



## Welcome Back to Kidgate!

### ★ A Welcome from the Principal

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

A very warm welcome to the new school year. It has been wonderful to see the children return to Kidgate looking so smart, enthusiastic and ready to learn. I hope all our families had an enjoyable summer and that the children are excited about the year ahead.

At Kidgate, we remain committed to providing a happy, safe and ambitious environment where every child is encouraged to achieve their very best. We will continue to have high expectations for learning, behaviour and presentation, alongside the care and support children need to feel secure, confident and successful.

Consistency will continue to be an important focus for us. Clear routines and expectations help children understand what is expected of them and allow our classrooms and the wider school to remain calm, purposeful and positive places to learn.

Safeguarding remains at the heart of everything we do. Every member of staff has a responsibility to keep children safe, and we encourage children to speak to a trusted adult whenever they are worried or unsure. Our partnership with parents and carers is an essential part of this.

Excellent attendance is also vital. Every school day matters, and regular attendance gives children the best opportunity to learn, build friendships and make strong progress. Thank you for supporting us by ensuring children attend regularly and arrive on time.

Most importantly, we want children to enjoy coming to Kidgate and to be proud of their school. Throughout the year we will continue to encourage everyone to be respectful, resilient and kind. There is so much to look forward to, and by continuing to work together we can make this another happy, successful and memorable year for our children.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

**Mrs Susan Cook | Principal**



### Healthy Snacks at Break Time!

KS2 children can bring in a healthy, nutritious snack to enjoy at break time. There are lots of great options to choose from, including:



**Fresh fruit**



**Dried fruit, such as raisins**



**Non-nut cereal bars**



**Fruit Winder-type items**

Thank you for helping us encourage healthy choices and supporting your child to bring a suitable snack for break time. ❤️

# PE KIT UPDATE

CHILDREN CAN NOW COME TO SCHOOL IN THEIR PE KIT! 🏆

## From next week for Years 1–6

We are delighted to announce that, with the full launch of our new Kidgate Academy PE kit, children may now come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE day. 🎉

- 👕 Kidgate Academy PE shirt
- 👖 Blue or black shorts
- 👖 OR blue/black tracksuit bottoms

## PE DAYS

| Year Group | PE Day                                                                               |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Year 6     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>6C – Thursdays</li><li>6KC – Fridays</li></ul> |
| Year 5     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Both classes – Tuesdays</li></ul>              |
| Year 4     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4DA – Mondays</li><li>4W – Thursdays</li></ul> |
| Year 3     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Both classes – Fridays</li></ul>               |
| Year 2     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Both classes – Tuesdays</li></ul>              |
| Year 1     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Both classes – Fridays</li></ul>               |
| EYFS       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Both classes – Wednesdays*</li></ul>           |

\* Reception teachers will let families know the date that this will begin.

## 🏃 Ready for Action!

We hope this will make PE days a little easier for families and ensure that the children are comfortable, ready and prepared for their PE lessons. 😊

Thank you, as always, for your support in helping us maintain our school uniform expectations. ❤️

Kidgate Academy PE kit – ready for action! 🏃 ⭐

# FREE SCHOOL MEALS – SEPTEMBER 2026

## Changes to Free School Meal Eligibility

There are changes to eligibility for free school meals from September 2026.

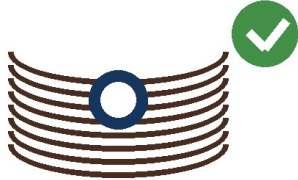
Applications can be made via the Lincolnshire County Council website.

[Apply for free school meals – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

We would encourage families to check the updated eligibility criteria, even if they have not previously qualified.

## Hair Accessories

As part of our school uniform expectations, children should not wear decorative hair accessories. **Only plain bobbles or thin blue / black ribbons should be worn.** Please avoid large bows, patterned scrunchies, brightly coloured clips or other decorative accessories.

|                                                                                    |                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |
| ✓ Plain bobbles                                                                    | ✓ Thin ribbons                                                                       |

*Thank you for helping us keep our uniform expectations simple and consistent.*

## A little reminder about school bags

We know how much children love adding little touches to their school bags, but we kindly ask that keychains and large bag accessories are left at home.

They can be easily lost, become caught on things or sometimes prove a little distracting during the school day.

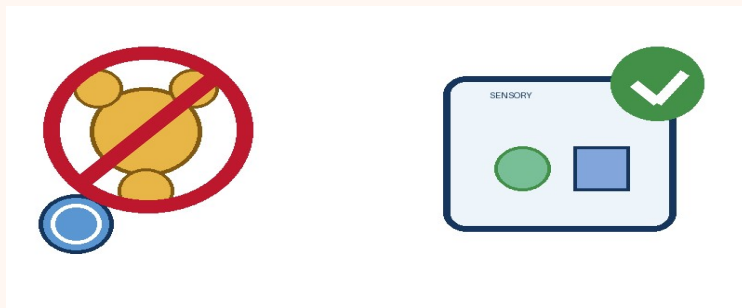
Thank you so much for your understanding and for helping us to keep school bags simple, safe and practical. 😊

|                                                                                     |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |
| ✓ Keep bags simple and practical                                                    | ✗ Please leave keychains and large accessories at home                                |

## **No Toys from Home**

**Please do not send toys or sensory items into school from home.** Toys can be easily lost or damaged and can sometimes become a distraction during the school day.

**Where a child needs a sensory aid to support them in school, suitable sensory resources will be provided by the school.**



*Thank you for helping us keep personal belongings safe and classroom routines calm and consistent.*



## **FIRST HALF-TERM DIARY DATES**

**September – October 2026**

*A few important dates for families to pop in the diary.*

| DATE                                 | EVENT                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Thursday 10 September</b>         | See Where We Learn – parents invited into their child’s new class to see where they sit, where they keep their work and quick chat with the class teacher.<br>3.25pm |
| <b>Friday 11 September</b>           | Autumn Curriculum Newsletter sent to families.                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Thursday 17 September</b>         | Online Safety – Years 1, 2, 3 and 4.                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Friday 18 September</b>           | Online Safety – Years 4, 5 and 6.                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Tuesday 22 September</b>          | Ocean Live with Steve Backshall – 2.00–3.00pm.                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Monday 5 October</b>              | Writes individual school photographs.                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Friday 9 October</b>              | Flu vaccinations.                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Wednesday 14 October</b>          | KS2 Cross Country – afternoon, TBC                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Friday 16 October</b>             | Harvest Festival – date to be confirmed.                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Monday 19 – Friday 30 October</b> | HALF-TERM HOLIDAY.                                                                                                                                                   |



## Kidgate Academy are Lincolnshire Co-op Community Champions

Great news! Kidgate Academy are Lincolnshire Co-op Community Champions.

This means that they will be raising money for us from 06 Sept 2026 – 06 Mar 2027 every time anyone uses their Co-op loyalty card.

Just to clarify this is the Lincolnshire Co-op on Newbridge Hill near ALDI and not the big one in the town centre or the one on Newmarket.



## ATTENDANCE – EVERY DAY MATTERS

### Good attendance makes a real difference

Regular attendance gives children the best opportunity to learn, make progress, build friendships and feel fully part of school life. Even a few missed days can quickly add up over the course of a year.

To put attendance into perspective:

### EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS

What attendance can mean across a 190-day school year

|      |                    |                         |
|------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 100% | 0 days lost        | Every day in school     |
| 97%  | about 6 days lost  | just over 1 school week |
| 95%  | about 10 days lost | nearly 2 school weeks   |
| 90%  | 19 days lost       | nearly 4 school weeks   |
| 80%  | 38 days lost       | nearly 8 school weeks   |

Figures are approximate and based on 190 possible school days.

**For example, 80% attendance means a child is absent for around 38 school days across the year — nearly eight school weeks of learning. At 90% attendance, around 19 school days are missed, which is nearly four school weeks.** We understand that children are sometimes genuinely too unwell to attend school. However, we ask families to support us by making attendance and punctuality a priority whenever children are well enough to be in school.

If attendance begins to fall, we will work with families to understand any barriers and offer support where we can. Our aim is always to work together so that every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

**Thank you for your continued support in helping every Kidgate child make every school day count. ♥**