



Kirkbride Primary School

Kirkbride

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Head Teacher: Mrs. K. L. Barley

Friday 1st April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I cannot believe we are coming to the end of my first term as Head Teacher of Kirkbride Primary School, and what a whirlwind term it has been! I really feel at home at Kirkbride and that is down to the amazing support and warmth from my staff and the community – thank you for making me feel so welcome. We have a fabulous team here in school, with the staff, Governors and the PTA all working hard to ensure every child has safe, fun and memorable learning experiences. Whilst we have had lots of challenges, with COVID, regulation changes and other matters behind the scenes, the staff have remained positive and we've always kept the children at the heart.

We have lots to celebrate from this Spring term; getting back into the hall for assemblies, lunches and events and our new vision and values which have bolstered our team. However, we also have lots to look forward to in the Summer. We will be informing you of our new Phonics scheme for September, which all staff will be trained on next term; we will be letting you know about our exciting new curriculum, which all staff have been working hard on this term; we will be launching a new website; we will have PTA events (Easter Bingo soon) and Sports Day, along with the Forest Schools sessions for all classes weekly and a Y4/5/6 residential to Malham. It's all very exciting.

The focus on our new school values of **Respect, Friendship, Honesty, Ambition, Trust and Kindness**, have already begun to make a difference and as you know, we have focussed on Friendship this term. As a school and staff, including our regular visitors, we model these throughout our days in everything we do, and we have been noticing the children demonstrate them too. Next term we are focussing on Ambition, with hopes, dreams and aspirations being very relevant, especially as we move into the transition period for new classes and schools in September.

New staffing arrangements

We have some new staffing arrangements after the Easter Break, and we are delighted to be welcoming Miss Katie Maxwell, as full-time Teaching Assistant in Acorn class. There are also a few changes to staffing in other classes and clubs.

Miss Katie Kyffin will be back supporting Ash class again, and I know you'll join me in congratulating her on passing her End Assessment for her Teaching Assistant Level 3 course, with a Distinction! We are all very proud of her. Thank you to all of the staff who have supported her development over her course and enabled her to flourish.

Mrs Sarah Simpson, has been a fantastic support in Ash class this half term and will remain as a mid-day supervisor with us, but will also be joining Ash class on Mondays and Thursday next term in the mornings as a Teaching Assistant and helper.

We welcome Graham Simpson from Mountain Leopard Training, who will be delivering Forest Schools every Monday afternoon to classes of children, and then providing an after-school club. You will already have received information about this. We are very excited about this unique offer as part of our core curriculum for all children, here at Kirkbride, using our own Forest area, pond and site.

In addition to the curriculum sports afternoons they already deliver, we are very pleased to be offering football with Carlisle United Community Coaches on a Tuesday after school and Michael Barnes from GLL coaching on a Friday after school. I realise there is a small fee for these clubs at the moment, but I am hoping to provide these at a subsidised rate or even free, in the future once we know numbers.

We no longer have Rowan Alexander working in our school, for weekly football and after school club, having coached many children in the 12 years he has attended at Kirkbride. We wish him well for the future.



Sports and Forest Schools

Here are the days for the first half of the Summer term, that your child's class will need P.E. kit or alternative clothing for. Children should wear uniform on all days, and can now bring their kit into school again to get changed in school.

Acorn Class – Forest School clothing on Monday, PE kit for Tuesday (Tennis coach)

Ash Class - Forest school clothing on Monday, PE kit for Thursday (school led PE).

Elm Class - PE kit for Friday (multi skills with GLL coaching)

Oak Class – PE kit for Tuesday (football with Carlisle United)

Whole School Wheelchair basketball

We had a fantastic day yesterday with Nat Pattinson from NP Coaching and all children had a brilliant session learning about disabilities, inclusion, and keeping fit. Please see out Facebook page and Dojo for photographs.

Community and Business Support

We are very grateful for all our local community and business support and we appreciate everything they have done for our children this term. Here are some more amazing contributions since the last newsletter. We are overwhelmed by all of this generosity and thank everyone involved.

- CFM Cash For Kids, kindly provided laptops and three bikes for some of our vulnerable children in school, which will make a big difference to them.
- Kip MacGrath Education, donated 50 children's books for our lovely 'look for a book' around the village, World Book Week event.
- Harrisons butchers in Wigton, kindly donated the 80 potatoes we used for the Potato book character competition in World Book Week.
- Co-op Wigton, donated all of the oranges for the Christingles.
- Asda at Kingstown in Carlisle and Co-op in Wigton, very kindly donated Easter Eggs so we were able to give every child an egg.
- The kindness and generosity shown from our community with our Ukraine Donation appeal, and the time given to deliver the goods.

Covid -19 update

As you will be aware, from 1st April changes have been made to testing and isolation. The interim guidance we have received from Cumbria County Council is:

- From 1 April, anyone with a positive COVID-19 test result will be advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for five days, which is when they are most infectious. **For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be three days.** More generally, if an adult or child has not tested, but has respiratory symptoms and a high temperature, they will be advised to stay at home until the high temperature has gone and they feel well enough to resume their normal activities.

We will of course continue to have in place baseline infection prevention and control measures that will help to manage the spread of infection, ensure occupied spaces are well-ventilated and let fresh air in, and will be reinforcing good hygiene practices such as hand washing and cleaning.

Other information to share with you:

- **From April, healthy 5-11 year olds will also be offered the COVID-19 vaccine.** Vaccinations will take place outside of schools in vaccination centres, pharmacies, GPs and walk-in centres. Parents of 5-11 year olds will receive a letter from the NHS with further information. [Online bookings for 5-11 year olds will open in April.](#)

Schools have been told that letters with full advice from the County Council, will be ready for the return to school on 20th April, which I will share with you at the earliest opportunity on Scholarpack and Dojo.

As always, thank you for your continued support and please do get in touch if there is anything we can help with. I will keep you updated on Dojo with any changes during the break and please contact me privately via Dojo, if you need to. Have a restful and safe Easter Break and we will see you on **WEDNESDAY 20th APRIL** at 8.30am for all children.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Karen Barley

Head Teacher

