



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 Dadd (Poplar)	Thursday and Friday
Year 3 & 4 Mrs Thomson (Chestnut)	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 4 - Mrs Freeland (Willow)	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 5 - Miss Brind (Hazel) and Miss Winzar (Maple)	Monday and Tuesday (swimming)
Year 6 - Mrs Revis (Sycamore) and Mrs Walton (Redwood)	Wednesday and Friday

Key dates for December

Monday 5th January 2026	1. RETURN TO SCHOOL 2. Dance Live rehearsals
Tuesday 6th January	Y5 swimming (see below)
Wednesday 7th January	Y6 Booster Group: 15.05 - 15.45
Monday 12th January	1. Y6 Parents SAT information meeting 2. Dance Live rehearsals
Tuesday 13th January	Y5 swimming
Wednesday 14th January	Y6 Booster Group: 15.05 - 15.45
Monday 19th January	Dance Live rehearsals
Tuesday 20th January	Y6 swimming
Wednesday 21st January	1. International Ambassadors visiting King's Academy Binfield (Bracknell) for the International Ambassador day 2. Y6 Booster Group: 15.05 - 15.45
Monday 26th January	Dance Live rehearsals
Tuesday 27th January	Y5 swimming
Wednesday 28th January	Y6 Booster Group: 15.05 - 15.45

Upcoming dates for February (Please note dates will be added to this list in the next newsletter)

Monday 2nd February	Dance Live rehearsals
Tuesday 3rd February	Y5 swimming
Wednesday 4th February	Y6 Booster Group: 15.05 - 15.45
Friday 6th February	DANCE LIVE @ The Portsmouth Guildhall
Tuesday 10th February	KARo Local Governing Board meeting
Wednesday 11th February	Y6 Booster Group: 15.05 - 15.45
Thursday 12th February	Friends Disco
Friday 13th February	INSET day
Monday 16th - Friday 20th February	Half term
Monday 23rd February	Return to school
Wednesday 25th February	Y6 Booster Group: 15.05 - 15.45

A Happy New Year to you all

A Very Happy New Year to you all. We do hope that you are all well and are rested after the holiday. We are sure that the children will settle quickly into the school routine. Please help your children with this routine by ensuring that they are at school promptly to start the school day and have the correct uniform for both school and PE.

Attendance matters

We have a duty to monitor pupils' attendance very carefully. The school reviews the attendance of our learners on a weekly basis, identifying pupils that are at risk, or run the risk of becoming a persistent absentee (90% or less). In our autumn data analysis, we noticed the following things:

Across the autumn term we had 13 absence requests. This was down 35% for the same time period in 2024-25. We thank you for your support with this. Schools cannot authorise term time holidays unless exceptional circumstances dictate. We define exceptional as - rare, significant, unavoidable and short. For service personnel (all services) please provide a letter from your Line Manager/Divisional Officer/Commanding Officer to support any absence request, confirming that no alternative dates are available to you. Please note, we may still not be able to authorise the absence.

Friday continues to be the day when our attendance is the lowest. With an average of 87% of the school attending on a Friday, this is significantly below the national average of 96%. Our staff are looking to see how they can make learning unmissable on this day, but every day is a key learning day. **For each day missed, your child misses out on at least 6 lessons- 3 of these being from the core subjects: English, Reading and Maths. This means if your child has missed 5 days of schooling, this equates to about 30 lessons, 15 of these being core subjects.**

Our lowest attending day was the day after our Spooky Disco. We want to be able to offer these opportunities to your children, so we need your support in ensuring that your child attends school after such events.

Please note that if we have an attendance or safeguarding concern and your child is absent, then the school might make a home visit. We do not need to inform you that this will happen.

Contact Information

Please note that it is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that the school has up to date contact telephone numbers and addresses, in case of any emergencies. Please contact the school office, ideally via email, if you need to update us. Thank you.

Home Learning - it makes all the difference!

At our school, we believe that home learning is an essential part of helping children achieve their absolute best. With your support, we can ensure that every child reaches their full potential. As a minimum, we kindly ask all parents and carers to:

- Hear your child read at least five times a week.
- Practise spellings by making use of Spelling Shed
- Practise times-tables regularly by making use of Times Tables Rock Stars and general recall

Additionally, it's important to complete the Home Learning tasks provided by the school. These tasks are designed to consolidate classroom learning and build confidence, giving your child the best possible foundation for success. For our Year 6 learners, we are particularly focused on ensuring that home learning is completed to avoid any impact on SATs outcomes. Home Learning does make a difference. Together, let's set our children up for success by building strong habits now. Thank you for your ongoing support of your child.

MAT OF THE YEAR!

As you will be aware, we are part of King's Group Academies (KGA). King's Group Academies has been named 'MAT of the Year' at the National School Awards. At the Awards ceremony, KGA was recognised for exceptional growth and transformative children's outcomes.

Judges noted the academic success of individual academies in KGA, whilst simultaneously growing from 9 to 15 academies. They recognised that KGA was able to elevate educational standards across the board. The award commended KGA's International Dimension programme which sees us partner with over 35 schools across the globe. It noted the KGA's forward-thinking Digital and AI Strategy and the many wellbeing initiatives and a dedicated focus on safeguarding and inclusion.

Nick Cross, CEO said: "This award is a testament to the collective dedication of our children, colleagues, volunteers and leaders. Winning 'MAT of the Year' is not just an award for past achievements; it is validation of our foundational belief: that every child deserves **Opportunity and Success on a Global Stage**. It recognizes the unwavering commitment of our colleagues who embody our values of Honesty, Faith, and Courage every day. We are incredibly proud, and our work continues—this success fuels our mission to innovate and expand our impact for future generations of learners."

Swimming

During the spring and summer term, our swimming programme will take place for years 5 and 6. Year 3 and 4 will not take part this academic year.

This will form part of the PE curriculum for the spring and summer term and will take place at Gosport Leisure Centre. Swimming is part of the National Curriculum and therefore **all** children are expected to take part. Children need to have the appropriate swimwear, **not beachwear**, boy's trunks should be above the knee in length and girls must wear a one piece swimming costume. Goggles are permitted if your child would prefer to wear them. Long hair needs to be tied back and we encourage jewellery to be left at home – no earrings please on the days when they are swimming. We encourage children to wear swimming caps. Children will also need to bring a towel and waterproof bag to bring their kit into school. If children wear their swimming costumes to school as it is a morning session, please ensure they have underwear to change into. All swimming kit and school uniform need to be named.

For your information, year groups will take part in swimming at the following times:

Year 5: Tuesday 6th Jan, Tuesday 13th Jan, Tuesday 20th Jan, Tuesday 27th Jan, Tuesday 3rd Feb and Tuesday 10th Feb

Year 6: Tuesday 22nd May, Friday, 5th June, Friday 12th June, Friday 19th June, Friday 26th June and Friday 3rd July