

*The Knowledge: Our Attendance Matters*

Monday 20th January, 2025





*1 - Every child matters. Every moment counts.*

**Welcome back to a brand new school week. I hope that you have all enjoyed a lovely weekend.**

We have another busy week at Knowle ahead of us with our Year 5/6 Football team taking part in the Primary School's EFL Cup at Marjons on Tuesday afternoon, Year 3/4 Netballers playing a fixture against Shakespeare on Thursday, alongside a busy school week of learning!

As we are now 2 weeks into the new term, it is pleasing to see that across the entire school, children have settled well into their learning routines again so are beginning to make some good early steps into their new units of work in class.

Homework is up and running and we look forward to seeing some homework hero returns this Friday. Remember, homework builds on learning in school and it is an important opportunity for your child to show off how well they are learning in class. Please ask your child's class teacher if you would like any advice on homework routines and practice.

### **Here are some highlights from last week**

Across the week last week, I met with all class teachers to discuss the progress of children in their classes. It is always a joy to hear about how well they are doing and to know that all of our teachers know your children so well. Following a long term in school, all teachers take their knowledge of how well your children are learning and use this to plan for the term ahead. It is important that they are all ready for their next stage in learning and the next term's learning is



vital in this part of the process. I was joined in these meetings by Tim Smith and Linda Ludlow, our Chair and Vice Chair of Governors. They too were impressed with by the way that all teachers are providing an excellent education for your children.

Star of the week was back on Friday! As always, it fills me with pride to see our stars beam with delight as they collect their certificates and hear the words of encouragement in assembly on Friday afternoon. This week, there was not only themes of success in learning but also a consistent recognition of hard work and kindness. With kindness and ambition being two of our school values, it is so encouraging to hear that our children are doing their best across the whole school. On Friday, we were joined by Attenborough Class, our Reception children for the first time this school year - they were incredible!! ***A special well done and mention to Freya, Aimelia-Rose, Layla, Delta, Isla, Kyle, Ellie-Rose, Witek, Rosey-J and Jayden who were this week's award winners. (Photos below!)***

Mr Rickard took two groups our for sporting fixtures last week. Our Year 5/6 Netball team took part in a city-wide tournament at Plymouth Life Centre and performed incredible well against 4 different teams. They showed great improvements across the afternoon and Mr Rickard was very proud of their endeavors. It was particularly encouraging to receive some feedback from a number of coaches at the event who recognised our children's sportsmanship and their great teamwork. We are very proud of you all! In addition to this, our Year 3/4 Netball team, went over to Shakespeare for a joint training session in preparation for this coming week's fixture. Report to be shared next week!

### **Spring Term Menu - this week is Week 1 from the Menu!**

Here is the all-important link to lunch menu: [Cater Ed Menu](#). Please ensure that you have talked through the options with your child before they arrive in school so that they are happy with their order.

**Clubs - we are underway with clubs this term.** We have spaces in Year 1/2 Football Club so please sign your child up at the office for Tuesday after school Football Club. This will run from 3:15 to 4:15pm with Mr Rickard.

### **Headteachers Awards**

Last week, we saw some children stepping up and achieving incredible steps of progress in their learning through hard work and commitment. When teachers see something that they wish to celebrate and recognise in the moment, they often send their children to see me for a Headteacher's Award. Please see some of our awards from last week - aren't our children rightly proud of themselves!

### **Breakfast Club and the beginning of the school day**

A reminder that Breakfast Club continues to be free for all children. Doors open at 8am and your child will be met and registered by a member of our Breakfast Club team. This is a fantastic way to start the day and be ready for school. If your child struggles at the beginning of the day, starting school in a more relaxed manner at 8am may help them to have a strong start when they enter class at 8:30am.

Our gates will close at 8:15am until 8:30am when classroom doors open for our Knowle Super Start!

Attendance continues to be a whole-school priority and we look forward to seeing all children in school every way, where possible. Please speak with either myself, Tania or Nikita if you would like support with your child's attendance, morning routines or making a positive start to the school day.

Thank you, as always, for your support

Mr. Norris

### **Dates for the term ahead**

School Parliament Visit to London on Thursday 6th and 7th February

NSPCC Number Day (Maths-themed MUFTI) on Friday 7th February

Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 11th February

Valentine's Discos for EYs / KS1 (3:15-4pm) and KS2 (4:15 - 5pm) on Thursday 13th February

School Closed for staff training day on Friday 14th February

Half Term - Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February

World Book Day on Thursday 6th March (Book-themed MUFTI)

Class Photos on Wednesday 12th March

Red Nose Day on Friday 14th March

Parents Meetings on Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th March (appointments to be made through Arbor after half term)

Art and DT Exhibition of Learning on Friday 28th March at the end of the school day (this will take place in the hall)

Last day of term (full day in school) on Friday 4th April

Easter Holidays - Monday 7th to Friday 18th April

Bank Holiday Monday on Monday 21st April

Children back for Summer Term on Tuesday 22nd April

## Our Attendance Matters



### Our Attendance Matters | Please check your Arbor app to review your child's attendance



You can seek advice from Nikita Conniss, Tania Chapman, Mr Norris or Jo Watts, our Educational Welfare Officer (EWO)

### Our Attendance Matters | The importance of arriving in school on time



#### What happens in class at 8:30am?

##### Our Knowle Super Start

- Check-in with your teacher ✓
  - Spelling ✓
  - Times tables ✓
  - Reading ✓
  - School ready! ✓
- Watch our Super Start



#### What happens in class at 9am?

Every child reads at 9am to 9:45am every day



Your child will take part in phonics or Reading Masters lessons every day at 9am. Being late to school means that they miss vital minutes of learning to read. Being able to read well is a right for every child!

This week's Knowledge has a special feature on attendance and the importance of your child being in school every day. Within this section of the newsletter, you will see some different statistics and figures that reflect where we are as a school with our improvement in attendance.

Here are some headline figures to help you to understand why attendance is such a priority for us here at Knowle.

Average attendance across England: 94.8%

Average attendance across Plymouth: 94.5%

Average attendance at Knowle: 92.1%

You can see here that our children are in school less than their peers from across Plymouth and the wider country. It is important that they are in school every day possible so that they can make the most possible progress in their learning.

We are proud of the 'Super Start' that we provide your child every day at Knowle. [Here is a link](#) to remind you of what takes place in school every day from 8:30 to 9am!

**Last week, Picasso Class were in school 99.5% of the week which is FANTASTIC!!**

[A message from Tim Smith, our Chair of Governors. Great progress in learning and a big push on attendance](#)

From Tim Smith, Chair of Governors

I know it's rather late in the day to be saying this, but a Happy New Year to all Knowle parents and carers.

I thought I might start the year by letting you all know about some very constructive and positive meetings which Linda, our Vice Chair, and I were invited to join last week. Known as 'Pupil Progress meetings' they are an opportunity for Mr Norris to sit down with the respective class teachers and review the progress of all the children in their class – in particular how the children are doing in comparison to what is expected nationally for children of their age as they make their way through the school.

As I say, those were very positive and encouraging meetings, confirming how well the staff at Knowle know each of their pupils and how hard they are working to support their learning and embed the key skills and knowledge of reading, writing and maths, which the children will need throughout their lives. It was especially pleasing to hear how keen so many pupils are to take the opportunities offered to them and perform to the best of their ability, with a high level of attendance and great punctuality.

As governors, we recognise and appreciate how hard parents work to get the children to school in good time, and ready to learn, rain or shine. Thank you.



There was however a theme in some of the meetings we attended of children – a minority - not attending school as often as they should or regularly coming in late.

We understand of course that occasional illness, or some family crisis, can affect any household and make it difficult or impossible for children to come into school, but clearly missing whole days of education is damaging, especially if it happens frequently and results in gaps in learning which may never be recovered.

We had not really thought however about the impact of late arrival at school, until we heard the teachers sharing their concerns about children missing really important activities at the start of the day – such as Phonics, Spelling, Times Tables or a reading session – which means they will struggle to reach their full potential in those areas. That is such a shame, particularly when the solution is so straightforward: get to school on time!

I want to stress that this issue affects a small number of our children, but if you know that your child could be disadvantaged in this way, because he or she is often late to arrive, please can we encourage you to take all reasonable steps that you can to overcome the problem and ensure they arrive in time for the start of the school day. The teachers will thank you for it – and so, eventually, will your child.

## Sporting Successes



Stars of the Week



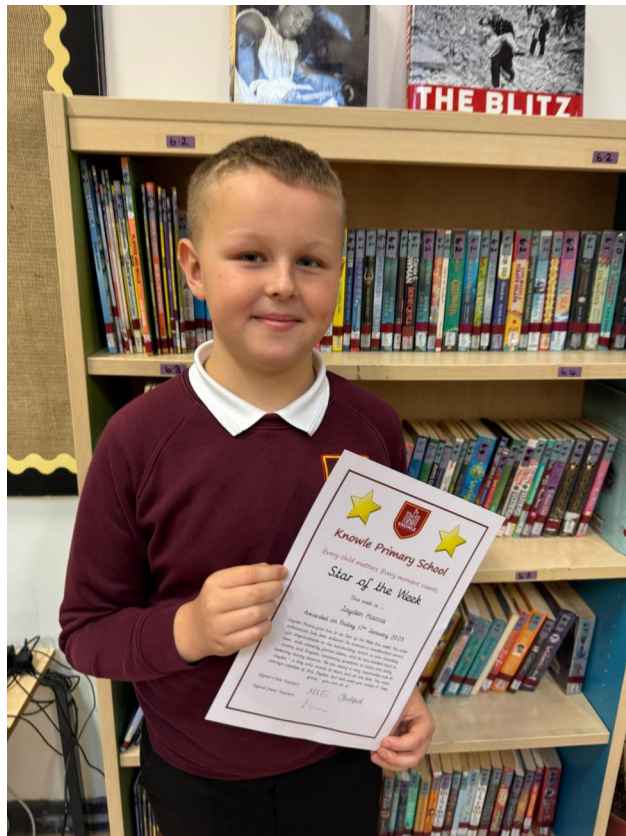














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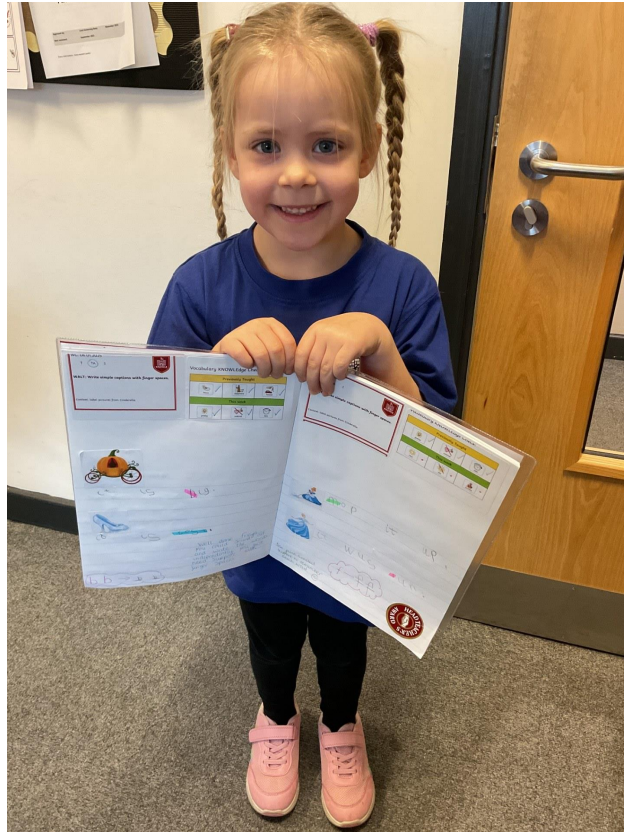
Knowle Primary School  
Every child matters. Every moment counts.  
**Star of the Week**  
This week is ...  
Amelia-Rose Morgan-Maxwell  
Awarded on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
Amelia-Rose is growing in confidence as she journeys through year one. Amelia-Rose is much more willing to answer questions, discuss a topic with a talk partner and is a fantastic reader in our phonics group. Keep it up!

Head teacher: [Signature]  
Head teacher: [Signature]

Headteacher Awards from last week







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