



January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,
I hope you had a lovely Christmas and I'd like to start by wishing you a happy, healthy and exciting New Year ahead.
After a busy first term, this term promises to be just as exciting, with interesting lessons, activities and extra-curricular sessions planned for pupils.

Wintery Weather

With the threat of cold weather and the possibility of snow, please read our school closure procedures attached to this newsletter.



The decision to close the school is ultimately down to me, following procedures agreed through the governing body, which are informed by Academy Trust guidance. Decisions to close the school are based around Health & Safety considerations.

When the school is open, I expect all pupils to make the effort to come to school but realise that certain families may experience a higher level of difficulty due to their individual circumstances.

End of Term Report

Before the Christmas break, you received a report detailing your child's performance in their recent assessments and their attendance so far this year.

Across the school, tracking data shows the children are making good progress, but it also reveals areas we need to work on to improve further.

Feedback from many parents indicates they found it useful in identifying areas to support their child with at home.

Should you have any thoughts, feeling or concerns about the content of the report, please let me know or speak to your child's teacher. For some parents, your child's attendance score came as a surprise, and many had not realised how short absences effect a child's overall attendance.

Our school policy states that all children should be working towards achieving a target of at least 95% attendance, as there is evidence to suggest that attendance below this has a direct impact on how well children do at school. I appreciate your child's attendance may have been affected by bugs and viruses before Christmas, but it is now essential we try to catch up on the time they may have lost if they were off school.



Please try to ensure your child is in school every day, even if they may not be feeling 100%, as we will always contact you if their condition worsens. However, if your child is unwell and cannot attend school, please notify us by phone first thing in the morning (**before 9am**) to let us know why.

Trailblazer News

Thank you for ensuring your child is wearing appropriate kit for their Trailblazer sessions. Now that the weather has turned much colder, it is vital that your child is insulated with multiple layers, a warm coat, thick socks, a hat and gloves.



We appreciate that kitting your child out needs careful consideration, but it really does make a difference to their engagement and enjoyment of the sessions. Could I also ask that you show your child the kit you are providing and impress upon them that they are responsible for putting it on- they can always take layers off if they are too warm.

PTFA News



The PTFA Christmas shopping event proved a success again for the school and local community. Thank you again for coming along to support it.

The event certainly helped kick-start Christmas in school and raised a staggering £850.

Please keep your eye out for future events organised by the PTFA and, as ever, we are always looking for new members so should you like to join our group please speak to Mrs Kirsty Fox or send a message via the Kilburn Junior School PTFA Facebook page.

Keeping Children Safe Online

Mobile phones and other online devices play an ever-increasing part in the lives of young people, and it is important that you find the right information and advice to stay on top of your child's internet safety.

As many children have had new devices for Christmas, it is essential that you have the necessary measures in place to keep your child safe in the digital world. Online safety is an important part of the taught curriculum in school and the [UK Safer Internet Safety Centre](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk) website offers information you may find useful.

In addition, the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has published a new guide, [What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives](#), which can be accessed by clicking on the link.

As part of our safeguarding procedures, could I please remind you that your child should not bring their mobile phone to school unless there are exceptional circumstances. If they do require this, please put this in writing and bring the phone to the school office for your child until the end of the day.



AI Support for Parents and Carers

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming a regular part of children's online experiences. From chatbots and homework apps to creative tools, AI can offer exciting opportunities for learning and play.

But it also brings risks, especially when children aren't sure what's real, who they're talking to, or how AI works.

Many parents and carers feel unsure what AI is about and how to explain AI to children. This [link](#)

offers practical advice to help families comprehend and talk about AI in ways that build understanding, encourage curiosity, and keep children safe.



Upcoming Events

Here are some of the events planned for this half-term so far:

Date:	Event:
8 th Jan	School Swimming Starts- Resilience group 2
13 th Jan	Lower School visit to Cadbury World
13 th Jan	Animal Man in with Upper School
15 th Jan	Boys' Futsal Tournament@ Alfreton LC
20 th Jan	Girls' Futsal Tournament@ Alfreton LC
21 st Jan	AVSSP Rowing Tournament@ Ripley LC
3 rd Feb	Year 3/4 Dodgeball Comp @ Heanor LC
10 th Feb	Year 5/6 Dodgeball Comp @ Alfreton LC
13 th Feb	Achievement Assembly 2.20pm
13 th Feb	Break up Half Term

Term Dates 2025/26

Here are the term dates for this academic year:

- **5th Jan - 13th Feb 2026**
- **23rd Feb - 27th March**
- **13th April - 22nd May 2026**
- **1st June - 23rd July**

INSET Days - 2025/26

Our INSET days for this year are as follows:

- **26th June 2026**
- **29th June 2026**
- **23rd July 2026**



and finally...

Thank you for your continued support. If you wish to discuss the contents of this newsletter, or indeed any other business, please do get in touch.

Rob Hull



Severe weather and School Closure Information

Jan 2026

We will always do our best to keep the school open but decisions to close the school are based upon Health and Safety considerations.

We try to make decisions regarding closing the school as soon as possible, however, local conditions can change very quickly.

It is important that parents and pupils know what to do in the event of severe weather and school closure.



Please read these guidelines carefully and keep them to hand, especially during the winter months.

If school makes the decision to close before 8.30am:

- We will message all parents via the Parenthub app.
- We will post the closure notification on the school website: www.kilburnjunior.school

If school makes the decision to close after 8.30am

- The school building will remain open and any pupils who arrive will be supervised.
- Parents will be contacted to collect their children via Parenthub.
- Pupils will not be allowed to go home with any adult who is not a regular carer of the child, unless we hear from parents directly.

The following day after a school closure

We will message parents via Parenthub to say whether the school is closed or open. **A further notification will also be placed on our website.**

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CONTACT NUMBER IS UP-TO-DATE.

Please do not telephone the school to ask if we are open, assume that if a message has not been sent or there is no post on the school website that school will be open.

You will appreciate that when we have snow on the ground and school is open, we have to organise playtimes carefully. However, we do like the children to go outside during the day to experience the snowy conditions. Therefore, please ensure that your child has:

- A change of footwear, such as wellies, with their name in to play outside.
- A suitable coat, hat and gloves, with their name in.

Children without a change of footwear will not be able to go out and use the field or playground in these circumstances.

We may also take the children sledging down the Flat field so your child may wish to bring their sledge to school too.

Please let us know if you do not want your child to participate in this.





KJS Medium TERM Curriculum plan: Spring 1A

	Lower School	Upper School
	Globalisation & Interdependence	
	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory - Roald Dahl	Floodland -Marcus Sedgewick Window - Jeannie Baker
	Recount Short story inverted commas, speech rules and punctuation, adverbs.	Persuasive Writing- Environmental Issues Characterisation-the way an author or a playwright describes or shows what a character is like. Animal information texts
	Multiplication and Division, length and perimeter, Year 4- Fractions Arithmetic-Mental Calculation strategies	Fractions/algebra/ratio Multiplication and Division Arithmetic-Mental Calculation strategies
	Plant Lifecycle - Understand what makes plants healthy. Know how water is transported in plants. Understand functions of flower's parts.	Classifying living things Adaptation, Taxonomy,
		Stop motion animation showing habitat destruction
	Evaluate logos Recreate a logo Design a wrapper. Evaluate a design.	Word Processing skills and desk top publishing. Links to stop motion animation.
	Keeping ourselves safe	Keeping safe online
	Biomes - Know where the rainforests are. Know where chocolate comes from. Understand how cocoa arrives here. Know the impact on farmers. Know how rainforests are important	Biomes/Habitats
	Songs linked to the curriculum (art and Science) Singing Games and Rhymes New note C& F and combining these with Notes B, A and G. Compositions	Singing Games and Rhymes jFlute – Combining notes B, A, G and C. New note middle D jSax – New note high D with a duet focus
	Gymnastics Dance Swimming- Year 4	Gymnastics Dance
	Evaluate a range of products. Design a product (chocolate bar). Create a product. Evaluate your product. Promote a product.	See links made in Trailblazer
	What does it mean to be a Christian?	Is it better to express your religion through art and architecture or charity and generosity?
	Les Legumes- Vegetables	French- Les Planètes Using adjectives in the correct gender. Intensifiers
	Dialogue challenge. Making hot chocolate, arrows and masks. Animal footprint casts. Making ludus boards. Arrow measurements	Sculptures. Charcoal art. Making picture frames. Mapping the journey of the Beagle
	Create a chocolate bar. Design a wrapper for the chocolate bar and create a promotion poster.	A visit from the Animal Man