



## Kirkburton Middle School

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Headteacher: Mr C Taylor

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11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I can't believe we are at the end of the first week back already. Time has absolutely flown! Despite some initial teething problems, we are generally very pleased with how the first week has gone. We will continue to review our plans on a daily basis in order to ensure we provide the highest quality of education possible within a safe environment. Can I thank parents for their understanding whilst we have worked our way through a number of issues this week. One thing that has remained constant however has been the exemplary behaviour and positive attitudes shown by the pupils all week. For some, it has been nearly six months since they have been in school and the resilience they have shown on their return has been a pleasure to witness. I would just like to take this opportunity to update you on some of the key issues this week.

### Lunches

Our initial plan, as with a number of Kirklees schools, was to deliver lunches to classrooms in order to reduce pupil movement around the school wherever possible. It was clear on the first day that this wasn't going to work in the long term. On Tuesday we made the decision to slightly alter the structure of the school day in order to give us a 90 minute window to serve food. Whilst this change has been successful, the way in which the food has been served has not. We have therefore made some additional changes to address these issues today and I am meeting with our catering manager on Monday to look for a long term solution so we can make a swift return to our usual high standards of school meals. The changes we have introduced have been designed in order to give the maximum amount of protection to all members of our school community. Unfortunately, what has looked good on paper has proved impractical in real life. These issues are no reflection on our wonderful kitchen team who have been working extremely hard under very difficult circumstances.

### Transport

Thank you to those parents who have made alternative arrangements to get their child to school in order to avoid using the buses. I appreciate this has caused some issues at the start of the week in terms of increased traffic however I hope the changes we've made to where pupils can exit and leave the school site have alleviated some of these problems. As a result, the buses have been relatively quiet this week. All our dedicated school services are running at full capacity and as such should parents wish to send their child by bus, there is space. Our rules



For travelling on the school buses are-

- Face coverings to be worn by **ALL**
- Hands to be sanitised before getting on the bus
- Pupils must sit with the same person every day in the same seat
- Each year group has been allocated a different section of the bus

Please see the links below for more information on the school buses. For those dropping pupils off by car, and in order to maintain the safety of all our pupils, we would still request you park away from school in order to keep traffic flow around the school site to a minimum.

### **Contacting school**

In order to help us address any issues in the most efficient way possible, and especially in these early days of term, please contact your child's form tutor initially with any questions or concerns. For subject specific questions, please contact the subject teacher. You can find the names of your child's teachers on their timetable which is stuck into their planner. Please see page 5 in the school planner for further information about contacting school.

### **Uniform**

Thank you for your support with the return to full school uniform, the standard of which is extremely high, most noticeably in Year 6. We do have some pupils who we have had to speak to regarding their uniform and ask that any issues raised are addressed promptly. If sourcing school uniform is an issue for any families please contact your child's Head of Year who will be able to provide further support and guidance – we have close links with Kirklees Uniform exchange.

### **Calculators**

The current restrictions mean we are unable to easily loan equipment to pupils in lessons. Whilst most pupils are arriving to school with a good level of school equipment (thank you) a number of pupils do not have their own calculator. The maths department will shortly be sending out a letter to invite you to buy a calculator through the school at a reduced price. These calculators are the required specification for GCSEs and are recommended by Shelley College.

Once again, can I thank you for all your ongoing support and patience this week. We have been forced to introduce a large number of changes all at once and as such we've not got everything right first time. As we teach the pupils, FAIL – first attempt in learning. Please be assured we are working extremely hard in order to ensure our all pupils are 'enjoying, achieving, succeeding together'.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Taylor  
Headteacher

## Guidance

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#)

[COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)

[Testing and tracing for coronavirus](#)

[How to wear a fabric mask safely](#)

[Information about school buses](#)

[KMS school bus timetables](#)

## Pupil equipment list

- A pencil case
- A Black & Green ink pen (ballpoint, cartridge, fibre tip or roller ball)
- A glue stick
- Pencil, pencil sharpener and rubber
- Pencil crayons
- Felt-tip pens
- 30cm ruler
- A pair of compasses
- Calculator
- Small pair of scissors
- **Reading book**
- **Apron for DT**

## Social media (highly recommended)



@KMSchool



Kirkburton Middle School