

Kirkburton Middle School – Parent Bulletin
1st May – 8th May 2020



Headteacher Update

Welcome to the latest edition of our parent bulletin, which we will try to send weekly during our time away from school. As we near the end of our fifth week of lockdown, we recognise many people in our community are facing some real challenges and difficulties. If you feel there is any way the school can support you or your neighbours at this time, please do not hesitate to contact us. There has not been much to celebrate recently however one great good that has come out of this terrible situation is the way in which people have connected with each other and come together to help and support one another. Every day we hear stories of random acts of kindness, community heroes working hard to support those in need and people going the extra mile (or extra 5km) to raise money for those who need it. It's been fascinating following the progress of Captain Tom Moore and his amazing efforts to raise funds for the NHS. He is living proof that everybody has the ability within them to make a big difference in the world. We are delighted to hear that some of our pupils, and staff, have been inspired by Captain Tom's efforts and have started fund raising themselves. Well done to all involved. I hope one positive thing to come out of this terrible situation is that we all take time to reflect on our true priorities in life and the things that we genuinely value. I certainly want to be part of a society where everybody supports and looks out for each other. This is a key feature of our school ethos and something our staff and pupils work tirelessly to achieve every day.

Thank you to all pupils for their ongoing efforts with their school work. We recognise this is very challenging at times and we are doing everything we can to make the work as accessible as possible. I've spent the week at Scissett Middle School working with the children of our critical workers and have experienced first-hand the challenges that remote learning can bring – these children have been completing the same tasks as everybody else. Moving forward, we are going to ask staff, wherever possible, to identify which are the most important parts of each task set and which provide extension opportunities. That way, pupils and families know what to prioritise if they are struggling. We have heard that some parents have told their children to focus mainly on English and maths if they are finding it difficult to cope with the workload. Whilst there is no denying the importance of these two subjects, we would also encourage pupils to spend some time focusing on other subjects – particularly those subjects they enjoy the most in school.

The well-being of our pupils remains our number one priority and staff have spent a great deal of time this week and last making contact with families. If you would like a call from somebody in school to discuss your child's well-being, please let us know. Although schools are closed to the majority of pupils, all staff continue to work from home and we remain here to help.

The poet TS Eliot once wrote that 'April is the cruellest month'. I suspect it has also been the strangest and most disturbing one any of us has experienced. Let's hope better news is on the horizon as we move into May.

Video conference

We know that most people are using a variety of video conference apps and platforms to stay connected with friends and family. It is hard to imagine what the current lockdown period would have been like without such technology. The National Cyber Security Centre has issued some useful guideline about using video conferencing services securely, click [here](#) for more details. They also offer separate advice for parents, which is well worth a look.

Advice for parents of primary aged children [here](#)

Advice for parents of secondary aged children [here](#)

BBC Own It App updated for COVID-19

The BBC's Own It app helps young people new to social media manage their well-being, whilst empowering children to make smart choices, and helping them to lead a positive life online.

The Own It app and keyboard lets children:

- get advice whenever they type
- track their feelings
- win badges as they reflect
- find help when they need it
- taking quizzes to learn more about themselves

The app also includes a special keyboard to use which offers helpful tips and friendly advice to children when they need it. The app can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play. Further information can be found by clicking [here](#)

Year 6

Hope you are all well this week and are finding new ways of working from home.

I would like to challenge you this week in a different way- try 3 acts of kindness throughout your week. Try to do something nice for your family or someone in your household. Kindness is magic and makes a huge difference in the world.

Let me know what your acts of kindness were- it doesn't have to be a big act. It could be as simple as making a drink for your parents, clapping for the NHS or saying thank you to the postman. I know you are more than up to this challenge.

Have a good week and hope to see you all soon. Miss Sharples

Science

I hope you are all managing well and enjoying working from home. Some of you received a booklet in the last week of School. Just a reminder we didn't expect you to have completed the whole booklet, just what you could manage up to Easter.

We now set work every Wednesday on ClassCharts in more manageable Bitesize chunks. Try these tasks by writing the answers in your workbooks or typing straight on the document then marking using the mark schemes provided. They don't need to be printed if you haven't got the facility. If you have any questions or queries, please just email your Science teacher for help.

A big thank you to those of you who have sent in your own Science experiments. They have been brilliant to see. Let us know if you have tried anything out.

Stay safe everyone - The Science Department

Trip Update – 29th April 2020

Italian Ski Trip, Paris, Year 7 trip to Magna and Year 8 trip to Huddersfield University – all monies have been refunded via ParentPay. Trips to Ardeche & Bushcraft – all monies returned 29th April 2020.

Caythorpe Court – this trip is due to take place in July. As such we will continue to keep this under review and await information from the travel company.

Thank you for your patience. The Finance Team

FSM Vouchers

If anyone has any questions please contact the office email office@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk . Thank you.

Email addresses

Just a reminder if you need to contact particular staff about your child or their work, you can do so:

Details of how to email staff can be found here

https://www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk/?page_id=343679

A full staff list can be found -

https://www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk/?page_id=16

Please note - Mrs Price's email address is l.price@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk and not e.price

Run for Heroes 5k

It's wonderful to see and hear so many of you have participated in the 5k walk/cycle or run for the NHS. Please look on KMS twitter and Facebook for updates. If you have anything to share, please email it to Mr Tyson at website@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk. If you haven't yet seen, follow our main social media outlets at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kirkburtonmiddleschool/> or twitter.com/kmschool.

NHS Fundraiser

KMS have our very own Captain Moore amongst us. We are incredibly proud to announce Caiden G and his sister, Gemma are raising money for the NHS by making and posting rainbow keyrings, in appreciation of the super work our NHS has been doing during this pandemic and over the years.

It's lovely to see young people thinking of others and using their initiative for a very worthy cause. True KMS qualities if ever we saw them!

Well done to Caiden, Gemma and family! Please use the link for more information.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rainbow-keyrings>



HD8 Rocks

Have any of you seen any wonderful painted rocks hidden on your daily walk? Once found please re-hide. Please share with school if you find any or have painted any rocks. See HD8 Rocks on Facebook for further details.



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. Last week was ‘Making a Memory Jar’, thank you for sharing those.

Week Two

Lists - Decorate a plain piece of paper with small drawings around the edge. You can add stickers or glitter if you have it at home. Create a checklist of things that you have got to look forward to. After each statement you could add a little box so that when you have done each thing on your list, you can tick it off. Normally this might involve things like going to the park with friends, meeting up with your family for tea, going to the cinema or having your friends over. In this current climate you'll need to be creative but I'm sure you can still find things to look forward to each day/ week. See ClassCharts for further information. Good luck everyone.

Well-being support and guidance

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

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

Websites

- [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) – free, safe and anonymous online support for young people, including counselling and self-help articles;
- [mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing](https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing) – website with guidance on how to cope specifically during this period of uncertainty;
- [mind.org.uk/information-support/helping-someone-else/](https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helping-someone-else/) - website with guidance on how to help others when you know they're struggling.
- <https://www.thrivingkirklees.org.uk/> - (0300 304 5555) supports with health and well-being

Other sites which may help

- www.samaritans.org
- www.youngminds.org.uk
- www.childline.org.uk

Text Services

- Thriving Kirklees - School nurse health support around mental health and worries/anxiety – 07520618866;
- 24/7 Text Line – If you are experiencing a mental health crisis and need support, you can text YM to [85258](https://www.thrivingkirklees.org.uk/).

Something for the pupils

Captain Tom's Challenge



**How can one person
make a big
difference?**

Ahead of his 100th birthday celebration, war veteran Captain Tom Moore set himself the challenge of walking 100 laps of his garden to help raise money for the NHS.

His challenge has raised awareness all over the world and has led to many others setting their own similar challenges!

Captain Tom has also lifted the spirits of many during difficult circumstances.

[Read through the information and all about Captain Tom Moore's incredible achievement.](#)

[Can you think of any local heroes in your community? Are you clapping at 8pm each Thursday?](#)

How much has been raised?

Captain Tom originally aimed to raise £1000 but quickly passed his target to reach over £29 million for the NHS!

Captain Tom, who is originally from Keighley in West Yorkshire, has risen from nowhere to become a hero for many, all around the world!

On his birthday, 30th April, the Queen made him a Colonel.

"I say thank you very much indeed. I appreciate it because the object for which we're donating is so important and so necessary... I think you're all so kind and thoughtful contributing to this cause."

Captain Tom Moore

Family quiz

Your task is:

To identify each chocolate bar
by its cross-section

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



Answers are.....kitkat chunky, bounty, snickers, star bar, double decker, lion bar...how did you get on?