



Kelford School
An Academy within Nexus Mat

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Friday 12 January 2024

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you are all well and enjoyed your holiday or festive period! Staff and pupils have come back to school ready for structure and routine. I have visited Forest View to catch up with our Post 16 pupils, been to Kimberworth to see our Little Explorers and have popped into classes on our Kelford site to see what is happening in classrooms! We have had a GREAT week!

POOR WEATHER

We are fast approaching that time of the year when the weather is extremely changeable. Should we find ourselves in the position whereby it is unsafe for pupils and staff to travel to school, we will let families know by text message and by Class Dojo that school is closed.



We will always endeavour to make this decision as soon as possible and aim for no later than 7.15am. In the event of a school closure, we will let families know when school re-opens via text message and Class Dojo. If it snows during the school which compromises the safe travel home for pupils and staff resulting in school closing early, we will send out a Dojo and a text requesting that families confirm there is an adult at home to receive their child.

PRIMARY

What a wonderful start to the new year!

Pupils in primary are now embarking on their new topic, 'Animal Kingdoms'. Some classes have started their journey at the zoo! Reading and sharing the story 'Dear Zoo' which has given them an insight into using adjectives to describe the behaviour and characteristics of different animals. Other classes have started reading fables such as 'The Tortoise and the Hare' so that they can develop their reading and understanding of print. Eventually they will build short sentences using their preferred method to communicate what they have heard.

In Maths this week we are continuing to work hard on our understanding of number, with some pupils working on contrasting quantities such as one and lots whilst others sort and group to help them to count in steps of 2 or 5. All activities are planned and personalised for each individual whilst group sessions focus on celebrating achievements and joining in with counting songs and rhymes. Some classes are also working on patterns. They have been copying and continuing simple patterns using different shapes and objects.

SECONDARY

It has been lovely to welcome learners back after the holidays and to see how refreshed and engaged in their learning they all have been over the week. It has been a really positive week in Key stage 3 as pupils began their work on the new whole school topic "Animal Kingdom". We are excited to welcome a mobile zoo in to school next week allow all our pupils hands on experience with a range of animals to help hook them in

*Dates for your
diary Spring 1:*

<i>Name of Event</i>	<i>Date & time</i>
<i>School Opens to pupils</i>	<i>Monday 8th January 2024</i>
<i>Nexus Dance Festival Part 1</i>	<i>Friday 12th January</i>
<i>Sensory Diets & Routines – link to be sent home in newsletter on 12th January</i>	<i>Wednesday 17th January</i>
<i>Whole School Holocaust Memorial Day</i>	<i>Friday 26th January</i>
<i>Safer Internet Day</i>	<i>Tuesday 6th February</i>
<i>Nexus Dance Festival Part 2</i>	<i>Thursday 8th February</i>
<i>School Closes</i>	<i>Thursday 8th February</i>
<i>INSET Staff Training Day</i>	<i>Friday 9th February</i>

Check out these dates!!!



to the topic. Pupils will then work over the Spring term to learn about life cycles, food chains, habitats and differences in animals including humans around the world, ending with a whole school animal parade showcasing young people's work. In Key stage 4 and 5, learners have settled back into their learning with positivity, highlights include accessing the local community to work on independence and money skills, making bread dough and creating sculptures from bread, and pupils from 6th form taking part in an African drumming workshop. We are all looking forward to an exciting and successful half term!

FOREST VIEW

We've had a great first week back at Forest View, students have enjoyed seeing their friends and staff after the holiday break and are now beginning to work towards their new targets. We are introducing a new work-related session around retail for those students interested in pursuing a career in this sector. The first focus will be to market the shop and to increase sales through a variety of promotional activity. Just a reminder, if you have any high quality items that you no longer need, we would be grateful of any donations. The catering group are involved in an exciting new venture that will see them working for Nexus Central Team, more to be revealed, as this progresses. In other news, lunchtime clubs have been a big success with Kelford and Hilltop students socialising daily in their chosen clubs. Activities such as makaton choir, common room games and film club are proving extremely popular.

SENSORY DIETS & ROUTINES

The next training session in a series provided by The Virtual School on sensory themes will be on Wednesday 17th January at 10.30 - 11.30 and repeated at 6pm - 7pm. The focus this time will be Sensory Diets and Routines. We have been accessing this training facilitated by Sadie Charlton, Occupational Therapist, and have found it very informative and useful. If you require any further information or support on Sensory issues please do contact school where we will be able direct you to the most appropriate person.

The link is below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eb7Rg54aUecHbzqlzeK9sw_iw2W0lhGjPi8fuvxyf5UMzVXQU4xUEMwWTNCSVoyV1IZRTBMQzNVQy4u

HOUSE TEAMS

Welcome back to a new half term and a new year.... We've lots of exciting things coming up with regards to our House competitions:

26th January – Poetry – students will create a piece of work around their favourite character from either a film or TV show

23rd February – Target practice – Students will participate in a boccia/curling event

4th – 8th March – Junk yard challenge – students will be challenged to get creative with recycling goods

25th March – Easter bake off – based around the theme of Easter, students will create baking that will be tasted by some very exclusive judges..... our fabulous Kitchen staff

Good luck to everyone 😊

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours sincerely,

S. Mulhall

Sarah Mulhall – Headteacher

