



Kirkburton Middle School

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Enjoying, Achieving, Succeeding Together

3rd September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope you and your family are well and, despite the distinct lack of sunshine, you have had a pleasant summer break. I am writing to update you on the return to school next week and what we hope will feel like a more traditional school year. There is lots to tell you so please accept my apologies about the length of this communication

Return to school

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time for everybody and this year feels particularly special. We are very much looking forward to seeing all our pupils return and, in particular, welcoming our new Year 6 cohort and pupils in other years who are joining us for the first time. Our new school year will start as follows-

- Monday 6th September:** INSET day. No pupils in school.
- Tuesday 7th September:** First day for Year 6 pupils. Staff will be on hand to meet you and direct you to the Year 6 playground when you arrive.
- Wednesday 8th September:** Year 7 pupils return. Please wait for the start of the school day on the all-weather pitch and the playground outside the bungalow.
- Thursday 9th September:** Year 8 pupils return. Please wait for the start of the school day on the all-weather pitch and the playground outside the bungalow.

We ask pupils aim to arrive in school between 8.40am and 8.50am each day in order that they can be seated and ready to learn in their form rooms for 8.55am.

All pupils will spend their first morning in school with their form tutor. For Year 6, this time will allow pupils to get to know each other better as well as allowing them to become more familiar with the school layout and daily routines. For Year 7 and 8, as well as the usual administration tasks on the first day, this time will be used to conduct lateral flow tests (subject to consent) in line with national guidance.

All pupils will then start their new timetables after lunch on their first day back.

Year 7 and 8 Covid-19 Testing

Parents are reminded that they must provide consent for their child to be tested in school. We had a fantastic uptake from our new Year 8 pupils last March and have carried this consent over. Thank you to those parents of children in our new Year 7 who have provided consent. If you have still not provided consent but you would like your child to take a test in school please follow the link here: [Provide Consent for Testing](#). Pupils will take their second test during the school day on either Monday 13th September – Year 7, or Tuesday 14th September – Year 8. I would once again like to thank all the volunteers who have offered to come into school to support with the testing, your help is greatly appreciated.



Covid-19 arrangements for September

As you will be aware, Step 4 marked a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. We recognise people have differing opinions when it comes to how best to respond to the pandemic. In school we are required to follow the national guidance set out by the government; we will also continue to work very closely with public health colleagues in the local authority. The attached leaflet provides a summary of the key changes to restrictions for the new school year.

At KMS this will look like:

- **Cleaning, ventilation and hand hygiene** – We will continue with our enhanced daily cleaning practices in school. All pupils will be asked to sanitise / wash their hands regularly throughout the school day. Classrooms and the school building will be well ventilated, whilst ensuring we maintain a comfortable teaching environment.
- **Bubbles** – There will no longer be bubbles or reduced mixing in school. Pupils will once again move around the school to their lessons and all specialist teaching rooms and spaces will once again be open.
- **Face coverings** – These are no longer recommended in education and childcare settings. We will however support any member of our school community who wishes to continue to wear a face covering. **It is recommended that pupils continue to wear face coverings on school buses and we ask for your support with this.**
- **Contact tracing** – As stated at the end of last term, the school will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. All contact tracing will be provided by NHS Test and Trace. We will provide support if requested.
- **Self – isolation** – Pupils are no longer required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive case. We would ask that whenever somebody is identified as a close contact they take a PCR test in order that we can minimise the spread of the virus in school.
- **Testing** – We ask, following the two on site tests next week, that Year 7 and 8 pupils continue with the twice weekly home testing on a Wednesday and a Sunday. Test kits will be provided by school. The government are due to review these arrangements at the end of the month.
- **Vaccinations** – All 12-15-year-olds with underlying health conditions or who are household contacts of the immunosuppressed have been offered a vaccine. We recognise people have mixed views on who should and should not be vaccinated. Most medical professionals seem to think rates of infection will start to rise again once schools are open and the recommendation therefore is that people who are offered the vaccine should take this up in order to help prevent serious illness if infected.
- **Stepping up measures** – The school has drawn up an 'Outbreak Management Plan' which outlines contingency arrangements in the event of a local outbreak. We have also updated our whole school Covid-19 risk assessment which can also be viewed on the [school website](#).

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and we will continue to work hard to ensure that all our pupils regularly attend school. Absences should be reported in the usual way, please see the school website for further [details about reporting your child's absence](#).

Uniform

We will once again be using the PE changing rooms this year and so pupils must wear [full school uniform](#) every day. We do keep a stock of clean, spare uniform in school, including shoes. Where pupils arrive at school in non-school uniform, we will endeavour to supply uniform which pupils will be expected to wear. Please contact Ms Clark (Head of Key Stage 3) if you have any questions or concerns about uniform. Over the summer we have taken out our

'traditional' cloakrooms and we are awaiting delivery of lockers. The lockers will give pupils somewhere to store their PE kits and other belongings during the day; we will remind them to take PE kits home for washing. The move to lockers should also hopefully reduce the mountains of lost property we seem to accumulate each year.

Remote Education

The school will continue to provide remote education for any pupils who are absent as a result of Covid-19. In most cases this will involve pupils joining the lesson via Microsoft Teams. We do not expect pupils to join remote lessons if they are ill with symptoms. If your child is asymptomatic or they feel well enough to attend remote lessons, please contact the office. Where pupils are absent for a non Covid-19 reason, they will not be able to attend live lessons however teachers will support pupils to catch up any missed work.

School Meals and ParentPay

We will continue to operate a full school lunch menu which will now be provided by our new caterers Academy Catering. Please see the attached menu for your reference. If you require information on allergens or your child suffers from a food intolerance please contact Rachel Barrett in the school office to discuss this – if you have not done so already. ParentPay details will be distributed early next week to those who require them.

Buses

Please see the [Metro website](#) for full details about our school bus services. Please be aware that the KM1 will now be operated as a double decked vehicle by Team Pennine. As a result the KM2 will no longer operate from Sept 2021. We have only learnt this information today by viewing the Metro website ourselves, it has not been communicated directly with the school. We will be following up with Metro in relation to this.

School life

We will be providing a full curriculum offer to all pupils from day 1 and all specialist teaching rooms will once again be available including the music room and our new drama studio. Our aim is to provide as full a school experience as possible to pupils, including as many of the enrichment and extracurricular activities which make KMS such a special place to learn and work, as possible. We will keep parents updated via the fortnightly parent bulletin as new opportunities become available.

I hope this letter has answered many of the questions you may have regarding the new school year. If you have any further questions, please contact school in the usual way from Monday. Once again, I would like to state how excited everybody at KMS is about the upcoming year, one which we hope will be remembered for lots of positive reasons. For any families with pupils in the new Year 9 at Shelley, please pass on our best wishes for their first day, I know they will be fantastic.

I wish you a good weekend and we look forward to seeing all our pupils as they return to KMS next week ready to enjoy, achieve and succeed together.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Taylor
Headteacher