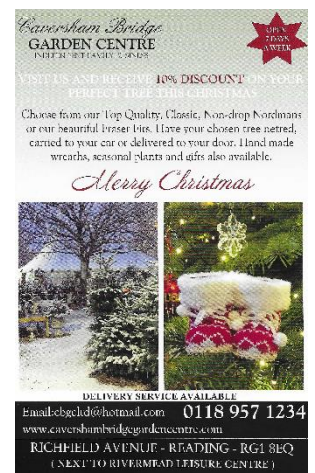
Android phone users, download the app here: [schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload](https://schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload)

Your login details will be automatically generated using the contact information Kendrick School already has, so please make sure the details we hold for you are up to date.

**The login details are your email address and mobile telephone number.** You can check and change these details by sending an email to [admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk). **When you are downloading the app you need to CREATE an account using these details.** You will then be texted a PIN by School Gateway to verify your account.

If you have any questions or would like some more information, please see the School Gateway site here: <https://schoolgateway.co.uk/>.

You can also login to the online version of School Gateway via this site if you do not have a smart phone, although we do recommend using the app if possible as it makes it far easier to get hold of parents when we need to.



## JOB VACANCIES AT KENDRICK SCHOOL

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We have the following job vacancies at Kendrick School.

- **Special Educational Needs and Literacy Support Assistant** – 15 hours a week – closing date Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- **Temporary Chemistry Teacher** – up to 0.8 FTE – for January 2020
- **German/French Teacher** – a very small amount of teaching starting in January 2021. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact [aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:aemberson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk)

More information on the roles can be found on our website via this [link](#). Please pass this email on to friends and family that may be interested in applying.

## PARENTPAY REMINDERS

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Year 7	Profiling Day Study Skills	£4.50
Year 7, 8 and 9	Contributions to resources for Food, Textiles and Technology lessons	

*All parents/carers: Please top up dinner money accounts if they are in debit.*

## KPS

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Please see the latest KPS newsletter on our website via this [link](#).

## NEWS AND EVENTS - STUDENTS

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### CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY – FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

This year we will be raising money for Daisy's Dream a local charity who support children and their families who have been affected by life threatening illness or bereavement of someone close to them. £1 Donation. Form captains will collect the money next Friday morning.

<https://www.daisysdream.org.uk/>

### WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December is our canteen Christmas lunch day. Students are aware of the timings for the lunch for their year group.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL FUNDRAISING

Have you registered for the Christmas Bake off? Email Prerita Basu at [16pbasu@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:16pbasu@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) who will send you instructions and rules of the 'Bake Off'.

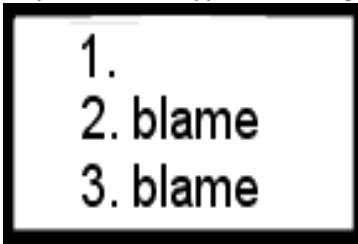
Candy canes will start to be delivered next week. Make sure you get your completed tags to your Form representative by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

# AND FINALLY.... THINKING CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK!

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Try to find encrypted messages in the following rebus pictogram



*Answer to last week's challenge:*

$$5 + 4 = 9$$

$$8 - 4 = 4$$

$$0 + 4 = 4$$