

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of this half term, we want to take a moment to celebrate some wonderful achievements. First, we are thrilled to share that our recent Ofsted report was a huge success, reflecting the hard work and dedication of our staff and students.

We've also seen improvements in attendance, which is fantastic, as it shows how committed our children are to their learning. On top of that, we've been offering many extra-curricular opportunities, ensuring that each child has the chance to explore their interests and talents.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to more successes in the coming terms!

Warm regards,  
Mr Fitzsimmons



We are proud to be featured in Devon Live, highlighting our recent Ofsted report.

A big thank you to our dedicated staff, students, and families for their ongoing support. Together, we're moving forward with confidence and excitement!

Check out the full article here: [Devon Live](#)

## Parking

We would like to kindly remind everyone about the importance of parking safely and considerately in our local community. As a school, the safety of our children and families is always our top priority.

Please ensure that you **do not park in front of the school gates**, as this area must remain clear at all times to allow for emergency access when needed. This is essential for the safety of everyone on the school grounds.

We ask for your cooperation in parking a little further away from the school and being mindful of our surrounding community. By doing so, we help ensure a safer environment for all.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



## Parents evenings

Parents evening will take place on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th March 2025 . Appointments will be possible to book from 3:30-6:00 on each of the days. Details on how to book an appointment will be sent out after half term.



Don't forget  
Parents'  
Evening!



THINKING SCHOOLS  
ACADEMY TRUST

## What is a Thinking School?

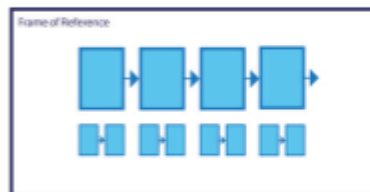
A Thinking School is unique in their focus to share with your child the tools to become a life-long learner, and to develop the best possible habits for success in life. It is an educational community which involves both students and staff learning how to think reflectively, critically and creatively.

We want every student in our schools to be inquisitive and confident in themselves. Our thinking toolkit is how we support them through this journey. These tools are used in tandem with an approach to teaching that instils a growth mindset and 'can do' attitude. Through their time in a Thinking School, students will develop the right habits to ensure they are successful throughout education and beyond.

### THINKING MAPS

Thinking Maps provide a template to organise students thoughts.

#### FLOW MAP



Sequencing

#### CIRCLE MAP



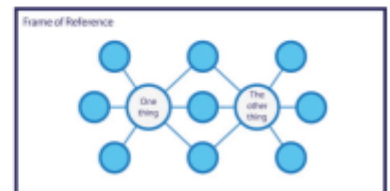
Defining in Context

#### BUBBLE MAP



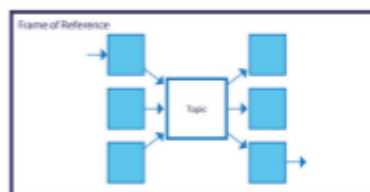
Describing

#### DOUBLE BUBBLE MAP



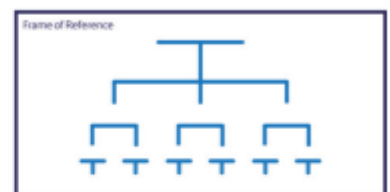
Comparing - Contrasting

#### MULTI FLOW MAP



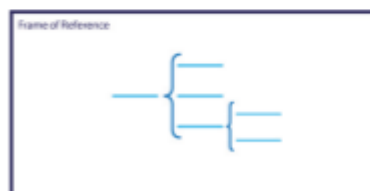
Cause - Effect

#### TREE MAP



Classifying

#### BRACE MAP



Whole - Parts

#### BRIDGE MAP

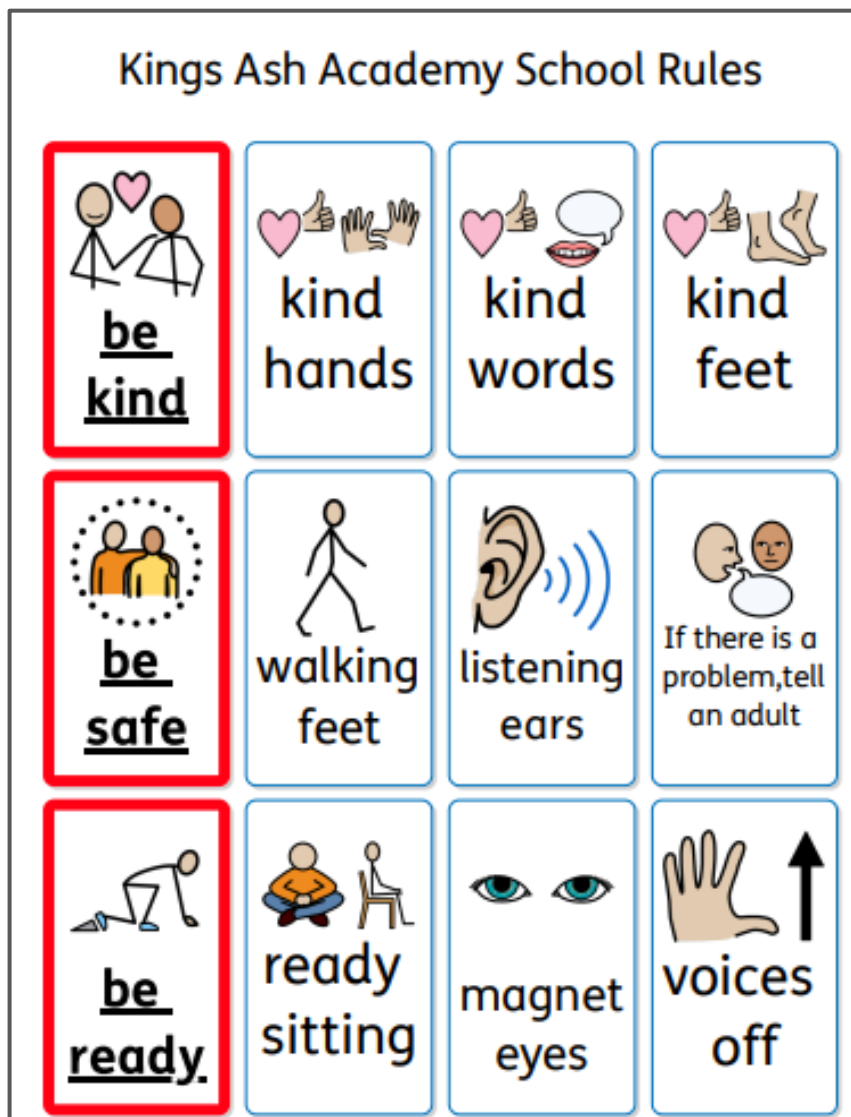


Seeing Analogies

## Our School Rules

At Kings Ash Academy, we have three simple but important school rules that help to create a positive and respectful learning environment: **Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Ready.** These rules guide the behaviour of both our students and staff, ensuring that everyone understands and follows the high expectations we have embedded in our school culture. To help reinforce these rules, we have attached a poster that clearly outlines what each rule means and how it supports our learning community. We kindly ask that you work in partnership with us by reminding your child of these rules at home. By doing so, we can continue to create a school environment where all children can thrive, feel safe, and engage in their learning to the best of their ability.

Thank you for your continued support in upholding our high expectations for behaviour.



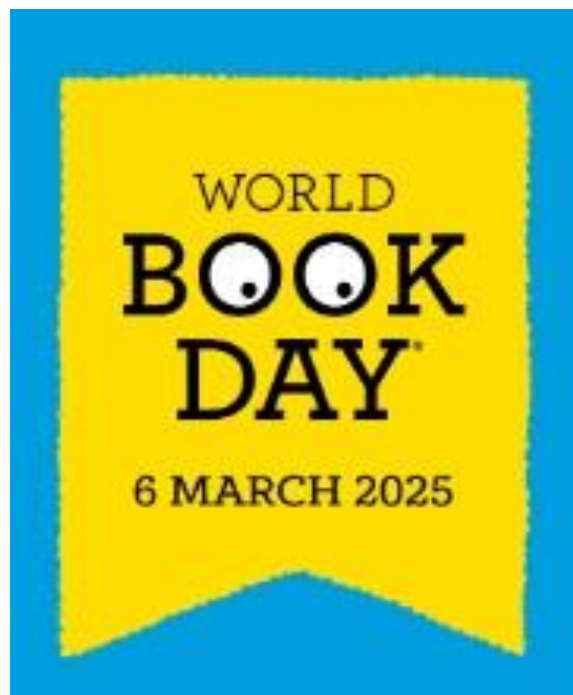
## World Book Day

We are excited to announce that World Book Day will be celebrated at Kings Ash Academy on **Thursday, 6th March**! This year's theme is '**Read Your Way**', and we can't wait to explore our favourite stories, celebrate beloved characters, and most importantly, highlight the positive impact that reading has on transforming life chances.

At Kings Ash Academy, we are committed to promoting a love of reading through:

- Engaging classroom activities that bring books to life
- Encouraging independent reading and sharing stories
  - Hosting author visits and book-related events
- Creating a reading-rich environment for all children to enjoy

We look forward to celebrating the joy of reading together and hope this day inspires our children to continue their reading journey in new and exciting ways. **We will send further information about World Book Day after half term.**



## Healthy Eating

At Kings Ash Academy, we understand the importance of healthy eating and how it supports our children's well-being and learning. A balanced lunchbox can help fuel your child's day, ensuring they stay focused and energetic in class.

We encourage you to include a variety of nutritious items in your child's lunchbox, such as:

- **Fresh fruits and vegetables** (e.g., apple slices, carrot sticks, or cucumber)
  - **Whole grains** (e.g., wholemeal sandwiches, wraps, or crackers)
  - **Lean protein** (e.g., chicken, hummus, or cheese)
  - **Dairy or dairy alternatives** (e.g., yogurt, cheese sticks)
- **Healthy snacks** (e.g., nuts, raisins, or a small portion of whole grain crisps)

We also kindly remind you that children in **Reception, Year 1, and Year 2** are eligible for **universal free school meals**, and we encourage you to take advantage of this benefit. For families with children in other year groups, if you think your child may be eligible for **free school meals**, please check with the school office for further information. Together, let's help our children make healthy choices that support their growth and learning. Thank you for your continued support!



### 20 EASY HEALTHY LUNCH IDEAS



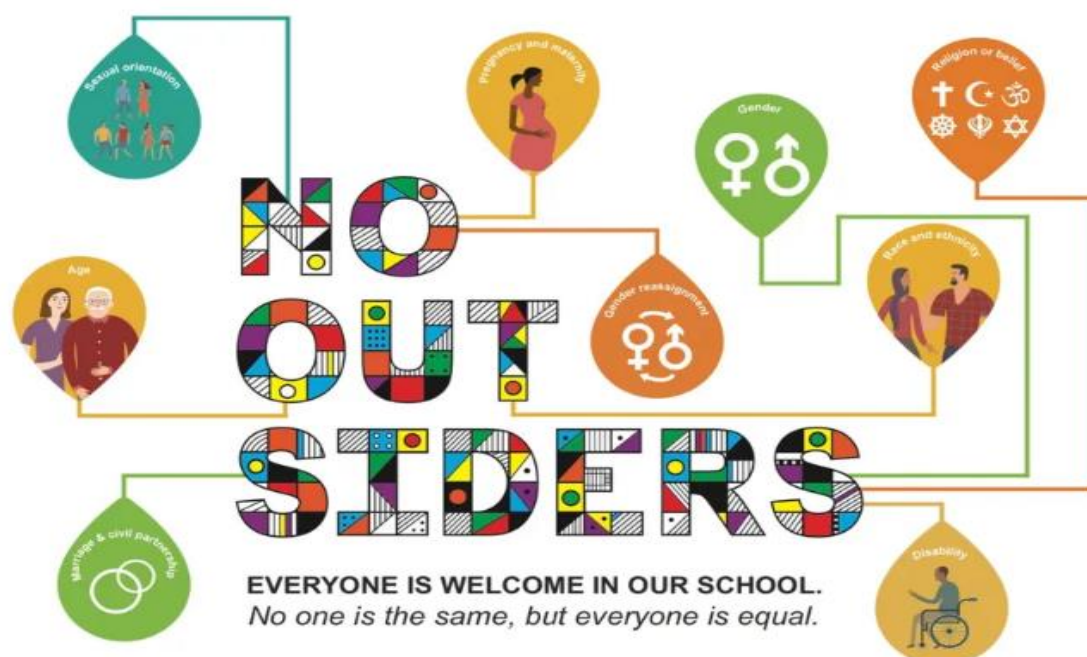
## No Outsiders

At Kings Ash Academy, we are proud to continue our work on the '**No Outsiders**' scheme, which celebrates inclusion, diversity, tolerance, and respect for all individuals. This initiative is central to our values, helping our children learn about and appreciate the differences that make our world a richer, more compassionate place.

As part of 'No Outsiders', our students participate in regular assemblies that explore real-life stories from around the world. These stories encourage reflection on how we can create a more accepting and tolerant society. This half term, we've explored some powerful themes, including:

- A championship-winning Muslim girls' football team who all play in hijabs
- Reflections on being welcoming, through the story of **Paddington Bear** and his journey as an immigrant
- Acknowledging **Holocaust Memorial Day**, fostering understanding and remembrance
  - How we can support each other when facing changes or worries

These discussions are helping our children develop empathy, respect, and a strong sense of responsibility towards others, reinforcing the importance of inclusion in our school and society. Thank you for supporting us in nurturing these values and ensuring our children grow up with kindness and understanding.



## Half term holidays

**School breaks up for a 1 week half term on Friday 14th February**

**School returns on Monday 24th February**

## Key Dates for Spring 2025

<u>February 2025</u>	<u>March 2025</u>	<u>April 2025</u>
<p>24th- School returns from half term break</p>	<p>4th – Primley Woods REC 6th- World Book Day- Further info to follow 11th – 4/5 HH Swimming starts 10th – 13th – Yr5 &amp; 6 Bikeability 21st – Red Nose Day 26th/27th-Parents Evenings Half Marathon will commence in March – further details to follow</p>	<p>2nd – Unsung Hero assembly – invite only 4th April- School Breaks for Easter holidays (2pm finish) 21st April- School closed (Bank Holiday) 22nd April- School returns from Easter</p>

If you have any safeguarding concerns over the holidays, please contact Torbay Children's Services on 01803 208100 (out-of-hours number 0300 456 4876).

If you have any immediate concerns about the safety of a child, please call 999.

The safeguarding team will be monitoring emails at times over the holidays and can be contacted on [safeguarding@kingsashacademy.com](mailto:safeguarding@kingsashacademy.com)



**SAFEGUARDING**



## Uniform reminders

Just a reminder that children can come into school in **school PE kit** on their class PE days (please note, football or other team kits are not allowed). As the colder weather approaches, children are welcome to wear their school jumper and plain black leggings/jogging bottoms on PE days.

As a school, we are happy for the basics of school uniform to be purchased from supermarket chains as they can often be cheaper. We also have stocks of second hand uniform available if you are struggling financially, just speak to the family support team.

In the current cost of living climate, we are also content with children to wear plain black trainers to school, please support us with this by not sending your child into school in any other coloured or patterned trainers.

## Medicines in school - New Form for September 2024

Please be reminded that if your child needs medication or medicine in school then you will need to complete the following new forms before we can accept any medicines or medication in school

### [Prescribed Medication](#)

### [Non-prescribed Medication](#)

**Medication in school** Please be reminded that all medication in school needs to be collected before the end of term by an adult please. Any medication left at the end of term will be given to a pharmacist to destroy.



## Smoking/Vaping on school grounds

Please be reminded that smoking and vaping are banned on the school grounds. Please support us to keep the school environment smoke free.



## Attendance updates

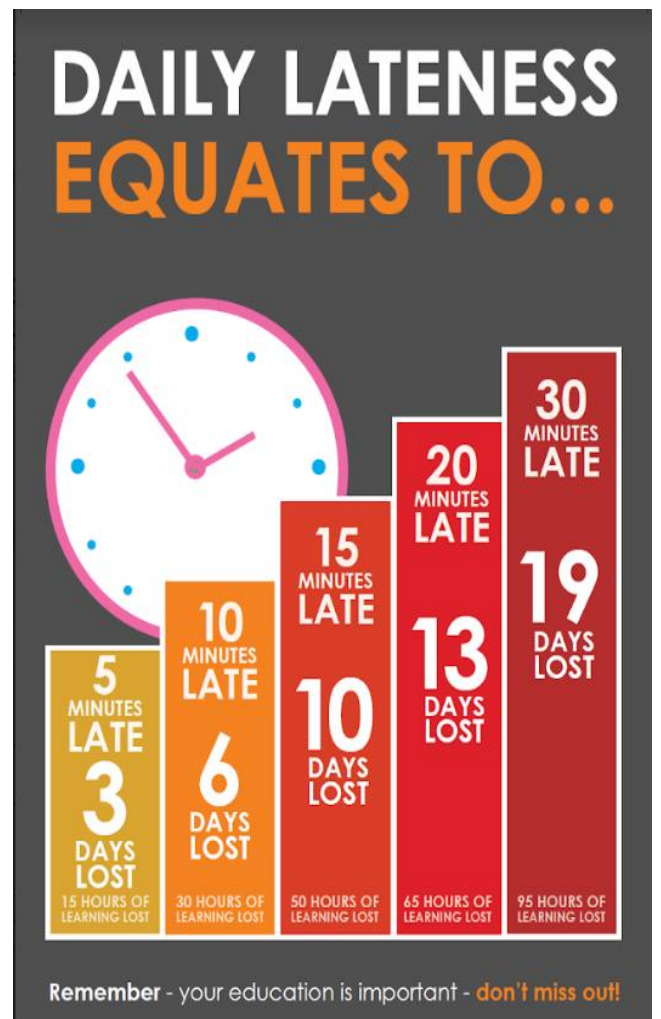
### Thank you

Firstly, thank you to all of you for making such a positive contribution to attendance and lateness. Punctuality is much improved overall as a school and attendance is also steadily improving. This has allowed the children to be settled and in class ready for their learning to begin. It is important that we continue to all work together to ensure that our attendance is at its highest possible level whilst also reducing our lateness where possible.



### Lateness

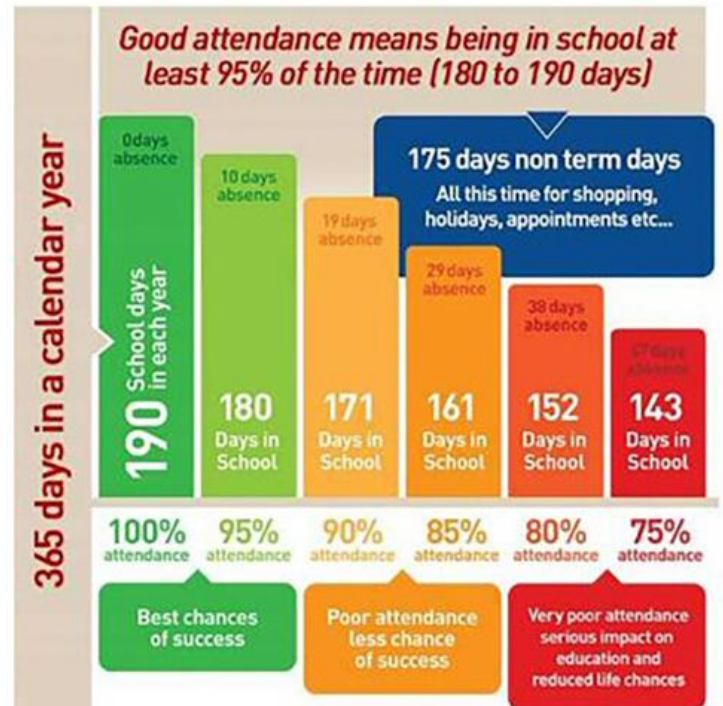
A reminder that classroom doors open at **8:40am** and all children are expected to enter through these doors before the **8:50am** close. After this point, your child will then be classed as late meaning that they are missing vital learning time. Should your child arrive at school later than **9:00am** this will have to be marked as an unauthorised session. The new national framework states '10 unauthorised sessions in a 10 week period can lead to a penalty notice'. If you feel you require any support with this please contact me directly.



## Attendance updates

### Absence

As we see a rise in coughs, colds and other illnesses and would also remind you that children should only be absent from school when it is absolutely necessary. I would encourage you to help support your children from any missed learning by encouraging them to come to school whenever possible. To record any absence please contact the office or Mr.Fegan to discuss the reason for this. Just **10** school days missed across the whole year would mean that your child would be below the expected attendance expectation.



***DID YOU KNOW?** A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is **94.7%***

### Rewards and Celebrations

As a school we want to show all children just how important attendance is to us and so we will be launching a new range of rewards

- Each week- children will be acknowledged for making a significant effort to improve their attendance or lateness in our weekly celebration assembly.
- Every half term- children will be awarded with bronze, silver or gold certificates depending on their attendance.
- At the end of each term- the class with the highest attendance will be able to celebrate with a class reward.



## Little Thinkers @ Kings Ash Academy



### LITTLE THINKERS NURSERY

Little Thinkers is our brand new provision from 9 months to 2 years accepting both government & privately funded places.

For more information contact us at [office@kingsash.littlethinkers.org.uk](mailto:office@kingsash.littlethinkers.org.uk)

To register interest please fill in the following online form

<https://forms.office.com/e/T3ELDgx44r>



## Nursery and school meal fees

Please can we emphasize the importance of paying nursery and school dinner fees in a timely manner. It has come to our attention that there are outstanding fees for these services, and it is crucial to emphasize the impact of unpaid bills on the school's budget.

Unpaid bills pose a significant challenge as they have to be funded out of the school's budget, directly affecting the resources available within the school. This, in turn, affects the quality of education and the overall experience for the pupils. It is essential for parents to understand the financial obligations of the school and to ensure that all fees are paid on time to support the smooth operation of the institution.

We kindly urge all parents to fulfill their financial responsibilities by promptly settling any outstanding nursery and school dinner fees. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and vital for maintaining the high standards of education and care that we strive to provide.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Childcare  
Choices



HM Government

## Free school meals

Please visit  
<https://forms.torbay.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals> or speak to the school office to apply for free school meals

## Help paying for your childcare

Please visit the childcare choices website below for help and advice with your childcare costs

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

## Student Council

The Student Council recently visited Paignton Academy to meet with students from other local schools within our Trust. Together, we discussed our six key priorities: Food Service, Anti-Bullying and Behaviour, Reading, Charities, Earth Alliance, and Diversity & Inclusivity. After our discussions, we joined a Trust-wide meeting to share ideas and plan the next steps. Some of the children then led the meeting and updated the Trust Board on our progress.



## Wonder Dome

As part of their science unit, Earth and Space, Year 4/5 were given the opportunity to take part in a Wonderdome session. They explored the different planets in our solar system and how long each planet takes to orbit the sun.



## Wonderstruck at PA

Year 5 were given the opportunity to attend a Wonderstruck science show at Paignton Academy. The children watched an incredible show before creating and launching their own rockets.





## PE and Sport update

### nNews

#### **Festivals**

Over this half term, our children have participated in handball/tchoukball festivals at Paignton Academy. The children all participated in the festivals where there was a range of different activities such as throwing, catching and shooting. The children look forward to participating in many more festivals in the future.



#### **Football**

Over this half term all our football teams have been in action in our CVL (central venue league) held at Paignton Academy. All teams showed amazing collaboration and sportsmanship throughout all games.



#### **Bike Ability**

This half term 12 children completed their bikeability level 1 which is a brilliant achievement and a great life skill to have. Well done



## Weekly certificate winners

Please see our gallery of weekly certificate winners for this half term. Congratulations and well done to all awarded



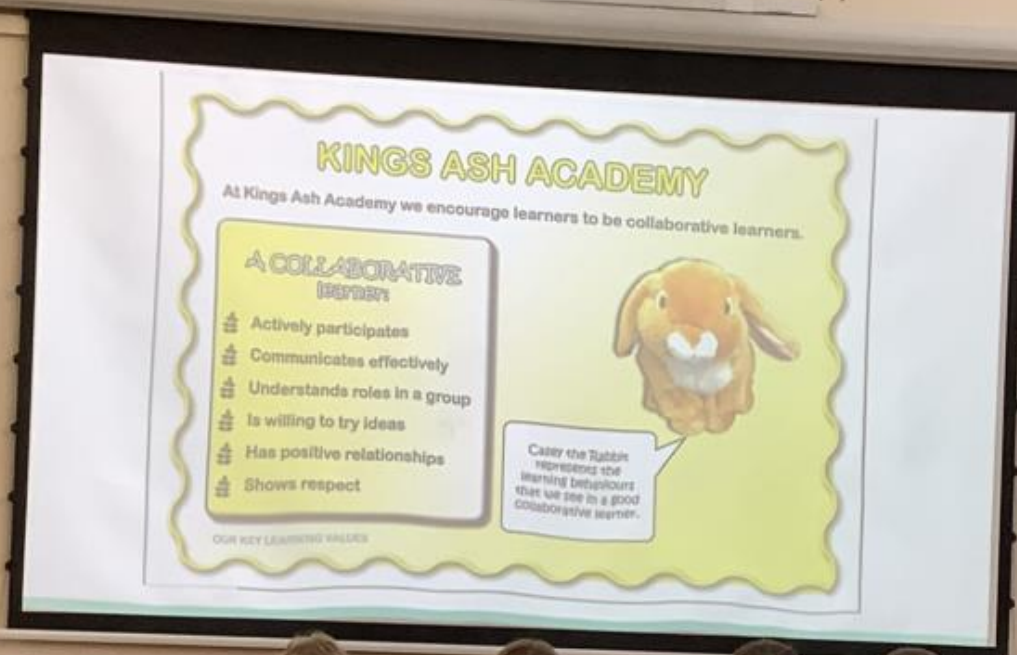
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# WHAT'S ON IN... KINGS ASH



MONDAY

Cycle Torbay  
Outside the Crafty Fox  
Community Hub  
3.30-5.30pm  
Ages 7-16



TUESDAY

Play Torbay  
Crafty Fox  
Community Hub,  
4:00-5.30pm, under 12  
yrs  
Argyle Community Trust  
Great Parks Community  
Centre MUGA  
4:00pm - 6pm, 8-17 yrs

WEDNESDAY

Mad Hatters  
Great Parks Community  
Centre  
3:30-5:30pm  
Ages 5 -13 yrs



THURSDAY

Cycle Torbay  
Crafty Fox Community  
Hub  
3:30pm-5:30pm  
All ages

FRIDAY

Foxhole Community  
Centre Youth Group  
Community Centre  
4:00-6:00pm 5 -11 yrs  
Argyle Community Trust  
Foxhole Community  
Centre MUGA  
4:00-6:00pm

KINGS ASH COMMUNITY  
BUILDER

Sarah Greener  
07977635984  
sarahgreener@torbaycd  
t.org.uk






# S.H.A.A.Q

SHARING HARDSHIPS AND ANSWERING QUESTIONS

## Tuesday Morning

### Breakfast Club



Bring along your under 4s and join us for a cooked breakfast and a play every Tuesday (term time only). Complimentary toast and juice available for all children attending. All toys and activities are free to access, and of course SHAAQ will be there for help with whatever the problem might be 🤝 We hope to see you there ❤️



**Every Tuesday**  
**Commencing**  
**May 7th 2024**

**9.30-11.30 am**

@ Foxhole Community  
Center on Belfield  
Road

Any queries please  
contact Steph @  
07933000930

for Foxhole Community  
Center enquires



**01803 558000**



Belfield Road  
Foxhole  
Paignton  
TQ3 3UZ





**The  
Children's  
Society**

## Wellbeing Drop-Ins

**CHANGE OF  
TIME AS OF  
8TH OCTOBER**

### **Tuesdays @ Old Parkfield House**

38 Esplanade road, Paignton TQ3 2NH

**1:00pm-4:30pm**

### **Wednesdays @ Yes!**

Yes! Bolton Street, Brixham, TQ5 9DH

**3:00pm-4:30pm**

### **Thursdays @ Checkpoint**

7 Victoria Road, Torquay, TQ1 1HU

**3:00pm-4:30pm**

**CHANGE OF  
DAY AS OF  
10TH OCTOBER**

#### **Who?**

11-24 year olds.

#### **How to refer?**

Scan the QR to register and  
a member of staff will be in  
contact.

Or attend a drop in.



**For more information contact:  
01803 200 100**

# WORLD BOOK DAY COSTUME SWAPS

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

6 MARCH 2025

DONATE, SWAP OR REHOME  
PRE-LOVED COSTUMES FOR  
**WORLD BOOK DAY 2025**

**NO COST, NO WASTE, NO FUSS**

**PAIGNTON  
LIBRARY  
20TH FEB-  
6TH MARCH**



**Libraries  
Unlimited**

  
**Recycle  
Devon**



## Drop-In/Coffee Morning: Seeking Support for Your Child's School Placement?




**Tuesday 25 February 10:00-12:00**  
**Parkfield House, Paignton. TQ3 2NH**

Have you recently received a letter or email naming a school or setting for your child or young person and it is not the setting you wanted? Do you have questions about how special school placements are allocated? Are you thinking of requesting a change of setting for your child? We invite you to join us for an informal chat.

Hosted by Torbay Council's SEND team, SENDIASS, and SEND Family Voice Torbay, this informal drop-in session is here to provide support, answer your questions, and help you move forward.

Whether you need guidance or just a listening ear, we're here to help. Pop in and access the support you need.

**For more information contact us**

 **07554 040107**

 **admin@familyvoicetorbay.org**