

Kenningtons Primary Academy

Newsletter

12th December 2025



As I sit to write this newsletter, I am once again reminded of how busy and exciting life at Kenningtons always is. With the end of term approaching, pupils are becoming wonderfully excited for the Christmas celebrations. Thank you to everyone who has already sent in their Secret Santa present — the children especially love this part of our School Christmas Day.

Kenningtons Experiences

Our pupils have been out and about, enjoying a wide range of learning experiences over the past two weeks:

- Year 1 visited the local church in Aveley Village.
- Year 2 enjoyed a trip to the Thameside Theatre (Oh no they didn't! Oh yes they did!) as well as a fantastic day of African drumming and art.
- 6CW braved the cold for a visit to the WW2 exhibition in Hornchurch Country Park — an enjoyable and memorable day.
- Year 4 explored the British Museum to extend their learning about Ancient Greece.
- Year 5 and Reception both took part in valuable road safety awareness sessions.
- Reception pupils also created their Christmas plates — a keepsake to enjoy for many Christmases to come.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Thurrock Food Bank; your kindness will make a meaningful difference to the Christmas celebrations of others. In addition, Year 5 donated their handmade casseroles to a homeless charity — how lovely that our pupils can make such a positive impact on the lives of strangers.

We were delighted with the excellent attendance at our parent consultation events. Staff always enjoy sharing pupils' progress with you and reflecting together on how we can help each child achieve even more.

Christmas at Kenningtons

Christmas officially began at school on Wednesday after our beautiful Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. It was perfect — everything we hope for and expect at Kenningtons. Thank you to all of the children for their hard work in rehearsals to ensure their family and friends had an enjoyable evening, and to all of the staff who supported so expertly behind the scenes.

Please make sure to check the dates for next week so that your children come dressed appropriately and ready for the events taking place. There is a special treat for pupils on Friday next week — gloves and a woolly hat will be helpful!

Wishing you all a restful weekend as we head into the final, festive days of term.

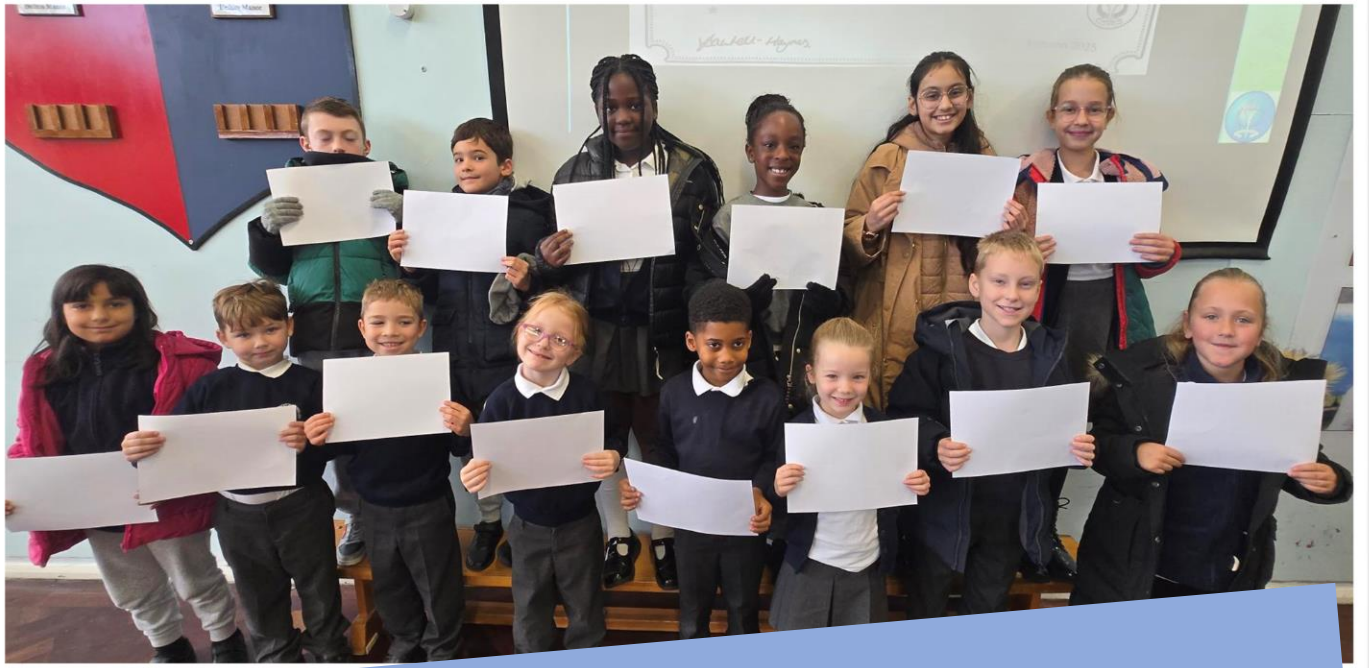
Mrs Sawtell-Haynes

Headteacher

Parent Governor Election Results

Thank you to all parents and carers who took part in our recent Parent Governor election. We are delighted to announce that **Mellissa Holt** and **Emily Pooley** have been appointed as our new Parent Governors.

We appreciate everyone's participation and look forward to the valuable contributions our new governors will bring to the school community.



Week 3: Democracy



Headteacher Awards

Week 2: Rule of Law



Cristian is always friendly, always helpful, and pops into the office every day to check if there are any deliveries or jobs that need doing. Lately, he helped the Logistics Team with some DIY - carefully taking down the old food safety certificates with the correct tools and putting the new ones up. His willingness to help with anything - big or small - makes a real difference. Well done Cristian.

Martin & Jenny



Employees of the Week



Amelia has been working incredibly hard on the Salad Bar. She has shown wonderful dedication, a positive attitude, and a big smile every time she helps out. She takes her job very seriously and is always punctual. Keep up the excellent work!



Congratulations to the pupils who have earned their pen licences. This achievement reflects your dedication to improving your handwriting and presentation—well done!

Merit Awards

The merit system has been designed to encourage, reward and promote exemplary work and good behaviour. It has also been designed to give recognition to pupils who make a positive contribution to the school that may otherwise go unnoticed. Not only do the merits reward hard work and effort, they also aim to recognise the pupils who are making positive steps to become model citizens in the future.

Number of Merits required to achieve each level:

Bronze = 50 merits (bronze certificate and bronze badge)

Silver = 60 merits (silver certificate and silver badge)

Gold = 75 merits (gold certificate, gold badge and a special trip reward)



Thurrock Council primary school admissions

Important information – applying for a primary school place for September 2026

If your child was born between **1 September 2021** and **31 August 2022** you must apply for a primary school place for **September 2026**.

Apply online from 1 November at thurrock.gov.uk/admissions

Go to thurrock.gov.uk/admissions and select 'Primary school admissions'. You will be able to open an online copy of our prospectus for Thurrock primary schools, booklet called **Primary Admission Information September 2026**, which you should read carefully before applying.

You must have an email account to apply online.

You should also try to join us online at one of the briefing sessions before you complete an application.

Three briefing sessions for parents will be held on Wednesday 22 October 2025 via webinar on the council website.

- **First session: 1pm - 2pm**
- **Second session: 4pm - 5pm**
- **Third session: 6:30pm - 7:30pm**

Go to thurrock.gov.uk/admissions and select 'Primary school admissions' to access the webinar.

Offers will be available for applicants via your online account from **12:30am on 16 April 2026**.

Apply for a primary school place

When making an application you can list up to four schools that you wish to apply for, in your order of preference. You can list schools outside of Thurrock, if you wish.

If you are applying to any school that is religious by character, make sure you also complete their supplementary form and return it direct to the school by the closing date for applications.

If you have more than one child transferring to primary school, you must apply separately for each child needing a place.

If you do not complete the application and return it by the closing date of **15 January 2026**, you may be given a place at the nearest school with a space available, after all on-time applications have been dealt with.

If you have read all our information online and still have questions, please contact our Admissions Team by emailing school.admissions@thurrock.gov.uk or phoning on **01375 652 652**.



3M

2H



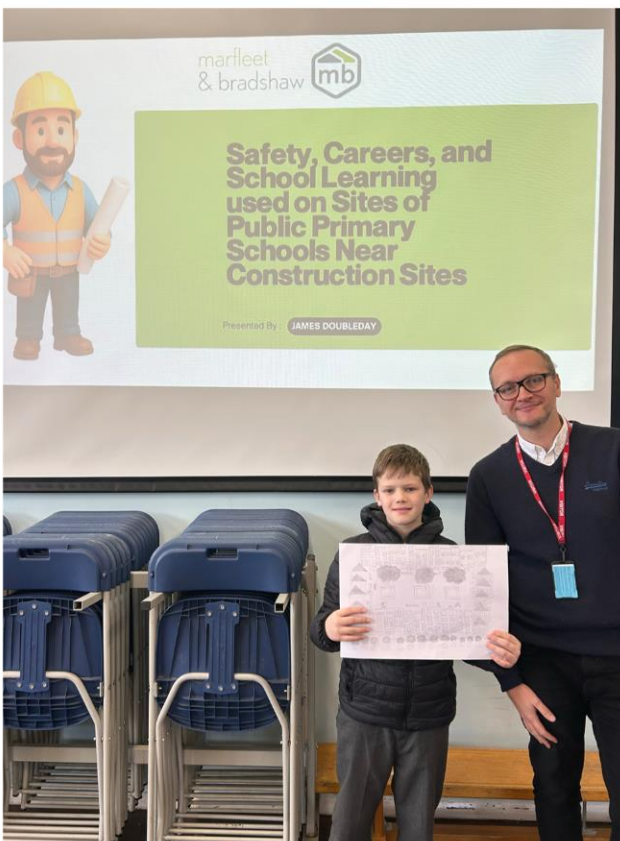
Eco Warriors Weekly Check

Each week, our Eco Warriors visit all the classrooms to see which one is the most energy efficient. They look out for things like lights being switched off when not in use and windows being closed while the heating is on. After tallying up the scores, they award the title of *Most Energy Efficient Class* to the winning room. Well done to everyone doing their part to help save energy and protect our planet!

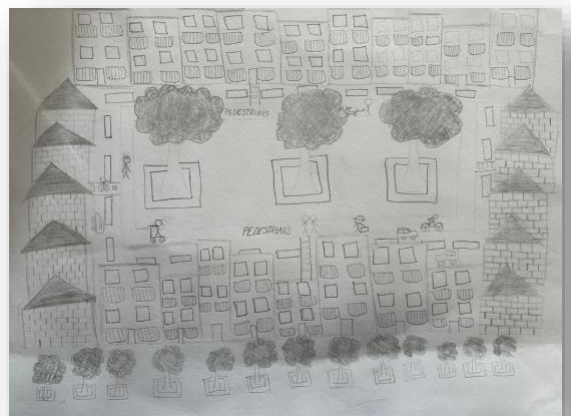


Cross Country Success! 🏃🏃

A huge well done to our amazing Year 1 and Year 2 children who took part in the recent Cross Country event — they returned with an impressive array of medals which they received in assembly.



Well done to Niko, winner of the Teviot Avenue design competition set by Marshfoot and Bradshaw. His fantastic work is now proudly displayed on the site hoardings. We are delighted to be working with Marshfoot and Bradshaw, who are generously supporting our O@K playground project.



Look at the fantastic work our Year 5 students have been doing in Food Tech over the last half term. As part of their learning, they have been mastering the art of making Casseroles.

In preparation for the upcoming holiday season, the students were tasked with creating a budget-friendly casserole recipe capable of serving a family of six. We were able to partner with 'Friend of Essex & London Homeless', where our children generously donated their freshly made casseroles, helping to bring some warmth and nourishment during the festive period to those in need..

The children have truly excelled in this project, showcasing their creativity, culinary skills, and most importantly, their generosity and empathy towards others. We are immensely proud of their achievements and the positive impact they are making in the community.





Grays Rotary Club



Sunday 14th December

Starting at the Henry Gurnett at 6pm, working the usual route through Kenningtons Estate to end at Shannon Way / Romford Road Junction at 8.30pm / 9pm.



Please show your support and say hello to Santa !

A selection of Christmas Jumpers are available for £1 on our pre-loved stall



Date	Event	Location
Mon 15 th Dec 2025	6B. RAF Hornchurch	Hornchurch
Wed 17 th Dec 2025	Christmas Dinner Day. Wear Christmas Jumpers over uniform	In School
Thurs 18 th Dec 2025	Nursery. Polar Express Day	In School
Fri 19 th Dec 2025	Kenningtons Christmas Day. Wear anything Christmassy. Bring £1	In School
22nd Dec 25 – 2nd Jan 26	End of Term	
Mon 5th Jan 2026	First Day of Spring Term 1	

Contact Us

School Office: 01708 865663

Email:

enquiries@kenningtons.thurrock.sch.uk

Child Absence: Study Bugs App

Website:

www.kenningtonsprimaryacdemy.co.uk

Click on the link below for our dinner menus:

<https://www.kenningtonsprimaryacademy.co.uk/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Information%20for%20Parents/School%20Meals/Kenningtons%20Primary%20Autumn%20Winter%202025.pdf>