



End of Summer Term 1 2026 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a wonderful Summer Term 1 we have had here at King's Lander! Our pupils have continued to be fantastic and have made us proud with their hard work, positive attitude and excellent behaviour; we are particularly proud of the way our Year 6 pupils approached their SATs this term, showing calmness, maturity and a positive attitude throughout.

It has been another busy and successful half term in school, and I would like to thank you for your continued support. As always, we are very grateful for the way our families work in partnership with us to help the children to thrive.

Staffing Update

We have a number of staffing updates to share with you as we come to the end of this half term. After more than 10 years as Vice Principal and 15 years at King's Lander, Mr Sheerin has successfully been appointed as a Headteacher in Knowsley. We thank him for his commitment to our school over so many years, especially his work in supporting our most vulnerable families and in his role as SENDCo. He will be a great loss to our school community, but I am sure you will join me in wishing him every success in his new role. Following a robust interview process, I am delighted to share that Mrs Bailey will take over as Vice Principal from September. She will be fantastic in the role, and I am sure you will give her the same support you have always shown to Mr Sheerin.

Our Site Manager, Mr Newsome, has also left us for pastures new; we thank him for his support and I will update parents once a new Site Manager has been appointed. Mrs Griffiths has stepped down from her cleaning role and Miss Rigby has joined us as our new cleaner; please do offer her a warm welcome as she joins the Lander team.

I am also delighted to say that Mrs Shin's son, George, was born during the Easter break and we are all so pleased for her. We are currently in the process of recruiting two new teachers to cover the maternity leaves of Mrs Shin and Mrs Dickinson, and I will let parents know as soon as these appointments have been made.

Finally, after almost 30 years of service to our school, Mr Halsall will be retiring at the end of the academic year. Mr Halsall has supported the school enormously, particularly with trips, visits and residentials, and has long been a much-valued presence in the staffroom, always offering wit, humour, advice and guidance. We will be very sorry to see him go and he will be a real loss to the school, but we wish him every happiness in his well-deserved retirement.

Universal Free Breakfast Club

A reminder that our Universal Free Breakfast Club is available to all pupils from Reception to Year 6 every morning from 7.45am. Breakfast Club provides a calm, positive start to the day and helps children arrive settled, well-fed and ready to learn. We would love as many pupils as possible to take advantage of this offer. We are looking forward to our World Cup themed week, beginning the week commencing 8th June, when Breakfast Club will be serving hot and cold options inspired by flavours from around the globe. It should be a fun way to celebrate together and we hope lots of pupils will join us.

Reports and the MCAS App

You should all have received your child's mid-year report by now and we are looking forward to meeting with you all formally for parents' evening at the end of the year. This year, for the first time, you will be able to book an appointment to see your child's teacher via the MCAS app. If you have not already downloaded it, please do so in readiness for Parents' Evening. The app is a really important tool for school life as it allows quick communication between home and school and makes it easy to pay for items such as trips and dinners. From September, all communication and purchases will be made via the app, so it is very important that every family is set up and able to use it. If you need any help with this, please pop into the office and we will be happy to support you.

School Uniform

Please ensure that our standards of uniform are upheld right until the end of term. Recently, we have noticed missing ties, school shoes being replaced by trainers and pupils coming into school without their full PE kit. Uniform is important because it gives our children a sense of belonging, helps them to feel proud of their school and shows that they are part of the King's Lander and Great Schools Trust family. It also helps to promote high expectations, readiness to learn and a consistent standard across the school. We ask for your support in making sure that all children come to school in the correct uniform every day, including with their full PE kit when needed. For safety reasons, children are not allowed to wear any jewellery (unless expressly agreed by the school). Any child with pierced ears may only wear plain stud earrings in school, which must be removed for swimming and PE.

Exciting Developments

You will have seen our new canopy beginning to appear bit by bit, which is incredibly exciting. Once complete, it will help us make even better use of our outdoor space and support PE, sport and physical activity in all kinds of weather. We are also very much looking forward to improvements being made to our EYFS area over the summer, alongside the addition of two new sensory/regulation zones to further support pupils. These developments will make a real difference to the daily experience of our children and we look forward to sharing more with you as the work progresses.

Trips, Visits, Events, Residentials and Enrichment

Trips, visits, events and residential experiences are an important part of life at King's Lander and form a valuable part of our curriculum offer. They bring learning to life, broaden pupils' horizons and help children to develop confidence, independence and character beyond the classroom. We were naturally very disappointed that the Year 6 trip to Spain was no longer able to go ahead. However, we were delighted to arrange a visit to Alton Towers instead, which the children thoroughly enjoyed last Wednesday, and we are now looking forward to their residential visit to CHET in July.

These opportunities are made possible through the careful planning, supervision and dedication of our staff, and we remain very grateful for the support of parents and carers in helping us make these experiences possible for our pupils. Please see below for details of other events scheduled for next half term:

- 1st June - INSET day (children to not attend)
- 2nd – 12th June – Year 4 Multiplication Check Test Window
- 2nd June – Archaeologist, Dr John Hill in Year 2 for Stone Age palaeontology talk
- 4th June – Year 4 Come Dine With Me
- WB 8th June – Free Universal Breakfast Club World Cup Themed week!
- WB 8th June – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check week
- 9th June – Reception and Year 6 full class photographs
- 11th June – Reception visit to Imagine That
- WB 15th June – Science Week
- 15th & 16th June – Sports Days (more information to be sent out closer to the time)
- 18th June – Year 5 Come Dine With Me
- 19th June – Year 4 and 6 visit to Widnes Tennis Academy
- WB 22nd June – start of Year 6 top-up swimming
- 22nd & 23rd June – Reserve Sports Days
- 3rd July – Years 1 – 6 Relationship Workshops
- 6th – 8th July – Year 6 residential visit to CHET
- 13th July - Reports to be sent out to parents
- 14th July – Years 5 and 6 CO Crew Workshops
- 15th July – Years 2 & 3 Safety Seymour Workshop
- 15th July – Summer Term Parents' Evening (book a slot on the MCAS app)
- 16th July – Year 6 Leavers' Assembly at 2.15pm
- 16th July – School finishes for summer for Nursery and 2s at normal time
- 17th July – School finishes for summer at Reception – Year 6 at 2.00pm

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming the children back after the break on Tuesday 2nd June for the final part of the academic year and for what promises to be another very busy and successful half term!

Kind regards,
Mrs Dineley
Principal