



NEWSLETTER 21 - 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026

# SCHOOL NEWS

## A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR KEWSTOKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

i am delighted to share the news that following a successful application process and interview with the Executive Leadership Team at the Wessex Learning Trust, I have been made the permanent Headteacher of Kewstoke Primary School. It has been a pleasure to lead the school over the last eighteen months as Interim Headteacher, and I can now look forward to leading the school into its next chapter as part of Wessex. It has not been an easy role, with the Ofsted inspection and follow up monitoring visit, as well as changes in staff and pupil numbers. However, as someone who applied for the role of headteacher at the school a few years ago, it feels like my career has come full circle as I am now here for the foreseeable future, and hopefully many years to come.



As I look to the future, there are many improvements that have taken place, from the new building, creating new and very positive links with families and the local community to developing an ambitious curriculum that allows all our pupils to achieve success. Part of this improvement is the design of our new school logo, which will be seen far and wide from now on. Thank you to our pupils for their input in the design, and I hope you see it as I do, as the next stage in the school's development.

## HANDBALL WORKSHOP

To continue our sporting visitors theme, we welcomed Teachsport South West into school to deliver handball workshops to all the children. Physical health is really important to us at Kewstoke, and with our links to this company along with Sportsmasters, we are providing lots of opportunities to try different sports and activities.

## TRIATHLON ASSEMBLY

On another sporting theme, we had a Triathlon assembly this week with Restless Development, a nationwide children's charity. Teams of four can sign up to compete at King's College Taunton in June, raising money for charity in doing so. More details have been sent out to you, but please contact the office if you would like more information.

I hope to be there on the day to support our pupils, as a supporter or hopefully as a volunteer!

### KEY DATES

**17th and 19th March**  
Parents' Evening

**1st April**  
Easter in a Box (Badgers Class)

**3rd April (Good Friday)**  
Easter Holidays begin

**20th April**  
School open for pupils

**24th April**  
Class photographs

## CONSISTENTLY GOOD BEHAVIOUR AWARDS

To ensure positive behaviour and attitudes are seen consistently across the school and at all times throughout the week, we have introduced a new monthly award. As well as the certificate, as an extra treat, they will have a hot chocolate with Mr Champs! Well done to this month's winners.



### CONGRATULATIONS!

Our 'Stars of the Week' are...

**Hedgehogs - Thomas**  
**Badgers - Arthur**  
**Foxes - Tyler-James**

Our 'Values Ambassadors' this week are...

**Hedgehogs - Papayaw**  
**Badgers - Max**  
**Foxes - Phoenix**

#### Attendance:

The classes with the best attendance this week was...

**Hedgehogs -97.1%**

Our year to Date attendance as a school is...

**91.8%**

## BIG WALK AND WHEEL

As you will have seen from my previous correspondence, we are once again taking part in the Big Walk and Wheel campaign over the next two weeks. Last year we were very successful as a school, earning #1 spot in North Somerset for very small schools. We want you and your children to scoot, cycle or walk to school for the next two weeks, to gain active journeys which will benefit the environment and their physical health.

I fully understand that some of you have to travel to school by car, but if you could park further away than normal, and walk for at least 5 minutes to school this will class as an active journey. You could even join me and park at the village hall and walk to school from there!



## HEDGEHOGS BEACH MORNING AND THE COSY CAFE

Hedgehogs class were due to enjoy a beach morning this week, until it started hailing! Thanks to the generosity of the Sand Bay Fish & Chip Shop and Cosy Cafe, the children enjoyed free hot chocolates whilst they dried off!



## WESSEX PODCAST

Thinking about your next steps, or perhaps a career change? Join us for a Careers Week special of The Only Way is Wessex.

In this episode, we meet with Nerys Blower, Assistant Director, and Francesca Govier, Operations Manager, to learn more about the Mid Somerset Training Consortium. Plus, we hear from current trainees themselves and get their perspective on what training really looks like and how it's helping them take the next step in their careers.





Kewstoke Primary School  
Easter Bonnet Parade 2026

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April



We would like to invite the whole school to join in on  
an Easter Bonnet Parade on the last day of term.

There will be a prize per class and a big prize for the  
overall winner.

We look forward to seeing your wonderful creations.

# PUPILS ARRIVING LATE TO SCHOOL

As a school, we have a duty of care to you and your children to ensure they attend school every day if possible.

We are noticing some children are regularly arriving late to school. This can not only affect your child's attendance but also their attainment and ability to learn. Being late also disrupts the rest of the class' learning.

If you need support from school to get your child in on time, please do speak to Mr Champs or a member of staff.

## Every minute counts



Lateness = lost learning	
<small>(Figures below are calculated over a school year)</small>	
5 minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost!

## Don't let your child miss out!

### What you can do:

- Have a regular routine for the start of each day.
- Help your child get their clothes and equipment ready before they go to bed.
- Set a reasonable bed time to make sure they get enough sleep.

**Get your child to school on time. If they are late they have a bad start to the day.**

### If your child arrives late for class:

- They miss out on important learning, which could affect their achievement.
- They don't have the social time to settle into class.
- It can be embarrassing for them.
- They may disrupt the learning of the rest of the class.

# TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

As of September 2013, no school is allowed to grant holiday requests under new legislation.

Therefore, any request for term time absence will need to be put in writing, in advance, to the Headteacher. Each case will be considered individually and the absence will only be authorised in specific circumstances.

Schools are required to notify the Local Authority of all unauthorised absences and a penalty notice may be given by the LA.

DID YOU KNOW that if a child is taken away for a two week holiday every year during term time and has an average number of days off for sickness and appointments, then by the time they leave at sixteen they will have missed a year of school?

# PARKING

I am very grateful to those parents who choose to park away from the school entrance and off the zig zag yellow lines. We have, however, had a recent issue with one of our neighbours where a parent had parked their car over a neighbour's driveway who needed to get out.

Please consider our neighbours when parking. I have asked North Somerset Council to send an enforcement officer to the school at pick-up times to talk to parents who cannot park respectfully or correctly.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, tips and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about OVERWATCH 2

A long-awaited sequel to 2016's massively successful Overwatch, this is a futuristic shooting game with a focus on teamwork and strategy which gives it an extra dimension to the majority of titles in the genre. Its cast of characters is diverse and memorable, while there's a definite (and rewarding) learning curve to players improving their skill. Created by established developers Blizzard Entertainment, Overwatch 2 is free to play, with an emphasis on competitive multiplayer action – meaning that children may want to play the game even more simply because their friends have it.

**AGE RATING**  
PEGI 12

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

**MULTIPLE PASSWORDS**  
Overwatch 2 supports convenient cross-play across consoles and PC – as long as users link all their devices under a unifying account on the Blizzard Battle.net platform. This has other benefits (preserving a player's progress for when they do want to link their accounts, be warned: the process can be extremely tricky and requires multiple passwords).

**VOICE CHAT**  
As a shooting game which focuses on fast-paced, competitive play, teamwork is central to getting the most out of the Overwatch 2 experience. Many players use voice chat to coordinate with other users – often with friends, but sometimes also with strangers. In either case, the likelihood a child is in contact with others, either way – for some in the best of the moment.

**IN-GAME PURCHASING**  
Like many free-to-play games, Overwatch 2 offers in-game purchases for unlocking its colourful skins. While new characters arrive as part of a free battle pass each season (normally lasting around three months), players can unlock them much earlier by buying a premium version of the pass. There are also in-game bundles (with varying goals) themed around certain characters or events.

**VIOLENT GAMEPLAY**  
Overwatch 2 heavily features combat, although the on-screen violence is relatively soild. Most of its characters are of a fantastical nature (there's a gorilla scientist with a laser weapon, for instance, and a DJ on roller-skates who fires sound energy), but some – such as Reaper, an assassin in a switch-blade mask – are a little on the darker side and could unsettle younger players.

### Advice for Parents & Carers

**ASSIST WITH ACCOUNT LINKING**  
If your child is trying to link their accounts from different devices together, it might be wise for you to help them and it can, but only should, be enabled to run more smoothly (and save you being asked for the passwords for each account), but you'll also be able to make sure that the website for linking is correct. We've put the right web address under the expert's bio at the bottom of this guide.

**MONITOR COMMUNICATIONS**  
Playing Overwatch 2 with friends is almost universally the most popular way to enjoy the game, if your child is playing with a few friends they only know online – or a stranger – now they need to monitor the chat to make sure they aren't being exposed to anything unsuitable. You might also decide to adjust the in-game voice chat settings so only confirmed friends can speak to your child.

**USE IT AS INSPIRATION**  
Overwatch characters represent many races, nationalities, gender identities and sexual orientations. This eclectic roster of heroes offers a superb jumping-off point for discussing social, sexual or gender diversity with your child. Whether it's finding heroes on a globe together or talking about non-traditional relationships, the game could be an excellent conversation starter.

**LIMIT IN-GAME SPENDING**  
The loot boxes featured in the first Overwatch have been replaced by a rotating storefront – so users only have a set time to purchase a limited number of items. Your child can still earn plenty of items, however, through the free battle pass. In any case, we'd advise removing any payment methods – or at least setting limits in advance – if you're worried about in-game spending.

**WATCH SOME GAMEPLAY**  
Overwatch players fight with an array of weapons and explosives, but the battles are presented in a way that forgoes blood, gore or gratuitous depictions of violence. This eclectic roster of heroes offers a superb jumping-off point for discussing social, sexual or gender diversity with your child. Whether it's finding heroes on a globe together or talking about non-traditional relationships, the game could be an excellent conversation starter.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Ulrich Dierker is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dailymail and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time fan of gaming, he is also a parent and therefore a keen observer of online safety. Having written about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including BBC and TechRadar, among others.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) @nationalonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 28.10.2022

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## SAFEGUARDING

If you have a concern about any child in our school, then it is your responsibility to say something to us. Remember, 'Safeguarding' is everybody's responsibility! You can speak to any member of staff in school. We also have a team of designated safeguarding leads – Mr Champs (DSL), Mrs Mann (DDSL), Miss Speller (DDSL) and our School Safeguarding governor, Mrs Phippen.



They can be contacted on 01934 623430 or at our dedicated safeguarding email address, [safeguarding@kewstokeyprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@kewstokeyprimaryschool.co.uk)  
As parents, you can contact support agencies directly on:-  
NSPCC: 0808 800 5000  
Care Connect: 01275 888 808