



Katherine
Warrington
School

HEADS UP

Newsletter no. 26

26th March 2021

This has been a challenging term for everyone - students, staff, and parents alike. While we have all tried to adapt to homeschooling, remote learning, blended learning, testing, tracking and tracing, it has been hard. I have become accustomed to seeing teachers with three screens open at a time, teaching the class in front of them (but without the ability to circulate and walk amongst the students), another screen accessing those who are learning from home, and a final screen monitoring the screens of all the students in case they need help and assistance. It's more complicated than air traffic control! Furthermore, the short time we have had with students in school was interrupted by a couple of positive tests for students that, under government regulations, then required others in close proximity to self-isolate. While the long term picture looks far more positive, there is no immediate change in government requirements in the short term. We will continue after the Easter break with the same procedures that we end with today. As soon as we can move towards a more normal and recognisable school environment, we will.

However, even under that pressure, we have continued to achieve and flourish. The fantastic online school concert has been followed by the talent show and all those selected to perform deserve congratulations. We recognised our own 'Student Lockdown Heroes' at today's celebration assembly and acknowledged the outstanding performance of one student who came in the top 10 nationally for his age group in a computing competition. With parents help, the staff exceeded their £1000 target for donations to Save the Children. More than all of this, it should not go without notice that our students in both year groups have been fantastic at simply adapting to the situation and getting on with their learning.

Please may I remind students (and staff) that you are required to continue to test at home twice weekly throughout the Easter holidays and beyond:

- Report results [online](#) as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping us to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country
- **Test before returning to school for the summer term**, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back (Tuesday 13th April)
- If your child tests positive over the Easter holiday, please inform the school immediately by emailing admin@kwschool.co.uk

We distributed testing kits to all our students this week to cover the Easter period. If, for any reason these have not reached home then families and households can also access [home test kits for adults](#). The school is also open during the day over Easter if you need additional testing kits for students (please email admin@kwschool.co.uk in advance to arrange collection).

Looking forward to the summer term, summer uniform should be worn by all students. Summer shirts have short sleeves and do not require a tie to be worn with them. The full uniform requirements can be viewed [here](#) and items can be ordered for collection from our uniform supplier Beats Uniform Shop from their branch in Harpenden by telephone or online. When students have PE, they should continue to come to school in their PE kit.

Monday 12th April is an INSET day. Students return to school on Tuesday 13th April.

Finally on behalf of all the staff and trustees I wish everyone in the KWS community a calm, restful Easter break.

Tony Smith
Headteacher

Student Achievements

Remote School Success - Subject Recognitions

During Remote School, staff have been so impressed with all of our KWS students but we would like to say a massive well done to these students below, they have shown superb commitment to these subjects and their teachers are very proud of them.

- Art - Freya F, Andrea C & Taye L
- English - Cuan P, Eshan A, Jayden A, Jude D, Sonia E, Charlie B, Jessica H
- Geography - Alfie D, Eshan A, Darcy W
- Literacy - Abi S, Milly G, Malakhai A & Emma B
- Mandarin - Oliver Sh & John D
- Maths - Annalisa R, Gitali G, Hal G, Isla M, James G, John D, Raheem K, Sam C, Shakhram S, Zak M & Akira A

- PE - Alex M, Andrea C, Daniel W, Dominic K, Emily B, Esme G-G, Ethan W, Isla M, Isobel J, Jessica H, John D, Jude D, Lucas C, Nathan T, Oliver St, Ollie T, Sam C, Tendai M & Veer S
- Science - Annalisa R, Enoch A, Ethan W, Harry H, Krrish S, Daniel F, Sam C & Thomas R
- Spanish - Amelia G, Charlie H & Olly F
- For demonstrating our 3R's - Michael Sn & Amelie G

Ultimate Lockdown Heroes

You may have noticed that some students listed above are listed across multiple subjects and these students are our Lockdown Heroes. Not only have they gone above and beyond in one subject, they have managed to apply themselves to lots of different lessons. These students were recognised for their outstanding work in assembly today and we are all very proud of them.

- Sam C
- Jude D'S
- John D
- Jessica H
- Isla McD
- Ethan W
- Eshan A
- Annalisa R
- Andrea C

Miss Anderson

Times Tables Rock Stars Success

Well done to all students who competed in last week's Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) school tournament. Students needed to answer as many questions as they could in a week using any type of game on TTRS. The overall winning teaching group was 7Mg who answered 9364 questions in total - each student in this group will get 3 recognitions for their fantastic effort. Individually, here are our top 10 students in the school;



- Maryam H - 4711
- Thomas K - 2007
- Louisa T - 930
- Hayden L - 705
- Cameron R - 483
- Oscar Q - 402
- Isobel J - 368

- Josh Tw - 356
- Tendai M - 345
- Zak M - 322

All of our top 10 students have also been awarded some valuable house points. Well done all and Keep Rockin'!

Miss Anderson

Oxford University Computing Challenge (OUCC)

Following on from our last newsletter, we mentioned that Charlie B in Year 7 was due to take part in the Oxford University Computing Challenge Final. This involved competing against other students nationally. Charlie came 10th across the whole country which is an outstanding achievement. Congratulations!



Mrs Coomber

House Points

The house points winners for this half term are **Keller** congratulations!

Form	Totals Year 7	Totals Year 8	Overall
Ali	1570	852	2422
Armstrong	1214	1084	2298
Franklin	1356	1134	2490
Keller	1746	965	2711
Nightingale	1565	1034	2599
Tesla	1246	932	2178

Attendance

Attendance is a key contributing factor in any school's success. As a school we have high expectations of attendance and work with students and families to ensure children are accessing as much of their education as they possibly can despite illness and other mitigating circumstances.

We aim to achieve 96% attendance or above by the end of the school year in order to exceed the national average and make sure our students are getting the best opportunities possible both in school and in the future.

We review attendance every two weeks and will contact you if we have any concerns. Most often our contact will be based on short and intermittent absences which we refer to as 'broken weeks'. A student may have had three or four days off but this can soon equate to some students attending school for the equivalent of four days per week.

Attendance Ladder



Attendance Procedures: Reminder

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness, urgent appointments or other reasons please telephone the 24hr school absence line on 01582 314800 or email absence@kwschool.co.uk **by 8.30am on the first day of absence and every subsequent day thereafter**, giving your child's name, tutor group and **full reason** for absence.

Where possible, please give plenty of notice for any planned absence, for example hospital appointments, and provide a copy of any medical/dental appointment letters/cards to the school. We would appreciate all dental and non-urgent doctor appointments being made out of school hours.

If your child or anyone in your family are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 please follow the latest government advice.

Please [click here](#) to visit the attendance page on our website.

Mrs Aikman

Finance

iPayimpact is changing!

There are some exciting changes to our online payment platform, iPayimpact. iPayimpact has rolled out a brand-new, modernised look that is easy to navigate and simple to use on your mobile phone or tablet. From the 1st April, you will see the updated user interface when logging into the platform.

All functionalities and navigation of the system remain the same. To watch a video demonstration of the key changes, click [this link](#).

Free School Meals and Financial Support

To find out if you are eligible for free school meals please visit:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

If you do not meet the criteria for free school meals but are struggling to pay household bills or buy food, help is available.

Contact HertsHelp for advice and practical support – call 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net.

Chromebooks

Please remind students that they are responsible for ensuring that their chromebooks are fully charged in preparation for a full day at school. Students are unable to borrow chargers from the school. If a student requires a daily loan as a result of having an uncharged chromebook, they will be issued a C2 consequence.

Mr Inns

Science



Students in 7P took part in Mars Day during their science lesson on 18th March. They watched the Royal Observatory take them on an amazing journey to explore the wonders of the night sky in their



virtual planetarium show – Our Solar System.

Combining real images from spacecraft and telescopes, their astronomers flew them around the solar system and beyond! We used the black out blinds to achieve a full cinematic experience.

Mrs Creamer

Trust Board

The trustees thoroughly enjoyed seeing the lovely variety of fantastic performances at the recent virtual music concert and would like to say an enormous “Well Done!” to all of the performers who were brave enough to stand up and be filmed, and of course to the staff that helped coordinate the whole thing.

It's great to see creativity flourishing even in these difficult times. With those tricky times in the forefront of our minds, we were careful to discuss staff and student wellbeing at our recent Trust Board meeting.

It is reassuring to hear that the majority of people appear to be coping well with the return to face to face learning, but we would take this opportunity to encourage any member of the school community to speak up if they are feeling anxious and would like some support.

We hope you all get to enjoy a well earned rest over the Easter break.

Helen Parkinson - Chair of Trustees

Term Dates

Term Starts: Monday 12th April - Staff INSET and Training - No students in school

Students return on Tuesday 13th April

May Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May

Half Term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

Term Ends: Friday 16th July at 12:05pm

This week's notices to parents /carers:

- Lost Property
- Transportation Information - School Travel Plan

Katherine Warington Association of Friends (KwAF)

If you would like to get involved and support your school's parents' association please email kwaf@kwschool.co.uk or look out for updates on [Facebook @kwafkws](#). If you haven't already done so, please sign up and follow us!

KWS Vacancies

Learning Support Assistant (immediate start)

Learning Support Assistant (September 2021 start)

Design & Technology teacher (June/September 2021 start)

All vacancies are advertised on [Teach in Herts](#) and on [My New Term](#)

Social Media

Keep up to date with the latest information via the newsletter, website and our social media platforms by clicking on the links below:

[Facebook @KatherineWaringtonSchool](#)

[Facebook @KWSchoolSport](#)

[Twitter @KWSHarpندن](#)

[Instagram @kwschoolharpندن](#)

[Instagram @kwschoolsport](#)

Non KWS Events / Publicity

Rotary Virtual balloon Race



Ready for something different? How about joining a **VIRTUAL Balloon Race**, organised by **Rotary in Harpenden** in association with **Ecoracing**. All proceeds will go to Rotary's **END POLIO NOW** charity campaign.

This is a fun event for everyone, whatever your age, with great prizes to be won. All you need is a computer, tablet or smart phone. It's a great event for all the family. Buy your balloon before the start on 4 April.

This is a VIRTUAL race: no real balloons are used—so it's 100% eco-friendly.

- Buy your balloon for £3, name it, choose the colour and pattern and inflate it
- Buy balloons for all the family
- The race runs for seven days, starting from the virtual air in Jerusalem on **Easter Sunday, 4 April**. All the balloons will be set off at the same time
- No real balloons are involved **but actual weather data are**. The course of your balloon will be affected by the air currents, winds, etc, occurring over the seven days. See **TIPS FOR CUSTOMISING YOUR BALLOON** below. **Progress is calculated by computer**. You can follow the progress of your own balloon on-line throughout the race
- A **£500 cash prize** goes to the balloon that has travelled the furthest at the end of the seven days. There are prizes for 11 runners-up, too
- We are offering an extra prize of **£20** for the balloon that is racing for Rotary in Harpenden and goes the furthest

TIPS FOR CUSTOMISING YOUR BALLOON. You can select the balloon's helium content (1–5 litres of gas), shape and thickness of rubber.

Virtual balloons—just like latex ones—can pop if the balloon parameters are not suited to the weather. For example, maximising helium content, having the fastest shape and the thinnest rubber during stormy weather may not be advisable. To help your chances of winning you could look at the predicted weather for the race period before customising your balloon.

To enter race go to ecoracing.co/user/page/1536 and select 'buy balloons for you'