



KEMSLEY COURIER



Praise and Thank You!

W/C: Monday 5th January 2025

Sycamore	<p>Mrs Hartley and Mrs D-H would like to congratulate the whole class on a fantastic start to Term 3! Everyone has settled back into routines and expectations brilliantly, and we're so proud of how focused and enthusiastic you've all been. A special thank you to Lilley for always keeping the library neat and tidy, and to Michael for making sure our book corner is organised at the end of each day. We'd also like to recognise Oliver, Tanjim, Lucy, Ayobami, Lauren, and George G for doing an outstanding job as our class monitors this week. Well done, everyone!</p> <p>Writer of the Week: Jimmy for trying hard to improve his letter formation in all areas of the curriculum.</p> <p>Maths Master: Oscar for his application of multiplying fractions to solve some tricky arithmetic questions.</p> <p>Star of the Week: Harley for his focus and attention in all lessons this week.</p> <p>Dojo Champion: Isabelle</p>
Birch	<p>Mrs Donaghy and Mrs Fletcher would like to praise Maddie and Effy for working to support each other well in maths this week. We would also like to praise Maceo, Matthias, Effy and David for being helpful around the classroom.</p> <p>Writer of the Week: Jonjoe, for working really hard on his handwriting.</p> <p>Maths Master: Madalena, for working super hard to understand fractions and for helping others.</p> <p>Star of the Week: Henry, for a great return to school after Christmas, with a positive attitude.</p> <p>Dojo Champion: Morgan</p>
Ash	<p>Mr Green, Miss Filipovic and Miss Laming would like to thank the whole class for settling back into the swing of lessons quickly and sensibly: Starting the new year as we mean to go on.</p> <p>Writer of the Week: Ronnie for making a conscious effort to improve letter shapes and presentation.</p> <p>Maths Master: Max for maintaining high focus and becoming more secure with advanced timestables.</p> <p>Star of the Week: Annabelle for always being a kind and compassionate member of our class. Always looking out for her peers.</p> <p>Dojo Champion: Harper</p>
Beech	<p>Mr Lines and Miss Spenceley would like to thank Year 3 for being so welcoming to Mr Lines and for returning after the break with great focus and enthusiasm for learning. Your positive attitude and readiness to engage have helped make the start of this term truly wonderful.</p> <p>Writer of the Week: Freddie for correctly identifying key areas of our story and linking them to key emotions.</p> <p>Maths Master: Ellis for his focus and determination in all of our lessons.</p> <p>Star of the Week: Gracie for her incredible focus this week.</p> <p>Dojo Champion: Eden</p>
Maple	<p>Miss Patston and Mrs Dixon would like to praise and thank Timeea for being a kind friend and lending a helping hand to her friends. We would also like to praise Lyle for his determination and readiness for learning.</p> <p>Writer of the Week: Siyana for identifying the features of a diary entry.</p> <p>Maths Master: Kevin for his perseverance in maths this week as we have explored drawing shapes in symmetry.</p> <p>Star of the Week: Tia for her energetic participation in lessons and her learning.</p> <p>Dojo Champion: Grace</p>
Willow	<p>Miss Hardy, Mrs Earney and Mrs Stan would like to praise Blake, Franky and Ariana for showing star sitting this week on the carpet. We would also like to praise Arthur and Ayomiposi for putting their hands up in most lessons and sharing their ideas. We would like to thank Indie, Dolcie-Mae and Franciszek for tucking in the chairs at our tables.</p> <p>Writer of the Week: Rosabelle for using verbs when writing instruction sentences.</p> <p>Maths Master: Alice for being able to count to 20 correctly and using base 10 to show her numbers.</p> <p>Star of the Week: Ariana for showing kindness to others and always being enthusiastic about our learning.</p> <p>Dojo Champion: Franciszek</p>
Oak	<p>Mrs Ambrose and Mrs Gaffney would like to thank all of the children for coming back to school after the Christmas break with such a positive attitude, refreshed and read to go. We would also like to praise Nancy, Maggie, Jak, Darrell, Theia, Riley and Eliza for carrying out fantastic writing activities this week, placing sounds together to make words and then a sentence.</p> <p>Writer of the Week: Azaylia for trying extremely hard within her letter writing.</p> <p>Maths Master: Abie, understanding of the concept of zero and giving an example.</p> <p>Star of the Week: Kevin, for settling into Kemsley so well and becoming a wonderful part of our class.</p> <p>Dojo Champion: Samuel and Millie for using their independent skills to put on coats and fasten buttons.</p>
Cherry	<p>Mr Abrahams, Mrs Mackie, Miss Thrall and Mrs Pullen would like to praise all of the children for a fantastic first week back! Mr Abrahams would also like to say a special thank you to the children, the staff and the parents for making him feel so welcome.</p> <p>Writer of the Week: Archie for his mark making using the paints to represent feelings.</p> <p>Maths Master: Isaac for demonstrating his excellent addition skills during our Maths activities.</p> <p>Star of the Week: Lennie for a brilliant first week back, demonstrating kindness towards all his peers and helping them when needed.</p>

KEY DATES

Mon 12th Jan
Extra-Curricular Clubs begin

Mon 12th Jan
Y5 (& Y6 non-swimmers) swimming lessons

Tues 13th Jan
LGB Meeting
4:30pm-6:30pm

Weds 14th Jan
Y3 trip to Lion King

Thurs 15th Jan
Spring Census Day (Special Dinner Menu)

Fri 16th Jan
Y2 Forest School (Group 1)

Message from the Head Teacher:

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Staff,

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas/break and a fantastic New Year. It has been so lovely to welcome you all back to school as well as welcome Mr Abrahams who is now officially teaching our Nursery class and Mr Lines who is teaching our Year 3 class. I would like to extend a special thank you to the children and staff in both Cherry Class (YN) and Beech Class (Y3) for making Mr Abrahams and Mr Lines feel so welcome. I would also like to extend praise to every child across the school, for an absolutely amazing first week back to school! You have all returned so eager to learn and so determined to achieve your very best – fantastic work everyone! Keep it up! Finally, I would like to extend a very special thank you to one of our governors, Mr Dendor, who attended many of our Christmas festivities last term, even supporting at our KS2 Pantomime. Thank you very much Mr Dendor.

This term we shall be focusing even more on helping our children to develop their foundational skills – the very foundations on which all their learning rests. These skills include developing handwriting in a neat and cursive style (Y2 onwards), forming and orientating letters and numbers correctly and ensuring they sit neatly on the line, as well as developing spelling knowledge and core number skills (like number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 and multiplication facts). We have invested in a new spelling program for Y3-Y6 called 'Spelling Shed' from which spellings will be taught and sent home to practice before being tested at school each week. YR-Y2 will continue learning their spellings from our Phonics programme Little Wandle.

Health & Safety Message: Please ensure that if you drive your car into our school slip road, you drive slowly with care, caution and attention. Please can families also ensure that the take care when crossing the road too. Working together we can keep everyone safe.

Key Dates

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS BEGIN

12.01.26 – Y5 (and Y6 non-swimmers) Swimming Lessons Begins

13.01.26 – Governors Meeting (LGB) – 4:30pm-6:30pm

14.01.26 – Y3 Trip to The Lion King

15.01.26 – Spring Census Day

16.01.26 – Y2 Forest School (Group 1)

Attendance currently stands at 93.99% and the class who have won attendance of the week is Year 1 with 96.55%. Well done!

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend,

Miss Homer

Headteacher

News from around Kemsley Primary Academy

YN Express Event Friday 6th February at 9am

Year N:

Welcome back and a happy new year to all our families!
What a brilliant first week back we have had, the children have settled back in so well and adapted to some new changes very well!
Our topic this term is "Who helps me?" We will be looking at all the different people that help us in different ways on a daily basis.

This week we have been looking at our book "My Magical Choices" we have talked about what good choices we make every day and also what might be a not so good choice. In Maths we have been using our fingers to represent different numbers and we have learnt the 'finger family song'. In phonics we have continued to look at our rhyming and the children have done amazingly at this!

YR Express Event Tuesday 3rd February at 2pm

Year R

Welcome back and a Happy New Year! We're looking forward to an exciting term ahead. Our topic this term is "People Who Help Us". The children will be learning about the important roles people play in our community, such as doctors, nurses, postal workers, vets, dentists, firefighters, and shopkeepers.

To make this learning experience even more special, we'll be inviting some of these community helpers into school to talk about their jobs and how they help others. It's going to be a fantastic opportunity for the children to ask questions and learn first-hand!
We're excited to let you know that **we'll be holding a Phonics Workshop as part of our Express Event this term on Tuesday, 3rd February at 2pm.** This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and carers to come along and learn more about how we teach phonics in school. You'll discover how phonics supports your child's journey to becoming a confident reader and writer, and we'll share practical tips for helping at home. We'd love to see you there!

Y1 Express Event Wednesday 4th February at 2pm

Year 1:

It has been a great first week back in Willow class. We are so impressed with how the children have come back to school, with smiles on their faces and ready for the new challenges within our learning. Next week PE will be on Monday. We are currently looking at PE timetabled slots this term so there may be some movement on this but I will update you on dojo accordingly.

During our literacy lessons this week we started our new book; Zog and the Flying Doctors. We are writing instructions to make a medicine to cure the king's orange fever. In maths we have been learning our numbers to 20. We are looking at how they are written both as numerals and words. Next week we will be continuing this topic looking at different bonds to make the total 20.

Within our history lesson this week we started our new topic Nurses. We learnt about what a nurse does for a job and also which parts of their job we believe are the most important. In music we learnt the first part of our new song which we will be playing along with next week using the glockenspiels. We had lots of fun exploring the lyrics and the tempo of the music.

In science we learnt lots about plants this week and we will be growing some seeds in class and monitoring them over the next 4 weeks to record the plant growth! Finally in PSHRE this week we have been learning about dreams and goals. We looked at what a goal and dream is and put some of our own goals onto a treasure chest. Just a reminder to please bring reading folders into school every day and ensure that the children bring their homework in each week.

Y2 Express Event Thursday 5th February at 2pm

Year 2:

What a wonderful first week back. All the children enjoyed sharing their experiences of the Christmas holidays and we have all jumped straight back into the routine.

This week we started a new book for the term: Meerkat Mail, which takes us on an exciting adventure with Sunny the Meerkat. We are working towards writing a diary entry, this week we have been focusing on the key features in a diary entry. Next week we are going to write our diary entries.

In maths we have continued with geometry looking at symmetry of shapes and sorting 2-D shapes, next week we are going to be exploring the features of a 3D shape. In Science we have been looking at plants and identifying their features. This term we will be exploring plants and living things and their habitats.

In art we have started our topic of still life painting and drawing. Our focus artist is Giorgio Morandi, we will be combining our computing and art lessons this term to research Morandi and create our own still life creations.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Y3 Express Event Monday 2nd February at 2pm

Year 3:

Welcome Back and a Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed spending quality time with family and friends. It's lovely to have everyone back and ready for an exciting new term. I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new Year 3 teacher, Mr Lines! I want to say a big thank you to the children for being so welcoming—it's been fantastic to join such a friendly and enthusiastic class. I'm really looking forward to all the exciting learning we'll be doing together this term.

Our class text this term will be *The Boy with the Bronze Axe* by Kathleen Fidler. All our reading and literacy lessons will be focused on this brilliant story. We'll use the book to inspire our own diary entries, imagining what life would have been like for the characters. This will help us develop our creative writing skills and explore character perspectives in depth. In Maths, we've been focusing on multiplication and have worked through equal groups, using arrays, and identifying multiples of 2, 5, and 10. We've also explored sharing and grouping, which will help build a strong foundation for more complex multiplication and division later in the term. Our topic this term is 'The Bronze Age', where we'll learn about this fascinating period in history. We'll explore key materials used during the Bronze Age and apply our knowledge of materials to understand how tools and objects were made.

Y4 Express Event Wednesday 4th February at 9am

Year 4:

In Ash class this week we have enjoyed a busy start to a brand-new year. With our new History topic of Anglo-Saxons and new class book 'The Railway Children'. In Literacy we have started looking into diary writing, becoming familiar with the features and style of writing. This will continue next week as we look to write our own diary entries based on the class text. In Maths we have been continuing with our multiplication and division topics moving through the timetables. This week we have looked at 3, 6, 9 and 7s with moving on to 11s and 12s in the next week. In science we have kickstarted our new sound topic looking at vibrations and how musical instruments create noise. With our focus next week shifting onto sounds and how the ear works. In PSHE over the coming weeks we will be looking at hopes, dreams and goals for the future as we look to set and achieve targets.

We are looking forward to all of the new learning that 2026 has to offer and cannot wait to continue pushing ourselves and achieving everything we can.

Y5 Express Event Thursday 5th February at 9am

Year 5:

What a cold and icy start to the new year! This week, Year 5 will continue to work on fractions in maths, giving us a little more time to embed these important skills. Our writing and reading this term is based on the book, Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. This is a wonderful story about a boy who finds out he is an Ancient Greek Demi-god. Alongside this, in History, we will be learning all about Ancient Greece, from the way normal people lived to the wonderful stories of Greek gods. We have started working towards writing a fact file about the Greek gods, which is a hugely popular subject with the children. Don't forget that we start swimming on Monday 12th January. Please ensure your child wears a warm coat as the weather may be very cold when going to and leaving the swimming pool.

Y6 Express Event Tuesday 3rd February at 9am

Year 6:

Welcome Back and a Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed spending quality time with family and friends. It's lovely to have everyone back and ready for an exciting new term.

This term, our class text will be 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. All our reading and literacy lessons will be focused on this fantastic book. To start, our first literacy genre will be writing an informal letter from Stanley—the main character—to his parents after being sent to Camp Green Lake. This will give us a great opportunity to explore character perspective and develop creative writing skills. In Maths, next week we will be looking at measures: centimetres (cm), metres (m), kilometres (km), litres, millilitres, grams, and kilograms. We'll also learn how to convert between different units of measurement.

Our topic this term is 'Mysterious Maya', where we'll dive into the fascinating Mayan civilisation, exploring their culture, beliefs, and achievements. Towards the end of term, we'll celebrate our learning with a Mexican Night—more details will follow closer to the time.

Please note: PE day will now move from Monday to Tuesday afternoons starting next week. Children should come to school in their full PE kit every Tuesday. Thank you for your continued support. We're looking forward to a fantastic term ahead!

Key Term Dates

Week 1

05.01.26 – Staff Inset Day (School Closed)

06.01.26 – Term 3 begins – School Open

08.01.26 – Additional IRock Session from Term 2

09.01.26 – Y2 Forest School (Group 1)

Week 2

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS BEGIN

12.01.26 – Y5 (and Y6 non-swimmers) Swimming Lessons Begins

13.01.26 – Governors Meeting (LGB) – 4:30pm-6:30pm

14.01.26 – Y3 Trip to The Lion King

15.01.26 – Spring Census Day

16.01.26 – Y2 Forest School (Group 1)

Week 3

19.01.26 – Y5 (and Y6 non-swimmers) Swimming Lessons

21.01.26 - Eco-Council Litter Pick – 1:45pm-2:30pm

23.01.26 – Y2 Forest School (Group 1)

Week 4

Assessment Week

26.01.26 – Y5 (and Y6 non-swimmers) Swimming Lessons

30.01.26 – Y2 Forest School (Group 1)

Week 5

Children's Mental Health Week & Express Events Week

02.02.26 – Y5 (and Y6 non-swimmers) Swimming Lessons

05.02.25 - C8 Pupil Parliament – 2x Y6 pupil attending PM – Copperfield Primary Academy

05.02.26 – Y1 & Y2 Cricket Workshop (Swallows) – Parents will be informed if their child is attending.

06.02.26 Non-School Uniform Day – Children's Mental Health Week

06.02.26 – Y2 Forest School (Group 1)

Express Events Week

Mon 2nd Feb – Y3 Express Event (2pm)

Tues 3rd Feb – Y6 Express Event (9am)

Tues 3rd Feb – YR Express Event (2pm)

Weds 4th Feb – Y4 Express Event (9am)

Weds 4th Feb – Y1 Express Event (2pm)

Thurs 5th Feb – Y5 Express Event (9am)

Thurs 5th Feb – Y2 Express Event (2pm)

Fri 6th Feb – YN Express Event (9am)

Week 6

Safer Internet Week

09.02.26 – Y5 (and Y6 non-swimmers) Swimming Lessons

10.02.26 – Safer Internet Day

12.02.26 – Sports Multi-Skills Event (Y5/Y6) 10am-2pm - Parents will be informed if their child is attending.

13.02.26 – Y2 Forest School (Group 1)

13.02.26 – Final day of Term 3



Academic Year 2025 - 2026

Term Dates

Term 1

Monday 1st September – Friday 17th October

(Staff Inset Day 1 – Monday 1st September – School Closed)

All children apart from New Reception Class to return on Tuesday 2nd September 2025

New Reception Class to start school on Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Half-Term

Monday 20th October – Friday 24th October

Term 2

Monday 27th October – Friday 19th December

Half-Term

Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January

Term 3

Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February

(Staff Inset Day 2 – Monday 5th January – School Closed)

Half-Term

Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

Term 4

Monday 23rd February – Friday 3rd April

(Good Friday Bank Holiday – Friday 3rd April – School Closed)

Half-Term

Monday 6th April – Friday 17th April

Term 5

Monday 20th April – Friday 22nd May

(May Day Bank Holiday – Monday 4th May – School Closed)

Half-Term

Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Term 6

Monday 1st June – Tuesday 21st July

(Staff Inset Day 3 – Monday 1st June – School Closed)

(Staff Inset Day 4 – Monday 20th July – School Closed)

(Staff Inset Day 5 – Tuesday 21st July – School Closed)