The 'Knypersley News'

Learning together, learning for life!

16/10/2026

A message from Miss Leese...

What a busy week we've had at Knypersley First School!

We started the week with our Year 4 children taking part in a Tag Rugby event at Woodhouse. The children had a fantastic time, showed great teamwork and represented our school brilliantly. Thank you to Woodhouse for hosting such an enjoyable event.

On Thursday, we welcomed our Year 2 parents and carers into school for a showcase of our non -core curriculum. It was wonderful to see children learning alongside their grown-ups and sharing their achievements with such pride.

As we head into our final week before half term, we are excited to announce that the reward chosen by the children through their house point voting is a fun swimming session with toys and music! It has been fantastic to hear our 3B Champions excitedly writing and presenting Bronze House Point Certificates to their friends. The children have really embraced tracking their achievements and working together to earn a shared reward. We feel this change to our positive behaviour system has been a real success and, most importantly, the children are clearly enjoying it too.

A quick reminder that our PTFA Autumn Disco will take place next Thursday. We are looking forward to seeing lots of children there enjoying time with their friends. To make the day even more exciting, we will be holding a whole-school non-uniform day, which is included in the cost of your disco ticket.

A big thank you to Mrs Barker for all of her help and support in Busy Bees Class since September. Today is Mrs Barker's last day with us, and while we will miss her, we wish her all the very best for the future and the exciting opportunities ahead.

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss Leese and Team Knypersley xxx

Important dates coming soon...

20.10.26 Harvest festival **year 4 parents 9.15pm**

22.10.26 Autumn disco—please see separate sheet

23.10.26 School closes for half term at **3.20pm**

2.11.26 Inset day—Staff only

3.11.26 School reopens for pupils

6.11.26 Y4 Roman dress up day

11.11.26 Y4 Multiplication workshop **3.30pm and 5pm**

12.11.26 Yr 2 Victorian day

Class	Attendance
Nursery	85.5%
Creative Caterpillars	93.3%
Busy Bees	94.3%
Class 2	96.8%
Class 3	89.6%
Class 4	95%
Class 5	97.8%
Class 6	97.3%
Class 7	95%
Class 8	96.9%
Class 9	95.2%

This Week's winner is:

Class 5



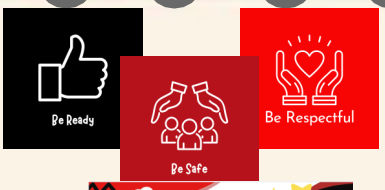
Our whole school attendance target is 96.5%

This week, our school attendance was:94.1%

Please follow the following link https://www.knypersley.staffs.sch.uk/lunch-menu/ to find our school lunch menu.

On our return we will be following **week 2** of the new **Sept-Feb** menu.

Rewards and Celebrations









Nursery—

Creative Caterpillars—

Busy Bees–

Class 2– Isla-Rae

Class 3– Harper

Class 4– Nolah

Class 5– Harry

Cass 6– Jacob

Class 7– Oscar

Class 8– Isabelle

Class 9– Brooke

Nursery— Daisie

Creative Caterpillars – Sylvie

Busy Bees– Willow

Class 2– George

Class 3– Lottie

Class 4– Albie

Class 5– Jenson

Class 6– Charlie J

Class 7– Isla

Class 8– Naima

Class 9– Ellemi

Nursery—

Creative Caterpillars – Amora

Busy Bees– Ozzy

Class 2– Sckylaa

Class 3– Ronnie

Class 4– Harrison

Class 5– Riva

Class 6– Oliver

Class 7– Lucan

Class 8– Abigel

Class 9– Aryanna

Swimmer of the Week

Nursery -

Busy Bees - Aria

Creative Caterpillars - Leo

Class 2 -Arthur and Tommy-James

Class 3 –Isabella

Class 4 –Jessica

Class 5 –Willow-Rae

Class 6 –Ronnie

Class 7 –Lily

Class 8 –no swim

Class 9 –no swim



Home Achievers

Home achievements have been celebrated within classrooms this week. Please see Facebook to see our school rewards!

Positive Behaviour Rewards!

Cast Your Vote!

Which Housepoint reward would you like to earn for Autumn 1?

Non-Uniform Day	Wacky Hair Day	Extra Play Time	A Fun Swim!
			

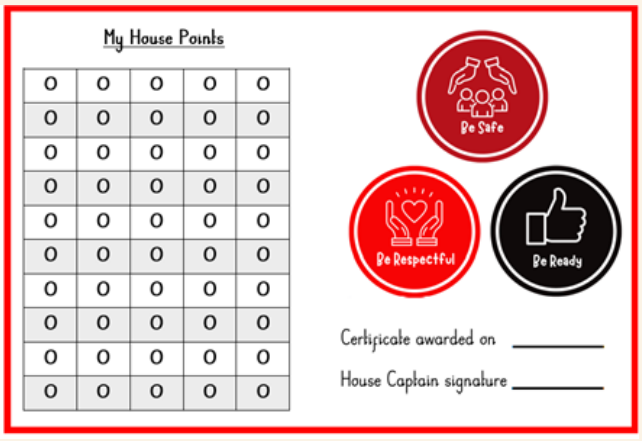
Add your awarded housepoint into the right coloured tube to cast your vote!

Children will be awarded a house point token when they display positive 3B behaviours.

Children can use their house point to cast their vote for their preferred end of half term treat!

Treat options will be offered by the whole school and selected by the School Council Reps and our new 3B Champions





Children will also track their house points over the year and achieve certificates for reaching house point milestones!

The certificates will be written out and awarded by the Year 4 3B Champions.



Special Mentions are our newest positive behaviour award at Knypersley First School.

During our weekly Celebration Assembly one child from the whole school will be selected and awarded the Special Mention based on exceptional behaviour.

This award is voted on by all members of staff which means it could be given for 3B behaviour observed at any point of the day and by any adult in the school!

AUTUMN DISCO!

22nd October

Nursery:	Reception:	KS1:	KS2:
During the school day	2:15pm – 3:15pm	3:15pm – 4:15pm	4:15pm – 5:15pm

Entry £4

Please send in your child's entry fee in a named envelope.

Please support the teachers by adding the exact cost.

Included

- Disco
- Hotdog/ drink
- Sweets
- Glow Stick

☆ Non-Uniform Day for All! ☆

To aid Disco arrangements, please come to school in non-uniform.

Help Us Bring Autumn to Life!

We are looking for donations of autumn treasures to enhance the learning environments for our Nursery and Reception children.

If you have any spare pumpkins, squashes, acorns, conkers, colourful leaves or other autumn finds, we would love to put them to good use!

Your donations will help our youngest learners explore the wonders of autumn through hands-on experiences, discovery and play.



Thank you for helping us make learning exciting and meaningful for our little learners!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Please could donations (tinned goods) for the Harvest Festival please be brought into school by Tuesday 20th October.

OCT. 20

YEAR 4 PARENTS INVITED TO JOIN

9:15AM START

EVERY DAY MATTERS

Working Together for Excellent Attendance and Punctuality



At Knypersley First School, we know that children achieve their very best when they are in school, on time and ready to learn. Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide the best possible start to every day.

Arriving on Time Matters

The school day starts promptly and important learning begins straight away. Children who arrive late can miss key instructions, morning routines and valuable learning opportunities.

We completely understand that occasional lateness can happen due to unexpected circumstances. However, where possible, we ask families to make small adjustments to routines to help children arrive on time every day.

Even a few minutes late each day can quickly add up to a significant amount of lost learning across the school year.

Coughs, Colds and Minor Illnesses

We have seen an increase in seasonal coughs and colds recently.

Where possible, children should still attend school with minor illnesses such as coughs, colds or minor ailments. Being in school helps children maintain routines, friendships and learning progress.

Our staff can often support children throughout the day through:

- Agreed medication arrangements
- Additional monitoring and reassurance
- Temporary adjustments where needed

If you are unsure whether your child should attend school, please contact the school office for advice before keeping them at home.

Holidays During Term Time

We understand that families sometimes face difficult decisions when arranging holidays and family events.

We need families to consider the following when planning holidays

- ✓ Booking during school holiday periods
- ✓ Choosing less popular travel dates
- ✓ Exploring alternative destinations which may be more affordable during holiday periods

Missing school affects learning, attendance and children's opportunities to build upon prior knowledge alongside their classmates.

Important Reminder

The school is required to follow Local Authority attendance guidance.

Attendance records are regularly reviewed and schools are challenged regarding absence levels and missed learning.

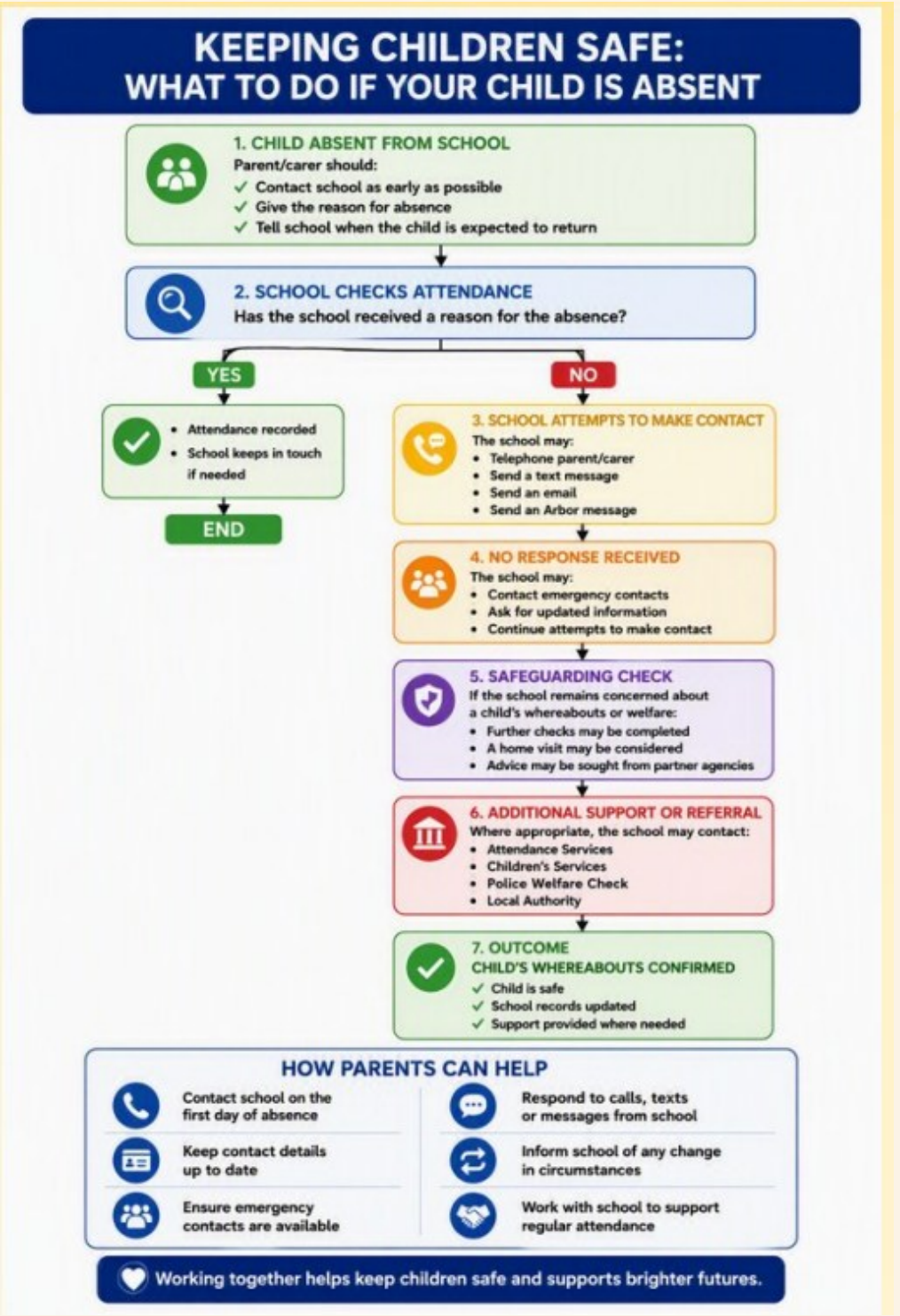
Since this guidance was introduced, no term-time holidays have been authorised.

Whilst some absences are unavoidable, requests for leave during term time should be avoided wherever possible.

Thank You

Thank you for working in partnership with us. Your support with attendance and punctuality helps ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to learn, achieve and thrive.

Every lesson counts. Every day counts. Every child counts.



NHS Guidance - Is my child too ill for school? As we move further into the autumn term, we have noticed an increase in seasonal coughs and colds. It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell. The NHS guidance states children can attend school with common cold symptoms like a sore throat, runny nose or cough unless they have a high temperature. With seasonal illnesses likely to increase this autumn, I'd like to signpost parents to the NHS Is my child too ill for school? Guidance and this visual guide NHS guidance sheet to help and to support you in making informed decisions about attendance you're your child/children are unwell. Where possible, children can usually remain in school we are often able to support with medication arrangements. Remember, ahead of and during the winter illness period, all eligible school-aged children are offered an NHS flu vaccine.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

AI COMPANIONS

Powered by generative AI models like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, AI companion apps and virtual chatbots such as Character.ai, Snapchat My AI, Replika and Talkie, allow users to create, customise, and chat to synthetic avatars around the clock. While many young people use them for harmless entertainment, creative writing or homework help, these tools are designed to simulate genuine human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

AI companions are programmed to be endlessly agreeable, attentive, and available 24/7. Unlike human friendships, an AI companion never disagrees, sets personal boundaries, or gets tired. Young people (especially those experiencing loneliness, social anxiety, or low self-esteem) can quickly develop an unhealthy emotional attachment, viewing synthetic software as their 'best friend' or a surrogate romantic partner.

DISTORTED SOCIAL SKILLS

Navigating real-world friendships can be messy, involving dealing with conflict, compromise, boredom, and awkwardness. If a teenager spends hours interacting with an AI that is tailored specifically to validate and flatter them, they may become impatient with real-world relationships. Over time, this can lead to social withdrawal, heightened anxiety in peer groups, and isolation: a vicious circle of growing online dependency coupled with a heightened sense that relationships in the 'real world' are too challenging to maintain.

DANGEROUS MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE

AI chatbots possess no genuine empathy, professional clinical knowledge, or moral reasoning. While developers state these tools are not therapists, vulnerable teenagers often turn to them in crisis. Chatbots have previously hallucinated unsafe medical guidance, validated depressive spirals, and failed to safely escalate disclosures of self-harm or suicidal ideation to real-world protective services.

INAPPROPRIATE OR EXPLICIT CONTENT

CENSORED

While most mainstream platforms feature safety filters and guardrails, young people frequently discover 'jailbreak' prompts to bypass them. Some companion platforms subtly nudge users towards mature themes, romantic roleplay, or sexually suggestive conversations. In worse cases, third-party apps with weak safety checks have been found to generate sexually explicit text or intimate images.

DATA HARVESTING & OVERSHARING

Because conversational bots simulate warmth and understanding, children often lower their guard and treat the chatbot as a trusted friend. They may disclose sensitive personal information, including full names, school details, private family problems, or secrets, unaware that their conversations are being logged, may be analysed by third parties (including advertisers), or used to train future AI models.

"FREEMIUM" UPSELLS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many companion platforms operate on a freemium model. While basic chat is free, features like voice calls, uncensored responses, custom avatars, or 'deeper bonding' tiers are locked behind expensive monthly recurring subscriptions or in-app token purchases. This can lead to significant hidden costs and pressure on young people to spend money to maintain the 'friendship'.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK OPENLY ABOUT FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

Demystify how these tools work. Explain to young people that an AI companion has no feelings, memories, or consciousness; it is simply calculating the next most mathematically probable word based on its training data. It is helpful to explain to them the mechanics of large language models so that they understand how they are trained and how they are designed to always flatter and be helpful.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTION

Ensure technology habits do not replace face-to-face peer socialisation, sports, hobbies, and family time. Create healthy boundaries at home (such as keeping phones and tablets out of bedrooms overnight) to prevent late-night, unmonitored attachment loops with conversational chatbots when young people are at their most vulnerable.

AUDIT PRIVACY SETTINGS & AGE LIMITS

18 CENSORED

Check which companion apps are installed on your child's phone or tablet. Many dedicated companion apps carry an App Store rating of 17+, while platforms like Character.ai set a minimum age of 13+ (or 16+ in the UK/EU). Review the privacy settings together, turn off data-sharing toggles, disable model training where possible, and ensure location permissions are blocked.

REINFORCE WHERE TO GET REAL HELP

Make sure young people know that a machine can never replace professional pastoral or mental health care. Remind them of the trusted adults they can turn to at school – such as their Form Tutor, Head of Year, or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – as well as dedicated youth support services like Childline (0800 1111) or Shout (text 85258).

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is the Founder and Executive Director of Kompass Education, a consultancy specialising in supporting educators, students and parents in making wise choices with AI. His book Ethical AI and Education, co-authored with Clara Hawking, will be released later in 2026 by Taylor and Francis.

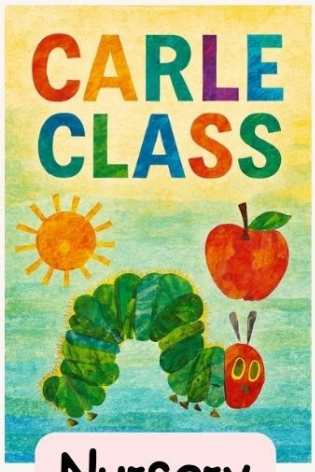


#WakeUpWednesday®

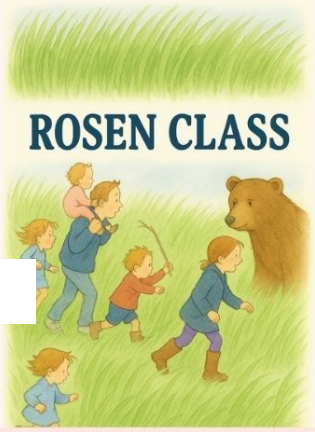
The National College®

CLASS AUTHORS

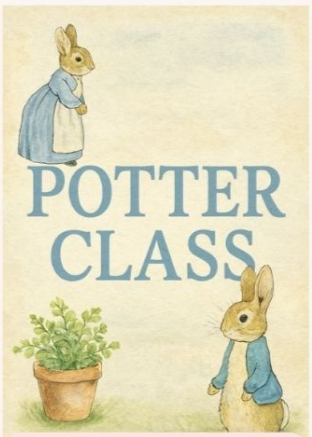
We LOVE reading at Knypersley! This year, each class has a chosen author to explore new books and stories! We are so excited to introduce you to....



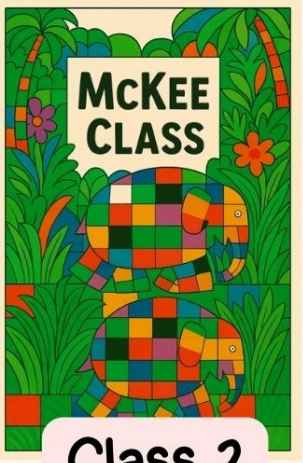
Nursery



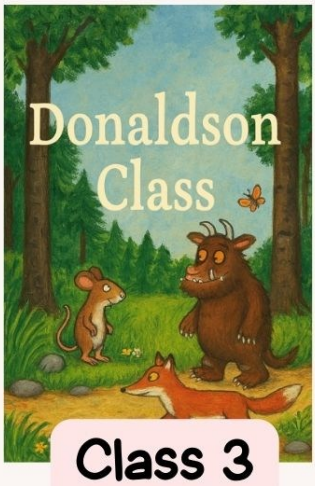
Creative Caterpillars



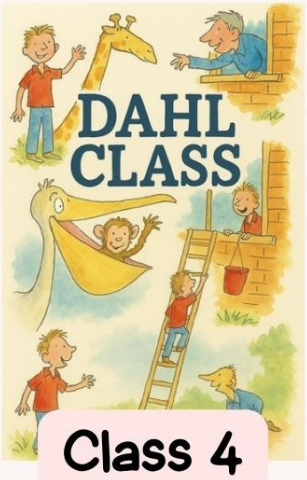
Busy Bees



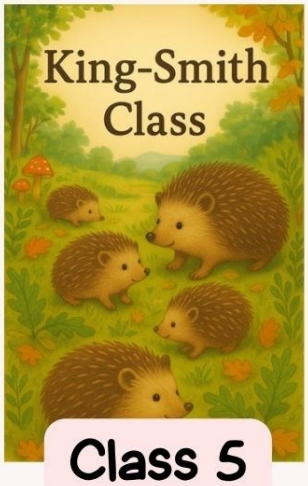
Class 2



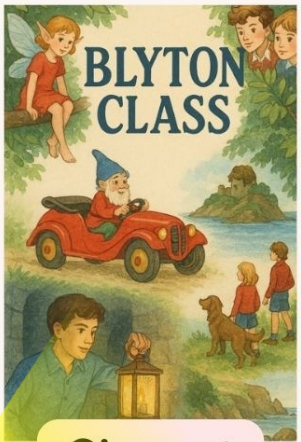
Class 3



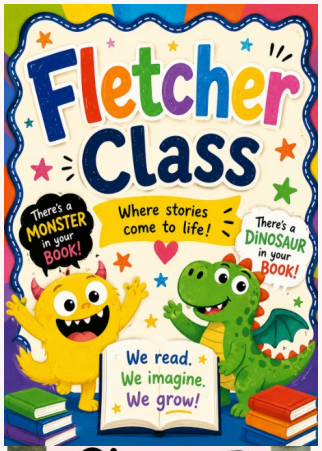
Class 4



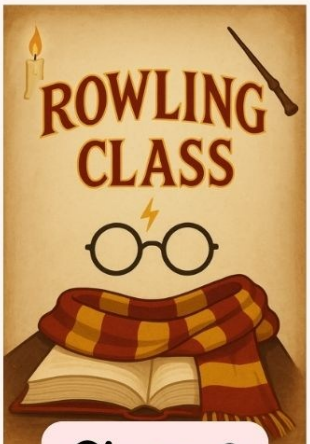
Class 5



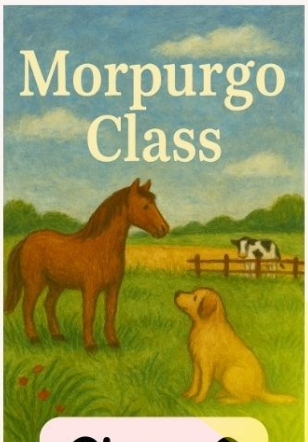
Class 6



Class 7



Class 8



Class 9

Patient

Non-Uniform Dates

British Heart Foundation

P.T.F.A

This overview includes non-uniform days that have been planned by the PTFA and our School Councillors. Any additional non-uniforms and events will be communicated as soon as they are planned.

Sept

25.09.2026
Colour Run non-uniform

If your child is taking part please can they come into school in their white top and sports kit ready to run. If they are not taking part they are welcome to take part in a non-uniform day.

Oct

9.10.2026 - Break the Rules Day (more info to follow)

22.10.2026 - Autumn Disco (non-uniform day)

Nov

13.11.2026 - Xmas Hamper Non-Uniform

Dec

10.12.2026 - Xmas Jumper Day (non-uniform)

17.12.2026 - Xmas Party Day (non-uniform)

18.12.2026 - Y1-Y4 Panto Day
EYFS: Magician Day

Jan

22.1.2027 - PJs, Hot Chocolates/ Milkshake Day

Feb

12.2.2027 - Easter Hamper Non-Uniform Day

Mar

4.3.2027 - World Book Day (details to follow)

10.3.2027 - Easter BINGO

19.3.2027 - Non-Uniform Day

Apr

22.4.2027 - Spring Disco

May

10.5.2027 - Wear Bright Colours - Healthy Minds Week

June

18.6.2027 - Knypersleys Got Talent (more details to follow)

WB 21.6.2027 - Sponsored Swim-a-thon week

25.6.2027 - PTFA Summer Sports Festival 3:30pm

July

16.7.2027 - Splat the Teacher

19.7.2027 - Summer Party Day

Over the year the PTFA will be running a number of sales such as Father's Day, Mother's Day and Tuck Shop Fridays they will keep you informed ahead of time!

Keep your eyes out for morning coffee shops on the playgrounds too!

KNYPERSLEY FIRST SCHOOL
EYFS TOURS 2026







COME AND JOIN OUR EYFS TEAM FOR A TOUR OF OUR SCHOOL. A BRILLIANT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO ASK QUESTIONS AND TO SEE OUR EYFS PROVISION

Dates and Times:

MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER
4PM

WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER
4PM

MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
4PM



To book a slot please ring the school office on:
01782 973810

Knypersley First School Term Dates 2026-2027

Please use our term dates to plan holidays outside school time; term-time holidays cannot be authorised. Attendance support including medication management is available just speak with your child's class teacher or headteacher.

Term	Term & Holiday Dates	Staff Training (INSET)
Autumn Term 2026	**Pupils attend:** Wed 2 Sept to Fri 23 Oct **Half Term:** Mon 26 Oct to Fri 30 Oct **Pupils attend:** Tue 3 Nov to Fri 18 Dec **Christmas Holiday:** Mon 21 Dec 2026 to Fri 1 Jan 2027	**INSET Day 1:** Tue 1 Sept 2026 (Staff only) **INSET Day 2:** Mon 2 Nov 2026 (Staff only)
Spring Term 2027	**Staff & Pupils attend:** Mon 4 Jan to Fri 12 Feb **Half Term:** Mon 15 Feb to Fri 19 Feb **Pupils attend:** Tue 23 Feb to Thu 25 Mar **Easter Holiday:** Mon 29 Mar to Fri 9 Apr	**INSET Day 3:** Mon 22 Feb 2027 (Staff only)
Summer Term 2027	**Staff & Pupils attend:** Mon 12 Apr to Fri 28 May **May Bank Holiday:** Mon 3 May (closed) **Half Term:** Mon 31 May to Fri 4 June **Pupils attend:** Tue 8 Jun to Tue 20 Jul **Summer Holiday begins:** Wed 21 Jul	**INSET Day 4:** Mon 7 Jun (Staff only) **INSET Day 5**: Wed 21 Jul 2027 (Staff only)

