



Kirkbride Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs. K. L. Barley

Monday 17th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been a busy few weeks and we've had an exciting start to the new year and term. I remind myself that this is day 10, of my role at Kirkbride Primary School, and I would like to thank you all for your patience, cooperation and support with the small changes made over the last few weeks. Making these small changes has made a big difference in school and I am very grateful for your efforts. The children have been great with the new P.E. arrangements and this week we start with a new P.E. timetable for the term ahead. You will have received the Class letters and information outlining your child's PE days, learning topics and other information on Friday by email.

New Children

Some new children joined us this term in Acorn Class – Thomas Gibson, Frankie Pape and Rowan Dobson have made an excellent start and settled really well into school life. It's been lovely to meet them and I'm sure they'll continue to enjoy coming to 'big school'.

New in-school arrangements

As we take baby steps to return to 'normal', we are making some small changes this week in school to bring the children together and also to make the best use of lunchtime and learning time. It is important to us to begin bringing the whole school community back together, safely and carefully, and be able to return to some of the activities we have missed. Having spoken to the team, here are a few changes we have made a start with, they are mentioned below: -

Whole School Assembly

We have decided to have a short whole school assembly on Wednesday morning now. All staff will wear masks, sit distanced and we will have the windows and doors open to ensure there is ventilation.

Lunchtime arrangements

As of today, we will be returning back to our usual lunchtime arrangements, pre-covid. We have risk assessed it and feel it is the right time to bring the KS2 children back into the hall for their lunch instead of eating in their classrooms. The feedback from many children today was that they were pleased to have 'something normal'.

In addition, Miss Kyffin, the KS1 TA has set up a sports leader session every lunchtime for KS2 children before they go in for their lunch. This has enabled them to have some focussed activities, and enjoy doing some new games. There is also a 'quiet zone' set up with colouring materials and books for those who would like a calmer play and lunchtime. Developing the role of the pupil play leaders is really important to us, so that the children are able to support each other and have a voice in making their play times and lunchtimes a fun and happy experience.



Snack trolley

Having listened to the team and children, we have introduced a snack trolley at KS2 breaktime. It was a great success today, with the children enjoying a range of healthy options, and helping them to bridge the long gap between breakfast and lunchtime. I was very impressed at the variety the children selected on their shopping list for me on Friday. Snack options include; mini peppers, mini cucumbers, carrot sticks, cherry tomatoes, apples, bananas, raisin boxes and satsumas. Their will be toast available on Friday's with any fruit/veg that is left. All snack items are 10p and we encourage the children to choose an item daily, up to 20p (2 items). The PTA have kindly offered to pay for a new special snack trolley from their funds and I will send you photos once it arrives. Thank you 🙏

Class news

Acorn Class have a wonderful new sparkly reading corner in their classroom that the children have loved using today. It has provided a quiet space for them to choose and enjoy a book. Well done Miss Fox-carter for sorting this.

Ash class have an awesome Castle Role play area starting today that the Y1/2 team have worked hard on together. The children have had an active part in designing and decorating the area and have had great fun today as Kings and Queens.

Elm class are going on an Egyptian activity and learning trip to Tullie House tomorrow, please ensure your child has a packed lunch. They are learning about Teeth and have looked at the effects of brushing in their learning in science today.

Oak Class have started their learning about Fractions today, with some fabulous thinking, reasoning and problem solving for this tricky maths topic. They have also been learning about balanced arguments and they are forming arguments to send to me about whether we should wear uniform, and if they can have an additional playtime. We'll see how persuasive they are and how that goes!

Please check out our Facebook page for photos of all the updated areas, trips, visits and events happening at Kirkbride School. It is updated regularly and really shows the amazing learning and fun your child has at our school.

Group work and tutoring - Mrs Minns

We welcome Mrs Minns back into school who will be working with small groups of children in Elm and Oak to support their learning. The groups have been moved around a bit, but the children will continue to receive excellent learning and teaching support in class and with Mrs Minns.

Covid -19 update

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19 in your child's class or within school, by either a lateral flow test or PCR, you will be informed by email. Please follow the instructions set out in the letter, government guidance on isolation and school guidance has changed from since the start of January. If you have any questions, please contact the school office. Please can all parents continue to wear face-coverings when entering the school grounds. I apologise if these letters are sent out over the weekend, but feel that it is important to let you know as soon as we do, so that you can make the necessary arrangements and adjustments.

Thank you for your continued support and please do get in touch if there is anything we can support with.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Karen Barley

Head Teacher

