KETTLEFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL - NEWSLETTER

https://www.kettlefields.cambs.sch.uk/

27th November 2026

SWIMMING GALA

On Tuesday, eight year 6s took part in the Forest Heath swimming gala at Newmarket Leisure Centre. They travelled in the school minibus to the event to compete. Each competitor got allocated a stroke (front crawl, breast stroke or backstroke). Mrs Gadsby travelled with the year 6's to the gala.

Everyone that attended had a great time. One child said, "That was so fun I wish we could do that again! "Although Kettlefields didn't win, they went against twelve other participating teams but it's the taking part that counts. All the children supported and encouraged one another throughout the afternoon. Mrs Gadsby said they behaved beautifully and members of our team got invited to join the local swimming club. The swimmers had great fun with a few songs on the minibus.

By Grace

ROCKSTEADY CONCERT

This morning, our Rocksteady bands performed to the school, showing off all their new skills. Happening every few months, the Rocksteady concerts are something every pupil looks forward to. We had lots of different songs like Ghostbusters, Shut Up and Dance, Counting Stars, Don't Stop Believing and Titanium. Every song was different and the atmosphere in the hall was amazing! Everyone was supporting each other, clapping and cheering with each band that performed. Every child, from our drummers, guitarists, pianists, bassists, vocalists and even the children watching, had an incredible time!

Rocksteady is a fun and inclusive way to develop your child's confidence and be part of a new, friendly group in school. The instruments are provided for the child and there is no experience necessary. It helps children to express themselves through music, make new friends and boost their wellbeing. Founded in 2007, Rocksteady is available to children four to eleven in primary schools across England, with over 126,00 children taught every year. Each band has a similar age group, so everyone learns at a similar pace and is taught by musicians who make learning an instrument easy and fun. Layla, who has done Rocksteady since year 2 said, "I really look forward to my lessons each week. They are really enjoyable and I have progressed a lot since I started."

"I love Rocksteady!" Nevaeh, in year 1 additionally shared "I love singing because I am the star of the show and each time I get even better!"

If your child is interested in Rocksteady, at the end of this week leaflets with further information about how to sign your child up will be available to take home.

By Hester

OPEN AFTERNOON

On Wednesday 16th December we will be hosting our Open Afternoon; parents are invited into school; you can arrive anytime between 3.00–3.30pm. This will be an opportunity for your child to share their work from this term with you. It will be a wonderful afternoon and an opportunity to collectively celebrate the children's successes this term. We look forward to welcoming you all. To avoid overcrowding, please limit visitors to two per child.

PARENT FORUM MEETING: WORKING TOGETHER TO SHAPE OUR SCHOOL

A huge thank you to all the parents who attended our Parent Forum meeting on Friday 20th November. We really value the time parents give to these meetings and the thoughtful contributions they make. Our Parent Forum plays an important role in strengthening the partnership between home and school. It provides an opportunity for parents to share their experiences, raise questions, challenge our thinking and help influence strategic decisions about the future direction of the school. We are keen to ensure that parents have a genuine voice in shaping the school and that their views are considered as we plan for the future. At this meeting, we discussed a range of important topics, including photo permissions, the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign, homework expectations and future fundraising priorities.

Photo Permissions – Keeping Children Safe in an Ever-Changing Digital World

We had a really useful discussion about the changing digital landscape, particularly the rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies that are changing how photographs and videos can be shared, edited and used online.

As a school, we want to celebrate children's achievements, share the exciting learning opportunities we provide and showcase the wonderful things happening across our school community. However, we must balance this with our responsibility to safeguard children and protect their privacy and digital identities. We discussed the importance of keeping our policies under regular review to ensure that they reflect emerging technologies and current safeguarding guidance. Going forward, we will maintain an annual review of our Photo Permissions Policy, which may also include reviewing parental permissions each year to ensure that the choices families make remain up to date.

Smartphone Free Schools – Protecting Childhood

We explored the national Smartphone Free Childhood campaign and the growing conversation about the impact of smartphones and social media on children's lives. There is increasing evidence and concern around the relationship between excessive smartphone use, social media exposure, sleep disruption, concentration and children's mental health and wellbeing. We discussed the potential benefits of delaying smartphone ownership, including giving children more opportunities to play, socialise face to face, develop independence and enjoy childhood without the pressures and distractions that can come with constant connectivity. Following our discussions, our next step on this journey is to work towards making Kettlefields a smartphone-free school for children from September 2027. We recognise that parents may have practical concerns, particularly when children begin walking home independently or travelling to and from school without an adult. We therefore explored some alternatives to smartphones, including:

· Basic or 'brick' phones: These allow children to make and receive calls and, in some cases, send text messages without the additional distractions of apps, social media and internet access.

· Tracking devices: Products such as Apple Air Tags and similar tracking tags can provide parents with reassurance about a child's location without the need for the child to carry a smartphone. Dedicated GPS tracking devices are another option.

We want to work with families to make this transition as straightforward as possible, recognising that keeping children safe while encouraging greater independence is important to us all.

Homework – Finding the Right Balance

Homework generated some excellent discussion, with parents sharing their views about what works well and what could be improved. We recognise that homework needs to be purposeful, manageable and appropriate to children's ages and stages of development. It should reinforce learning, develop good habits and help children become increasingly independent, without placing unnecessary pressure on children or families.

A number of helpful suggestions emerged from the discussion:

· Consistency: Having set days for homework to be issued and returned, with consistent expectations across the school.

· A balanced approach: Providing a mixture of paper-based and online activities to accommodate different learning needs and family preferences.

· Age-appropriate expectations: Gradually increasing the amount and complexity of homework as children get older.

· Digital learning: Making greater use of online activities for older children, while retaining a stronger emphasis on practical and paper-based activities in Key Stage 1.

· Sufficient time: Allowing approximately 5–7 days for children to complete homework, giving families flexibility around busy schedules.

· Homework books: Exploring the use of homework books to help children record tasks, organise their work and develop independence.

We also discussed the importance of reading regularly at home throughout primary school, both to develop children's fluency and comprehension and to nurture a lifelong enjoyment of reading. As children move through Key Stage 2, we also need to ensure that homework supports their preparation for statutory assessments, including SATs, and helps develop the independent learning habits they will need when they move on to secondary school.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their views. These suggestions will now be considered as we review and update our Homework Policy.

Fundraising Priorities – Investing in Our School's Future

We finished by discussing how future fundraising could make a real difference to the school environment and the learning experiences we provide for children. Two key priorities emerged.

Improving Classroom Temperatures – Air Conditioning

There was some support from parents for making air conditioning a fundraising priority.

As we experience increasingly warm weather during the summer months, classroom temperatures can have a significant impact on comfort, concentration and the ability of both children and staff to teach and learn effectively. Creating a more comfortable learning environment throughout the year would benefit everyone in school.

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The school will continue to work closely with its buildings management company to investigate the most appropriate and practical solution, including the technical requirements and associated costs. Alongside this work, we intend to establish a dedicated Just Giving fundraising page so that families and the wider community can support this project.

Creating More Space – Planning for Future Growth

We also discussed the longer-term need for additional building space within the school. As pupil numbers increase, continuing to provide sufficient classroom accommodation is becoming increasingly important. Additional space would give us greater flexibility in how we organise classes, support learning and meet the changing needs of our growing school community. We recognise that this is a much larger and more complex project, requiring careful planning, discussions with the Local Authority and significant financial investment. However, it is important that we begin thinking about how we can work towards this ambition over the coming years.

Thank You – Your Voice Matters

Once again, thank you to everyone who attended and contributed so positively. The discussions were constructive, thoughtful and genuinely helpful.

We are fortunate to have such an engaged parent community, and we want to continue building on this partnership. Your feedback helps us reflect on what we do, identify areas for improvement and make decisions that will have a positive impact on the experiences of all our children.

We look forward to sharing further updates as we take these ideas forward and hope to see even more parents at our next Parent Forum meeting.

Mrs Gadsby

CHRISTMAS POST BOX

Next week, we will start to use the Christmas post box again! We love to do this as the children can write Christmas cards and messages to each other spreading joy throughout the school. Our year 6s then deliver the letters to the different classes.

This is a school tradition that happens every year. It is very exciting for the children to open a handwritten letter just for them. As well as this, it's great for practicing their spelling and handwriting skills.

If your child is hoping to send a card, please could they write the name and class of the person/people they are writing to. This makes it a lot easier for our year 6s to deliver them. Thank you!

By Louisa



WOODPECKERS ARTWORK

Our focus artist this week has been Joseph Turner and his watercolour landscape paintings. We took inspiration from his work, and our knowledge on rivers to start sketching/painting our own landscapes. They are looking great so far!

ADVENT FESTIVAL

This week, children have been very busy making some beautiful artwork. Year 1, 2 and 3 have made decorations for St Mary's church in Dullingham which have been hung up, ready for the Advent Season. It marks the season with lights, evening activities and stalls.



The children have worked hard in creating the decorations that are carefully designed to look like different Christmas items and festivities. The decorations were made of paper, cardboard and other materials. KS1 planned their artwork, then, when finished, got to work constructing the base. The artwork was very successful, showing that a child of any age can accomplish an amazing piece of art. They have enjoyed creating these decorations and are excited to see them up in the church.

By Nina

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Stetchworth Church Christmas Tree Festival is on Saturday 5th December (2.00pm - 4.30pm) and our choir will be singing at 2.30pm. Children who have agreed to sing should arrive at 2.00pm. Swifts and Peregrines tree decorations will be on display at the festival.



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PTFA NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2026

HOLIDAYS ARE COMING AND SO IS OUR **CHRISTMAS FAIR!**

Thursday 17th December, from 3.30pm onwards in the school hall

Don your Christmas jumpers for all things festive, from a choir caroling, the waft of mince pies, cute family photos, games galore, a chance to write your wishes to Santa and, of course, the main man himself!

Entry is free – just bring your pennies (or card!) to spend on the day.

(We are looking for more elves to help us on the day – if you would like to spread some magic to our children please get in touch at ptfakettlefields@gmail.com or let the office know.

NB. This is not a drop-off session - families are responsible for their own children at all times during the event. After-school club will relocate elsewhere within the school building.

Don't miss out on our Wreath Making Workshop tonight. Just a few tickets available* (*at the time of writing).



BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

HAMPER RAFFLE TICKETS

Tickets are on sale at all of our events for an Adult Hamper and a Children's Hamper – to be drawn by our special visitor at the Christmas Fair on 17th December.

Adult hamper £1 per ticket
Children's hamper 50p per ticket



DIARY DATES 2026-2027

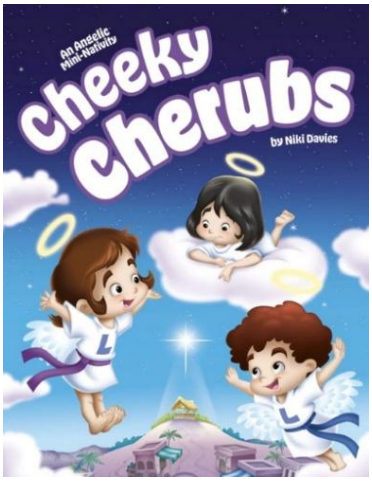
- **WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP:** Friday 27th November, 7pm
- **CHRISTMAS FAIR with a Special Visitor:** Thursday 17th December, 3.30pm
- **BREAK THE RULES DAY:** Friday 12th February
- **FAMILY BINGO:** Saturday 13th March

CHRISTMAS SONGS ASSEMBLY KINGFISHERS & WOODPECKERS

We will be hosting an assembly on Friday 11th December where Year 2 and Year 3 will be entertaining us with their Christmas songs.

We would Year 2 and Year 3 to wear something 'Christmassy' such as a Christmas jumper, hat or boppers (please don't make any special purchase, improvise with what you already have). Please wear your usual school uniform and bring your Christmas jumper or hat etc to school in a named bag by Thursday 3rd December. The assembly starts at the earlier time of 1.30pm on this day, we hope you can join us.

NATIVITY PERFORMANCES



We warmly invite family and friends of our Reception and Year 1 parents to this year's Nativity performance. There will be two performances;

9th December at 2.15pm
10th December at 9am

Due to limited space in the hall, entry will be by ticket only (maximum of 2 tickets per family, per performance) and all tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets cost £2.00 each and all proceeds will go towards the cost of the performance license and props for the play. To purchase tickets, simply login to School Gateway. The deadline for ticket purchase is 5th December. Tickets will not be issued, as we will keep a register of tickets purchased.

CAROL CONCERT SWIFTS & PEREGRINES

We are holding our annual carol concert on 14th December at 2pm in Dullingham Church. Parents and carers are welcome from 1.45pm for a 2pm start and will be entertained with a selection of carols and music sung by our pupils in the Swifts and Peregrines classes. Please join us to celebrate a fun afternoon with lots of festive cheer!

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB ACTVITES

Week beginning 30.11.26

Monday	Bingo
Tuesday	Craft night
Wednesday	Christmas Fayre. **Make reindeer food. Lucky Dip. Party food.**
Thursday	Mini games
Friday	Prestige Sports

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CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Christmas lunch will be served on 17th December. The lunch is free to those in Years R, 1 and 2 and to all children in receipt of pupil premium funding.

For children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6, the usual meal cost of £2.60 applies.

Your child just needs to tell the teacher during registration on the day that they'd like a school dinner, and please top up their Arbor account to cover the cost.





FOREST SCHOOL

On Tuesday, the year 4's did forest school with forest school leader, Mrs Hyde. Forest school is an outside learning opportunity that teaches the children social skills, like teamwork and resilience and how to handle tools and equipment.

On this particular day, there was a slight chill in the air, so, to warm up, the year 4's played a quick game of capture the flag. It is a simple team game where the court is divided into two and on both ends, a flag is placed. The players need to try to get the other team's flag and bring it back to their half in order to win but if, for example, the blue team goes into the red's half, the red team can catch them and put them in 'prison.'

After this, the children went into the forest school area where Mrs Hyde taught them about the constellations like Orion's Belt and the Leo. In addition to this, they drilled a constellation of their choice into little wooden discs.

The children love forest school and Ivy and Aria commented 'When we do forest school with Mrs Hyde, she always gets the tools out so we can saw wood we find outside and make things. This week we made star constellations on little wooden discs. We love making the dens and playing in the mud kitchen and we look forward to each session.' Annabelle also enjoys it as she says 'I love going to forest school each week, it's like fun play time where we get to make cool gadgets like the constellation discs we made this week.'

Made by Layla

AFTER-SCHOOL BASKETBALL CLUB

After the Christmas holidays, we will be offering an after school Basketball Club for children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. The club will run every Friday during Spring Term 1, from 2.15pm to 3.15pm. Sessions will be led by Prestige Sports and will give children the opportunity to develop their basketball skills and improve their confidence.

The sessions will take place on the following dates:



- Friday 8th January
- Friday 15th January
- Friday 22nd January
- Friday 29th January
- Friday 5th February
- Friday 12th February

If your child would like to take part, please book their place via School Gateway.

REVERSE ADVENT

This December, we will be taking part in a Reverse Advent Calendar to support our local Food Bank. Instead of opening a door and receiving a treat, we'll be giving something each day to help local families in need over the festive period. From Tuesday 1st December to Friday 18th December, we invite pupils to bring in an item from the list below. All donations will be delivered to the Food Bank in time for Christmas. Every contribution, big or small, makes a real difference. Thank you for helping us spread kindness and generosity this Christmas.

Date	Item to Bring
Tues 1 Dec	Tinned vegetables or tinned fruit
Weds 2 Dec	Breakfast cereal
Thurs 3 Dec	Bottle of squash/cordial
Fri 4th	PD DAY
Mon 7 Dec	Rice or pasta
Tue 8 Dec	Tinned soup
Wed 9 Dec	UHT milk
Thu 10 Dec	Tea bags or coffee
Fri 11 Dec	Biscuits
Mon 14 Dec	Shampoo or shower gel
Tue 15 Dec	Jam or spread
Wed 16 Dec	Toothpaste or soap
Thu 17 Dec	Toilet rolls
Fri 18 Dec	Christmas treat



Together, we can make this Christmas a little brighter for those in need.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE WILDLIFE CARE AT AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

On Wednesday, we were pleased to welcome Cambridgeshire Wildlife Care to our afterschool club.

The children enjoyed a fantastic, interactive session learning all about the local wildlife right on our doorstep. They discovered what baby animals are called (like hoglets, cygnets, and leverets), explored how nocturnal animals and hibernation work, and heard stories about rescued local animals. They also learned great practical tips for keeping wildlife safe in our own gardens, such as leaving out shallow water bowls with stones for hedgehogs and insects.

A huge thank you to the wonderful team at Cambridgeshire Wildlife Care for giving up their time to visit us and inspire the children with such a fun and interesting talk.

ROBINS AND KINGFISHERS DJ SET

On Thursday, Robins & Kingfishers turned up the volume, hit the decks & brought the party! From mixing beats to dropping tracks, our little DJs were spinning, grooving & showing off their moves. The vibes were high and the dance floor was on fire!

We were delighted to welcome Oscar's mum, Morgane, who gave the children a fantastic introduction to life behind the DJ decks. A professional DJ, Morgane has performed at some amazing events, including Boomtown Festival & Glastonbury; not once, but twice! How cool is that?!

There was plenty of excitement as they put on their headphones, took their turn at the decks & showed off their DJ skills! What a brilliant way to spark creativity & inspire the children to explore new interests & future possibilities.

A huge thank you to Morgane for sharing her amazing talent, passion & time with us. We think we might have a few future festival headliners in Robins & Kingfishers.







DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

1st December
Reverse advent starts – donations gratefully accepted
Year 4 Forest School

2nd December
After School Club Winter Fayre. 3.30-5.30pm

3rd December
Nativity Rehearsal to whole school and The Old School House Day Nursery
Years 1, 2 & 3 walking to Stetchworth Church for a Christingle Service
Years 2 & 3 walking to Jubilee Court to sing to the residents
Years 4, 5 and 6 walking to The Ellesmere to sing at the Christmas Luncheon

4th December
PD Day – School Closed

5th December
Christmas tree festival at Stetchworth Church (choir to arrive at 2.15pm)

7th December
GenR8 Christmas Assembly during school day

8th December
Year 4 Forest School

9th December
Nativity Performance at 2.15pm (doors open at 2pm). Yrs R and 1

10th December
Nativity Performance at 9am (doors open at 8.45am). Yrs R and 1
Christmas song performance Yrs 2 & 3 Rehearsal to rest of school

11h December
Rocksteady lessons
Christmas song performance Years 2 and 3 at 1.30pm
After School Dodgeball Club – last one

14th December
Choir singing at Gredley luncheon at Tattersalls. Choir members will need to bring a packed lunch.
Swifts & Peregrines carol concert at Dullingham Church 2.00pm

15th December
Forest School Year 4
Choir singing at Gredley luncheon at Tattersalls. Choir members will need to bring a packed lunch.

16th December
Open afternoon for all classes 3.00-3.30pm

17h December
Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day. PTFA Christmas Fayre at 3.30pm

18th December
Celebration Assembly 1.45pm (last day of Autumn Term)

Continued….


AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
WINTER
Fayre
Kettlefields
Primary School
WEDNESDAY
2ND DECEMBER 2026
3.30-5.30PM
BOOK VIA
SCHOOL
GATEWAY
Make Reindeer Food | Decorate Biscuits | Lucky Dip | Party Food