



KENSINGTON JUNIOR ACADEMY

Newsletter

Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a lovely and restful Easter break. It's great to have everyone back, and we're diving straight into a busy and exciting term ahead. Please take a moment to read through the important information below about upcoming events – there's lots happening, and we don't want you to miss a thing!

But first... WOW!

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our Comic Relief 40 minutes of activity challenge last term – what an amazing effort from our whole school community. With your energy, enthusiasm, and generosity, we raised a whopping £1,237.60 for Comic Relief!

We are so proud of what we achieved together – thank you!



KEY DATES THIS YEAR

Wednesday 7th May	School Photographs - groups
Thursday 8th May	VE Celebration Day - see info below
Friday 9th May	KJA Film Night (rescheduled from 16 th May)
Thursday 22nd May	Year 5 - Families at the Table
Friday 23rd May	World Culture Day - see info below
Friday 23rd May	Last day of Summer 1 term
Monday 2nd June	First day of Summer 2 term
Wednesday 4th June	University of Nottingham - Family Discovery programme - meeting after school - see below
Saturday 14th June	University of Nottingham - Family Discovery Day - see below
Thursday 19th June	The Secret Garden Theatre Production in School
Friday 27th June	INSET Day - School closed to children
Wednesday 2nd July	Year 5 and 6 Sports Day
Thursday 3rd July	Year 3 and 4 Sports Day
Friday 4th July - 3.15pm to 6.30pm	Summer Fair
Wednesday 9th July	Y2 Transition Day (Various Y6 transitions days this week - please check with your allocated secondary school for details)
Wednesday 16th July	KJA Talent Show
Thursday 24th July	Last day of Summer 2 term

Every Thursday - Y4 Violin Lessons.
Every Thursday - Y5 Swimming Lessons - please remember swimming kit.

PE Days:
Monday - Year 5, Tuesday - Year 6
Thursday - Year 4, Friday - Year 3
PE kit should consist of a plain t-shirt and joggers or shorts. Football kits are not allowed.

VE Day Celebrations at School

On Thursday 8th May, we'll be marking VE Day in school – a chance for our pupils to learn about the end of World War II in Europe and reflect on this important moment in history.

To help us celebrate, pupils are invited to come to school wearing red, white, or blue – the colours of the Union Jack – instead of their usual school uniform.

Throughout the day, pupils will take part in special lessons and activities to help them understand the significance of VE Day.

It's set to be a meaningful day of learning and remembrance, and we look forward to sharing it with our school community.

Cinema Film Night – Friday 9th May! 🎬

Featuring: Paddington in Peru 🐻

We're delighted to invite all pupils to our Cinema Night on Friday 9th May, where we'll be showing Paddington in Peru!

🕒 Time: 3:30pm – 5:30pm

🎫 Cost: £1 entry

🍿 Optional extras:

– Popcorn: £1

– Juice: 50p

📄 Children will come home with letters for this – please return your reply slip with payment if your child would like to attend.

🚫 No outside snacks, please – only water bottles from home are allowed.

We're looking forward to seeing lots of pupils there for an evening of laughter and adventure!

World Culture Day – Celebrating Our Diverse World! 🌍

We're excited to announce that we will be celebrating World Culture Day at school on Friday 23rd May 2025! This special day is a chance for our pupils to explore, learn about, and celebrate the many cultures that make up our world – and the communities within our school. As part of the celebration, we're inviting children to bring in a dish from home that either represents their own culture or the culture their year group is currently learning about:

- Year 3 – Asia: Ideas might include spring rolls, samosas, sushi, or noodles.
- Year 4 – Africa: Think about jollof rice, flatbreads, bobotie, or tagine.
- Year 5 – South America: Dishes like empanadas, arepas, or Brazilian cheese bread would be great!
- Year 6 – Central America: You could try bringing tamales, tacos, or arroz con leche.

Please ensure that any food brought in is clearly labelled with a full list of ingredients. We are a nut-free school and have pupils with severe, life-threatening allergies, so no nuts of any kind can be brought in.

Please note that bringing in food is entirely optional so don't worry if you feel you are not able to do this, please also only prepare a small amount of food e.g. enough for 4 or 5 children.

Pupils are also welcome to come to school in non-uniform – they can wear something that represents who they are, their identity, or their cultural background. This could be traditional dress, a colour that's meaningful to their family, or simply something that makes them feel proud of who they are.

Throughout the day, pupils will take part in a range of activities in class to explore and celebrate different cultures, helping them to build respect, curiosity, and appreciation for the wider world.



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Family Discovery Day - Saturday 14th June

We're looking forward to our exciting **FREE** Family Discovery Day at the University of Nottingham! Families will enjoy fun, subject-based drop-in activities delivered by academic experts - a fantastic opportunity to explore and learn together.

Travel Details:

Coach departs school at 9:30am
Return pick-up from the university at 12:00pm

Discovery Day: Meet the Families - Wednesday 4th June

🕒 3:30pm - 4:30pm, in school - this is a special, interactive, 1-hour session delivered in school for all families attending the university visit. Children and parents/carers should attend together

👉 Please note: Families are expected to attend both the in-school session and the university visit. Together, they form a full experience to help families get the most from the programme.

We're looking forward to an inspiring and fun experience for everyone involved!

🌟 Sign up here for this fun and free programme: <https://forms.office.com/e/vLZq2FPT9G>

Reading Morning and Coffee Morning - Every Wednesday!

Come and join us every Wednesday morning from 8:45 AM to share a book with your child in class. It's a wonderful way to start the day, foster a love of reading, and spend quality time together. We look forward to seeing you there! Don't forget—after reading morning, we run our Coffee Morning - hosted by Mrs Bailey! Come along, enjoy a cuppa and a chat, and connect with other parents and staff in a relaxed setting. We'd love to see you there!

Attendance Matters - Every Day Counts!

Regular school attendance is essential for your child's success, wellbeing, and development. Research shows that children with strong attendance achieve better results, so let's work together to keep attendance high!

We are moving to tracking attendance in terms of days lost rather than percentages, making it clearer for families to see the impact of missed school days.

WHY EVERY DAY COUNTS

Success at school starts with attendance

There are 175 non school days a year - that's 175 days to spend on family time, appointments, holidays, shopping and everything else.

There are 190 school days each year.

0-9 days of missed learning	10-18 days of missed learning	19+ days of missed learning
Good	Worrying	Serious Concern
Best chance of success and gets your child off to a flying start!	Less chance of success and makes it harder to progress.	It's just not fair on your child - and could lead to court action.



Instead of a rewards-based system, we are introducing a recognition approach, with postcards home, certificates, positive phone calls, and our new mascot, Kip the Kensington Kangaroo, reminding pupils that "Every Day Counts!"

Please avoid collecting your child early unless absolutely necessary. Wherever possible, schedule dentist or GP appointments outside school hours. Early departures disrupt learning for the whole class, as office staff have to interrupt lessons.

Welfare Checks - In line with our attendance and safeguarding policies, if your child has been absent for three days, our attendance team may visit you at home to offer support, even if you have already informed us of the absence.

Thank you for your support in building a strong attendance culture at Kensington Junior Academy!



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