



# Kew Riverside News



Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

## Headteacher Highlights

We began the week with an assembly based on one of our school rules, “*Be Safe.*” The children reflected thoughtfully on all the ways we keep everyone safe at Kew Riverside—both in school, outside of school, and even in the virtual world. I was really impressed by their strong understanding of safety and how it links to looking after both our bodies and our minds.

Kat and I have also been visiting classes again this week and have seen some excellent learning taking place. We were delighted by the high-quality work in phonics, handwriting, maths, and reading across the school. Willow Class impressed us with their ability to name all the seasons and put them in the correct order, while Cherry Class have been working hard on their handwriting practice. Ash and Oak Classes have been highly engaged in their Science learning, exploring the topics of Light and Sound. Keep up the excellent work, everyone!

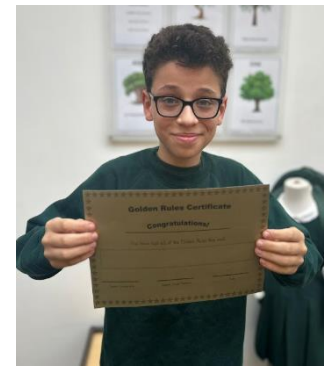
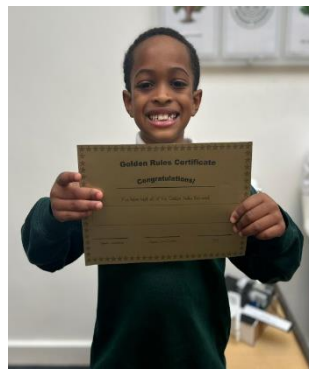
I would also like to warmly welcome Philippa to the school. She will be teaching Ash Class until half term, as unfortunately Jo is currently unwell.

Be safe

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

## Golden Certificates

A huge well done to our Golden Certificate winners from last week. Thank you for championing our school values and showing excellent learning behaviour. We are lucky to have such wonderful role models in our school.



## Hot Chocolate Friday

Congratulations to the children who went over and above for the last two weeks and were nominated by the staff in their classes for a hot chocolate with Ardeep.

Thank you for being the best that you can be. Keep it up!



## Oak Class Step Back in Time!

Last Friday, Oak Class enjoyed a fantastic trip to Holly Lodge in Richmond Park, where they time travelled back to 1869 to celebrate Queen Victoria's 50th birthday. As budding historians, the children experienced what life may have been like for a Victorian child at school and quickly discovered just how different it was from today.

After dressing up in authentic Victorian clothing, Oak Class entered a real-life Victorian classroom and met their very strict teacher, Mrs Sawyer. With lots of rules to follow and no-nonsense teaching, the children learned about finger cuffs, the dunce cap, Victorian money, and even the idea of paying a penny for their education. They worked hard, behaved impeccably, and took part in traditional games, gaining a real insight into school life during the Victorian era.

Although the trip was extremely exciting and educational, the children were quite happy to return to the 21st century at the end of the day. It was a truly unforgettable experience, full of learning, curiosity, and fun, and a wonderful way to bring history to life.



## Tag Rugby Match

On Thursday we were delighted to host our very first tag rugby match on our school field against Vineyard School. We played two fixtures — one competitive and one friendly. Although the score in the competitive match didn't go our way, with a 4–1 result, the team showed fantastic effort throughout. The friendly match finished in an exciting 4–4 draw, meaning we ended the day on a real high. The children played extremely well and demonstrated great determination and teamwork. We were especially proud of our new players, who got stuck in straight away and represented the school brilliantly. Well done to everyone involved and a special thank you to Jess and Mr O for organising.



# Perform Workshop

On Wednesday morning, Reception and Key Stage 1 children took part in a fun and imaginative workshop set in a magical toyshop. During the session, the children became the toys themselves, acting out different roles and bringing the toyshop to life through movement, drama and creativity.

The story behind the workshop gave the children an important mission: to stop a mischievous thief who was trying to replace all the traditional toys with computers and technology-based gadgets. Working together, the children explored how much fun can be had with classic toys and imaginative play.

The workshop was thoroughly enjoyed by all and sparked lots of laughter, teamwork and creative thinking. As well as being highly engaging, it shared an important message for young children — that technology isn't always necessary to have great fun, and that imagination can turn simple play into something truly magical. A wonderful, creative experience with a meaningful lesson for our youngest learners.



## Show your love of History and enter our History Competition

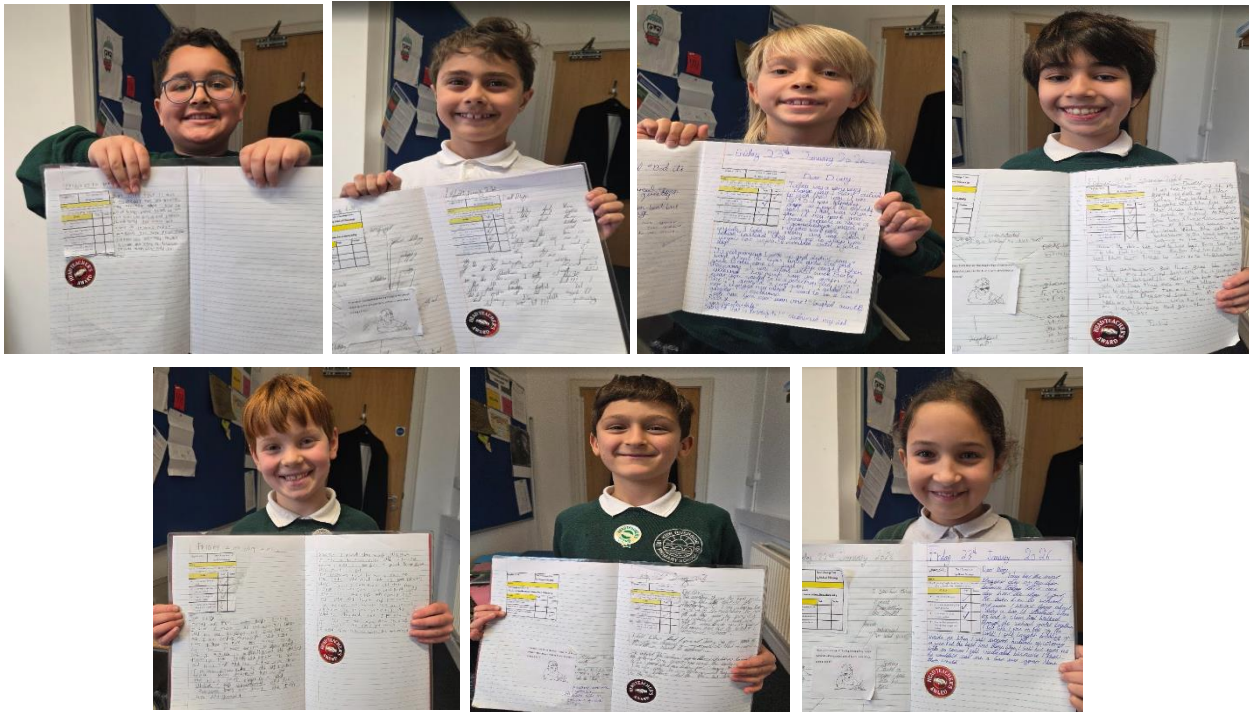
- ▶ Choose a historical event, person, story,
  - ▶ Create one primary source (e.g. diary entry, photo drawing, letter, artefact model)
- and/or
- ▶ Create one secondary source (e.g. fact file, timeline, poster, mini textbook page)
  - ▶ Bring this to school by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February .
  - ▶ The entries will be judged by the following criteria:
    - Correct classification - primary or secondary.
    - Clear explanation of why each source is primary or secondary.



## Incredible Ash Class Writers

It was a normal Friday morning when suddenly Ardeep's office was filled with children from **Ash Class**, all desperate to show off their fantastic writing! The children, who have been reading *Tom's Sausage Lion* by Michael Morpurgo, have been writing diary entries this week from the perspective of Tom, the character who spots a lion in an orchard—but no one believes him.

Ardeep was extremely impressed with how Ash Class used high-quality vocabulary, including ambitious words such as "*vindicated*", referred carefully to events from the book, and presented their work so beautifully. As a result, several children were awarded Pen Licences—a fantastic achievement! What brilliant learning, Ash Class—keep it up.



## Welcome To Our New Parent Governor

We are delighted to announce that Katarzyna has joined our Governing Board as a Parent Governor. Katarzyna currently has a child in Year 5, and her older daughter also attended Kew Riverside, giving her a strong connection to our school community.

Katarzyna is an active and committed member of the PTA and has consistently supported the school, offering thoughtful and valuable feedback. We are confident that she will be a real asset to the Governing Board and will add great value to the incredible work already being carried out by our governors.

We would like to warmly welcome Katarzyna to the team and thank her for her continued commitment to Kew Riverside.



# Attendance and Punctuality

This year our whole school attendance target is at least **96%** - we know that children who have between 96-100% attendances at school are the happiest and most successful learners; we are grateful to all of our parents and carers who are committed to supporting their children with this.

Our top three classes for attendance the week before half term were:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Willow Class – 95.4%**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Cherry Class – 94.4%**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Oak Class - 90.3%**



Further to the email sent out earlier this week, a reminder that the school day starts at 8.50am. The school gates are open from 8.40am and will close promptly at 8.50am. If you arrive after this time you will need to go to the office to register your child’s attendance with Lisa.

## Polite Reminder for After School Club Collections

We kindly remind parents and carers who drive when collecting children from after-school clubs to park considerately and safely. We have recently received concerns from residents on Courtlands Avenue that some vehicles are not always parked in a way that allows pedestrians and cyclists to pass safely. We would be grateful if all drivers could take extra care when parking and ensure pavements, driveways, and access routes remain clear, and that vehicles are manoeuvred safely when leaving. Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep our school community and local neighbourhood safe.



This is a reminder that we are a **nut-aware school** and do not allow any food containing nuts to be brought into school. We have several pupils with severe nut allergies, and this policy is in place to help keep them safe. Even small traces of nuts can pose a serious risk.

Please check the snacks and packed lunches you are sending into school to ensure they do not contain nuts or nut products. Your cooperation helps us protect everyone in our school community.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



## Dates for the diary

29/1/26: Ash Class trip to Holly Lodge

30/1/26: Boys football match

4/2/26: London Eye Trip for Oak Class

10/2/26: Safer Internet Day

**16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February: Half Term**

Term dates for the next academic year are now on our website – a reminder that family holidays should not be booked during term time.

## Message from Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership

Given the current weather conditions and the likelihood of further cold spells, we are asking all partners to promote water safety messages to the children, young people, and families you work with. This effort aims to reduce the risk of drowning both in the home and within the community.

Please remind your audiences that going into the river or on ice is extremely dangerous. [Cold water shock](#), a primary precursor to drowning, can occur in water temperatures below 15°C. The River Thames typically drops to between 3°C and 9°C (37°F – 48°F) during January and February. If someone experiences cold water shock, they should float on their back rather than attempting to swim.

Below are resources to share based on the age group of your audience and the specific risks they may encounter:

<https://capt.org.uk/drowning/>

[Water safety for Teenagers and young peoples](#)

[Staying safe around water](#)

[Water safety London Fire Brigade](#)

[Winter water safety- Royal Life Saving Society](#)

## Safeguarding

A reminder that if you have any safeguarding concerns about a child, please contact the school's DSL and refer to the school's Keeping Children Safe policy. If you feel a child may be in danger, you may contact the SPA directly on the number below or the police.

### Key contacts:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

Ardeep Viridi 020 8487 8437

[avirdi@kewriverside.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:avirdi@kewriverside.richmond.sch.uk)

Chair of Governors:

Helen Oakley 020 8487 8437

[hoakley@kewriverside.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:hoakley@kewriverside.richmond.sch.uk)

Single Point of Access (SPA):

020 8547 5008 Out of hours: 020 8770 5000

Local Authority Designated Officer:

020 8891 7370/ 07774 332675

[lado@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:lado@achievingforchildren.org.uk)



