



KENSINGTON JUNIOR ACADEMY

Newsletter

Welcome Back!

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to all our pupils, families, and staff. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and are feeling refreshed for the term ahead. This term is extra special for us as Kensington Junior Academy turns 140 years old! We are incredibly proud of our school's rich history and the generations of pupils who have been part of our journey. Throughout this year, we will be celebrating this amazing milestone in lots of exciting ways.




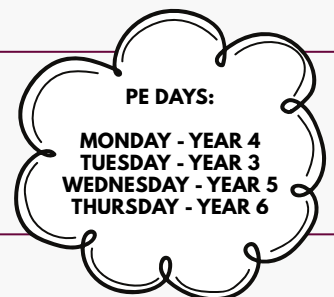
Discover more about the rich story of Kensington Junior Academy and how we've grown over the years – read 'The History of Kensington':

<https://www.kensingtonjunioracademy.co.uk/page/?title=History&pid=16>

KEY DATES

Here are some key dates for the rest of this term:

Jan 2026	Tuesday 20 th January	Y5 Faith Visit to the Hindu Temple
	Tuesday 27 th January	Y6 Faith Visit to the Sikh Gurdwara
February 2026	Tuesday 10 th February	Y4 Faith Visit to the Mosque Coffee Morning 10am - All parents and carers are welcome to pop in for some refreshments after the school run with Mrs Bailey (Family Support Worker) and Miss Powlson (Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator). It's a chance to have an informal chat about your child's learning needs or emotional well-being, or anything else you'd like to discuss.
	Friday 13th February	INSET DAY - School Closed to Pupils 
	Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February	HALF-TERM - SCHOOL CLOSED
	Monday 23 rd February	First Day of Spring 2 Term KJA Vision and Values Day
March 2026	Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
	Wednesday 11 th March	Film Night
	Monday 16 th and Tuesday 17 th March	Parents Evening and School Exhibition
	Friday 20 th March	Comic Relief Day
	Monday 30 th March to Friday 10 th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS - SCHOOL CLOSED
April 2026	Monday 13 th April	First Day of Summer 1 Term



FAITH VISITS

As part of our commitment to developing pupils' understanding of different faiths, beliefs and cultures, all classes will be visiting a variety of Faith Centres across the region over the coming weeks. These visits give our pupils a valuable opportunity to learn first-hand about different religions and to experience the unique atmosphere of these special places.

One Year 5 pupil, following their visit to the Gurdwara, shared:

"You could feel how special the place was when we were there and the people were really helpful - I loved it!"



BREAKFAST CLUB

A reminder that our Breakfast Club runs every morning from 7.45am to 8.45am and costs £3 per pupil. It provides a healthy, nutritious breakfast and a calm, positive start to the school day.

Places can be booked via the Clubs section on Arbor.

We are able to offer a small amount of funded places for pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium, and we are always happy to support families where we can. If this is something your child would be interested in attending, please contact the school office in confidence.

ILKESTON RUGBY CLUB



We are excited to welcome Ilkeston Rugby Club into school soon, where they will be hosting a short assembly for pupils. They will be sharing information about their club and inviting children to take part in free taster sessions at their local ground, "The Stute".

They will explain a little about the game and the fantastic opportunities available for boys and girls of all ages, highlighting the fun, teamwork and community spirit rugby has to offer. It's a wonderful chance for pupils to explore a new sport and get involved locally.



CHILDREN IN NEED

We are delighted to announce that our non-uniform day for Children in Need raised a fantastic £118. This has now been sent to Children in Need. Thank you to everyone for your generosity and continued support.



READING MORNING

Every Wednesday | 8:45 – 9:05 AM

We invite all parents and carers to spend 20 special minutes reading with their child in the classroom. It's a wonderful way to share stories, support your child's love of reading, and enjoy some quality time together. We can't wait to welcome you!

UNIFORM

At Kensington, all pupils are expected to wear school uniform. We ask for your full support in ensuring pupils adhere to these requirements, helping to maintain a smart, safe, and professional school environment:

Uniform:

- White, gold burgundy polo shirt/shirt/blouse
- Burgundy, grey, or black skirt or pinafore dress
- Burgundy or grey cardigan or jumper
- Grey or black trousers or loose-fitting grey/black school shorts
- Plain, dark, sensible shoes (trainers are acceptable)
- Suitable, waterproof outdoor coat (denim or leather jackets are not permitted)

P.E. Kit:

Plain, loose, comfortable clothing suitable for exercise (e.g., T-shirt, joggers, trainers)
Football kits are not permitted

Jewellery and Accessories:

One pair of small, plain stud earrings
One watch (smart watches are not permitted)
One small piece of religious jewellery is allowed
All jewellery must be removable for P.E.

SCHOOL DINNERS

Don't miss out on your Free School Meals!

We've noticed that a few families who are entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) aren't currently using them – and we'd love to change that! Our school meals are freshly prepared every day, with options to suit all tastes – from jacket potatoes and sandwiches to hot meals and favourites that even our fussiest eaters enjoy! The kitchen team are brilliant at working with pupils' preferences, so if your child isn't sure what they like, we can help find something that works for them.

Using your FSM entitlement could save your family over £400 a year – that's a big help, especially with the cost of living!

If you think you might be eligible, or if you're entitled but haven't been using it, please speak to the office – we're happy to help you check or get started.

ATTENDANCE - EVERY DAY COUNTS!

At Kensington Junior Academy, we follow an Inclusive Attendance approach, which means we work together to support every pupil to attend regularly, while recognising that some children may need extra help.

We use a tiered system of support, from universal support for all pupils, to early help and specialist support where needed. We celebrate good and improved attendance with certificates, postcards, calls home, and visits from Kip the Kangaroo.

Our attendance team monitors attendance closely and may carry out welfare checks after three days of absence to offer support. We ask families to avoid early collections where possible, book appointments outside school hours, and remember that term-time holidays are only authorised in exceptional circumstances.

Working together, we can give every child the best chance to thrive in school.



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