

Kirkburton Middle School – Parent Bulletin
10th – 17th July 2020



Headteacher Update

September 2020

Welcome to our penultimate weekly bulletin of the school year, I hope your week has been better than the weather. Our work in school continues to be dominated by what September will look like at KMS. I've attended numerous meetings and webinars over the last week where a variety of different scenarios for the full reopening of schools have been discussed. Schools are very individual places both in terms of their geography but also their culture, as such there unfortunately isn't a one size fits all model. The senior team is meeting on Monday to finalise our plans and we will write to all parents next week outlining our offer – this is likely to be quite a lengthy letter I'm afraid. Please look out for a 'return to school' survey which we will shortly be asking all parents to complete. It is essential we get a 100% return on this please in order to help us with our September plans.

Year 7 back in school

Away from planning for our September return, it has been great to see so many Year 7 pupils back in school for their tutorial morning. This has also seen a number of our off-site staff team come into school to deliver the sessions. The atmosphere in all the sessions was great and I think both staff and pupils alike were delighted to be back in school. We were certainly delighted to see them. We look forward to welcoming our final group of Year 7 pupils on Tuesday.

Year 8 Transition

Following on from the success of the James area Year 8 leaving assemblies last week, today is the turn of the Martin area. By the time you read this, they will have taken place and I have no doubt they will have been a very memorable occasion for all. One thing for sure is that this cohort of Year 8 pupils will never be forgotten by school staff. A member of the pastoral team would normally be planning a visit to Shelley College today to see how the first week of transition had gone and check the pupils had settled into their new school. We continue to work very closely with colleagues at Shelley in relation to transition and we appreciate all their efforts in relation to supporting our Year 8 pupils as they move schools. Please click [here](#) to view Mr Wadsworth's (Principal) Shelley College Virtual Transition 2020 presentation.

Year 5

Today would normally be the last day at their First School for Year 5 pupils across the pyramid. Sadly this isn't the case this year however I have had the pleasure of meeting many more of our Year 6 class of 2020 this week. It has been great to talk to pupils about their transition to KMS in September and to

answer any questions they have about the move. I'm pleased that somebody from every school so far has asked about school dinners – it's good to know that you've got your priorities right Year 5! We did talk briefly about the other 'D' word – detentions however we were all in agreement that as our new Year 6 these would hopefully not be necessary. Our form tutor team have been busy phoning the parents of their new tutor groups. If you haven't managed to speak to your child's new form tutor, I promise we have been trying extremely hard to get in touch with you either by telephone or as a last resort by email. Please phone the school office if you would like to arrange a time for us to call. Normally we would host a transition parents evening next week however this too has been cancelled. Instead, we will upload a presentation to our school YouTube channel where I will outline my vision for the school and discuss some of the practicalities for September (those which we know!). More details to follow.

Many thanks for all the forms we have received so far, please continue to drop your 'Home School Agreement Forms' in the 'black post box' on the gates at the turning circle.

Year 6

Finally in school, all staff continue to be amazingly impressed with the ongoing commitment and energy our Year 6 pupils are applying to their studies. As we near the end of the academic year, it is clear that many pupils are tiring, as are staff, keep going as you are nearly there!

Home Learning

We recognise that what is currently going on inside the building is only a fraction of the school's current work. As always, thank you to all those working hard off site, it has been great seeing the work you've sent in and also your pictures on social media. If you haven't done so already, make sure you enter the virtual sports day – the competition is most definitely heating up. Keep working hard please for the final week, you are doing incredibly well and you are nearly there. Five school days until we are all back together again!

I hope you have a lovely weekend and, as always, thank you for continued support of the work of the school.

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 6

Hello Year 6's, especially those still at home. I hope you are all well and making the most of being able to see people albeit from a 2m distance. I don't know about you, but when I watch films or TV programs where people don't use social distancing, it seems rather strange to watch. It's funny how quickly we get used to change. When I was young (not THAT long ago), my Dad and Uncle used to tell me silly stories about when they were young. If I complained my new School shoes rubbed my feet, my Dad would say, 'When I was young, I was lucky to have shoes to walk to School in' and then my Uncle would reply, 'Shoes, I dreamt of shoes! When I was young you were lucky if you had socks'. They would carry on like this making us and each other laugh. Although some of their tales were silly, there was truth in some of them. They had been brought up just after the war when rationing was still in place and items like food and clothes were scarce. There wasn't any supermarkets to queue up outside of and every one used their local shops or the local market. When we live through unusual and sometimes difficult times, we tend to use humour as a way of making others and ourselves feel better.

When you are an adult, and you look back on this time, what will you tell the children in your family about it? Will they believe your stories about what happened when the UK went in to lockdown? When your parents became your teachers and you could only see your friends through a screen. Will you say, 'When I was young, you had to queue for 50 minutes outside Morrison's, and when you got inside, there were no toilet rolls!' Or will you say, 'When I was young we all tried to be very kind to one another by staying 2m away. We celebrated the people who kept our country going through difficult times like council workers, supermarket staff, post office workers, delivery drivers, NHS workers, teachers, and mechanics. We appreciated them so much, we clapped for them every Thursday evening and strangers thanked them in the street'.

I hope through these unusual times, you will remember the kindness and bravery of people and tell those tales to your families.

Keep being the best you can be.

Take care - Miss Sharples.

School Isolation guide for parents and guardians

Please see the attached documents from Kirklees council which provide clear guidance for parents and guardians in relation to a variety of different Covid-19 scenarios.

Latest Government guidance for parents

- What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term [here](#)
- What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak (up until August) [here](#)
- Guidance for parents and carers of children attending community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings [here](#).
- Support for parents and carers to keep children safe online [here](#).
- Advice to parents and carers on keeping children safe from abuse and harm [here](#).
- Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak [here](#)

Uniform

We will be writing home next week to remind parents about our school uniform expectations. We do intend to return to full school uniform from September however we may ask pupils to come to school in their P.E. kit on the days when they have P.E. on their timetable. More details to follow shortly. Last year, standards of uniform were generally very high across the school – thank you for your support with this. There were some pupils who were arriving at school with incorrect footwear – particularly trainer type shoes. Full details of our school uniform can be found [here](#). If you have any questions about uniform, particularly footwear, please contact school before making a purchase.

Free school meals vouchers

As you will have seen in the press, the Government is to extend it's free school meal voucher scheme to cover 6 weeks of the summer holidays. This is a very welcome move however the summer holiday is closer to 7 weeks this year. We are hoping the local authority will cover cost of the additional week. Two new supermarkets have been added to the voucher scheme this week – full details can be found [here](#). Vouchers will be sent out in the usual way but in one amount for the summer period as opposed to weekly.

Key worker provision

In order to support us with our preparations for a full return to school from September, we are proposing to close our key worker provision at 1pm next Friday 17th July. You have been truly inspirational in the way you have bonded as a group and we've really enjoyed spending so much time with you. Congratulations to those who have attended throughout including holidays and bank holidays. You have most definitely earned your summer break.

School Office

Please note the office staff will be closed again on Thursday 16th July due to staff training (please email j.papworth@kirkburtonmiddleschool) if you require any assistance and from 1pm on Friday as we will be making preparation for September.

Contacting school over the summer

The school office will be closed throughout the summer break however emails will be monitored periodically throughout the summer – office@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk We ask for your patience whilst we respond.

P.E. Kits, lost property and other belongings in school

There will be the opportunity for parents to come in and collect their child's belongings and lost property on Wednesday 15th July from 3.30pm to 6.30pm. If the weather is poor, we will postpone this until Thursday. Thank you for your patience with this.

School Dinner

Please note that the cost of school lunches have increased to £2.30 from £2.25. If your child brings a packed lunch a reminder to not bring nuts or foods with nut traces into school. Many thanks for your support with this.

PSE

As you may be aware, the teaching of Health and Relationships Education becomes compulsory as part of PSHE education, during the next academic year. The Department for Education has published statutory school guidance on this for parents, which can be viewed [below](#). The school will be following the Department for Education's recommendation to have a 'sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of pupils' and will be adopting the Kirklees Schools RSHE policy. Once the policy has been finalised, we will consult and share the policy with parents. More information will follow on this as we return to school in the autumn term.

Understanding Relationships, Sex and Health Education at your child's secondary school: a guide for parents

We want all children to grow up healthy, happy, safe, and able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain. That is why, from September 2020, all secondary age children will be taught Relationships, Sex and Health Education.

These subjects are designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for a successful adult life. The world for all young people looks very different from the way it did 20 years ago when this curriculum was last updated – these changes bring the content into the 21st century, so that it is relevant for your child.

Your child's school will have flexibility to deliver the content in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the needs and religious background of its pupils.

Relationships and Sex Education

Relationships and Sex Education will build on the teaching at primary. It aims to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds.

Your child's school will cover content on what healthy and unhealthy relationships look like and what makes a good friend, colleague and successful marriage or committed relationship. At the appropriate time, the focus will move to developing intimate relationships, to equip your child with knowledge they need to make safe, informed and healthy choices as they progress through adult life.

By the end of secondary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- families
- respectful relationships, including friendships
- online media
- being safe
- intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

You can find further details by searching '**relationships, sex and health education**' on GOV.UK.

Health Education

Health Education aims to give your child the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.



By the end of secondary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- mental wellbeing
- internet safety and harms
- physical health and fitness
- healthy eating
- drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- health and prevention
- basic first aid
- changing adolescent body

You can find further details by searching '**relationships, sex and health education**' on GOV.UK.

FREE SUMMER HOCKEY CAMPS

**Kirklees Hockey are offering
All Covid Risk assessed!**

**Monday 24th August 2020 10am -12pm and 1pm –3pm
Tuesday 25th August 2020 10am - 12pm and 1pm-3pm
Wednesday 26th August 2020 10am – 12pm and 1pm-3pm
Thursday 27th August 2020 10am - 12pm
and 1pm to 3pm**



**8 to 12
year old
Girls**

To book a place click below

**For any queries contact Mrs Joyce at
v.joyce@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk**

Sticks can be provided if required!

<https://forms.gle/qPRp5TNwnhoy2yBg9>

**All Covid
Risk
assessed!**

Something for the family

Riddles

What is full of holes but holds water?

What becomes wetter the more it dries?

When things go wrong, what can you always count on?

What has a neck but no head?

I am an odd number, take away a letter and I become even. What number am I?

Answers

- A sponge
- A towel
- Your fingers
- A bottle
- Seven