



Dear King's Oak Academy Lower School families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you've had a wonderful and productive first term of the school year. As we near the end of Term 1, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the highlights and share some important updates with you.

Our students have shown remarkable dedication and enthusiasm throughout the term with our values of 'work hard, be kind' shining through. I am proud of their academic progress and want to commend both our pupils and their teachers for their commitment to learning.

We encourage parents/carers to get involved in our school community. If you are interested in being a reading volunteer in school, please reach out to our school office for more information.

As we approach the half-term, please note that Term 1 will conclude on Wednesday 18 October (last day of term). The half-term will begin on Thursday 19 October. We wish all of our families a joyful and restful break. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back for Term 2 on Monday 30 October.

Thank you for your continued support. We are proud to have your children as part of our school community, and we look forward to another successful term ahead.

Kind regards,  
Miss Cerepanova

## Important Upcoming Dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 17 October	Halloween Disco
Wednesday 18 October 15:30—18:30	Parents'/Carers Evening (2)
Thursday 19 October	INSET Day
Friday 20 October	INSET Day
Monday 30 October	First day of Term 2
Tuesday 2 November	ASPENS Special Lunch Menu
Friday 10 November 08:25—08:50	Open Door Day

## Gem Power and Value of the Term

**Learning Gem Power of the Term:** Ruby Power  
**Value of the Term:** Be Kind

### **Ruby Power**

*Supporting others, being aware of others and how what you do and say might make them feel*



- I perform acts of kindness
- I listen and value others
- I know the power of a smile
- I praise and help others
- I show respect and tolerance
- I can show empathy to others

## World Mental Health Day Assembly

To mark the World Mental Health Day this year, our Mental Health Support Team (MHST) Practitioner, Bea, delivered a special guest assembly to Lower School children. Bea is an Education Mental Health Practitioner who works across South Gloucestershire schools to support children and families with emotional wellbeing from Reception to Year 6.



Children found out more about the World Mental Health Day and had an opportunity to discuss emotions, and the importance of recognising own feelings and those of others.



## Term 2 Open Door Day

Thank you for coming in to share your children's learning during our Open Door morning this term. If you managed to join Reception and Year 1 phonics showcases and workshops, we hope you enjoyed this opportunity to see your children in action and an exploration into our Phonics curriculum and approach.



Open Door-Day is back!

**When?** Friday 10 October 8.25am - 8.50am

**What?** This will be an exciting opportunity for you to visit your child's new classroom from 8.25 – 8.50 to look at your child's recent learning and explore it alongside them. You can visit more than one classroom during that slot. Please sign in upon arrival and sign out using the classroom signing out sheet.

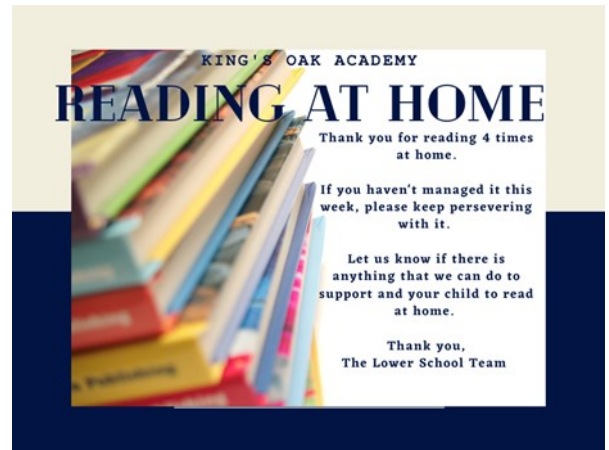
**How?** Please enter via the gate as usual. Classroom doors will open at 8.25 and you will be invited to come in. Please then exit via the school office by 8.50.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning



Thank you to all who donated and contributed to this year's Macmillan Coffee Morning cake sale. We are proud to have raised £152.43.

## Reading at Home



Thank you for reading with your child at home. It is always a joy to have conversations with children about their reading routines and opportunities they have to practise reading at home with their adults.

We ask that all children are read with at least 4 times a week in order to develop their fluency and understanding of the text. Frequency of reading and regular practice is particularly important between the ages of 4 and 11, when children are still learning to be readers. In school, we read with all of our children in daily reading lessons, phonics lessons and one-to-one, through both our Class Teachers, Teaching Partners and our wonderful volunteers.

These are some of our proud Reading Raffle winners:



## Progressive Sport Enrichment Days

This year's enrichment sessions for Y1-Y4 are going to be slightly different. Rather than a whole day once a term the sessions are going to be every Monday afternoon for the term. This means that each week a different year group will participate in an enrichment session.

All Lower School classes have already enjoyed their sessions this term and have had lots of fun exploring team strategies, our aim and space management.

Next term, Lower School children will enjoy 'Boxfit' enrichment sessions!



## Eco-Schools Green Flag

We are very pleased that the Eco-Committee at King's Oak Academy, which comprises pupils and key adults, have been successful in meeting the requirements for the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. The three themes we focused on last academic year were:



- **Biodiversity - each class to grow and be responsible for pollinator-friendly flowers.**
- **Litter - all children to be actively engaged in a litter pick each week.**
- **School grounds - each class will have a lesson outside once a term.**

Below, are some of the comments from our official Eco-Schools report:

*'We have really enjoyed reading about your journey this year and we think that the inclusivity of your Eco-Schools programme, and wide-scale of participation and enthusiasm from your pupils and staff is a real strength of your application, and so it gives us great pleasure to award you an Eco-Schools Green Flag – congratulations!'*

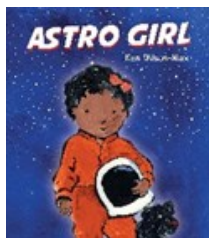
*'Your curriculum links are both practical and creative and provide a clear context and application for your pupils' learning. Building bug hotels to promote biodiversity on your school grounds is a great example of taking the focus of learning outdoors and engaging your young people with the natural world.'*

*'Displaying your healthy living posters in your local medical centre shows a strong commitment to supporting your wider community and shows that your young people are working hard to involve and educate all around them.'*

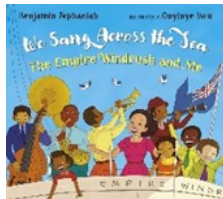
I'd like to thank Miss Tattersall, who has been leading and supporting our Eco-committee and has worked tirelessly on delivering on our aims and earning our first Green Flag!

## Black History Month at KOA

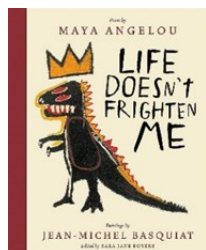
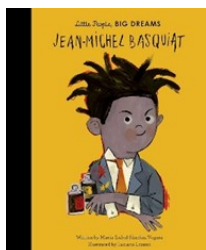
This year the focus of Black History Month activities is on celebrating the exceptional achievements of black women. On Thursday 12 October Lower School children engaged in an afternoon of learning about influential female figures. Though the key texts such as 'Look Up!' and 'Astro Girl', KS1 children learned about Mae Jemison and her tremendous achievements as she became the first African-American woman to travel into space when she served as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour in 1992.



In KS2, children read 'Coming to England', 'John Agard's Windrush Child' and 'We Sang Across the Sea: The Empire Windrush and Me' and learned about Windrush, Baroness Floella Benjamin and her achievements in the field of TV presenting and politics, through research and drama.



Additionally, all Lower School children engaged in various collaborative art opportunities and explored the illustrative style of Jean-Michel Basquiat.



Our Black History Month learning was kindly introduced in a very special assembly by Miss Briden and some of our Year 11 pupils. It was really heart-warming to hear them talk about women in their lives who inspire them – Lower School children demonstrated their values of kindness and respect when listening to their Year 11 peers and were shining brightly with Topaz Power when asking curious questions and linking their learning to our gem powers.

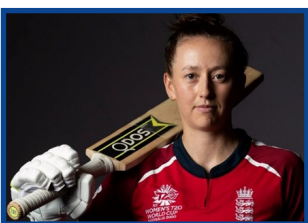


## Active Challenge

We'd like to say a huge 'thank you' to all who donated towards, participated in or helped organise the KOA Active Challenge this term. It was an incredibly ambitious affair and we are very lucky to have such a supportive Friends of King's Oak Academy group who didn't just work tirelessly to make the challenge happen but also put in many miles towards the target. I am sure that you will all join me in collectively thanking the unbeatable **Rachel Lewis** for not only her incredible organisation of this fundraising event but also for becoming a professional cyclist for the week and dedicating many, many hours of her time to clocking in many, many miles on the bike!



Many of our KOA staff joined in with the challenge, including our very own Miss Baber (with Chester), Mr Cornick, our Head of Health Department, and Mr Steve Taylor, the CEO of the Cabot Learning Federation.



The Grand Finale to the Active Challenge was made extra special by the visit from a women's cricket legend and current Western Storm player Fran Wilson who helped us reach our target!



# PRE-LOVED UNIFORM WANTED



UNTIL FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER, YOU CAN  
DONATE YOUR UNWANTED UNIFORM ITEMS BY  
DROPPING THEM INTO THE LOWER, MIDDLE &  
UPPER SCHOOL OFFICES.



THANK YOU!



# PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SALE



FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER  
IN THE YEAR 1 GARDEN ROOM  
(SAME PLACE AS LAST TIME)  
FROM 2.45PM



ALL ITEMS WILL BE PRICED AT £3 OR LESS.

CASH AND CARDS TAKEN.





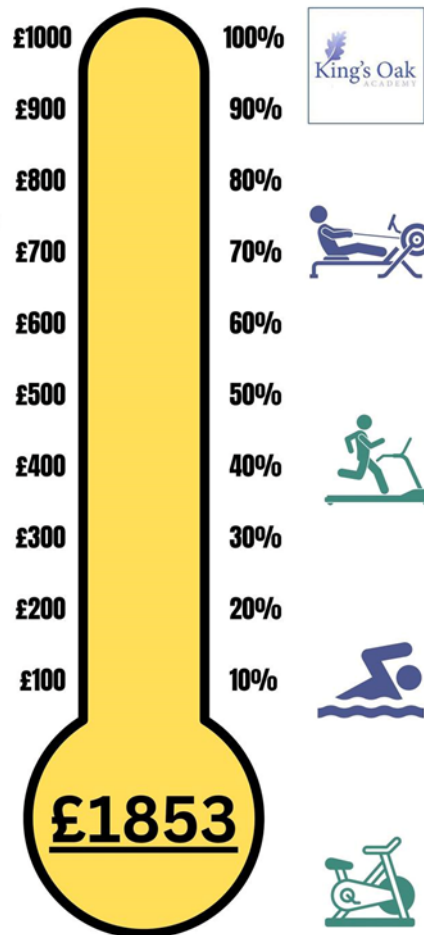
# The KOA Active Challenge

At the start of the week beginning 2nd Oct, we had a huge task ahead of us, to travel a combined distance of **1250 miles** on an exercise bike, a rowing machine and a treadmill. The goal was to cycle the distance from **Lands End to John O'Groats**, to swim and row the length of the **River Severn** and to run the distance between all the **CLF Academies**.

At times it seemed impossible but as a team consisting of the Friends of King's Oak, KOA staff and students, we not only accomplished our goal, but actually went a further **119.5 miles**, giving us a total distance travelled, of **1369.5 miles** in just 5 days.

We also started the week with the aim to raise **£1000** to go towards the new school minibus. Thanks to your generosity and a large donation from **Pam Jones Consultancy**, we have absolutely **SMASHED** our target and raised an amazing **£1853**.

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US!




Together we have raised an incredible

# £3993

to go towards the new school minibus.



The new minibus has been ordered and should arrive in the winter.

### Follow KOA on Social Media



Twitter:  
@kingsoakacademy



Facebook:  
<https://w.facebook.com/kingsoakacademy/>



Instagram:  
@kingsoakacademy

## Miss Baber's Maths Challenge

As you may know, Miss Baber is our maths leader across the school and is really passionate about all things our children do as mathematicians. She will be presenting a new feature and maths learning opportunity in every Lower School bulletin this academic year to celebrate the love of maths learning, encourage creativity and oracy in maths and further develop our reasoning skills. Below is Miss Baber's first challenge for Lower School pupils. You can record your thinking in any format you like and hand to your class teacher or Miss Baber directly when you are in school! Class teachers will celebrate entries in class and Miss Baber will share her favourite entries in assembly.

# MATHS IN PICTURES



**WHAT DO YOU NOTICE?**

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE HOW THE BALLS ARE STACKED?**

**ADD ANOTHER ROW BELOW - HOW MANY NOW?**

**IF THERE WERE 10 ON THE BOTTOM ROW, HOW MANY IN TOTAL?**

**HOW MANY OF EACH COLOUR?**

**WHAT COLOUR WOULD THE BOTTOM ROW BE?**

**IF THERE ARE 21 ON THE BOTTOM ROW, WHAT COLOUR IS THE ROW?**

**EXPLAIN YOUR REASONING.**

**PLEASE SHARE YOUR THINKING WITH YOUR CLASS TEACHERS AND MISS BABER**



# Halloween Disco

**£3 ENTRY**

ON THE DOOR OR IN ADVANCE  
BY SCANNING THE QR CODE  
ABOVE



## KING'S OAK ACADEMY CANTEEN

### TUESDAY 17TH OCTOBER

REC-YR 2 = 4-5PM

YR 3-6 = 5.30-6.30PM

YR 7-9 = 7-8PM

PLEASE ARRIVE 15 MINS BEFORE YOUR ALLOTTED TIME TO ALLOW FOR CHECKING IN. ALL CHILDREN UP TO YEAR 6 MUST BE COLLECTED BY AN ADULT.

PARENTS ARE INVITED TO STAY WITH REC, YR 1 & 2 CHILDREN.

WE STRONGLY ADVISE PRE-BOOKING TICKETS TO SAVE TIME ON THE NIGHT.

**FANCY DRESS  
OPTIONAL**



TUCK SHOP, TATTOOS & GLOW STICKS  
AVAILABLE.  
CASH & CARDS ACCEPTED.  
CASH BACK AVAILABLE