

Kendrick School - Weekly Update

Thursday 16th December 2021

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MS KATTIRTZI, HEADTEACHER

This is the last **Weekly Update** of the year and I would like to thank staff, students and parents for reading this message that I send to you every week, which I hope gives you an insight into life at Kendrick. It is always such a privilege and pleasure to talk about what we do at Kendrick and share our news with you. I hope what I say seems relevant and appropriate.

As always there has been such activity going on in school these last couple of weeks. **Legally Blonde**, our musical production, finished on Friday and if you were lucky enough to have seen it, you will agree when I say it was amazing! Around 160 students and of course many staff were involved in the making of it; it was entertaining, funny and brilliant to watch. Thank you to Mrs Cooper and Miss Hyde who led on the project and everyone involved in the multivarious elements that are required for such an event to take place. A link to some photos of the show is below.

There are a number of news items on the website showcasing some of the activities that have been going on in school, please take time to look at these.

- [Legally Blonde photos](#)
- [Christmas Concert 2021](#)
- [Anaya, Year 13 students and her continued and amazing success in table tennis](#)
- [German Christmas baking](#)
- [House Poetry Competition](#)
- [House University Challenge](#)
- [Christmas Quiz winner](#)
- [Chess Club Tournament 2021](#)
- [Thank you to the KPS](#)

We will finish today with a whole school assembly, which because of the restrictions, will be conducted remotely and students and staff will access from their form rooms. As always, I will thank students and staff for everything they have done these last two terms to make our school work and function so well. I would also like to thank parents for all that you do to support and encourage your children to be so enthusiastic and amazing when they are in school. Thank you for being such a constant support to the school. Thank you to KPS and the super treats they sent into school for the staff this week. Thank you also to our governors, a great strength of our school who work quietly and effectively in the background supporting us.

We are all aware of the heightened concerns around Covid and the new variant at the moment which have curtailed many activities, so I will say again, please **stay safe and well**, protect yourselves and your family by regular testing, including sending your child to school for the hour they have been allocated to undergo a test on 4th January 2022 before the school term starts on 5th January 2022.

Finally, I wish you all **peace and joy at this Christmas time**, the themes that Mr Hodge focused on in the Christmas assembly he recorded for everyone this week. Here is a [link](#) to the assembly.

Happy holidays, stay safe and well.

Ms Christine Kattirtzi, Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING/WELLBEING

WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you have a concern about a child at Kendrick School please email studentwelfare@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 4pm and at weekends and holidays), 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.

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.

WELLBEING – SUPPORT DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Please remember that during the holidays there is lots of local support available if you or a friend need it. The '[Little Blue Book of Sunshine](#)' contains some really useful information about keeping mentally healthy and includes some helpful resources if you do need support.

For Online support and counselling you may also like to look at Kooth: an online youth counselling service – a free service which provides support for emotional health and wellbeing from a professional team of qualified counsellors, visit www.kooth.com

WELLBEING – SCHOOL NURSE TEAM

Please click [here](#) for the School Nurse Team Christmas newsletter.

WELLBEING – LOOKING AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Source: [NSPCC](#)

Being a parent can be challenging in everyday situations. Now, more than ever, taking care of your mental health is important. Staying at home more or having to work during a difficult situation can put different pressures on everyone. And if you're struggling, it's okay to reach out for support from friends, families and organisations that are here to help .

Changes to our mental health can sometimes affect children and their well-being. They may pick up on your anxiety or low mood. This doesn't mean you should hide or minimise your feelings. You can try to explain them using

phrases like, "It's ok to get big feelings, everyone gets big feelings but it's still the grown up's job to look after the children" or "If grown-up's get big feelings it's not your fault - we can ask other grown-ups for help with our feelings."

When things are different to what we're used to and everyone is going through a big change, it's important to give children reassurance and support. Looking after your own mental health is vital to their well-being so don't be afraid to try new things together or feel worried about doing something for yourself to take care of your own well-being. And reach out if you need help. The NSPCC helpline counsellors are here, whatever your worry. You can call them on [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000) or email help@nspcc.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING – MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

SOURCE: [NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY](https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sackfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions for how to –

MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

- ### EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little elves can rattle up gingerbread santas, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer starbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!
- ### THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect. If it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs – no more pining for The Frenders or wishing for Wizard.
- ### DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.
- ### A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide – curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!
- ### THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.
- ### KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at FIFA or Mario Kart. Digital versions of traditional board games like Monopoly and Cluedo are available on most platforms, too; get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.
- ### A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year: after all, the whole celebration is based on an engrossing yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.
- ### CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents – and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.
- ### BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *Elf* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.
- ### GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge, ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.12.2021

NEWS, NOTICES AND EVENTS - WHOLE SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2021

We hope you enjoy watching the Christmas concert staff and students have been working on this term. At just over 45 minutes, it can be enjoyed during a relaxing evening with the family, or at a time of your choosing.

<https://youtu.be/NAIHainL3HA>

Wishing you all a happy and healthy festive season, and thank you for your continued support.

Kendrick School Music Department

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please could you check your child's school uniform over the holidays. For a reminder of the school uniform policy please click on this [link](#).

Jewellery: **One** small discreet stud may be worn in each ear. No facial piercing. A wristwatch may be worn but no bracelets or rings. A single chain with an item of jewellery representing the religious symbol of a student's faith (such as a cross) is permitted but must be discreet.

Make up and nails: Make-up worn should be discreet and appropriate for a school environment. Nail varnish should be clear.

RETURN TO SCHOOL COVID TESTING – TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2022

In line with government guidance, all secondary school students must undertake one COVID test on-site at the start of Term 3 followed by one LFD self-test at home 3-4 days after their on-site test. This will take place at Kendrick School on **Tuesday 4th January, the day before term starts on Wednesday 5th January.**

Please see the timings below for each year group.

TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY

Y7	08.30 – 09.30
Y8	09.30 – 10.30
Y9	10.30 – 11.30
Y10	11.30 – 12.30
Y11	12.30 – 13.30
Y12	13.30 – 14.30
Y13	14.30 – 15.30

If you have more than one child in the school, they can both/all attend one session. Please email coverstaff@kendrick.reading.sch.uk if this is the case, stating their names, year groups and the session they will all attend.

If your child has had COVID within the last 90 days they should not take the test. Please email coverstaff@kendrick.reading.sch.uk if this is the case.

Students are expected to arrive promptly and report to the Conservatory where registers will be taken at the start of their allocated time slot. They should leave immediately after their test is complete and not

remain in school for any reason. Parents/carers must not drop their child on East Street as this causes traffic congestion. Please also be considerate of our neighbours if parking nearby.

We will be using the Flowflex LFT tests that students are probably familiar with as these have been distributed over the past few weeks. The test requires only a nasal swab so students can use the camera on their phone as a mirror or if they don't have a smartphone can bring a small mirror to help with this process. If the test result is negative they'll be free to leave within the hour, if positive they will be asked to wait in a separate area and you will be contacted to collect them. They can choose to submit the test results on the NHS website and Medical Tracker themselves using their phone or bring the test strip home for an adult to do on their behalf. Students do not need to wear uniform on this day.

Please can I remind you to ensure your child continue testing twice weekly (Wednesday and Sunday evenings) including during the holidays and that they collect sufficient test kits from school before we break up to enable this. The results of these tests should be submitted on both the NHS website and Medical Tracker.

I would also like to remind parents/carers that, if you are travelling overseas over the Christmas period, you must be back in time to allow for any quarantine periods and for your child/children to attend the testing on Tuesday 4th January.

Thank you for your support with this mandatory and important process.

LATERAL FLOW TESTS

Please could we remind you that students should be testing twice weekly for COVID and that you should report results on both the NHS website and Medical Tracker.

Students can collect new testing kits from one of three areas in school -

Main School - Servery area
Horizons - Eating area
Sixth form Block - Outside the Library.

The testing kits we have been supplied with are slightly different and require a slightly different process. A user guide will be included in the packs.

Thank you very much for your continued cooperation with this.

MESSAGE FROM THE DfE: UPDATE ON THE DELIVERY OF THE 12 TO 15 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Young people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

NHS England have now confirmed that, as with first doses, healthy school-aged children aged 12 to 15 will be able to receive their COVID-19 vaccination in their school next term, as well as having the option to receive the vaccine out of school, such as through vaccination centres. These offers will run in parallel.

Vaccination for this group will continue to be deployed primarily by the school age immunisation service (SAIS). In school vaccination will begin from Monday 10 January and all schools should have received at least one visit before February half-term. We expect most schools to require multiple visits so vaccines can be administered to all consenting pupils. SAIS teams will be in touch with schools from the start of next term to discuss what is best for their circumstances.

For some very small schools, on-site vaccination may not be appropriate but alternative arrangements will be put in place to ensure timely, accessible, and equitable vaccination for these children.

More information for schools on the vaccination programme and how second dose delivery will work, including information on consent gathering, will be published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shortly.

We are grateful to schools for their ongoing support with the rollout of the 12 to 15 vaccination programme. Vaccinating young people is increasingly important for keeping them, their friends, family members and teachers safe as we approach the Christmas holidays.

Over the Christmas holidays, parents can already book first vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#). Second doses will be available for eligible children by Monday 20 December.

Further information on [vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds](#) is available on the NHS website

CALENDAR

Term 3

Tuesday 4 th January	COVID testing in school for all students
Wednesday 5 th January	Start of Term 3, 8.25am

VACANCIES

We currently have the following vacancies. Please click [here](#) for more information on the roles and an application form. We would be grateful if you could share these vacancies with family and friends.

Attendance and Student Welfare Assistant. 35 hours a week, Monday to Friday. **Closing date: extended to 9am Monday 10th January 2022.**

Invigilators: Hours to suit the requirements of the examination season. **Please apply as soon as possible.**

We will be advertising for a Food Technician in the New Year – please look out for our emails for more information.

KENDRICK PARENTS' SOCIETY (KPS)

As this year comes to an end, **we wish to thank the school teachers, staff, support staff, parents, carers, students and the Head Teacher for all the help and support they have extended to KPS.** KPS is a registered charity run by some school parents, who feel encouraged when we get your support. We hope you will be with us throughout your journey with the school!!

We wish you all a very happy and healthy new year, have a nice festive break!!

KPS team

Please click [here](#) for the latest KPS newsletter.

KPS SHOPPING LINKS

AmazonSmile donations

We encourage you to continue your purchases at smile.amazon.co.uk, (not www.amazon.co.uk or the mobile app)

These are helping us generate AmazonSmile donations for our school. Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

Easy Fundraising Charity

KPS has also signed up to other easy ways of raising funds for the school especially when you are shopping online - **easyfundraising charity site** : <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kendrickschoolreading/> . Please continue to use these links and let us all together contribute to something that our children can benefit from.

TheGivingMachine

Another opportunity for you to raise more donations and funds for the School when you shop online. Go to this site and give for free: Here is the link: <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/>

GAYL

Give As You Live (GAYL) is one way with which you can help KPS receive additional funds with no cost to you! Please use this link <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/kendrick> and help us raise additional funds.