



Kirkburton Middle School

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Headteacher: Mr C Taylor

3rd September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope you are well. I am writing to update you on the return to school next week. There is lots to tell you so please accept my apologies about the length of this communication. I hope that, like me, you and your family are excited about the start of the new school year which starts for all pupils on Tuesday 8th September. 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.

Throughout the summer, we have been working hard to ensure the school site is as safe as possible for the full return to school. Our strategy, in line with government guidance, is to restrict the number of interactions between different groups together with a focus on increased hygiene measures whilst ensuring pupils enjoy a full curriculum. Our plans were audited on site by an external health and safety specialist earlier in the week and I have attached a copy of our latest risk assessment for your reference.

Below is a summary of some of the key changes / adaptations we've made to the school site and the running of the school which will remain in place for as long as the government require us to do so and as long as we believe is necessary.

Increased hygiene measures

- We have installed three sets of outdoor sinks to support with more frequent handwashing.
- Hand sanitiser stations can be found across the school and in every classroom
- Tissues and lidded bins can be found across the school and in every classroom in line with the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Pupils will once again be grouped into 'bubbles' to minimise contact between individuals.
- Face coverings are recommended where social distancing is difficult to maintain. They are not required in classrooms however.
- We have introduced enhanced cleaning routines in school and will have a cleaner onsite throughout the day who will focus on keeping frequently touched surfaces and common areas clean throughout the day.
- Time will be spent teaching pupils about how they can protect themselves and others from the virus.



Coming to and from school

- All pupils should arrive during their allocated time slot and via their allocated gate (see end of letter for further details). The only exception is for those pupils who arrive on buses.
- Wherever possible, and in line with government guidance, we ask pupils walk or cycle to school.
- **If travelling by car, please drop off and collect your child away from the school site. There will be no parking available on site for parents.**
- Those pupils travelling by one of the dedicated school bus services will be given an allocated seat which they must stick to for all journeys. We ask that face coverings are worn by all pupils on buses.
- On arrival to school, pupils will be asked to wash their hands and they will then go straight to their teaching base.

The School day

- Each year group will be based in one area of the school.
- Pupils will remain in their tutor group and room for most of their lessons.
- All lessons will be delivered by subject specialists.
- For some lessons pupils will move to specialist rooms to facilitate the delivery of practical subjects e.g. art, technology, computing.
- There will be some mixing of tutor groups for English and maths lessons to support with curriculum delivery.
- Our maximum bubble size, initially, will be 90 pupils (half a year group).
- Pupils will stay in their form rooms for assemblies, which will be delivered remotely.
- Morning break will be at the same time for all pupils however, each bubble will have its own zoned play area.

Lunchtime

- The kitchen will provide hot meals each day however these will be taken in the classroom not school hall.
- Initially, pupils will be asked to pick their choice of meal each morning. As routines become more established we may move to weekly ordering of meals.
- Year 7 and 8 parents are asked to credit their child's ParentPay account as usual.
- Year 6 parents will receive ParentPay information during the first week of term. Charges for any meals taken during the first week will be automatically deducted from your child's account once you've signed up.
- Lunchtime will continue to last one hour as we feel it is important pupils have time to reconnect with their friends. Once again, pupils will stay in their half year group bubble when outside at lunch.

Face coverings

As you will be aware, the government has recently updated its guidance on the wearing of face coverings. Our recommendation is that pupils in all year groups wear face coverings wherever social distancing is difficult to maintain. Face coverings should be as unobtrusive as possible, not contain logos and be plain in design. Pupils must bring a sealable plastic bag to store their face covering between uses. All staff will wear face coverings when moving around the inside of the school; some staff may also wear a visor when teaching.

Curriculum

As a school we have liaised closely with our feeder schools to analyse the learning gaps pupils may have coming into year 6, we have also looked closely at our curriculum in years 6 and 7 to identify missed areas. We will be carrying out a range of assessment during the first few weeks of school in order to identify any specific learning gaps. Pupils should not worry about these assessments, they are purely to diagnose gaps in knowledge. Teachers have been working hard to revise curriculum planning to ensure that pupils receive the most effective input to plug gaps in knowledge as they progress through the school.

Uniform

From September we will return to our usual uniform policy. We are proud of our school and expect all pupils to wear their KMS uniform with pride. We believe our uniform:

- Creates a sense of school community, cohesion and identity.
- Supports positive behaviour and good discipline.
- Ensures pupils from all cultures and backgrounds feel welcome.
- Protects children from social pressures to dress in a particular way.

Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal. **On days when pupils have PE, we ask that they come in their full PE kit** which they will wear for the full day. As the weather turns cooler, pupils may wear plain black tracksuit bottoms together with a PE hoody or their usual school sweatshirt on days when they have PE.

Equipment

The current situation makes sharing equipment difficult and so we ask pupils bring as much of their own equipment into school as possible. **It is also essential that all pupils bring a book to read every day.** Please see the end of this letter for further details about equipment.

Home school communication

It is essential, now more than ever, that we have clear lines of communication between home and school. We would ask that-

- One parent always has their phone accessible in case we need to make contact during the day.
- You inform school immediately if any of your contact details change.
- You check for school emails regularly.
- You subscribe to the school social media feeds. We recognise social media isn't for everybody however it provides an efficient and effective platform to keep people updated with the work of the school.
- We will revert back to sending our parent bulletin fortnightly instead of weekly

A Community Effort

Whilst we are all very much looking forward to the return to school, we are very aware that the virus has not gone away and it is essential we continue to work together to reduce any potential transmission. In particular-

- If your child has any symptoms keep them off school, get them tested and keep the school informed.
- Ensure your child is following all government guidance outside school so that no Coronavirus is brought into school.
- Please be understanding if you are asked by school to come and collect your child due to illness.

We hope this letter covers any questions you may have about the return to school. These remain unprecedented times and we are working hard to develop and implement a wealth of new routines and ways of working – all aimed providing the best possible school experience we can whilst keeping everybody safe.

Thank you as always for your continued support and we look forward to seeing all pupils next Tuesday. Finally, please see below further for general information and guidance about return to school.

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**

School day timings

	Arrival 8.40 – 8.50am	Arrival 8.50 – 9.00am
	End 3.30pm	End 3.35pm
Year 6	6JO (A1) 6SH (A6) 6FS (A7)	6SA (A2) 6EP (A4) 6DJ (A5)
Year 7	7B (B1) 7C (B2) 7F (B5)	7A (Pav) 7D (B3) 7E (B4)
Year 8	8A (C1) 8B (C2) 8F (Music)	8C (C3) 8D (C4) 8E (C5)
Buses	Bus arrival & departure time	

- Year 6 will enter via the front school gates and will be based in the Year 6 area.
- Year 7 will enter via the main field and will be based in the Year 7 area (was James area). The easiest way to access this gate is via Hallas Road and past the Scout Hut where there is a paved path across the field.
- Year 8 will enter via the gate off Burton Acres Lane (the Rec gate) and will be based in the Year 8 area (was Martin area)

Social media (highly recommended)



@KMSchool



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