



NEWSLETTER 29 11TH JULY 2026



SCHOOL NEWS

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES!

It does not seem like two weeks since my last newsletter, but looking back at these last two weeks, I am not sure how we have fitted everything in that we have!

Although the last few week of an academic year can be a time to for regular events like Sports Day and Transition mornings, we have also had an enrichment day at the beach and community field in the village, pupils taking part in a Triathlon and unfortunately two days of school closure due to the heat. However, even in the warm weather, we have made the most of our school grounds and surroundings, using gazebos and paddling pools to keep cool, as well as much-needed ice lollies for everyone!

There is so much more to Kewstoke Primary School than just learning in classrooms, read on to find out more and what we still have to look forward to in the final week of the year.

KING'S COLLEGE TRIATHLON

On Sunday 28th June, a group of four pupils from Years 3 and 4 took part in the School's Triathlon at King's College in Taunton. The pupils were raising money for a very worth charity called 'Restless Development' who support young people to become the leaders of change around the world. Our four young athletes swam, cycled and ran as a team, persevering and crossing the finish line together! They raised over £400 and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The children even enjoyed some treats AFTER for all their hard work!



SCARECROW TRAIL POSTERS

Following the successful making of our scarecrow for last year's village trail, we were delighted as s school to be asked to design this year's poster. With the theme of cartoons, many of our pupils chose to design posters that were judged last week by some of the committee members. Congratulations to all the runners up and the overall winner, we look forward to seeing your poster displayed around the village!



By Nathan



By Josie & Georgie



By Junior



By Otis



SPORTS DAY

Having had to cancel our original date for Sports Day due to poor weather, we were lucky enough to run it last Friday on our second try at the village sports field. It was very well attended by parents and family members, cheering on their children in a carousel of events and an obstacle race. We were also very grateful for the donation of cookies, so every child was able to go away with not only with stickers for their efforts, but a delicious start to start the weekend!



ENRICHMENT DAY

To support our PE curriculum this year, we invested in a partnership with Sports Masters Coaching to lead and deliver some of our PE lessons across the school, along with an after school club each week. The culmination of this partnership happened last week, where the whole school spent a day with the coaches at the beach and the village community field. From fire lighting to leaf bashing, beach art to forest school, the children (and I think the staff) had a brilliant day. I am already looking forward to next year as we start a new partnership with King's Fitness and Leisure, who are part of the Wessex Learning Trust. There will be lots more enrichment and PE opportunities to come.



TRANSITIONS, GRADUATIONS AND LEAVERS

As we head towards the end of the academic year, it is a time for pupils to meet their new teachers, graduate from Pre-School or become Year 6 leavers. This week we involved all of our Hedgehogs class in our Pre-School graduation, and also said farewell to our oldest pupils, with their memories of Kewstoke.



ATTENDANCE

A child's attendance can have a huge impact on their progress, both in terms of personal development and academic progress. If a child misses just two weeks of school across the year, they are missing 65 hours of learning and it can be very difficult to catch up. Arriving late to school can also result in valuable hours of learning lost.

We will continue as a school and with the Trust to support families, to ensure children are in school and not missing out on valuable learning.



This Week:

Hedgehogs – 92.6%

Badgers – 92.4%

Foxes – 99.1%!!!!!!

So far this academic year:

Hedgehogs – 95.8%

Badgers – 96.2%

Foxes – 93.9%

Whole School – 95.3%

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our 'Stars of the Week' are...

Hedgehogs – Thomas

Badgers – Primrose

Foxes – Tyler-James

Our 'Values Ambassadors' this week are...

Hedgehogs – Reid

Badgers – Noorah

Foxes – Daniel

KEY DATES

Wednesday 15th July

Mobile Library Visit

Friday 17th July

PTFA Disco

Friday 17th July

Last day of term

20th–22nd July

INSET Days (School closed)

3rd and 4th September

INSET Days (School closed)

Monday 7th September

School open for pupils

A LITTLE 'AU REVOIR' FROM MADAME GANNON

I have recently taken the difficult decision to step back from volunteering at Kewstoke Primary School and start tiptoeing towards retirement! It was not an easy decision to take. I have thoroughly loved my time helping here.

When we moved here from near Rochester, in Kent, nearly five years ago now, getting a school place for our daughter seemed so stressful. We were thrilled when we finally got offered a place at Kewstoke and grabbed it with both hands. Then we actually visited the school, and our daughter started here, and we realised just how very lucky we really were that she had got a place in such a nurturing, caring environment with such dedicated and wonderful staff. When Mrs. Harding, the then Head teacher, mentioned that she was teaching French (and not feeling too comfortable about it!) I offered to help out, and I am so glad that I did!

It has been wonderful to be part of the Kewstoke family as a parent AND as a volunteer. I have loved teaching your children and watching them start to learn, make progress and enjoy French. I hope that their enjoyment of languages lasts well into secondary school and beyond.

I want to take this final opportunity to say a huge "merci" to the staff here, especially Mr. Champs, Mrs. Mann and Mr. Jeeves, for making me feel so welcome, and useful, and for lending me their pupils for a couple of hours a week for four years. Being a personal tutor (my "real" day job!) has many benefits, but I truly miss being in a classroom and being part of a school staff team, so thank you for allowing me to be a temporary part of yours!

Thank you for my beautiful flowers, lots of happy memories and "Au revoir!" to all the Kewstoke family!

Best wishes,
Jane Gannon



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SKIN BETTING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Skin betting is the term used when players gamble using virtual in-game items, such as weapon 'skins' or character cosmetics. Although these items appear purely decorative, some can hold significant real-world value. Research suggests that children as young as 13 have engaged in this type of betting, often on sites with limited age checks or safeguards, blurring the line between gaming and gambling.

UNREGULATED PLATFORMS

Skin gambling typically takes place on third-party websites that are not licensed or regulated. These platforms often lack age verification, making them easily accessible to children. By linking their gaming accounts, users can deposit skins, place bets, and withdraw winnings as cash or higher-value items – often without adults being aware these activities are happening.

REAL-WORLD VALUE

Skins may look like simple cosmetic upgrades to in-game items and characters, but some are worth hundreds or even thousands of pounds. They can be traded or sold on online marketplaces, meaning their function much like real money. When young people bet with skins, they are financialising their gaming, even if no physical cash is exchanged directly.

INFLUENCER PROMOTION

Some gaming influencers and streamers have promoted skin betting sites in their content. This can make the behaviour appear normal or even desirable, potentially encouraging younger audiences to engage in these activities without fully understanding the risks involved.

SOCIAL STATUS PRESSURE

In games such as Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) and Fortnite, rare skins can act as status symbols. Young players may feel the pressure to own high-value items to fit in with peers. This can lead them to take risks – such as using gambling sites – to obtain desirable skins, similar to how branded goods can influence behaviour offline.

LIMITED OVERSIGHT

Skin betting can take place both in-game and on external websites that parents and educators may not be familiar with. Because skin betting does not always resemble traditional gambling, it can go unnoticed until significant losses have occurred. In both items or money.

GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS

Skin betting mirrors many aspects of traditional gambling, including chance-based outcomes, reward systems and excitement. Early exposure to these mechanics can normalise betting behaviours before children and young people even reach legal gambling age. Research indicates that this may increase the likelihood of developing unhealthy habits later, particularly if early wins create a false sense of control or skill.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UNDERSTAND IN-GAME ITEMS

Familiarise yourself with the games young people are playing and learn whether they include tradeable or sellable items. Titles like CS:GO and Rust are known for skin marketplaces, but similar systems are increasingly common across games.

LOOK FOR WARNING SIGNS

Be alert to changes in behaviour, such as secrecy around gaming, a strong focus on acquiring specific skins, or a sudden loss of in-game items. These could indicate involvement in skin gambling and provide an opportunity to start a conversation about it.

DISCUSS VALUE AND RISK

Help children and young people understand that cosmetic items like skins can carry real-world value. Explain that losing them through betting is comparable to losing money, therefore reinforcing the connection between in-game actions and real financial consequences.

USE CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS

Make use of parental controls and platform settings to restrict trading, purchases, and access to external websites. Where possible, disable marketplace features on games and monitor young people's account activity to reduce the risk of unauthorised transactions.

Meet Our Expert

Nathan David is Head of Foundation and Programme Lead for Esports Coaching at the University Campus of Esports.
Ruhba Qasbi is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Events at the University Campus of Esports, as well as President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Esports Foundation.

See full reference list on our website

[@wake_up_weds](https://www.wakeupwednesday.com) [/www.thenationalcollege](https://www.thenationalcollege.com) [@wakeupwednesday](https://www.wakeupwednesday.com) [@wakeup.weds](https://www.wakeupwednesday.com)

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The National College

SKIN BETTING

Skin betting is an emerging trend where players gamble using in-game cosmetic items that can carry real-world value. This guide helps parents and educators understand how these systems work, why they appeal to young people, and how easily they can blur the line between gaming and gambling.

It also highlights key risks, including unregulated platforms, social pressure and influencer promotion, while offering practical advice on spotting warning signs and putting safeguards in place.

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@kewstokeprimaryschool.co.uk
As parents, you can contact support agencies directly on:-
NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
Care Connect: 01275 888 808



..so join us for some free
Summer Holiday Fun
at Kewstoke Church Hall



Monday Drop-in Sessions

between 10am and 3pm
for Crafts, Games and
Refreshments



Wednesday Film Afternoons

Starting at 2pm
Popcorn and Choc-ices
available

From Monday 3rd August!

Everyone welcome; children under 11 must be
accompanied by an adult
Sessions run 3rd – 26th August inclusive