

02/10/2026



# The 'Knypersley News'

Learning together, learning for life!



## A message from Miss Leese...

Another busy week has flown by and it has been lovely to see the children continuing to work hard and enjoy their learning opportunities.

A huge thank you to Mr Gayle who visited school on Wednesday to share information about his career as a sports journalist. The children were fascinated to hear about the role and the tips of the trade. Visits such as these are invaluable in helping our pupils think about their own aspirations and future ambitions. Please see out spotlight page this week to support us to fill the small gaps in our core Learning for Life offer for our children.

As we move further into the autumn term, we have noticed an increase in seasonal coughs and colds. Where possible, children can usually remain in school and our team is often able to support with medication arrangements and adjustments throughout the day. If you are unsure whether your child is well enough to attend, please contact the office for advice.

Next week sees the return of Parents' Evening. Please remember that appointment slots are short and designed to provide a brief update on progress and next steps. If you would benefit from a more detailed conversation, please arrange to attend your child's class drop-in session via Arbor where staff will have more time available.

Finally, this week's Parent Spotlight focuses on attendance and punctuality. We know that good attendance is one of the biggest factors in helping children succeed and we have included some important reminders about arriving on time, managing illness and term-time holidays. Please take a few moments to read the information provided.

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss Leese and Team Knypersley xxx

## Important dates coming soon...

**6.10.26** Parents evening  
**3.30-5.30pm**

**7.10.26** Parents evening  
**5pm-6.30pm**

**8.10.26** Academy photographs— families, siblings and individuals

**9.10.26** Break the Rules day (**not Reception**)

**16.10.26 Reception only**  
Break the Rules day

**16.10.26 Yr1** forest school parent engagement

**Class 2—9.30am**

**Class 3 1.30pm**

**20.10.26** Harvest assembly **9.15am - Yr 4** parents invited

**23.10.26** School closes at **3.20pm** for October Half Term

**2.11.26** Inset day (**staff only in school**)

**3.11.26** All children return to school

| Class                 | Attendance |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Nursery               | 96%        |
| Creative Caterpillars | 98.8%      |
| Busy Bees             | 94.6%      |
| Class 2               | 96.4%      |
| Class 3               | 99.6%      |
| Class 4               | 96.9%      |
| Class 5               | 98.3%      |
| Class 6               | 100%       |
| Class 7               | 90.7%      |
| Class 8               | 96.9%      |
| Class 9               | 91.9%      |

This Week's winner is:

**Class 6**

**Our whole school attendance target is 96.5%**  
This week, our school attendance was: **96.34%**



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 3** of the new **Sept-Feb** menu.

# Rewards and Celebrations



Be Ready



Be Safe



Be Respectful



Nursery—

Creative Caterpillars—

Busy Bees—

Class 2— William

Class 3— Harper

Class 4— Milly

Class 5— Imogen

Class 6— Edie

Class 7— Grace

Class 8— Harvey

Class 9— Tilly

Nursery— Roody

Creative Caterpillars—

Luke

Busy Bees— Aria

Class 2— Alfie

Class 3— Harlow

Class 4— Bonnie-Mae

Class 5— Lola

Class 6— Joshua

Class 7— Archie

Class 8— Joey G

Nursery—

Creative Caterpillars—

Noah

Busy Bees— Luca

Class 2— Chester

Class 3— Lottie

Class 4— Alcee Mae

Class 5— Rory

Class 6— Aiden

Class 7—Emily

Class 8— Poppy

Class 9— Alfie

## Swimmer of the Week

Nursery

Busy Bees - no swim

Creative Caterpillars - no swim

Class 2 —Maisie

Class 3 —Sienna

Class 4 —Reggie

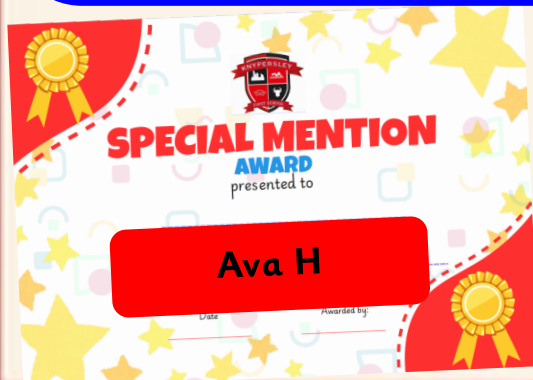
Class 5 —Toby

Class 6 —Charlie J

Class7 —Charlie-Anne

Class 8 —Carter

Class 9 —Jacob



## Home Achievers





# 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. ≡



# Knypersley First School

Learning • Growing • Achieving • Together

Our  
community  
makes a  
difference

## Help Us Bring Learning for Life to Our Children!

We are looking for parents, carers, family members and local community members who can share their job, culture, knowledge, experiences or skills with our children.

**This year's Learning for Life opportunities include:**



Dance Teacher



Local Scientist



Someone Who  
Follows the Hindu Faith



Physicist



Animator



Vet



Archaeologist



Fashion Designer



Travel Agent



Game Designer



Car Engineer



Athlete



Dental Nurse / Dentist



Firefighter



Gymnast



Botanist / Gardener



Chef



### Learning for Life

Our Learning for Life curriculum driver is planned across the year to give children real-life experiences, broaden their understanding, develop aspirations and help them become rounded citizens.

**Can you help, or know someone who can?  
Please contact the school office.**

Real people • Real experiences • Brighter futures



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about LOOKSMAXXING

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Looksmaxxing is an online trend focused on improving one's physical appearance, particularly among boys and young men. At the milder end, it can involve grooming, skincare, diet and exercise advice, sometimes called "softmaxxing". At its extremes, or "hardmaxxing", it can promote unproven or dangerous practices and contribute to body image concerns, low self-worth, and mental health difficulties.

## TARGETING MALE INSECURITIES

Although usually aimed at men, looksmaxxing can also reach boys by promising to improve their appearance and dating success. Forums offer 'objective', and sometimes brutal, views on attractiveness, while influencers may make appearance seem all-important. Advice ranges from useful tips on hygiene, skincare, and fashion to more concerning guidance.

## DUBIOUS ADVICE

Some advice moves into dubious territory. One example is "mewing", a tongue exercise claimed to create a more masculine jawline. The American Association of Orthodontists says evidence for its effectiveness is limited and warns that following such guidance could contribute to tooth alignment problems, bite issues, and speech difficulties.

## EXTREME REMEDIES

Some DIY remedies are even more extreme and potentially dangerous. While fears of "bonesmashing" – which involves trying to alter the cheekbones using blunt objects for a more 'masculine' appearance – may sometimes be overstated in the media, other guidance can also cause harm. Untrained use of microneedling and derma rollers, taking substances or medication without appropriate medical guidance, and overusing skincare products can all have potentially harmful consequences.

## BODY IMAGE ISSUES

This pursuit of physical perfection can become obsessive and contribute to serious body image issues. Exposure to looksmaxxing content can encourage teenagers to tie their appearance to their value and self-worth, as well as making boys and young men feel they need to change perfectly normal aspects of their appearance. This can be associated with disordered eating, overexercising, or other obsessive behaviours that interfere with everyday life.

## MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

As well as the physical consequences, body image concerns can be associated with mental health difficulties, such as depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, body dysmorphic disorder, and psychological distress. They can cause problems both at school and at home, with children and young people potentially avoiding social situations because they fear their appearance will be negatively judged by others.

## A PATHWAY TO EXTREMES

Looksmaxxing has its roots in online 'incel' communities but has since become more mainstream on platforms such as TikTok. Algorithm-driven feeds may show users more extreme material as they interact with similar content. Some looksmaxxing spaces have also been linked with misogynistic, incel, and white supremacist ideologies.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### WATCH FOR CHANGES

Keep an eye out for concerning behavioural changes in children and young people. This could include an obsession with diet and exercise, spending more time on social media apps, becoming secretive with their phone, or a shift in how they interact with friends and family. If a young person suddenly becomes distressed by their appearance or adopts rigid or extreme routines, try to understand what may be behind the change.

### LISTEN FOR THE LINGO

Like many internet communities, looksmaxxing groups and influencers use distinctive language. As well as "mewing", mentioned above, you might hear terms such as "Chad" (an attractive male), "foid" (a misogynistic term for a woman), and "mogging" (looking more attractive than someone else). Other examples involve adding "maxxing" to another word, such as "jestermaxxing" (using humour to attract women) and "starvemaxxing" (extreme dieting).

### CHECK THE SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media algorithms are tailored to each user, meaning what appears on your feeds may be dramatically different from what children see on theirs. Try to get an idea of the content children and young people are consuming online, and use available parental controls where appropriate. TikTok, for example, provides tools that can help families manage or filter certain types of content.

### TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

Open communication can help children and young people recognise misleading influencers and harmful online communities. Discuss unrealistic ideas about appearance and explain that some creators benefit from controversial or extreme content. Talk about the risks of unqualified health advice and how people's insecurities can be exploited online, while making it clear that it's okay to speak openly about any concerns.

## Meet Our Expert

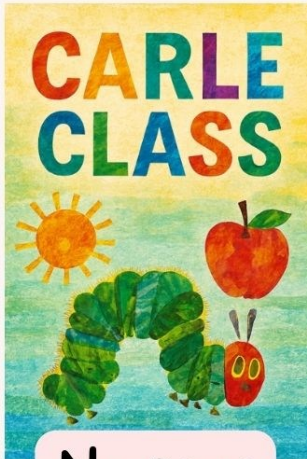
Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



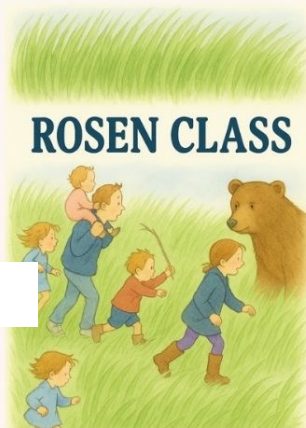
The National College®

# CLASS AUTHORS

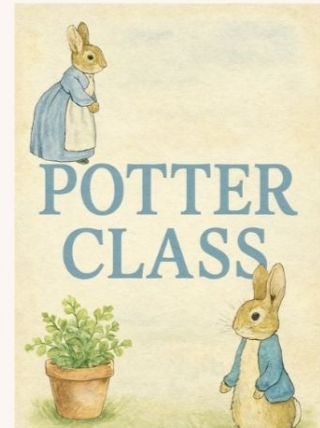
We LOVE reading at Knypersley! This year, each class has a chosen author to explore new books and stories!  
We are so excited to introduce you to....



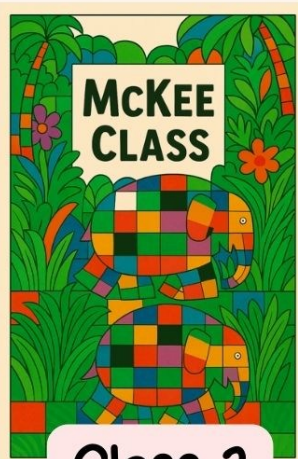
Nursery



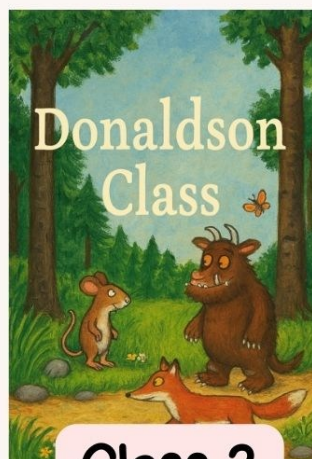
Creative Caterpillars



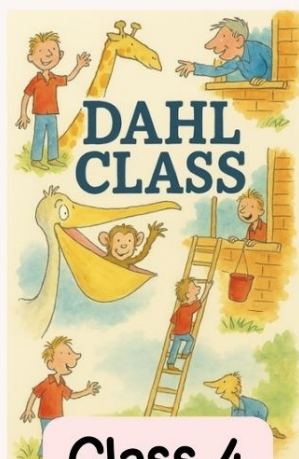
Busy Bees



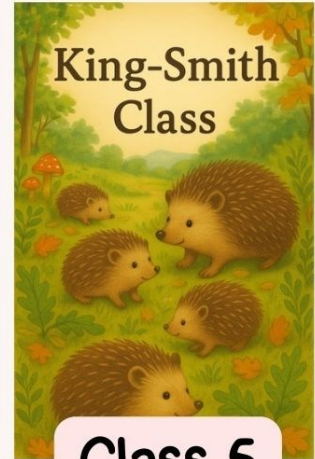
Class 2



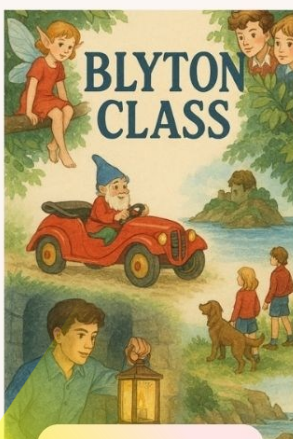
Class 3



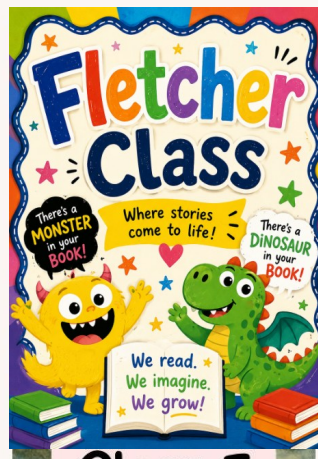
Class 4



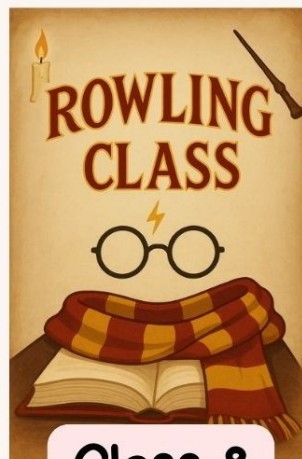
Class 5



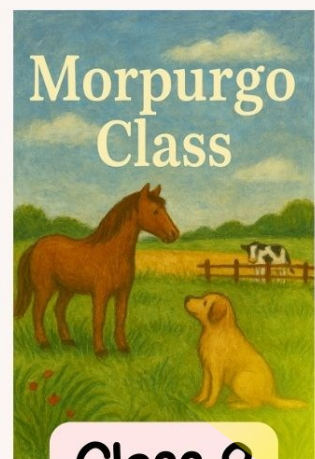
Class 6



Class 7



Class 8



Class 9



British Heart  
Foundation

# Non-Uniform Dates



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

23.09.2026

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