Autumn 1 Half-Term Newsletter | October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our first half term, I want to say a heartfelt thank you. September always brings new beginnings, new faces and plenty of excitement and it has been a real pleasure to see the children settle into their classes, grow in confidence and embrace all that school life offers. There is such a special sense of community at King's Lander and that is thanks in no small part to the kindness, encouragement and support of our families.

Staffing news

We are absolutely delighted to welcome Mrs Dickinson, our SENDCo and Year 5 teacher back; it is wonderful to have her back with us! I would also like to say a very special thank you to Mrs Dougherty for the wonderful job she has done in Year 5 since September. Her care, hard work and commitment have been so appreciated, and we are incredibly grateful for everything she has done for the children. We are also thrilled to share that Mrs Wood is expecting a baby. Please join us in sending her our warmest congratulations and best wishes!

A very warm welcome, too, to Irene Gray, who has joined us as our new cleaner. We have also welcomed several new members of staff since September, and I would like to thank you all for making our new colleagues feel so welcome. Those friendly smiles and kind words really do make a difference.

A half term full of wonderful memories

There have been so many moments to celebrate but particular highlights have been the Year 4 and 5 residential visit to London and our Year 3 residential trip to CHET. Both were fantastic experiences and we could not have been prouder of the children. Their behaviour was exemplary and they were a real credit to King's Lander and to you, their families.

I would also like to say an enormous thank you to the staff who so generously volunteered their time, including evenings and time away from their own families, to make these trips possible. Experiences like these take a great deal of planning, care and commitment, but they give children memories to treasure, new friendships, growing independence and the confidence to try something different. That makes every moment worthwhile.

Thank you as well to everyone who joined our Meet the Teacher sessions. It was lovely to welcome so many of you into school, and I hope you enjoyed getting to know your child's new class teacher. Yesterday's Reception Come Dine With Me was a huge success, with every parent joining us! The children were absolutely delighted to welcome their grown-ups into their classroom, proudly show off their phonics and share a little of the learning they have been enjoying this half term. There were so many happy faces, and it was a lovely reminder of just how special it is when home and school come together. Thank you to our Reception families for making it such a wonderful occasion. We are really looking forward to welcoming families from our other classes to their own Come Dine With Me events.

A message from Miss Butler

Miss Butler, our Assistant Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead, will be sending a separate newsletter focusing on communication, behaviour and safeguarding. Please do take a few moments to read it. It is another important way for us to keep working together, with care and respect for every child in our school family.

Uniform and PE kit

Thank you for continuing to support us with correct school uniform and PE kit. These small everyday things help children feel a sense of belonging, take pride in their school and arrive ready for learning.

Attendance and a good start to the day

Being in school regularly and arriving on time are so important, both for children's learning and for their friendships, confidence and routines. The school day begins at 8.45am, and the junior gate closes promptly at 8.50am. Please help your child arrive in good time each morning. A calm start makes a real difference and helps us avoid congestion around the office at one of its busiest times. If there is anything making attendance or punctuality difficult, please get in touch so we can work together.

A small change to our school gates

After half term, our main front gates will be fully automated, with a new buzzer system. They will be open as usual at the start and end of the school day, but at other times visitors will need to press the buzzer and let our office team know who they are before being welcomed onto the school site.

This is a positive step in keeping our school safe and secure, and it will also allow us to make more use of the grounds at the front of school, giving our children another lovely outdoor space to enjoy. As with anything new, it may take us a little while to get into the swing of things, so please bear with our wonderful office team while everyone gets used to the new arrangements. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Looking forward to Autumn 2

There is so much to look forward to as we head towards Christmas! We are delighted that our Year 1 to Year 6 Christmas concert will once again take place at the Linacre Mission. Bringing it back last year was such a special moment, and we came so close to filling the venue! I would love for this to once again become a much-loved King's Lander Christmas tradition for years to come.

We will share the date of the concert, along with dates for our Christmas parties and Elf Walk, in good time so that everyone has plenty of notice.

School reopens on Monday 2nd November at 8.45am (9.00am for our Nursery children).

Finally, I hope the half-term break gives you all a chance to rest, enjoy some family time and recharge your batteries. Thank you for every encouraging word, every kindness and every little thing you do to help make King's Lander such a special place to be. We are so grateful to have you alongside us and are looking forward to a fantastic Autumn 2 together!

Warmest wishes,
Mrs Dineley
Principal