HIGH ASPIRATIONS

KNEBWORTH
Primary and Nursery School

Deep Roots High Aspirations

Knebworth Primary School Newsletter

23rd October 2026

A message from the Headteacher

A Wonderful First Half Term – Celebrating Our Learning and Achievements
As we reach the end of the first half term, it's lovely to look back on all the wonderful moments, new experiences and learning that have taken place. The children have worked so hard, grown in confidence and embraced so many opportunities along the way. We are incredibly proud of them all and feel very lucky to be part of their learning journey.

Parents Evening & Parent Survey
It was also lovely to see so many of you at our Autumn Term Parents' Evening Consultations. Thank you for taking the time to come in and celebrate in your child's learning and progress. You should all have received a copy of our new School Values poster. We encourage you to display it proudly at home so that we can build a shared language between home and school around *The Knebworth Way* and the joy of being a pupil at Knebworth. Finally, if you haven't yet had a chance to complete our short survey, we would really appreciate your feedback. Your views are important to us and help us to continue to improve our school community. You can find the survey using the link below: **Complete our survey**

Harvest Assemblies



On Monday, Reverend King joined us to talk about Harvest. He explored the words *earth, heart* and *starve* with the children, helping them to understand where our food comes from and why crops are grown. The children also learned about the importance of giving thanks for the food we have and appreciating the hard work that goes into producing it. A big thank you to Reverend King for visiting our school and helping the children understand the meaning of Harvest and the importance of being grateful for the food we have.

Head Boy & Head Girl
We are delighted to announce our new Head Boy, Ollie from Seacole Class, and Head Girl, Bella from Nightingale Class! They have taken on these important roles with such pride and enthusiasm and will be wonderful ambassadors for our school. We look forward to seeing them continue to lead by example, embody *The Knebworth Way* and make a positive difference to our school community. Just yesterday, they received their very first invitation from me to attend a community event – an exciting start to their new roles! **Congratulations, Ollie and Bella!** We are so proud of you both and look forward to seeing all that you achieve this year.

Attendance
Congratulations to **Nightingale Class** for achieving an excellent **97.3% attendance** this week! A fantastic achievement!

DEEP ROOTS

Celebrating the Wonderful Things Happening at Knebworth!

As part of our commitment to continually improving the education and experiences we offer our children, we work with a School Effectiveness Adviser. This is an experienced education professional who works with schools to celebrate their strengths and identify opportunities for further development. During their visits, our Adviser reviews key aspects of school life, including the quality of teaching and learning, pupils' achievement, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, and leadership and management. They consider our provision through a lens similar to that used by Ofsted, helping school leaders understand how our work aligns with inspection expectations. These visits provide valuable feedback, recognising what we do well and supporting our ongoing work to ensure that every child at Knebworth has the opportunity to flourish and achieve their very best.

I am delighted to share some lovely feedback following a recent visit from our School Effectiveness Adviser, who spent time visiting classrooms and seeing the children's learning in action across Knebworth. It was wonderful to see so many of the things that make our school such a special place recognised and celebrated by someone from outside our school community. As someone who sees the dedication of our staff and the enthusiasm of our children every day, it was particularly rewarding to have this acknowledged through the visit.

The visit recognised the **warm, positive relationships** between our staff and children, the **enthusiasm** children bring to their learning, and the **nurturing, inclusive environments** in which they are supported to flourish. It was lovely to see children sharing their ideas confidently, working both independently and collaboratively, and demonstrating such positive attitudes towards their learning.

Our Early Years provision, reading and phonics teaching were also celebrated, alongside the many opportunities children have to **develop their communication, confidence and independence**. The report highlighted the thoughtful questioning used by our staff and the way they encourage children to explain their thinking and deepen their understanding.

We were especially pleased that the visit recognised our **strong sense of inclusion and belonging**, and the care taken to ensure every child feels safe, valued and supported. Seeing our children take pride in their work, engage enthusiastically in learning and **grow in confidence and resilience** is something we are incredibly proud of.

A huge thank you to our wonderful staff team for their dedication and hard work, and to you, our families, for the encouragement, care and support you give. It is this shared commitment and strong partnership between home and school that makes Knebworth such a special community. Together, we continue to live and breathe *The Knebworth Way*!



Magical Learning

This week, I had the pleasure of seeing **Violet in Coelho Class** who proudly shared with me her positive noticing postcard that she had received as well as the Coelho Class book of published poems which I know they have all worked on so superbly and are so proud of. **Emilia in Chandi Class** came to share her maths learning. She has been working so wonderfully on subtraction, carefully applying the correct methods to solve her calculations. It was lovely to see her pride in her learning and the care she is taking to develop her mathematical skills. Miss Needham was so impressed by the wonderful farms created by **Chandi Class** as part of their history topic that I just had to pop down and see each one for myself. It was lovely to see the children's creativity, effort and enthusiasm shining through in their fantastic creations. **Leo, also in Chandi Class**, came to share his poem all about a Pokémon box which was an absolute joy to read – well done Leo for showing such resilience with your writing! **Noah and Luyanda in Johnson Class** came to share their magical writing with me this week. They had worked brilliantly to include a range of sentence openers and ambitious vocabulary, creating pieces of writing that were an absolute joy to read. It was wonderful to see such creativity and care in their work. **Max, Elysa and Gaia in Packham Class** proudly came to share their list poems all about the colour purple with me this week. It was lovely to see their

creativity shining through as they explored vocabulary and found imaginative ways to describe this beautiful colour. **Jessie, Matilda, Olivia, Roxanne, Alana, Seren, Rafe, Albie, Adam and Yoan in Thunberg Class** all proudly shared their excellent posters, which they had created as part of Show Racism the Red Card Day. It was wonderful to see them using their creativity to promote such an important message of equality, respect and inclusion. **Reuben in Johnson Class** proudly shared his wonderful abstract artwork with me. It was lovely to see his creativity shine through his use of colour, shapes and patterns. Well done, Reuben, for creating such a fantastic piece of art!










Positive Noticing Teas

After half term, we will be continuing with our **Positive Noticing Teas**, formerly known as our Silver Values Celebration Teas for children in Years 1 to 6 *(Early Years children have their own special celebration in their classroom.)* During this first half term, we have focused on helping the children settle into their new classes and reinforcing our School Values of **Respect, Responsibility and Resilience**, exploring what it means to be a pupil who truly lives and breathes *The Knebworth Way*. Our Positive Noticing Teas take place on Fridays at 2:45pm in my office for around 15 minutes. Parents and carers will receive a text message on Thursday afternoon if their child has been invited. We appreciate that this can be short notice for some families, so please don't worry if the timing isn't convenient. We are always happy to postpone a Tea until the following week; simply let the school office know. **Please also make sure your contact details on Arbor are kept up to date, as we would hate for anyone to miss their invitation!** I wonder which children will be the very first to join me for a Positive Noticing Tea after half term? I can't wait to celebrate their wonderful achievements and the ways they are demonstrating *The Knebworth Way*!

Rowing Festival

Our Rowing Team showed fantastic teamwork, determination and resilience at their recent rowing event organised by Stevenage Sporting Futures Team! They were proudly awarded the Teamwork Award and achieved a brilliant fourth place. We are so proud of the way they supported one another, worked together and demonstrated The Knebworth Way. Well done to all involved!

Birthday Books











Thank you to Alice and Sunaya in Henson Class, Entmont, Rupert, Frederick and Aurora in Kahlo Class, Kieran in Chandi Class, Yoan in Thunberg Class and Nava in Zephaniah Class for donating such magical Birthday Books to the school. I really enjoyed hearing all about your birthday celebrations and exploring your chosen books with you.

This Week's Pencrafters





This week's Pencrafters are **Logan in Zephaniah Class** and **Henry in Turing Class**! Logan has worked superbly to use capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate her sentences correctly. She was so, so proud to share her fabulous writing with me, and it was wonderful to see her confidence and pride in her learning! Henry has worked brilliantly on his descriptive writing, incorporating a range of sentence openers, ambitious vocabulary and techniques such as onomatopoeia to bring his writing to life. It was a pleasure to see him using these skills so effectively to engage his reader. A huge well done to Logan and Henry for their fantastic efforts. Keep up the wonderful work!

Fond Farewells

This week, we have said goodbye to two members of our school team. We would like to thank Miss Adesakin, who has been supporting Henson Class throughout the first half term. It has been so lovely to have her as part of the Knebworth team, and we wish her every success and happiness for the future. We have also said a fond farewell to Mrs Maguire, who is embarking on an exciting new challenge working in a secondary specialist provision. She will be very much missed by our school community, and we are incredibly grateful for all she has contributed during her time with us.

Have a lovely, restful half term break everyone. I hope you have the most special time making memories with your loved ones.

Best Wishes,
Miss Bains

Message from The FOKS Team

Booking opened for our first Christmas event this week - our wreath workshop taking place on Thursday 26 November. Last year's event was enjoyed by so many of you and we're hoping this year will be extra special as we have florists from 'Flower Buds' (About Us — Flower Buds at Tewinbury) running the creative design element! Adrienne and Laura have a wealth of experience as wedding and special occasion florists at Tewinbury Farm, they are passionate about growing and using seasonal flowers and foliage so, as well as decorations for a traditional wreath, there will be options for a 'wild and whimsical' one too. So, grab the crew and enjoy a lovely evening together whilst doing your fundraising bit - don't delay, spaces are limited! See poster attached.

We've also added details of our other Christmas events to the calendar so please save the dates, more information will follow.

For one of them, we need your help with donating any pre-loved Christmas jumpers please, so if you're having a sort-out during half term, please do save any for us and bring them into school by 11 November.

Finally, the children have been busy designing their Christmas cards this week - further details on how to buy cards and other gifts with their design on will be released after half term.

Wishing you all a lovely autumnal break.

Best wishes,

The FOKS Team

Key Dates for your Diary – Autumn Term 2026

Details for upcoming events will be sent nearer the time where and when applicable
New/amended dates are highlighted in yellow

Date/Time	Event
26th October to 30th October	October Half Term (School Closed)
3rd November 5pm	People's Emergency Briefing screening event
6th November 9:15 to 10am	CommUNITY Event – Phonics & Spelling Focus A chance for one parent per child to come into school to experience the magic of teaching and learning at Knebworth.
9th November 8pm	FOKS 2026 AGM To be held at the Station Pub, Knebworth
11th November	Last day to donate your pre-loved Christmas jumpers to FOKS
13th November	Children in Need
16th November	Odd Socks Day As part of **Anti-Bullying Week**, we will be celebrating what makes each of us unique! Children are invited to wear **odd socks** alongside their usual school uniform to show that it's okay to be different and that our individuality should be celebrated. We look forward to seeing everyone's colourful and creative odd sock combinations!
18th November 4:30 – 5:30pm	Bedtime Story Event Families are invited into school to hear some engaging stories shared by our amazing teacher team.
20th November 4:30 to 7:30pm	Knebworth Village Christmas Light Switch On FOKS Stall at Knebworth Lights Switch On *Come and visit our stall for festive games and Christmas goodies*
26th November 7:30pm	FOKS Christmas Wreath Workshop, School Hall *Create a festive masterpiece to adorn your door, expertly led by Adrienne and Laura from 'Flower Buds', a seasonal floristry service based at Tewinbury Farm.* Booking now open - Thursday 26 Nov 2026, 7.30pm - Christmas Wreath Workshop | Friends of Knebworth School Association
27th November 9:15 to 10:15am	Prospective Parents Open Morning An opportunity for potential future Knebworth families to see the school before applying for their school places.
29th November 1 to 4pm	FOKS Christmas Craft-ernoon, 1-4pm, School Hall *Festive fun for all the family with games, crafts, refreshments and shopping. More details to follow.*
4th December	Occasional Day (School Closed)

7th December 11:30am	Nursery Christmas Show to Parents & Carers Parents only need attend one of the two performance dates.
7th December 2pm	Reception Christmas Show to Parents & Carers Due to health and safety regulations, only two adults per child are permitted to watch the performance.
8th December 2pm	Year 1 Christmas Show to Parents & Carers Due to health and safety regulations, only two adults per child are permitted to watch the performance.
9th December 2pm	Year 2 Christmas Show to Parents & Carers Due to health and safety regulations, only two adults per child are permitted to watch the performance.
10th December 9:15 to 10:15am	Prospective Parents Open Morning An opportunity for potential future Knebworth families to see the school before applying for their school places.
11th December	Children's Christmas Lunch Children can order a Christmas dinner for their normal school lunch.
11th December	Christmas Jumper Day Children are invited to wear a Christmas/Winter themed jumper with their school uniform on this day.
11th December 11:30am	Nursery Christmas Show to Parents Parents only need attend one of the two performance dates.
14th December 1pm Years 3 & 4 2pm Years 5 & 6	KS2 Carol Concert at St Martin's Church KS2 children perform Christmas songs at the church and parents and carers are invited to attend – always a highlight of the school year!
18th December	FOKS Non-Uniform Day
18th December	End of Autumn Term 12pm – Nursery - a 1pm pick up can be accommodated on this date, please let Miss Leatham know if you require this. 1:10pm – Reception & KS1 1:15pm – KS2
4th January 2027	INSET Day (School Closed)
5th January	**Spring Term Begins**
Knebworth School Term Dates can be accessed here: **https://www.knebworthprimaryschool.org.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=39**	