



Kirkburton Middle School

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Dear Parent/ Carer

I hope you are well. With so much happening in school at the moment, I would like to update you on the latest news and also outline some of our plans for the remainder of the term.

Covid 19 Update

The good news is that the number of positive cases reported seems to be slowing down. As such, the steps we have taken to control the spread of the virus appear to be working. Since my letter last week, I have had three telephone meetings with three different public health consultants. All three have been very satisfied with the steps the school has taken in response to the increased number of Covid cases. Their ongoing advice is that we should continue to ask close contacts of any positive cases to self-isolate for 14 days and to close bubbles where there are multiple cases and where we believe school is the common link. They highlighted once again how high the rates of transmission are in the community and have asked us to remind parents of the importance of pupils following all guidelines both when in school and when at home. I have also had ongoing conversations with the local authority and I met with members of the Mast Academy Trust board again last night to update them on the situation in school. The school has been deep cleaned at the end of last week and we will repeat this process again on Friday.

Bubbles

We have made the decision to make some changes to the structure of our bubbles for the remainder of the term. Pupils will now have all their lessons, including English and maths, as a tutor group in their form rooms. They will also spend their social times together as a form. We have taken this decision because we think this is the best way prevent further spread of the virus; it should also reduce the number of people who need to self-isolate should a member of our community test positive for Covid 19. We recognise some pupils will be disappointed to hear this news however we're sure they will understand our reasons behind this change. We will review this decision at the end of the Christmas holidays.

Remote Learning

It has been great to see staff delivering our first live lessons this week and we hope to be able to extend our offer over the coming weeks. Our focus at the moment has been on those pupils in the closed bubbles and our aim is for pupils to receive a minimum of two maths lessons each week, two English lessons and a form period. Please be aware that at the start of the week we had ten teachers absent due to illness and as such they weren't in a position to teach. We ask for your patience whilst we put full plans in place. Where live lessons aren't possible, there will still be ample, high quality, material on the [remote learning section](#) of the school website in order to ensure pupils do not fall behind in their learning.



If you have any questions regarding your child's email address or logging on to Teams, please email our IT Technician Jamie Webster jwebster@scissett.com who will be able to offer further assistance.

School Lunches

A reminder that we are serving a full menu of hot lunches including hot puddings this week. The quality provided by the relief team has been excellent and they have been extremely impressed with how well-mannered and polite our pupils are. The relief team will stay with us until our own team return next week.

Christmas

Despite all the challenges we've faced this term, we are determined that Christmas will come to KMS this year. Unfortunately we won't be able to hold some of our traditional events such as the annual carol service at the Parish Church and the Year 6 visit to the pantomime. We do have some other ideas however so watch this space for further details. The last week of term will contain some celebration events as we feel the children deserve some fun after a hard term, we are also conscious that pupils have missed a lot learning in recent times and this will be reflected in our plans. We're looking to source a real tree for the school this year and would be grateful if anybody could suggest somebody locally who may be able to help. I'm also led to believe some of our decorations also need updating so please bear us in mind if you are replacing your own decorations this year.

INSET Day

As previously mentioned, this Friday is an INSET day and the school will be closed to pupils.

I hope this letter answers some of the questions you may have at this moment in time and I will write again soon to update you on the latest Covid 19 figures in school. Hopefully, if the last two days are anything to go by, things are most definitely starting to quieten down.

As always, we have been extremely impressed with the diligent way in which pupils have continued to approach their studies during these strange times whether they are in school or at home. Thank you for your continued support and please contact school if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Taylor
Headteacher