

The King's Church of England Primary School

Cumberland Road, Kew, Richmond, TW9 3HJ

Telephone: 020 8940 3580

Headteacher: Ms Karen Verge

www.kings.richmond.sch.uk

email: info@kings.richmond.sch.uk



Monday 24th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over recent months, we have been reflecting carefully on the impact of smartphones on children's wellbeing and development. As a school, we have been supportive of the Smartphone Free Childhood movement (see letter below) and, in line with several other local primary and secondary schools, we have now decided to make a change to our policy.

From the start of Spring Term 2026, children will no longer be permitted to bring smartphones into school.

We recognise that some children in Years 5 and 6 walk home independently and that families wish them to have a way to stay in touch. For these pupils, we will now allow only basic "brick phones" (non-smartphones) to be brought into school. As before, these must be handed to the class teacher at the start of the school day and will be returned at home time.

This change reflects growing evidence about the effects of smartphones on children's mental health, focus, and social development. Research continues to show that early access to smartphones can expose children to online risks, affect sleep, concentration, and wellbeing, and reduce time spent in face-to-face play, conversation and real-world learning.

By becoming a smartphone-free school, we aim to support families in setting healthy boundaries and to help all children enjoy a more balanced, connected and active childhood. We hope this will also ease the pressure many parents feel to provide a smartphone simply because "everyone else has one."

We thank you for your understanding and support as we make this positive change for our school community. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

The Senior Leadership Team

[Letter dated 22nd July 2024](#) - Smartphone Free Childhood Campaign with links to information and evidence.

*Encouraging every child to reach their full potential, nurtured and supported
in a Christian community that lives and learns by the values of Love, Compassion and Respect*

