



King's Academy Binfield

25/11/2021

## Dare to be Remarkable

### Head of Primary News:

It has been a shorter than normal week this week due to our INSET day tomorrow but so much learning has been fitted into the short week. The academies are buzzing with preparation for the Christmas Shows and we are hopeful that we will be able to invite you all into the Academies to watch your child's performance. We will of course keep you up to date if we need to make any changes in regards to this.

### Attendance Letters

This week we received direct contact from the Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi, asking us to play a vital role in supporting raising the attendance of children within our Academies. Mr Zahawi has asked schools to: 'communicate clear and consistent expectations around attendance to families and work with your LA, making full use of enforcement actions where appropriate.'

As you will know from parent talks and open evenings, attendance is very important to us and we have an aspirational target of 97% attendance across KAB and KAO. This week, you may have received an attendance letter from us if your child's attendance is below 95%.

As stated in the attendance letter, whilst we completely understand that there could well be good reasons for the absence we do have a duty to flag this with parents and support families to achieve attendance of above 95% and towards our target of 97%.

If a child is extremely ill, of course they will not be well enough to be in school and some illnesses such as sickness require 48 hours out of school. Other children may require more medical appointments for their individual needs and again we completely understand this. However, we have many parents keeping children off for reasons such as being tired or having a slight headache/earache etc. In these circumstances please bring your children into school and we will monitor them, contacting you if needed.

Letters are sent out to all who are below 95% attendance to raise awareness to families and to offer support should it be needed. If you know that sadly, your child has been unlucky with illness this term, please do not be too concerned about the letter as you will have valid reasons for them being absent.

I hope this reassures those of you who emailed in and provides clarity.

### Opportunity and Success on a Global Stage

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Principal: Mrs Sarah Howells

## WhatsApp Groups

Many parents have contacted us regarding individual class WhatsApp groups. Whilst WhatsApp groups can be very useful in offering reminders and support between parents we are being informed that they can also be very negative places often questioning school policies or individual teacher decisions.

All of our email addresses can be found on the website so if you have any queries or concerns please contact us in the first instance as our teachers will be happy to clarify your concerns. If you feel a concern has not been appropriately addressed by a teacher contact either our Key Stage Leaders, our Deputy Head or myself.

Please do know that our teachers are wonderful people who always have children's best interests at heart. Some parental communication recently has been quite negative in tone. We will always listen and address your concerns but please do think about what you are saying or sending to our teachers; we have excellent teachers and I do not want to lose them!

## The Sponsored Read

A huge thank you to all the parents who have supported their children with our sponsored read, we have raised a total of £2494.50 and with the top up from Usborne books we now have £3991.20 to spend on the primary libraries. Prizes are awarded to the child or children in each class who read for the most minutes or raised the most money (for some classes this was the same person, for other classes it was two people!)

### KAB

Ruby - **Aiden**

Emerald - **Mya**

Opal - **Clemmie and Aden**

Topaz - **Elodie and Layla**

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### **Thank You PTA**

Another huge thank you goes to our wonderful PTA. The PTA have provided us with class sets of aprons for students at both KAB and KAO to use during art activities. The PTA are also ordering aprons for use in the secondary phase which will arrive soon. Thank you!



I hope you enjoy the additional day with your children tomorrow and find some time over the weekend to squeeze in some lovely family activities.

Best wishes,

Jacqui Tate

Head of primary

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## Ruby

Ruby class have continued to read some of our favourite traditional tales. The Three Little Pigs was a firm favourite as we designed and built our own houses for the pigs. We have also enjoyed acting out the different tales in our puppet theatre and have shown our wonderful knowledge and understanding of the stories.

On our outdoor learning walk last week, we were very fortunate and saw Mrs Mead busy on her tractor in the field. She kindly stopped and let us each have a turn to sit on it, we had to be very careful getting on and off as it was very high up. We also could not believe how big the wheels were! Thank you Mrs Mead!

We love to make marks in Ruby Class and like to find lots of exciting new ways to make drawing fun. This week we have been drawing on paper taped underneath the table top which helped to develop our gross and fine motor skills.



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## Emerald

The children have been enjoying our topic of 'Once Upon a Time...' (traditional tales) and have been learning the stories The Gingerbread Man and The Three Billy Goats Gruff over the last couple of weeks. A highlight for many was baking our very own gingerbread people and decorating them- they were all so unique- just like us! It's been great to see the children brilliantly re-telling these two traditional tales and thinking about how the characters behaved in the stories.

In maths, we have been further exploring number and shapes and the children enjoyed being shape detectives searching for shapes around our school. They spotted lots and did some fantastic counting of how many of each shape they found. We've talked about the names and properties of 2d shapes such as circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, semi-circles, pentagons and hexagons.

We had lots of fun raising money for Children in Need on Friday 19th. We joined in with Joe Wick's special quiz workout, chalked a giant Pudsey on our playground and made Pudsey headbands.

**Word of the week (last week):** Deceitful

**Word of the Week:** Despicable



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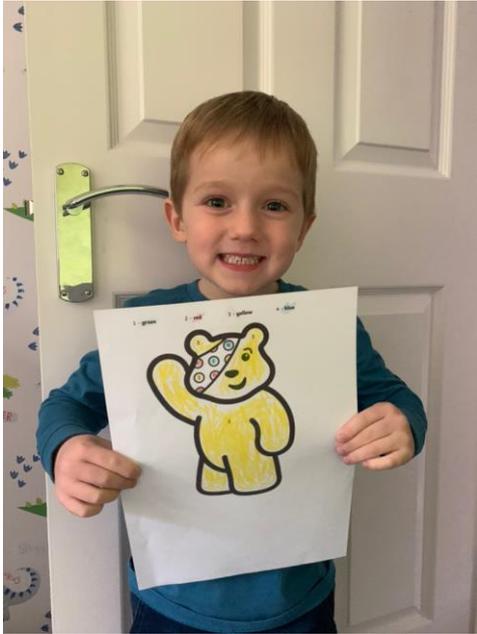
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## Opal

Opal class have been going full steam ahead with learning our songs for the Christmas play which is very exciting and starting to make everyone feel very Christmassy! We can't wait for everyone to come and see our performance! Last Friday was Children in Need day and all the children enjoyed learning how to draw Pudsey.

In English, we have been reading a non-fiction book about hibernation which the children have absolutely loved. The children have really enjoyed learning about lots of different animals and how they hibernate. In Maths, we have been learning all about 2D and 3D shapes. The children have been sorting shapes as well as making shape patterns.

In DT, the class have been carrying on with their puppet making this week and some children have finished their sewing; their hand puppets look fantastic so far! I can't wait to see how everyone decorates them as animals over the next couple of weeks. In History we observed and created a detailed painting of an old toy. We began by looking very closely at the toy and then drawing it carefully. The children then used watercolour paints to finish it off. I was blown away by how all the children worked at this task!

In Science, we have been continuing our learning about Autumn. We made our own wind vanes and went outside to test them. The children have also started practising their own weather report using the knowledge they have about Autumn and Winter. We are all very excited about recording the weather reports next week!



**Word of the week (last week):** conscientious

**Word of the Week:** rummaged

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## Topaz

The children in Topaz class have been working so hard recently. We enjoyed the story *On The Way Home* this week and the children wrote wonderful stories imagining all kinds of crazy things that might happen on the way home. We had lions that had escaped from the zoo and monsters coming out of the drain! I was so proud of all their hard work as writing stories can be tricky, and as well as that the children gladly accepted the challenge of using speech marks to make their characters speak.

In maths, we have now finished our unit of work on addition and subtraction and the children all made progress in using their knowledge of tens and ones in two-digit numbers to help them to add and subtract. This is something that we will revisit and revise over the year to consolidate the children's understanding and support them in making good progress!

In Science, the children have thoroughly enjoyed sorting and experimenting with different materials and last week ended with Children In Need Day and the children had a fantastic time joining in with Joe Wicks live workout and quiz. We are now busily practicing and preparing for our KS1 nativity!



**Word of the week (last week):** exchange  
**Word of the Week:** translucent

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