



Kents Hill Junior School



A very warm welcome to a brand-new academic year at Kents Hill Junior School!

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back, and we are particularly delighted to welcome all of our new children and their families to our school community. A special welcome to our new Year 3 children, alongside those joining us in Years 4, 5 and 6.

It is a real privilege to lead such a dedicated and passionate team, who work together every day to ensure the very best for our incredible children. Walking around school today has been an absolute joy. I have seen happy faces, enthusiastic learners and children already settling into their new classes, reconnecting with friends and embracing the excitement of a new year. I cannot wait to see all that we will learn, discover and achieve together.

In these first few weeks, we will support children to settle into routines, build confidence and develop independence. Small opportunities to “have a go” — whether remembering homework, organising their uniform or preparing their PE kit — make a huge difference. Keeping these things positive and fun at home will go a long way!

There is always so much happening at Kents Hill, so do follow us on social media to see what our children are learning, creating and achieving.

On the following pages, you will find answers to some of our most frequently asked questions and useful information about life at Kents Hill. If there is ever anything you are unsure about, please come and talk to us on the gates at the beginning or end of the day — we are always happy to help.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming you to our **‘Meet the Teacher’ sessions next week**. The autumn term is always busy and exciting, full of new opportunities and experiences, and I cannot wait to share it with you and your children.

Here’s to a fantastic year ahead!



Meet the Senior Leadership Team!



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*Mrs Parkes
(Headteacher)*



*Miss Jackson
(Assistant Head)*



*Mrs Thurley
(Assistant Head –
maternity leave)*

Meet our wider Safeguarding and SEND Team!



*Mrs Davis
(Deputy Safeguarding
Lead)*



*Ms Marable
(Executive SENDCo)*



*Mrs Rice
(Inclusion Lead)*

You will always find one of us on the front and back gates in the morning and at the end of the school day – we're here if you need us.

SAFEGUARDING – Keeping children safe is at the heart of everything we do. Every member of staff plays a role in safeguarding, but certain staff have specific responsibilities. If you ever have concerns about a child's wellbeing, please do not hesitate to speak to one of us:

Mrs Parkes – **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

Mrs Davis – **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)**

Wider Safeguarding team: Mrs Thurley, Miss Jackson, Ms Marable & Mrs Rice.





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SEND - If you have questions or concerns about your child, please contact Ms Marable, our Executive SENDCo or Mrs Rice, Inclusion Lead. We'll be offering SEND drop-ins, hosting external visitors, and holding One Plan meetings to keep you fully updated on your child's progress.

Communication - If you have a concern, your child's class teacher is the first point of contact. Most issues can be resolved quickly through discussion. If further support is needed, concerns will be passed to myself or another member of the leadership team. Please remember—small worries are always easier to sort out early, so don't hesitate to speak to us.

Attendance - The message remains the same: every day counts. Excellent attendance is key to learning, and we expect every child to attend regularly.

If your child is unwell, please call the school office by 9:00 a.m. with the reason for their absence. If we don't hear from you, we will need to contact you for safeguarding reasons. Mrs Davis is our in-school Attendance Lead.

We are continuing to work closely with Elwira Shuttlewood and Clare Morgan to support families and ensure the best possible attendance for every child.

Emergency Contact Details - If you've changed phone numbers, addresses, or any other key details over the summer, please update the office straight away—thank you!

Our Shared Values: Ready, Respectful and Safe - We see education as a partnership between home and school. By working together, we can foster independence, motivation, and a love of learning. I encourage all parents to join in with school activities whenever possible—your involvement makes a huge difference.





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Uniform - Our children have made a fantastic start, looking so smart in their uniforms—thank you for your support with this. A quick reminder: extreme hairstyles (such as top knots, very high shaves, or dyed hair) are not permitted. If you would like a reminder of what our school uniform looks like:



PE Uniform:



Extra-Curricular Clubs – We are proud to offer such a wide range of clubs all thanks to the generosity and talents of our staff. These opportunities enrich children’s school experience and we are excited to see so many pupils taking part.

Payment for School Meals and Trips etc. – Kents Hill Junior School is a cashless school. All payments for meals, trips and activities can be made quickly and securely via the School Gateway payment system.

We have some fantastic trips, visitors and residential planned this year. As always, trips are run on a non-profit basis and many heavily subsidised. We want for every trip to be able to take place however unfortunately if we do not receive sufficient funds, we may have to cancel trips. Your contributions are essential to make these experiences possible and we thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Joanne Parkes

Headteacher

