



KILLIGREW NEWS

19th April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable break. It was lovely to see the children looking so eager to come back to school this week. We look forward to you joining us to share the children's work at Book Look later today.

We have added lots more activities to bring the curriculum alive this term-check out the highlighted diary dates below for more information.

Kindest regards,

T. Mylotte
Head teacher

Attendance

The attendance figures for each class for the **Spring Term** are as follows. Very well done to Macaws for the best attendance last term and to Eagles who were very close behind. Let's see how many classes can achieve over 96% attendance each week this term.

Macaws	96.5%
Eagles	96.3%
Peacocks	95.6%
Puffins	95.5%
Bluejays	95.3%
Goldfinches	94.9%
Cardinals	94.9%
Nightingales	94.7%
Hummingbirds	94.5%
Toucans	94.5%
Kingfishers	94.4%
Firecrests	93.9%
Pelicans	93.2%
Parakeets	93.0%
Skylarks	92.3%

Fire Service Visit

Y2 were very lucky to have a visit from St Albans Fire Service.

The children spent some time looking at the truck and finding out about the different tools to help fight fires. They were able to compare these to firefighting tools used during the time of The Great Fire of London.



Thank you to St Albans station for taking the time to come and visit us.

Sunday Times Top 500 Schools

We are thrilled that Killigrew was mentioned in the Sunday Times top 500 primary schools list this week. We were identified at place 198 in the whole country.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sunday-times-parent-power-englands-top-500-primary-schools-revealed-p3377lboxm>

We have a few spaces available in YR-Y4. If you know any families who are moving into the area please let them know.

School Council Project

We are delighted that our School Council is working with the Parish Council on the St. Julian's Wood Woodland Trail Project. The aim is to create a cohesive design that tells the story of the wood and encourages children to visit, learn and have fun. To do this, the current boards will be updated, a woodland trail leaflet with rubbing posts will be created and there will be a carved bench that represents the bluebells, trees, plants and animals that make St Julian's Wood really special.



Our School Council reps visited St Julian's Wood and found out the following:

Why is this wood here? It was originally part of St Julian's Farm, which was a huge farm from the Middle Ages right up to 1955 when the motorway was built.

How old is it? The wood is an ancient woodland which means it has been a wood since at least 1600. That's more than 500 hundred years old.

What trees are in the wood? The main ones are hornbeam, beech, holly, cherry and oak.

Things the wood has been used for:

- firewood and charcoal
- timber was sold for building
- bark was used in the tanning industry
- trees in the wood were coppiced (which means cut right down) every 5 or 10 years. The new stems were used to weave fences or to make baskets.
- tree branches were used for cattle food

Bluebells

These are very important and easily damaged. One way to protect the bluebells when they are flowering is to ask people not to walk on them and to ask that all dogs are kept on leads.

Who made the dips and why?

The dips are marl pits. Marl is chalk that can be spread on fields to help crops grow. The marl was dug out by hand by farm workers.

The Parish Council personnel reported that they were really pleased that the children were so engaged and interested in the project following their initial visit to St Julian's Wood.

The children are currently creating posters to ask people to take care when the bluebells are in flower and to keep dogs on a lead.

Eco Council

Don't forget to read the latest Eco Council newsletter that has been sent out this week. Can you let your grass grow in May and spot any new plants growing in it? Use the Eco Council flower identification poster to help you!



Oxeye Daisy
Leucanthemum vulgare

Long stems with large daisy flowerheads. Circle of narrow white petals. Bright yellow centre. Oblong, toothed leaves.



Thyme-leaved Speedwell
Veronica serpyllifolia

A tiny plant with spreading leaves. Many small flowers. White with blue or purplish lines. Only a few flowers open at a time.



Wild Carrot
Daucus carota

Umbrella-shaped flowerheads. Small white flowers on separate rays. Hairy leaves shaped like edible carrot. Easily confused with Cow Parsley.



Creeping Buttercup
Ranunculus repens

A low, creeping plant. Shiny flowers with 5 petals. Hairy leaves divided into three.



Meadow Buttercup
Ranunculus acris

Tall plant with branching stems. Cup-shaped flowers. 5 very shiny petals. Deeply divided long, narrow leaflets.



Mouse-ear Hawkweed
Pilosella officinarum

Pale yellow flowers on long stems. Narrow, tightly packed petals. Hairy, raggedly toothed leaves. Easily confused with dandelion.



Yellow Rattle
Rhinanthus minor

Leafy spikes of yellow flowers. Shapely petals forming a hood and lip. Long, narrow and toothed leaves. Two purple teeth on the upper petal.



Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
Lotus corniculatus

Bright yellow flowers. May be tinged with red or orange. Upright, hooded petal. Lower, swollen lip petal. Small and blue-green leaves.



Join the No Mow May movement at plantlife.org.uk/nomowmay

PGCE Students

We are pleased to welcome Miss Watts & Miss Murphy back this week to complete their PGCE teacher training. They will be with us until the end of June.

Behaviour Policy

As part of ongoing school development, we are reviewing our behaviour policy.

Staff have used training and research from the 'Kindness Principle' to ensure that we continue to use a positive approach to ensure that children at Killigrew have positive behaviour.

As part of our review we are currently trialling the removal of the bottom section of the visual behaviour chart (warning, thinking time and parking). These aspects remain in our policy, but the chart is purely reward focused and enables staff to have restorative conversations with children when given a warning, thinking time or parking.

Key Stage leaders have shared this update with the children this week. We will send you a further update about our behaviour policy later in the year.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a parent governor this term. Further information about the process is being sent out separately but I thought it would be helpful to share more details with you.

Anyone has the potential to be a governor and support the school at a strategic level. We are looking for an enthusiastic, committed person but our current board would particularly benefit from someone with an educational background.

An appointment as a school governor comes with responsibilities and you would be expected to commit to attend meetings which mainly take place outside school hours. Five full governing board meetings take place at 6:00pm and three committee meetings take place at 8:00am. In addition, governors attend training and visit the school during the day.

All governors are subject to an enhanced DBS check and are required to complete child protection and induction training. If you are interested in this vacancy, do look out for the parent governor election letter.

Local Offer Webinar

The Local Offer website lets parents know what special educational needs and disabilities services are available in Hertfordshire and who can access them. www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer

The Local Offer team will take you through what's on the website and how you can use it to find the right services and support on Thursday 25th April from 8pm-9pm. If you would like to join the webinar, please email localoffer@hertfordshire.gov.uk for a joining link.

Sports Updates-Miss Walsh

Football

We have had another very successful footballing season! Thank you to all the children who showed their dedication to training and matches and also to the adults for their support and encouragement even in torrential rain!

I would like to say a massive well done to our girls' football team. We had some strong opposition in the premier league. Our progress throughout the season was noticed by other schools PE leads and I am looking forward to next year's season. Hopefully there will be some Y4 & Y5 friendly games throughout the summer.

A huge well done to both our league teams who retained both league titles for the second year running! Both teams were undefeated in their leagues-what an achievement! The B league team has been selected to represent St Albans at the Wix Cup tournament in May and we have the semi-final of the St Albans Cup too. A special mention to Rio in Y6 who stepped up and refereed a couple of matches.

Netball

We have had an extremely successful season too. We won the autumn league which took us into the premier division where our opponents were 3-form entry and private schools. We showed determination in every game and gave each team a challenging game! We also had a great Saturday morning tournament. The Y5 team entered a separate

tournament which gave us great experience for next season. After Easter, a Y4 team will be representing Killigrew in a Hi-Five development netball tournament. Well done to everyone and thank you for your dedication to the sport.

Cross Country

The 2023-2024 Cross Country season has come to an end. I am very pleased to announce that Evan in Y6 won the overall boy competition proving to be the most consistent boy in St Albans over the five cross country matches. A massive well done to you Evan- your hard work and dedication to cross that finish line first was always great to watch!

Sports Kits

If your child has taken part in a school sports event, please ensure that the kit is returned in the zip bag provided. We have had a lot not returned this year which has a knock-on-effect on the next fixture and having enough kits for everyone.

We have a cricket league, school game events, athletics and more football throughout the summer term so I would be grateful for the kits to be returned as soon as possible please. The football league B team still has a number of games left to play, so please return these kits when the season is fully over. Many thanks.

PTA News

The PTA would like to welcome you all back with the news that the Easter Fayre raised £675.84 for the school. We are especially grateful to all our volunteers without whom the event would not have been possible.

2024 Panto tickets

On the evening of Thursday 25th April we will be offering you the opportunity to buy tickets for the always popular Alban Arena pantomime in December 2024. Look out for a link on the PTA's WhatsApp and Facebook groups early next week.

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed, you may be interested in the following information regarding free school meals for your child. [Free school meals](#)

Is my child too ill for school?

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Feedback Form

Please add any positive comments, concerns or suggestions:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=UKgBZMCcg0yzyPnqbCwRs9svUSsaXKhrJlleIKv0S9UNURUFM2MTYzODILUEk5MVNMOVpCN0lWQy4u>

Name:

Child's Class:

Dates-Academic Year 2023-24

SUMMER TERM 2024	
Date	Event
Monday 22 nd April	Y3 trip
w.b. 22 nd April	Y3 & Y4 tennis lessons begin at Greenwood Park (all term)
Wednesday 24 th April	School nurse visiting YR & Y1 (follow up hearing checks)
Thursday 25 th April	Parent Forum meeting
Friday 26 th April	Kingfishers assembly (parents and grandparents welcome) Y6 local trip-Burstons
Monday 29 th April	PTA YR Bake Sale
Wednesday 1 st May	Y1 local walk
Wednesday 1 st -Thursday 2 nd May	Y5 mini residential
Friday 3 rd May	Puffins assembly (parents and grandparents welcome)
Monday 6 th May	Bank holiday-school closed
Thursday 9 th May	Y2 Scooterbility
Friday 10 th May 9:00am	Cardinals assembly (parents and grandparents welcome)
13 th -16 th May	KS2 SATs week
Friday 17 th May	National Numeracy Day
Tuesday 21 st May	Y3 healthy eating workshop
Wednesday 22 nd May	School nurse visiting (health checks for younger YR children)
Thursday 23 rd May	YR trip to Roald Dahl Museum
Friday 24 th May (morning)	KS2 sports day (parents and grandparents welcome)
Monday 27 th -Friday 31 st May	Half term-school closed
Monday 3 rd June	INSET day-school closed
Tuesday 4 th June	PCSO talk for Y5 & Y6 (online safety)
Tuesday 4 th - Friday 7 th June	Y6 Bikeability (optional-more information to follow)
Tuesday 4 th -Friday 14 th June	Y4 multiplication table checks
Friday 7 th June 9:00am 3.20pm-3.45pm	Nightingales assembly (parents and grandparents welcome) Book Look (parents welcome)

w.b. 10 th June	Y1 phonics screening check week
Monday 10 th June	PTA Year 4 Bake Sale
Friday 14 th June	Skylarks assembly (parents and grandparents welcome)
Tuesday 25 th June	Y2 trip Southend
Wednesday 26 th June	School photographer-class photos
24 th June-5 th July	National Fieldwork fortnight
Saturday 29 th June	PTA Summer Fayre (11:30am-2:30pm)
Thursday 4 th July	Music assembly (children who have instrumental lessons) Parents and grandparents welcome
Monday 8 th July	PTA Year 5 Bake Sale
Tuesday 9 th July 9:00am	Y6 play (parents and grandparents welcome)
Wednesday 10 th July 9:00am	Y6 play (parents and grandparents welcome)
Thursday 11 th July	Transition day-meet the new teacher
Friday 12 th July 9:00am	Infant sports day Mr Mitchell's music assembly (pm) Annual school report sent home
Friday 19 th July 9:00am	Y6 leavers' assembly (parents and grandparents welcome) End of term for children-school finishes at 2:15pm/2:20pm Non-uniform day for winning house (KS2)
Monday 22 nd & Tuesday 23 rd July	INSET days-school closed

Term Dates 2024-25 (Next academic year)	
Monday 2 nd September 2024	INSET Day (school closed)
28 th October 2024-1 st November 2024	Half term holiday (school closed)
23 rd December 2024-3 rd January 2025	Christmas holiday (school closed)
17 th February 2025-21 st February 2025	Half term holiday (school closed)
7 th April 2025-21 st April 2025	Easter holiday (school closed)
26 th May 2025-30 th May 2025	Half term holiday (school closed)
24 th July 2025-3 rd September 2025	Summer holiday (school closed)

*Please note that we will add 4 **INSET days** and 1 **Occasional day** (when the school is closed) for 2024-25 later in the year.