



Kirkburton Middle School – Parent Bulletin
22nd May – 29th May 2020

Headteacher Update

On the week that many of our pupils would have been enjoying a trip to France, we at least had some weather to rival the Ardèche this week. We have heard rumours of Mr Killock trying recreate some parts of the trip in a paddling pool in his back garden however as yet we have no firm proof of this. It's been an extremely busy week in school preparing for a possible wider opening to Year 6 pupils. As part of this process, the Trust commissioned an independent health and safety inspector to visit our site and review our proposed arrangements and risk assessments. I'm pleased to say they were very happy with what we've put in place. The health and well-being of all our pupils, staff and the wider school community remains our number one priority and as such our plans will be under constant review. We now await the government's decision on whether to press ahead with the reopening of schools when it reviews the latest science on Thursday 28th May. If the evidence does not support this decision at that time, it will be delayed. Please be reassured that any final decision to open our school site will be made at a local level; if our risk assessments tell us it's not safe to open, we won't. I have been contacted by many Year 6 parents this week with regards to a potential return to school, many asking for my advice as to whether or not they should send their child back to school. This is a decision I cannot make I'm afraid, I can direct you to all the latest guidance however the final decision must be yours. This is probably the most difficult decision any of us have ever had to make as parents and we fully trust you to make the decision that you feel is right for your family. Whatever decision you make you have my full support. Unfortunately at the time of writing, I confirm a definite date when we will be able to welcome back more pupils however I will write to Year 6 parents as soon as I know more.

I have spoken at length with a couple of parents this week in relation to their child's remote working. Both parents were rightly worried about the potential long term effect missing a chunk of education may have on their child's future prospects. As teachers, and also for many of us parents ourselves, we completely appreciate your concerns however we are confident that once pupils finally return to school we will be able to put in place the necessary support to address any gaps in learning which have developed during the time away from school. I've also received queries from parents in relation to the quantity and frequency of marking and feedback they can expect from teachers. As stated in the remote learning expectations document which I shared with you at the start of the term, teachers will set one piece of assessed work roughly once every 2-4 weeks (depending on curriculum time). Staff will plan a sequence of lessons for pupils to complete independently and then use the assessed piece of work to ascertain whether or not pupils have a good understanding of the topic covered. These findings will then inform future planning. After each assessed piece of work teachers will provide either general class feedback for pupils to go back and 'find and fix' errors in their work or in some cases they may also provide personalised feedback. In-between these assessments staff will often supply answer sheets for pupils to self-assess their work – as is often the case in school. Where pupils are struggling they may want to try the following-

Brain: try and solve the problem yourself

Book: try and look up the answer – BBC Bitesize is always a good place to start

Buddy: ask a friend – this could mean messaging somebody from your class or asking a family member

Boss: check with your teacher – please feel free to email class teachers directly if you need help

Following feedback, we are also formalising our approaches in relation to informing parents of whether or not their child has submitted the assessed tasks – please see below for further information. In school whenever pupils fail to complete homework or class tasks, this is often recorded as a negative comment on Class Charts. We have

refrained from doing this during the closure period, and will continue to do so, because many parents have told us they are working through the work set at a pace that they feel is best for their child. As such they may have made a conscious decision not to upload all set work. Class Charts now allows us to inform you as to whether or not your child has submitted the requested work without issuing a negative point. We recognise parents are working extremely hard at home balancing the demands of everyday life in lockdown alongside home schooling. We would ask for your continued support by spending five minutes each day checking Class Charts with your child and checking they have completed the necessary work. When doing this, you will also be able to see if they have submitted work as requested. Please contact school if you need your Class Charts login details. Parents continue to ask if we plan to start any remote teaching via video conferencing. At this point in time the answer is still no. We are yet to see any evidence that this method of remote learning has any significant impact on pupil progress. We will however continue to try and make the work as varied as possible. Rather than sending endless worksheets we will continue to look to assign videos to watch, quizzes to complete and other interactive forms of learning. We are conscious however that access to shared laptops etc. continues to be a barrier in many households. One area we do feel video conferencing can be beneficial is in supporting pupils well-being by helping them reconnect with friends and staff. We hope to be in a position to offer our first online tutor sessions via Microsoft Teams soon after we return from the half-term break – more details to follow.

Once again it's been great to see via social media what some of our pupils have been getting up to. It seems fences have been popular this week – Finley has been busy making fence panels with his new screwdriver whilst Lilly has been painting a fence. I think we've got the makings of a great business there! Harvey has also been getting creative making a bee and bird box together with completing some excellent art work. Also in the garden, Oliver has been growing his own potatoes, three different varieties, along with some tomatoes. Joseph has been investigating states of matter and has scientific proof that water has a higher density than ice – I wonder why that is? Finally I've loved watching the different entries for Burton's Got Talent this week. We've had singing, instrumental performances, card tricks, soccer skills, Bailey the Cocker Spaniel (and Bethany), circus tricks and some great art work. Well done to everybody who has been doing great things this week – you really are doing Team KMS proud.

As always, thank you for all your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to contact school if needed. For matters relating to class work, please contact your child's subject teacher. Where you may have a more general query or concern, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

I hope you enjoy the extended weekend and I wish you well for the half-term break.

Well-being

Although schools are closed to the majority of students, we remain here to help. **Please be sure to make contact with school if you need support.** Please see the end of this bulletin for a list of further support services available to you at this difficult time. We've added an extra section this week, Kirklees Support for families in need, which has been shared with us by Kirklees Council.

School safeguarding support

Mrs Senior – Safeguarding Lead
g.senior@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Mr MacIntyre – Deputy Safeguarding Lead
a.macintyre@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Year 5 Transition

At Kirkburton we are working closely with the Frist Schools in order to ensure a smooth transition for our new Year 5 pupils. We are putting the finishing touches to our transition booklet which will go out to families soon after the half-term break. We are also hoping to produce our own video to introduce pupils to their new school.

Year 8 Transition

Year 8 parents have received a joint letter this week from Mr Wadsworth (Shelley), Mrs Greenough (Scissett) and myself in relation to year 8 transition. We are working closely in order to put together a package which will support Year 8 with the transition from Middle School to Shelley College and we will write to parents again by Friday 12th June 2020 with details of what we will be able to offer. Please [click here](#) to watch a short video from Mr Wadsworth (Vice Principal Pastoral) and Mr Lane (Y9 Student Manager) about the upcoming virtual transition arrangements for new students joining as Year 9 in September 2020. We also encourage all Year 8 parents to follow the Shelley College Twitter Feed @ShelleyCollege for further updates.

Submitting work on Class Charts

Teachers will be marking pupil work every 2-4 weeks, depending on how frequently work is set. When teachers want to mark a pupil's work they will let pupils know in the **task description**.

Pupils should then be able to upload the specific task to be marked via the '**upload your work button**'.

Teachers will then be able to mark the work and feedback. If a pupil does not complete the work set by the deadline date, staff will highlight this via a 'work not submitted button'. When you log into the parent or pupil account this piece of work will be highlighted pink.

There will not be a punishment for pupils not completing work, this is simply to let you know that the task has not been completed.

Please use the following links as reminders for:

[Submitting work on Class Charts](#) when using a phone

[Submitting work on class charts](#) when using a computer

Pupils emailing staff – we would prefer work to be uploaded via Class Charts but if for some reason this is not possible or your child has any questions they need to ask a teacher, please can you ensure that all emails come via a parent account and not via pupil account in order to comply with our safeguarding procedures.

Many thanks for your support.

Year 6

I hope you and your families are all keeping well. One of the things I am grateful for in lockdown is living in the countryside. Being able to go for a walk in this area mean seeing lots of fantastic views, even if we have to walk up some big hills to see them! This week, I went back across to Greater Manchester to see my Mum and go for a socially distant walk with her. We spotted lots of brilliant things including some ducklings, some lovely plants and the site of what is thought to be the first cotton mill in Lancashire powered by water.

My challenge to you this week is to try a spot something unusual or just something you find interesting on your walks, cycles or journeys outside. When I used to be able to take my Nephew for a walk, we would make a list of all the things we might spot and crossed them off when we did. You could do that either for yourselves or other members of your family- it is good fun!

Whatever you get up to this week, enjoy it, stay safe and I hope to see you all soon. Keep being the best you can be. Stay safe - Miss Sharples

Martin Area

Hope you are all keeping well in these very unusual, challenging times. It has been great following some of your exploits via the school social media accounts and has certainly raised a smile or two in our household. Our contributions to the KMS 'I'll Be There For You' video were great fun to do but we had a few strops from my seven year old daughter just before filming, who insisted on moving from the keyboard to guitar! Our daily exercise regime has now risen significantly since the relaxation of some of the rules and we walk a fair few miles regularly. Our most recent exploit was a 12 mile walk around the wonderful area of Snailsden and Holme Moss with some of the most amazing views over the reservoirs in the area. We play football almost every day and I am so pleased my boy has taken to it after not engaging with it as a toddler. Like most things, the more you practise the better you get and his skill, knowledge have developed tremendously. His favourite player is no longer Ronaldo but Ruben Neves! Success at last! Probably like yourselves we have found Home Schooling very challenging; we have good days and bad days, highs and lows but we have always kept the children's well-being at the forefront. We also are looking forward to getting back to some sort of normality soon.

I would like to share with you the following poem that was written by Gemma Peacock to reassure children during the coronavirus lockdown. Apologies if you have read this before, but it is a source of comfort for those who are concerned about any lasting impact during this difficult time.

Take care and hope we can all see each other again soon.

The Rainbow Children

The history books will talk of now,
That time the world stood still.
When every family stayed at home,
Waved out from windowsills-
At those they loved but could not hold,
Because they loved them so.
Yet, whilst they did they noticed all the flowers start to grow.

The sun came out, they can recall,
And windows, rainbows filled.
They kicked a football in their yards,
Until the night drew in.
They walked each day but not too close,
That time the world stood still.
When people walked straight down the roads,
That once the cars did fill.

They saw that people became ill,
They knew the world was scared.
But whilst the world stood still they saw,
How much the whole world cared.
They clapped on Thursdays from their doors,
They cheered for the brave.
For people who would risk their lives,
So others could be saved.

James Area

It has been a pleasure to speak to some of you and your parents over the last couple of weeks and I know that form tutors have also enjoyed hearing how you are and about all the different things you have been getting up to during lock down. I can see from ClassCharts that many of you have been using the submission function to upload your work – which is fantastic. Of course this lockdown has also allowed many of you to develop new hobbies and it has been great to hear stories of budding gardeners growing vegetables and creating rockeries as well as helping to a patio.

I hope the relaxation of exercise rules combined with the sunny weather means that you are able to enjoy the outdoors - in my house we always make sure that we get out for a daily walk and have discovered all sorts of paths that we never knew were there before!

Take care and hopefully see you soon. Mr James

Staying Positive

Although it is important to keep up with your work whilst being at home, it is also just as important to look after your mind. Each week set yourself a time that you can complete the wellbeing/mindfulness task below.

Miss Wigglesworth would love to see your finished tasks – ask parents/carers to take a picture and send it in to our Kirkburton Middle School Facebook page.

WEEK FIVE

- Write a letter or an email to someone who you haven't seen for a while. - This could be a friend, a cousin, an aunt or uncle, grandparents or even to one of your teachers. Miss Wigglesworth



Shout – crisis text line

Shout is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Full details can be found [here](#) on their website.

For help – text shout to 85258

Job Vacancies

Please see below job vacancies for apprenticeship roles in the Trust, one for the Trust and one for SMS. Both are Business Administrative Officer apprenticeship roles - closing date 19th June

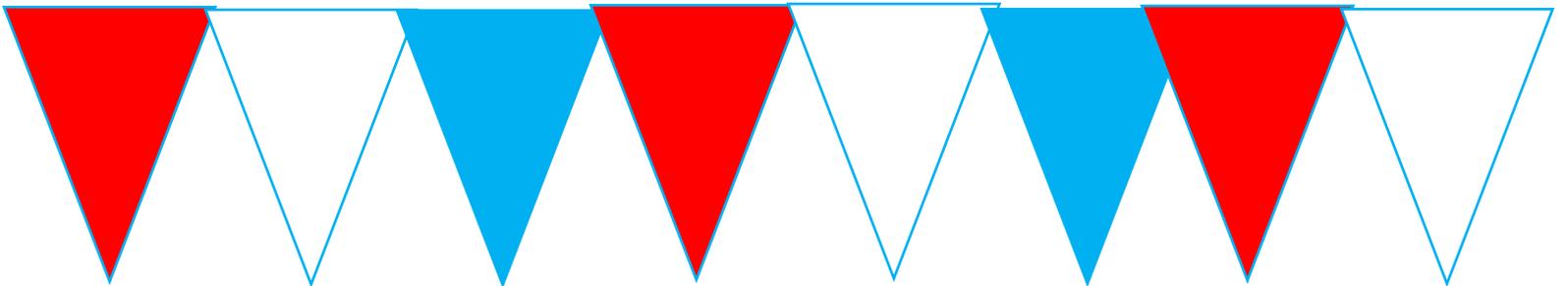
Please find the link below.

For the Trust

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/-522558>

For Scissett Middle School

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/-522552>



La Chasse aux Trésors! Treasure Hunt

In your garden or during your daily walk, create a photo collage on a word document, PowerPoint or an app and email it to your teacher.

- Une feuille verte
- Une feuille violette
- Une fleur jaune
- Une fleur rose
- Une pierre peinte
- Une voiture bleue
- Un vélo noir
- Une belle famille
- Un chien énorme
- Un chien minuscule
- Quelque chose de mauvais pour la planète
- Quelque chose de bien pour la planète
- Un vêtement rouge
- Une chaussure blanche
- Un arc en ciel
- Un animal sauvage
- Un camion rouge
- Une trottinette grise
- Un arbre vert et blanc
- Une maison bleu



Burton's Got Talent

Thank you for all the entries so far to Burton's Got Talent! We do have a talented bunch! You can enter up to midnight tonight (Friday) on our Facebook or Twitter accounts - just follow the threads here and reply with the video to enter -

Twitter <https://twitter.com/KMSchool/status/1260478369721987073> **or**

Facebook <https://t.co/sxC24XCXWi?amp=1>

Voting starts on Saturday 23 May and closes on Sunday 31 May, please do check out all the entries and vote for your 3 favourites here (only takes a few seconds)

For talent show voting go

to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kirkburtonmiddleschool/permalink/557245131864308/>



Notice on behalf of Kirklees Council – Kirklees support for families in need

We know that schools are absolutely critical in supporting local families.

You respond to our families when they ask for your help and, of course, there are many times when your expertise and experience means you can identify a concern within the school community.

During the Covid-19 crisis, schools across Kirklees have worked incredibly hard to implement and run a brand-new, and often extremely challenging, Free School Meals system. We know many of you have gone way beyond the call of duty in making sure children don't go hungry. For this, we again want to say thank you.

As you know, accessing Free School Meals is just one of the ways that local families can find help. The current pandemic is leading to an increased number of people who are experiencing – or are at risk of – financial hardship and food poverty. We therefore wanted to send you a summary of the help that is available for Kirklees families, from the benefits system through to support within our communities, so that you are able to signpost people to the right place.

Please see below the links and information – and thank you again for everything you do.

To see which benefits you may be entitled to, and for help with applying,
<https://www.betteroffkirklees.org.uk/#/home>

To find out whether you qualify for free school meals
<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/schools/free-school-meals.aspx>

Our Local Welfare Provision scheme helps vulnerable people in short-term crisis with food and essential items.
<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/benefits/local-welfare-provision.aspx>

Our coronavirus help and advice page shows the range of local organisations who can help
<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/health-and-well-being/coronavirus-help-in-your-community.aspx>

We also have a page all about financial support
<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/council-tax/covid19-financial-hardship.aspx>

You can find community response information in other languages
<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/health-and-well-being/coronavirus-languages.aspx>

The local number for our Covid-19 Community Response helpline is 0800 4561114 (8am to 6pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm weekends and bank holidays). This continues to be available, and we will happily call you back.

Please contact school if you need help with any of the above.

Something for the family

Science Questions

1. How many eggs does the average chicken lay per year?
2. What is a common name for Nitrous Oxide?
3. How many teeth does an adult human have?
4. Glossectomy is the removal of all of or part of which body part?
5. How many hearts does an octopus have?

Science Answers

1. 260

2. Laughing gas

3. 32

4. Tongue

5. 3

Cleaner

The Mast Academy Trust:

Birdsedge First School / Kirkburton Middle School / Scissett Middle School / Shelley First School

(Various hours and shift patterns, Fixed Term)

Salary: Grade 1, SCP 6 equivalent to £9.00 per hour

In response to the current Covid-19 pandemic we are looking for highly motivated cleaners to join our experienced site teams across our 4 schools within our academy trust on a fixed term basis.

We are looking for people who are hardworking and able to uphold high standards of work even when under pressure. Roles will be assigned to individual schools however you may be required to work at any of the four Trust Schools with prior notice.

In return we can offer you:

- The opportunity to work with a fantastic team who enjoy working together.
- Support from experienced Site Managers.
- A commitment to health and safety and staff wellbeing at all times.

For further information about the post, please contact Sarah Walters, School Business Manager at: sarah.walters@shelleyfirstschool.co.uk

During lockdown, we propose to run remote interviews held via online video conferencing.

Applications must be received by noon on Friday 28th May 2020 and should be emailed to sarah.walters@shelleyfirstschool.co.uk