



'CONNECTED'

KSM PTFA - bringing parents, teachers & friends together
BY PARENTS FOR PARENTS - ISSUE 2 MAY 2019

IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

Miss Atfield

Answering the school phone while fielding parents' questions and letting children who've missed the bell into school with a smile – all just part of the job when you're one of the school's office staff. Dawn Atfield's one of the crack team behind the glass who help keep everything in order. She's had many jobs in her long career from mushroom picker to Somerset Fire Brigade to 17yrs within Children's Social Care. But long hours kept her from enjoying being a mum so she decided to find a job that would allow her to work with children again and spend more time with her son and family. A mum of 2, Miss Atfield also has two step children. She loves reading, cats and crafts and is busy making her bouquets and centre decorations for her wedding in October. Dawn says 'Working at the school is great, the children are just amazing. What they say and do makes me laugh and most often roll my eyes, as it's just kids being kids. Talking to the parents is great...we may not all agree on things but I'm always there to help through the hatch in the porch, I'm always busy but I will always try to help you out.'



HOW PARENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In previous years we have been able to use all the money raised by our supportive families to enhance what we do buying IT Equipment, a new book scheme and most recently the outdoor classroom. But we're not exempt from the budget pressures all schools are facing so parents at the last meeting have now agreed to use £3000 to cover the cost of everyday equipment we use in school such as stationery, exercise books and art and display resources. Thank you for your continued support. *By Ms Greenslade*

'MAY' THE FORCE BE WITH YOU

With May Day Bank hols upon us and the half term coming up, here's SOME ideas of where to take the kids....

*Did you know Wiveliscombe has a fab, heated outdoor pool next to a playpark? www.wiveypool.net

*The National Trust in Somerset has loads of great days out at Dunster Castle, Fyne Court, Barrington Court AND MORE. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

*BBC Somerset – Your local radio station for 'what's on' - www.bbc.co.uk/bbcsomerset

WHAT'S NEXT

- *Outdoor seating.
- *Canopy for outside the hall.
- *Continue to contribute to school trips and magazine subscriptions for the school library.

COMING UP - KEY DIARY DATES

***PTFA Jumble Sale Sat 18th May 2-4pm school hall.** Jumble donations can be brought to school Fri 17th either before school drop off or 10am-12pm.

***School Summer Fayre – on Friday 5th July 3-6pm** after school. Come and support the children's efforts during Enterprise week plus the usual food and fun!

*Spare plastic containers for cake sales urgently needed.

***Watch out for the new PTFA Info Whiteboard** at the top of the school steps for everything you need to know NOW.

***Volunteers and helpers needed for all these events ***

THE ROAD TO SCHOOL By Paula



Who knew you could save money, help the environment, get some exercise and feel a positive part of the Kingston community, all before 9 O'Clock. I'm Ruben and Connie's Mum, Paula and I've become known in the village for walking to school. Quite a gamble - with mine and my children's lives - but for me it is the right thing for us to do and the benefits are so many. We all get exercise and the kids have learned to "read" the traffic - who's too fast, who's being respectful and passing wide. Drivers using their indicators get a bigger smile and a wave of thanks.

We meet the dog walkers and pass the time of day with the locals. As long as we leave home on time, we usually get to school on time as we don't get stuck in traffic. On the way home from school, we'll regularly go up to the play field or The Spinney, which we wouldn't do so often if we were in the car. Whenever challenged on how or why we do this walk, I always reply 'we're doing our bit for traffic calming!' but my reasons go so much further than this. Ruben arrives in school awake, alert (because he has to be on the main road) and ready for the day. Connie is learning so much in her brother's footsteps and their care for each other is evident. We may be being brave but we're seeing the rewards.

BROWNIES ON PARADE



Well done to ALL the Kingston St Mary Brownies, Beavers and Cubs who took part in the St Georges Day Parade through Taunton on Sunday the 28th April. Here's a few we saw:- Grace, Evie, Aoife, Alice, Freya and former Kingstonian Heidi.

NATURE TRAIL By Tash

Now the sun is out the flowers and trees are blossoming. It's a great time to see nature all around you. At school or home, see if you can spot:

- Buttercups – test to see if your friends/family like butter by holding it under their chin
- Bluebells – spot the difference between the locals and Spanish ones which stand up straighter
- Primroses and daffodils – lovely yellow flowers – remember not to pick them!
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Children in nature club have been making some colourful butterfly creations, soon to join the other displays in the outdoor classroom. We did trees, insects, animals and pets last term. This term we're doing flowers, birds, ponds, rivers and the sea. Do you know how many trees there are on the school grounds? Answer next time (you'll be amazed)!

SCHOOL LIBRARY HEROES

By Maddie, Erin and Aoife

Hi our names are Maddie, Erin and Aoife and we are helper Librarians. We help to look after the library books so they are all ready for you to enjoy reading.

As Helper Librarians, we sign your books in and out, help to choose new exciting books for you to read and we make book recommendations. Also, we keep the library tidy and organised for you to enjoy.

We are at the library from 8:45 till 9:00am so please make sure you come then so we can check your books in and out. Then you won't end up on our 'chase list' and our library won't lose its lovely new books!

SAY WHAT

Wine drinkers wanted...

What's your fav tippie? Is it red, white or maybe rose? The PTFA needs your EMPTY screw top wine bottles for the Summer Fayre games stall so recycle them to us please. We also need some FULL bottles for prizes too!

Free space...

We need some storage space for the two school jumble sales each year – to keep donations 10 to 12 weeks beforehand. Any spare shed, garage or loft space much appreciated as we often get lots of large donations from the local community and parents for the jumbles and can't fit 'em in the school shed!

Year 6 Leaver's Hoodies...

There's one year 6 leavers hoodie left so if you haven't got your yet or want a spare – contact Lin Bews ASAP!

WhatsApp what's up...

Each year group rep is setting up a new WhatsApp group so parents can talk together and socialise. Year reps popped slips in school bags but if you've not got one yet – get involved.

JUST EAT IT

Have you got a HUGE stash of leftover Easter chocolate? Here's some nice ideas for how to use it up without quite such a sugar high! www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/using-easter-chocolate-kids



YEAR GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Yr R – Ella's mum, Liz
Yr 1 – Chloe's mum, Lisa
Yr 2 – Steffan's mum, Kay
Yr 3 – Archie's mum, Lin
Yr 4 – Freya's mum, Gemma
Yr 5 – Fern's mum, Lyn
Yr 6 – Freddie's mum, Nicola

OTHER PTFA/PARENT CONTACTS

Lin (Archie's Mum)
Trudi (Aoife's Mum)
Tash (Anna/Charlie's Mum)
Sam (Emily's Mum)
Corinne (Maddie's Mum)
Suzanne (Eleanor's Mum)

Facebook: @KingstonStMaryPrimarySchoolPtfa

Twitter: @KingstonStMary

Kingston PTFA May 2019 newsletter.

Written & edited by Trudi Smith with parents & kids ☺.

Special thanks to all our contributors!