



22.12.2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a busy and successful first term of the academic year. We would like to congratulate the wonderful children of Kenley for their commitment to our new school values: Ambition – Responsibility - Community.

Strong values are a fundamental part of building a cohesive and harmonious community, as well as guiding and shaping our continuous improvement work. Coming to the end of a calendar year brings with it useful opportunity to reflect on progress and achievements and look ahead to build and develop further.

Ambition: This term, our ambition to refresh and refine teaching approaches has seen staff developing a teaching focus on checking pupils' understanding. We have been reading literature about the impact of different approaches to checking pupil understanding and implementing the most successful ones more deliberately in lessons. Next term, our ambitions will focus on the development of our approaches to teaching, in particular reading and wider curriculum areas, to fulfil our ambition of continual improvement.

Responsibility: This term, we have been developing our approach to supporting pupils to learn about The Kenley Way. As part of their education, we want pupils to learn to be responsible for their behaviours through our approach to Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe. We have been reflecting on how the decisions we make can help with future choices, because what we say and what we do can have both positive and negative impact for others. Next term, the newly established roles of Playground Pals will be further developed to support more positive play and interactions during break and lunch times for all children.

Community: This term, we have been working closely with our democratically elected Pupil Parliamentarians to ensure that pupils have a voice as part of the community. Parliamentarians have made a great contribution to our community by ably leading tours at Open Mornings, greeting visitors and meeting with Governors and our CEO. Next term, we aim to develop our community focus by developing and deepening children's understanding of difference, equality and diversity through our curriculum, assemblies, visits and books.

The term ahead

We return to school on Monday 8th January. As a reminder, pupils should return at 8.35am and be ready to register with their teacher by 8.45am. The start of the day is a very important time for pupils to settle, focus and be ready for the day; arriving late can be quite unsettling as instructions and learning opportunities have been missed.

Executive Principal (interim): Mrs Katie Turner

Head of School (interim): Mrs Jacki Keogh



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Routine and consistency are important features of school life and lead to happier and more successful class communities. Please help your children to start 2024 with good punctuality to support their school success.

Our whole-school attendance figure for the Autumn term is 95%, which is just below our 96% our target, but to be expected due to the usual wave of sickness at this time of the year! Your commitment to ensuring your children attend school as often as possible - including when they have minor coughs and colds - remains essential because we understand how strong attendance directly links to a child achieving their full potential now and later in life. Thank you for your continued support with this. With the Autumn bugs behind us, we all look forward to a healthier Spring term ahead!

Staffing Updates

In November, we were pleased to welcome Michaela Wellesley-Cole to the Kenley Team as 1:1 Learning Coach. Mrs Cole has proved to be another valuable and committed member of staff who will soon be joined by two further newcomers: Miss Jessica Booth (SENDCo) and Miss Melissa Mickle (Year 5 Teacher). I am sure that you will introduce yourself and welcome Miss Booth and Miss Mickle to our special community as warmly as you did when we joined Kenley.

This of course means that we must say goodbye too – after 6 years as our SENCo, we wish Mrs Simpson every happiness and best wish for the future as she begins her new adventures. We also say farewell to Mrs Lawless who has taught Year 5 during this half term, providing much-needed consistency. Thank you to Mrs Simpson and Mrs Lawless for your commitment, hard work and support – you will be missed.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for your positive engagement and support over this past term. We remain committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for your children and continuing to work together to achieve this.

On behalf of the Kenley community, and personally from us, we would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and share our hopes that 2024 will bring good health, happiness and success. We look forward to seeing children ready for another term in January.

Jacki Keogh
Head of School

Katie Turner
Executive Principal