14th October 2026

Kents Hill Junior School

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Year 6 'Portals to the Past' World War Two Workshop

As part of their history topic this year, our children will take part in a range of opportunities designed to support their personal development. These experiences help them to understand and engage with the world around them while bringing the curriculum to life. All activities are age-appropriate and will ensure that children look back fondly on their time at KHJS, having created some of their best core memories.

On **Monday 23rd November**, the children will participate in an immersive World War Two workshop delivered by an external provider in school. The workshop will combine educational activities, historical facts and knowledge with opportunities to experience the community spirit and national cohesion of the time, as well as what total war meant for everyone—especially children.

The day will begin with learning about how Hitler came to power, setting the scene for the events that unfolded in Europe in the lead-up to the war. Pupils will then discuss Dunkirk and the evacuation of British soldiers and their allies, followed by sessions on air raids, code-breaking, bomb disposal, rationing, evacuation, and life on the home front. This experience will link directly with the Year 6 history topic on World War Two. For an idea of what the day will be like, check out our video from last year's 'Day in the life with a Roman Leader' on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/reel/DWEPwlBiBey/?exln=MXQwamRsanRiZ3FtYQ==

Clothing
To enhance the experience, we are inviting children to come to school in costume for the day. There is no need to purchase anything new—we have included some simple ideas on the reverse page. Bringing a gas mask box is optional.

As the event takes place on school premises, lunch will run as normal.

To cover the cost of this experience, we kindly request a contribution of **£7**, payable via the Schoolcomms online payment system. Although this contribution is voluntary, the event will not be able to go ahead unless all or most of the costs are covered. Please also provide permission for your child to participate via the Schoolcomms system as soon as possible. We kindly ask that payment is made **by Friday 13th November**. If we haven't received enough funds to cover the cost of this experience by this date, we may unfortunately need to consider cancelling it. We really hope this won't be necessary and appreciate your understanding and support in helping us make this experience possible.

If you are able, you may choose to contribute **£10 instead of £7**, with the additional **£3** supporting other children who may require financial assistance to attend. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will help ensure that every child has the opportunity to benefit from this enriching experience.

Kents Hill Road, Essex, SS7 5PS
01268 792133
www.kentshilljuniorschool.co.uk
admin@kentshill-jun.essex.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Joanne Parkes

Follow us online
@kentshilljuniorschool

We are really looking forward to this workshop and are excited for the children to make lasting memories. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

The Year 6 Team

WW2 Costume Ideas for Children

- Cap, flat cap, balaclava and woollen scarf
- White, grey or checked pattern shirt. Short trousers (boys didn't wear long trousers until they were teenagers however, please wear trousers if it is cold!)
- Plain jacket or blazer/cardigan or waistcoat (wool) or a sleeveless jumper/jumper
- Grey socks, plimsolls or lace up leather shoes
- Woollen coat, jacket or blazer
- Straw, felt or knitted hat and plain scarf cotton or woollen dress (girls did not wear trousers at the time)
- Woollen skirt and cotton blouse
- Woollen cardigan or sleeveless jumper
- Long or short sleeved jumper
- Ankle socks, grey or white plimsolls or leather lace up shoes





Costume suggestions are based on what children wore at the time: costumes are encouraged but not compulsory.

Make A Gas Mask Box – optional

The children will need small square/oblong cardboard box. Shoe shops are normally quite happy to let people have old shoe boxes (small children's shoe boxes are ideal). Make a hole either end of the short sides of the box. Cut a length of good quality string, long enough for your gasmask box to go over your shoulders so the box can hang at your side. Thread the string through the holes in either end of your box and secure with good knots and sticky tape. Stick your respirator instructions inside the lid. Put the lid on the box and put over your shoulders.