

Dear Families and friends

As you will find out from the information below, we have had a busy half term across all the phases of the school: including our celebration of the Chinese New Year.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you to complete the questionnaire that was recently sent out on behalf of the R&C parent carer forum. They are collating your views to inform the council, which may in due course bring about some positive changes to the delivery of SEND services. If you require a copy of the questionnaire, please contact the office and they will get one out to you. NB. I have also enclosed with this newsletter information for families re three forthcoming training events organised by the forum

Have a good half term break. Best wishes *Kevin*



Dragons arrive at KTS!

KTS1

Across Lower School the topic has been 'Buildings', Blue Class enjoyed their trip to B&Q. They bought some small paint pots to paint their junk houses with and had a treat in the café! In White class, they have been enjoying acting out the Three Little Pigs story using the puppet theatre; this has included using musical instruments for parts of the story. In cooking, they have made pig shaped pastries and cheese straws, whilst in art we have painted with hammers and made houses using different materials from our story. Red Class have also enjoyed the topic of 'Buildings' with a story focus of 'The Three Little Pigs'. They have enjoyed printing with bricks, junk modelling, messy play with muddy pigs and building houses made of straw, sticks and Lego bricks then blowing them down - they loved using the hair dryer to pretend to be the wolf huffing and puffing! Pink Class have enjoyed listening to and singing 'When Goldilocks Went to the House of the Bears' and making stick houses.



KTS2

As part of multicultural week Purple Class have enjoyed a Chinese banquet and have been busy making their own class dragon for the school dragon run; although the dragon looks a little scary the pupils from Purple Class are very fond of him. In Grey class, they have been looking at buildings from different countries each week. They have also been making food from these countries in their cooking sessions. As part of the 'Buildings' topic, pupils have walked around Brotton looking at the buildings. They have also looked at old photos of Brotton and compared them to how the buildings in Brotton look now. They have designed their own futuristic buildings and made their own bridges using large scale junk modelling. Yellow class have enjoyed looking at different buildings especially a lighthouse and reading the Light House Keeper's lunch. They made sandwiches and experimented to see what materials would keep them dry.



In January, a group of pupils from our KTS2 & KTS3 choirs attended Durham Vocal Festivals, Big Sing & Sign. The event was led by OBE Paul Whittaker and included different special schools from across the North East.

We took part in workshops throughout the morning followed by a performance with a live band on the afternoon! Our pupils had great fun and really enjoyed getting involved; they were all excellent ambassadors for the school.

KTS3 & KTS+

As part of our buildings topic, U2 went back in time to 1895 to explore the Victorian period street at Preston Park Museum. White chocolate buttons from the sweet shop were a highlight.

U3 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Chinese New Year. Students have worked out their own Zodiac, discovered about Chinese traditions and taboos and have had a chance to sample traditional Chinese cuisine. In U4, we have celebrated Chinese New Year as part of Multicultural week. We made fortune cookies, sensory dragon pictures, posted money into red envelopes and explored Chinese New Year sensory bins.



U5 have been taking turns to visit ASDA in Skelton, as part of our Independent Living Skills. They go prepared with a shopping list, bag and money. Once there, they find the items needed, paying for them at the checkout before packing them into their shopping bag - all valuable life skills for the future.

U6 have had a very busy half term exploring the topic 'Building'. We have enjoyed printing with building bricks, making buildings and cooking a variety of 'three little pig' themed food. We have also been building on independence skills through a weekly trip to ASDA. Students have been using a visual shopping list to collect what they need.

Beyond Boundaries.

Students who attend Beyond Boundaries have been learning different camping skills in the woods. Recently they learnt how to heat water in the Kelly kettles which were then used to make hot chocolate drinks. Students really enjoy taking part in these practical activities and demonstrated that they could follow instructions to work safely alongside staff.

Apprenticeship Talk.

Jo Thompson from Tees Valley Learner Provider Network came in to talk to some of our students about apprenticeships. They found out how to research and apply for different apprenticeships in the local area. Students also learnt about pay and different entry requirements.

Redcar & Cleveland College Visit.

Some of our students enjoyed a visit to Redcar & Cleveland College to take part in course taster activities. The visit gave our students an idea of some of the opportunities that maybe available to them in the future.

Community Café

This half term saw the relaunch of our Community Cafe. Our Community Cafe offers our students valuable work experience where they are able to develop a range of skills from catering to numeracy. Our relaunch saw the students have new uniforms to wear and new decor for the cafe itself. We would like to encourage all of our families to come and visit the cafe, which runs from 10-11:30am every Friday, and enjoy a cup of tea and homemade cake.



Notices

We finish for half term on Friday 15th February and return on Monday 25th February.

Monday 18th March - school closed (staff training).

We finish for Easter Hols on Friday 5th April and return on Tuesday 23rd April.

Wednesday 3rd April - Friends Easter Bingo night.

Governors Update

10/01/19 the full Governing body received training on the processes involved in setting up a MAT.

16/01/19 Kevin attended training on exclusions

17/01/19. Safeguarding team (HT, DHT and AHT) attended safeguarding Conference

29/01/19 full Governing body meeting to review training and also to set up a Governor task and finish group re recruitment and selection of Headteacher for September 19.

12/02/19 New staff Governor Rob Anderson attended induction training.

MEET STACEY HILLS

ONE OF OUR NEW TEACHING ASSISTANTS



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all of you. I am Stacey Hills and I started my journey within KTS Academy in September. Prior to KTS, I completed a BA Hons in Early Childhood Studies at Teesside University, I have always been inspired to become a teacher and this was the start of my journey.

Upon completion of my degree, I worked in a private day nursery where I was promoted to pre-school room leader. I enjoyed my job however, there was something missing for me. The position of TA became available at KTS and I knew instantly this was the ideal position, the missing piece. Since September, I have come across many new challenges however; I am pleased to say I have never been more inspired by children or a school. I am looking forward to spending many years at KTS with truly inspirational children and a very hard working and dedicated team.

IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE

In order to adhere to DBS regulations, can all parents please ensure they report to the main reception when visiting school for any reason?

KTS Academy is committed to the safeguarding of its pupils.

For your information the Designated Safeguarding Lead for our school is Kevin Thompson, or, in Kevin's absence, Brian Richardson or Sarah Gunn. The school Governor for Safeguarding is Maggie Hadland