

# July 2011 Newsletter

## END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS AND SEPTEMBER START

Following discussion with the Chair of Governors, we intend to send pupils home early on the last day of term, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

Pupils will undertake lessons as normal up until Period C and will be dismissed from school at 11.50 am. Those pupils entitled to a free school lunch can collect one from the canteen at break time.

**Pupils are due back at school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.**

Year 7 pupils should arrive at 8.25 am. They will spend the morning in their Form bases.  
The normal school bus service applies.

**ALL OTHER PUPILS IN NEW YEARS 8 - 11 SHOULD NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 10.35 AM.**

They should go to Form bases for registration at 10.50 am. All pupils will have a Form Period Lesson C and then go to timetabled lessons after lunch.



## KEEPING THE KINGSTONE FLAME BURNING

Parents will be aware that I will be leaving the school this summer and the very able Mr. Ellam and Mr. Gallagher will become joint Headteachers in the school's final year. In 2011 - 12 we will be focussed on keeping the 'Kingstone Flame Burning' and to this end a number of learning activities have been planned to celebrate the school's history and the impact it's had on so many in our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the amazing team of colleagues it's been my honour to lead at Kingstone. The team of teachers and support staff are second to none and it has been an absolute privilege to work with each and every one of them.

I would also like to thank governors, parents and the wider community within Barnsley for the unwavering support that they have offered me and the school. I am sorry to be leaving, not least because the move to the ALC offers a wonderful opportunity to take teaching and learning onto yet another level. The new Principal, Mr. Bowen is a proven school leader who shares many of the values we hold dear at Kingstone. I wish him and the new ALC nothing but the greatest of success; this community deserves it.

Mrs. Hewitt, Mrs. Anderton, Miss Conway, Mr. Fallis, Miss Swan and Mr. Towers are also leaving this summer and we thank them for the excellent contribution that they have made to our school. All of us will miss the children; your children who are very, very special.

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2011/12

In the final year of the school's existence, there are just three key objectives in our School Improvement Plan. The first two are born out of the recent OfSTED inspection, whilst the third addresses the need for the school to remain upbeat, energised and purposeful in the final year before it closes to form the new Advanced Learning Centre.

**Objective 1** – Improve the quality of teaching so that it is consistently at least good, by making sure all teaching offers:

- a variety of good learning experiences which provides sufficient challenge for all students;
- clear information about the next steps each should take.

**Objective 2** – Make sure the monitoring of teaching and assessment is consistently rigorous and has a sharper focus on the learning and progress of all students.

**Objective 3** – To keep the 'Kingstone Flame Burning' with a series of events that engage children in deep learning and recognise the school's many achievements.

## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

School photographs will take place the first week in school on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2011. Individual and Form class photographs will be taken on this day. Pupils are to wear school uniform, wearing white shirts and ties (but without grey jumpers on the photograph). Envelopes will be distributed to pupils at a later date with order and payment details.

## KINGSTONE'S COMMUNITY FACILITIES

You are probably aware of some of the fantastic opportunities available to your child at Kingstone School, but did you know that many of these opportunities are also available to you? Kingstone is very much a community school and we pride ourselves on the opportunities we offer to all members of our community, particularly in the areas of Sport, Performing Arts and Childcare.

Our Sports Centre is situated within the school campus and offers a wide raft of activities. Our fantastic 'state of the art' Fitness Suite is fitted with the latest equipment and fully staffed with qualified instructors. We can also offer five-a-side football, badminton, gymnastics and even children's sporting parties! Our Sports Centre is similar to many successful centres except when it comes to the cost! Our prices are extremely competitive and we provide rates which allow parents to exercise alongside their children and so bring a family approach to health and wellbeing.

An application form is available by contacting the Sports Centre (01226 738586) and remember, all proceeds go to support the development of further extended learning opportunities. If you do join, you will be supporting your child's school and getting fit at the same time; a 'win win' situation!

Perhaps you would like to become involved in Performing Arts? A growing number of parents are playing in the Community Band and singing in the Community Choir. There are opportunities in dance and drama; why not try some samba, it's great for stress relief! Most of our Performing Arts activities come at no cost to parents. Complementing all these activities is our Kingpins Nursery, which has an excellent reputation for childcare, particularly in the area of outdoor play. Kingpins will always go that extra mile to serve our community and will always aim to provide the most competitive rates for parents and families.

The latest information for parents on all our activities can be found at the Sports Centre Reception, or by telephone on 01226 738586.

## PUPIL MEDICAL INFORMATION

It is important for you to inform us if your child's medical details have changed in any way within the last 12 months. If they have, please contact the school, in order that we can update the medical records held in school.

## UNIFORM MATTERS

**ALL PUPILS** will be expected to wear 'clip on' ties as from September, 2011.

If you are replacing clothing for next term, would you please ensure that items purchased conform to school requirements, therefore, avoiding expensive replacements? This is especially important in the purchasing of girls' skirts which ideally, should be knee length without splits on the side. Trousers should be plain medium grey and not cord or denim. If you are in any doubt, the full uniform specification is outlined in the pupil planner and on the website.

As you will be aware, the school has a shop from which you can buy good quality and competitively priced uniform, sports kit and other school essentials. All profits from the shop are used to support teaching and learning at Kingstone. The School Shop is open every day from 8.00 am to 8.35 am and 12.00 pm to 12.45 pm. The School Shop is also open on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September, from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm. Please support the school by buying uniform and kit from the School Shop, which is situated at the rear of North Hall.

Some pupils will always try to push the boundaries in terms of standards of appearance with regard to uniform, hairstyles, etc. The school reserves the right to decide whether a pupil is suitably attired for mainstream classes. Please support us by urging your children to wear their uniform appropriately and with pride.

## FOND FAREWELLS

There are some wonderful staff at Kingstone and the Staff Team is a key strength of our school. It is inevitable that there will be staff turnover each year, but that doesn't make it any easier to say goodbye to valued colleagues, who have had such a profound effect on the children within our school and the wider community.

Mr. Fallis who has done invaluable work in the area of seclusion, will be moving to work at Springwell from September following successful completion of his GTP. Miss Conway is leaving us to become a lead teacher in Science at The Dearne, whilst Mr. Towers is joining another Barnsley School, St. Michael's and Mrs. Anderton will be leaving us to work in a Barnsley primary school. Miss Swan, Science Technician will also be leaving, as she is moving out of the area. Many parents and children will also be sorry to hear that Mrs. Hewitt, (formerly Mrs. Smith) is also leaving Kingstone. For many years she has been a main stay of our RE department, in recent years working as an Advanced Skills Teacher and a member of our Senior Management Team.

Whilst we're sorry to see these colleagues leave, it's wonderful that so many of them are taking on enhanced positions in other Barnsley Schools and on behalf of everyone here; I would like to thank each of them for the contribution that they have made to our school and wish them all the very best for the future.

## HELLO TO...

In September, we welcome a number of new members of staff, who are joining the school. Mr. Clement and Miss Hirst will join the Humanities team and Mr. Harrison will join the I.C.T./Business Studies team. Mr. Lane will join the Mathematics team and Miss Bowden, and Miss Mills will join the Science team.

## HOLIDAY DATES 2011/2012

Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Half Term
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec – Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Christmas (includes 2 INSET Days)
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half Term
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> April – Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> June – Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Spring Bank
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes

The remaining INSET Days are calendared for 5<sup>th</sup> September, 14<sup>th</sup> October and 29<sup>th</sup> June.

## PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH

We are committed to working in partnership with parents. However, due to timetabling commitments it is not possible for teachers to meet with parents without prior appointment. Appointments can be made by ringing the school switchboard on **01226 215757** or faxing the school on **01226 215758**.

Please ensure that your appointment is confirmed before you arrive and report to Reception in South Building, and sign in using our new touch screen software. If your child is going to be absent from school, then please use the dedicated absence line: **01226 215759**.

All that remains is for me to say farewell and thank you once again for your support and encouragement. I shall always remember Kingstone fondly; it's the people that have made it such a great school.

Mr. M. Milburn  
Headteacher