



# Kennet Valley C of E VA Primary School

## Curiosity, Compassion, Courage

### Thursday 1st April 2021

Welcome Back !

For many reason the staff and I feel that we have come back to a school that is feeling more 'normal' than it has for several months, which has been really lovely. The children have arrived back from the Easter holidays full of beans and the learning over the past two weeks has been great.

It has also been lovely for the children and staff to return to the Kennet Valley Hall for PE this term. They have been playing athletics, tennis, multi-sport skills and cricket with different members of the staff team and our PH Sports coach. Both the after-school sports clubs have also re-started on a Monday and a Wednesday.

This term we have welcomed Mrs Alison Robinson to the staff team. She is working with Year 6 this term and has said how much she is enjoying getting to know all the children in the class. Mrs Robinson is an experienced primary school teacher and we are very pleased and grateful that she has joined the team.

Ruthie and I are working hard to try to plan the summer school trips, especially for the year 6 children as they missed out on their Kingswood residential. As soon as we know more about this we will, of course, let you all know. We want to ensure that all the children have a fantastic end to the year as it has been such an odd experience for us all.

As always I want to remind you that my door is open so please talk to me if you have any worries or concerns that we may be able to help with. If you have any questions about your children in class I would advise you to talk to your class teacher first as well.

Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend.

Many thanks

Mrs Russell



Uniform and Shoes

Please could I remind you that children need to be in full school uniform with black school shoes everyday, unless they have PE. We are having more and more children coming in to school in brightly coloured trainers on a regular basis with a range of tops and hoodies instead of their blue school jumpers.

Can I also ask that Year 6 children only wear their purple leavers hoodies on a Friday and their normal uniform the rest of the week.

Many thanks

Mrs Russell

Drop Off and Pick up times

A huge thank you to everyone for continuing to wear masks and to come at the correct time for their child's bubble each day. It is really helping the children, staff and school to be a safe place during the end of the Covid Lockdown.

Please can I give you a reminder that you **MUST** walk your child into school playground unless they are on the bus or Taxi, and wait with them until their bubble is open. The staff are not allowed to cross children over the roads in the morning so it is essential that you walk them over the road and wait in the playground with them. We do understand that many of you are busy and need to get to work but would ask you to follow these rules.

Collective Worship and Values

This term our value is Thankfulness and we have been talking with the children, as part of our collective worship, about this. We are delighted that Maria, our rector, has been able to come back in every Wednesday, working with each bubble on alternate weeks, and are also pleased that while she is going to be away for 2 weeks, Angharad Hughes (one of our governors, parent and a Lay Worship Leader) will be taking Collective Worship with the bubbles each week.

## Stars of the week

The following children were awarded Star of the Week for their hard work, great attitude and perseverance.

### Week ending 23rd April

Reception - Jamie  
 Year 1 - Noah  
 Year 2 - Teddy  
 Year 3 - Ned  
 Year 4 - Olivia  
 Year 5 - Fred J  
 Year 6 - Jess

This week  
 Reception - Freyja  
 Year 1 - Jacob C  
 Year 2 - Archie  
 Year 3 - Karlya  
 Year 4 - Nell  
 Year 5 - Honey  
 Year 6 - Chloe



Well done to all of the Stars of the Week.

## Covid Reminders

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms

- Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.

You and anyone you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone in your support bubble should also stay at home if you have been in close contact with them since your symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started.

## Science Block

For the first three weeks of this term we are looking at Science. For this science block all of the school are doing work linked to living things, humans, animals or habitats. Mrs McQue, our science subject leader, spent part of Thursday observing the science in all 4 classes and loved seeing the differentiation and progress that was going on. Three of the classes are looking at plants and we have worked hard to make sure that the skills and knowledge that the children are learning has increased as the children get older in the school.



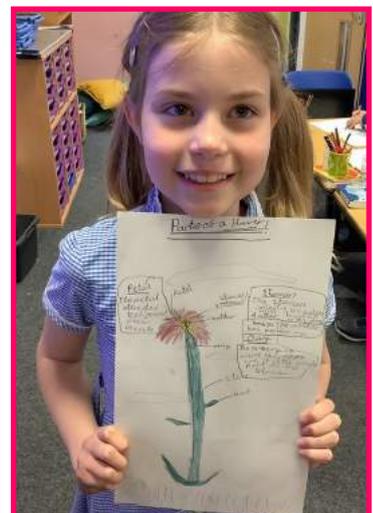
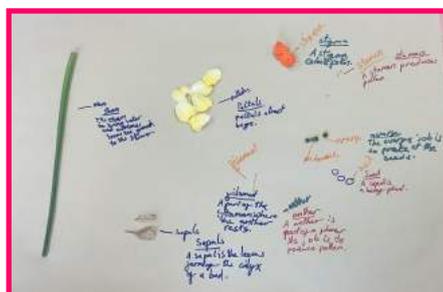
Children have looked at leafs and flowers, reproduction of plants and have planted seeds and made cuttings. In kingfishers children have identified plants from their leaves and taken close up photos of them. Harriers and Kingfishers

have both dissected and identified the parts of flowers, while the youngest children in the school have made beautiful observational artwork of flowers and leaves that they found in our school grounds.



The oldest children in the school are looking at 'Living Things and Humans'. They have been looking at the

circulation system and healthy lifestyles and this will continue when they find out more about how the pulse is affected by exercise. For this the will be using maths skills to record and chart their work.



## Over ground, Underground, Wombing free!

As part of the Science block the Reception and Year 1 children having been taking a weekly walk around our local area to see what plants and other living things they can find and identify. During week one they walked up to West Woods to explore this area. They walked for about an hour in all, looking at the



living things there including the plants and trees that surrounded them. They listened to the birds and tried to spot deer. We were very grateful that Sanjay Chudasama, one of our governors, was able to join the West Woods walk too. This week they visited the Dene in our village. They had an amazing time there making observational drawings and writing about the things that they found, They even had time to roll down the slopes there and explore the Sarsen Stones that are situated in the Dene. These lichen-rich sarsen stones which litter



the landscape provide a safe environment for many species of plants, insects and birds. Next week Mrs McQue is hoping to combine a walk to both of these places again. If you would like to go with Wrens class on their walk please contact Mrs McQue via your seesaw account.



## Action for River Kennet



On Friday 30th April, Harrier Class took part in an outside school session with Ark (action for River Kennet) to learn more about the vertebrates and Invertebrates that live in our local river. The children found out more about the importance of the River Kennet, as it is a Chalk Stream and had an amazing (although chilly) time with Anna and Sue from Ark. As part of this workshop Anna and Sue brought in large trays of river water which was full of 'mini beasts' for the children to find, identify and then learn about. The array of these living things was



enormous - from tiny shrimp or larger crusty Cased Caddisfly Larvae. Anna also brought in a large eel for the children to look at, As you may know ARK is a an organisation for local people who enjoy having a healthy river as part of their living environment and who want to see a valuable chalk stream protected. We were



delighted that Anna and Sue could come in to work with our children on site and we were the first school they have been to since the lockdown rules began to be relaxed. Susie and Fred W were our ARK heroes as they were very involved in the sessions, asking valuable questions and working hard throughout - well done to them.

For more information about Ark please look at <http://www.riverkennet.org/>





# Dates for your Diary

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May - May Day Bank Holiday Monday – school closed

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May – PE at Kennet Valley Hall  
Blue and Green bubble.  
(Collect from the KVH)



Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May - Years 5&6 British Fencing Association Grade I Training

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May – PE at Kennet Valley Hall  
Blue and Green bubble.  
(Collect from the KVH)

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May - Years 5&6 British Fencing Association Grade I Training

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May – PE at Kennet Valley Hall  
Blue and Green bubble.  
(Collect from the KVH)

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May - Years 5&6 British Fencing Association Grade I Training

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May – PE at Kennet Valley Hall  
Blue and Green bubble.  
(Collect from the KVH)

\*\* Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May - Non School Uniform Day \*\*  
More information to follow

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Last day Term 5**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June - First day of Term 6**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June - PE at Kennet Valley Hall  
Blue and Green bubble.  
(Collect from the KVH)

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June - PE at Kennet Valley Hall  
Blue and Green bubble.  
(Collect from the KVH)

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - PE at Kennet Valley Hall  
Blue and Green bubble.  
(Collect from the KVH)

**Further dates to follow**

