



King's Academy
Rowner

Newsletter 4 - December 2025

DATES FOR SEPTEMBER: The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change

YEAR GROUP TEACHING STAFF	YEAR GROUP PE DAYS
Year 3 - Miss Dymond and Mrs Lovisetto (Poplar) and Mrs Thomson (Chestnut)	Monday and Wednesday
Year 4 - Miss Daly (Rowan) and Mrs Freeland (Willow)	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 5 - Miss Brind (Hazel) and Miss Winzar (Maple)	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 6 - Mrs Revis (Sycamore) and Mrs Walton (Redwood)	Monday and Friday
Key dates for December	
Monday 1st December	Y6 Parent - Teacher meetings
Wednesday 3rd December	Y3 Parent - Teacher meetings
Thursday 4th December	1. Non-uniform in exchange for a donation for the Children's Christmas Raffle 2. EHCP Parent - Teacher meetings with Mrs Knoll 3. Local Governing Board Meeting
Friday 5th December	INSET day - school closed
Monday 8th December - Thursday 18th December	Christmas postbox on the playground
Tuesday 9th December	Y4 Christingle Event at St Mary's Church (PM)
Thursday 11th December	Jólabókaflóð and Christmas jumper day
Friday 12th December	Y5 Portsmouth Dockyard trip
Monday 15th December - Friday 19th December	Christmas Week at King's Academy Rowner
Friday 19th December	Christmas raffle tickets on sale / Christmas raffle Last day of term. School finishes at 14.00
Upcoming dates for January <i>(Please note dates will be added to this list in the next newsletter)</i>	
Monday 5th January 2026	RETURN TO SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE

As we approach the end of term we wanted to share some of our key attendance headlines with you:

- Our best week for attendance was the week commencing 8th September with an average attendance of 98%. The next week that we had attendance close to this was the week commencing 17th November.
- The best day of the week for attendance is Wednesday with an average of 95%.
- The worst day of the week for attendance is a Friday with an average of 93%.
- The worst day of attendance this academic year so far was the day **after** the Spooky disco with only 87% of pupils coming to school. We will be carefully monitoring attendance after such events in the future.
- At this point of the year, if your child has had 5 days absence across the term, they are classed as a persistent absentee.

Attendance continues to be a key focus of the government and there has been recent updates to school that states:

If you remove your child for an unauthorised period and it is the belief of the school and Local Authority that you have done this in a way as to avoid being issued a Penalty Notice, the Local Authority reserves the right to authorise the issuing of a Penalty Notice before the national threshold is met.

E.g. You take your child on holiday in the week of an INSET day thinking that because you are only taking them out of school for 4 days a Penalty Notice won't be issued.

Please note, a penalty notice can be issued for any of the following unauthorised absences where the pupil has been, within the last six months:

- unauthorised absent for 10 or more half-day sessions (five school days) over 100 possible school sessions – these do not need to be consecutive and can span different school terms and years.
- persistently late (coded U) for 10 or more half-day sessions after the register has been closed – these do not need to be consecutive

CHRISTMAS

Each Christmas, the staff at King's Academy Rowner and the Friends of Rowner spread festive joy during our Christmas week. Please find an overview of what activities the different year groups will be taking part in on each day.

Ahead of Christmas week, there are a few events taking place prior to this to help the Festive Elves be ready:

Thursday 4th December: Non-uniform in exchange for a donation for the Children's Christmas Raffle. This might include: selection box, colouring pencils/books, toy

Thursday 11th December: Jólabókaflóð and Christmas jumper day. Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper (school uniform to be worn on the bottom half. If children do not wish to wear a school jumper then they are to wear school uniform - **it is not a non-uniform day**).

Jólabókaflóð is an Icelandic tradition that translates to "Christmas Book Flood," where people exchange books as gifts on Christmas Eve and then spend the rest of the evening reading them. This custom originated during World War II, as paper was one of the few goods not rationed, making books a popular Christmas present. It is celebrated with cozy activities like reading by the fire and enjoying hot chocolate.

At King's Academy Rowner we have adapted this tradition a little. Children are invited to bring in a new or old children's book on this day. We will then regift these to the children on the last day of term alongside a little gift from the staff at Rowner and 'Friends of Rowner'.

Please ensure that books are appropriate for children aged 7 - 11 years of age and that old books are in a good condition.

Monday 8th December - Thursday 18th December: The Christmas Postbox will be out on the playground for children to put Christmas cards into. These will then be 'posted' to the recipients on Wednesday 10th, Friday 12th, Monday 15th and Thursday 18th December.

For more information on the Christmas Week event, please see below the table.

	Monday 15th Dec	Tuesday 16th Dec	Wednesday 17th Dec	Thursday 18th Dec	Friday 19th Dec
Year 3		Year 3 Party	Christmas shop Film afternoon	Christmas lunch	Online raffle Christmas sing along
Year 4	Year 4 party		Christmas shop Film afternoon	Christmas lunch	Online raffle Christmas sing along
Year 5			Christmas Shop Film afternoon	Christmas lunch Y5 party	Online raffle Christmas sing along
Year 6			Christmas shop Film afternoon	Christmas lunch	Y6 Party Online raffle Christmas sing along

Christmas week: Monday 15th December - Friday 19th December

During this week, your child be able to take part in the following activities:

Film afternoon

Food will be provided for the children, so please do not send sweets in with your child. The children will have a choice of 4 movies (1 non-festive movie).

Year group Party

Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumper alongside their normal school uniform on the day that it is their Christmas party.

Opportunity to purchase gifts at our Christmas shop

A range of gifts are on offer for children to purchase. Children will need a maximum of £5. To ensure there is enough stock for everyone, they will only be allowed to buy 2 gifts and then if we have gifts left over on the Friday, children will be able to buy more.

Christmas raffle

Raffle tickets can be bought for 20p per ticket. Your child will need to bring in their money in an envelope that has their name, class, amount of money and number of tickets they wish to purchase. The raffle is online, so physical tickets will not be given to your child.

Raffle tickets will be purchased on the day of the raffle - Friday 19th December.

Christmas lunch

Google form has been shared and **must be completed by December 10th**. All children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper or Christmas clothes for the day.

Christmas Sing-a-long

Parents are invited to join our school community for a Festive sing-a-long on the last day of term. This will be from 13.15. School finishes at 2pm on this day.

KEY DATES FOR PARENTS (UPCOMING ASSESSMENTS IN KS2)

Children in Year 6 and Year 4 will be completing their Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) w/b 11th May. As the children approach the important milestone of their Year 6 SATs, we understand that parents/carers want to give them the best possible support.

What: Key Stage 2 SATS

Who: Year 6

When: Monday 11th May - Thursday 14th May 2025

What: Multiplication Tables Check.

Who: Year 4:

When: Monday 1st June - Friday 12th June 2025

Please note, regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life. It is important that both school and home work together on this. Whilst it might seem some time off, we wanted to share key dates with parents for Year 4 and 6 parents. We strongly advise against any absences in the build up and during these periods of time.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

As the weather turns colder and wetter, please ensure your child comes to school each day with a warm, waterproof coat. We spend time outdoors in all seasons, and being properly dressed helps the children stay comfortable and ready to learn. Gloves, hats and scarves are very welcome too, but please make sure they are clearly named so that any misplaced items can be returned quickly.

Thank you for helping the children stay warm, dry and happy during the winter months.

FINANCE MATTERS

We recognise that the current cost-of-living crisis continues to place pressure on many families. We also understand that some households fall just above the eligibility threshold for Free School Meals and may still be finding it difficult to make ends meet. If this is your situation, please know that you are not alone. While we cannot make any guarantees, the school may be able to direct you toward sources of support, including possible household or hardship funds. If you feel you may benefit from this, please do not feel embarrassed to reach out. You are welcome to speak to any trusted adult in school and ask them to pass the information on to the office team, who will look into what support may be available. You can also contact the school office directly - by email, phone, or in person (please ask to speak in our little office off the library if you would like some privacy).

GOVERNANCE - Make a Difference

King's Academy Rowner is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our Local Governing Body Committee who are a team of voluntary community members who play a vital role in supporting and challenging school leaders to ensure every child receives the very best education. Governors make a genuine impact. They visit the school, talk to pupils, staff and parents, and take part in important scrutiny across the year. Their role helps shape our School Improvement Strategy, strengthens our decision-making, and ensures we remain ambitious for all our learners. All governors receive full training, and no previous experience is needed, just a commitment to our school community and a willingness to ask questions, explore solutions and support us in overcoming challenges. We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor, and we would also love to hear from anyone in the wider community who may be interested in getting involved. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact our Executive Headteacher, Mrs Georgina Mulhall: enquiries@kgarowner.uk We have a vacancy for one parent governor position and would be interested to hear from other people you may know in the community who would like to support the school.

NAMES IN UNIFORM

It is essential that your child's school clothing has their names written on them, especially in coats, jumpers etc. This allows us to return any items of clothing directly to the child.

ROBLOX

Schools have been made aware of a pop-up that is appearing on Roblox, encouraging children to download an app called pollybuzz (or pollyfuzz in some spelling cases). The app seems quite simple where children are asked questions, and it generates an Artificial Intelligence 'friend' – this starts off quite innocently but then begins to show extreme content (including suicide, self-harm and pornography). It may be helpful to remind children about not clicking on pop-ups in games and to report anything that is worrying or inappropriate to a trusted adult. It may also be helpful to communicate with parents about this. Roblox has parental controls and instructions of how to put these on can be accessed via this link:

[Parental Controls Overview – Roblox Support](#) .

STAFF MATTER

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to **Mrs Lovisetto** at the end of this term. Many families will remember that she first joined us shortly after Covid to support pupils through tutoring before becoming part of our Year 6 team as a third teacher. This year, she has been working alongside Miss Dymond in Year 3, bringing energy, care and commitment to the children. She leaves us due to unforeseen personal circumstances. As a community we will miss her but we fully support her decision and wish her every happiness for the future.

We are pleased to share that **Mrs Dadd** will be joining the Year 3 team in January and will work closely with Miss Dymond to ensure continuity and a smooth transition for the children.

We also shared in our November newsletter that **Ms Sewell** has secured a well-deserved promotion. We wish her every success as she takes this next exciting step.

Finally, we say a very fond **au revoir** to **Miss Daly**, who will be leaving us after the Christmas holidays to begin her maternity leave. We are absolutely thrilled for her and cannot wait to meet her new baby in 2026. She has been a much-loved member of staff, and we know the children will miss her warmth, humour and positivity.

Families in Years 3 and 4 have received additional information about staffing changes in a separate letter and we remain fully committed to ensuring the children continue to receive the highest quality teaching and care throughout these transitions.

WATER BOTTLES

To ensure children stay hydrated and ready to learn, we encourage all pupils to bring a water bottle to school each day. For safety and practicality, we kindly ask that bottles are plastic (not hard, screw-top metal) and ideally have a sports-style top to minimise spillages.

It's important that water bottles are clearly named and taken home daily for washing to maintain good hygiene. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide spare bottles, so it's essential that every child has one organised from home.

As shared in our recent communication, the vast majority of water bottles are now stored at the back of the classroom - an exception being made due to medical reasons shared by the doctor. The children have easy access to them, this system is working well, and it has caused no issues. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain this routine.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Well Wishes

Wishing you all a very happy and safe holiday. Wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year also. It has been a busy term and we are delighted with all that the children have achieved. As a community we share and achieve so much - Here at Team Rowner we are really grateful for this. We look forward to seeing everyone on **Monday 5th January 2026**.