



Kirkburton Middle School – Parent Bulletin
19th – 26th June 2020

Headteacher Update

Welcome to our weekly parent bulletin; I hope you are well and you've had a good week. Despite the awful weather, we've had a very productive week in school and those pupils attending have settled in to excellent routines. Staff are now becoming experts at delivering lessons outside of their subject specialism and there is a real team ethos and spirit of togetherness developing within our 'bubbles'. All groups have been following a very full timetable and this has included three hours of PE with Mrs Joyce and Mr Killock. We may only be offering a four day week to most pupils however staff are certainly cramming a lot in. We have been busy planning for our next cohort of Year 6 pupils who will join us on Monday. We will be opening a further four 'bubbles' and this will mean we will have over 70% of our Year 6 cohort on site. We are really looking forward to seeing the pupils on Monday.

We are also finalising our plans for our socially distanced Year 8 leaving assemblies. Whilst the number of pupils attending each assembly will be small, the format of the event will be similar to previous years. There will be lots of opportunities for Year 8 pupils to share their favourite memories of their time at Kirkburton Middle and no doubt the pastoral staff will have a surprise or two up their sleeve. I'm also hoping they will take home some of the mountain of lost property we seem to be accumulating.

Last but not least is Year 7. This week the Government updated it's guidance to schools in terms of their wider opening to pupils. Whilst we are still required to give priority to Year 6 pupils who would like to attend school, there is now the scope for us to invite other pupils into school where we have the capacity. As such we are hoping to be able to offer Year 7 pupils the opportunity to attend a tutorial morning in school before the end of the summer term however this will be very dependent on how many Year 6 pupils decide to return for the final two weeks of term. I will write to Year 7 parents when I know more.

I mentioned last week that Mrs Kerr is working with colleagues across the Trust on our 'recovery curriculum'. This work will continue over the coming weeks; we plan to be in a strong position to support pupils make up for lost learning time when they return in September. You will no doubt have seen the news today that the government has announced a 'billion pound covid catch up plan' ([see here](#)). We are committed to ensuring all pupils leave KMS having achieved the very best outcomes they possibly can; this additional funding will provide a welcome boost to support this work.

Finally can I thank all pupils for their ongoing efforts both in school and those working at home. I'm sure some pupils may now beginning to find it quite difficult to motivate themselves to complete the home learning tasks set. The good news is that the end of the school term is now only four weeks away and we have all got our fingers crossed that the new school year brings much better news.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I hope you have a good weekend.

Social media

In recent weeks the availability of social media and video conferencing has proved vital in helping families and friends stay connected during the lockdown period. Unfortunately we are beginning to receive reports of pupils misusing social media and using it as a tool to be unkind to one another. We are therefore requesting the full support of families in helping us put a stop to this unpleasant behaviour.

Young people today have an incredible amount of technology at their fingertips, and it is essential that they are equipped and supported in the use of it. We educate the pupils about online safety in various ways: computing lessons teach online safety skills; PSHE develops their emotional toolkit, to help them make the right decision and handle difficult situations; form-time and assemblies are used to reinforce these messages; we have our pastoral team to support pupils; and our rules on mobile phones within school are very clear.

So what more can be done? We would ask you consider the following questions:

1) Is Social Media right for your son/daughter? Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and other social media platforms are only for those aged 13 and above – this age limit is there to protect them. Older pupils will still need your support and guidance to ensure that they can stay safe. We would not let our children ‘hang out’ with strangers and adults in the real world – we need to be just as careful online. This is all the more important as people behave with fewer inhibitions than they do in the real world and any unpleasant comments are very public. The technology makes it easy to act without considering the consequences – and these can be very serious. We know the pressure on parents to give children access to social media, but please do seriously consider the age limits, and the need for support even when they are 13. We have had incidents where parents had no idea what their sons/daughters had been saying online and where the young people actually wanted to ask for help and advice from their parents – but neither felt confident to ask the first question. The ‘safer internet’ website ([here](#)) has some good ideas to get those conversations going at home.

2) How do you follow up any inappropriate behaviour online? School cannot be expected to deal with all the online actions of young people in their spare time, just as we would not be expected to deal with all other out-of-school incidents. Our duty is to ensure young people receive an excellent education, not to police the internet – though of course we will always support parents and put consequences in place if needed! Parents and carers are the most important people when it comes to following up poor behaviour, whether that be bad language, looking at inappropriate websites or something more serious. Many families find that ‘no mobile devices in bedrooms’ is a useful rule, even for older pupils. A great way to be proactive is to model safe and sensible online behaviour yourself. The online footprint left by young people is something they should think seriously about - when they apply for jobs in the future, companies may well scan the internet to see what they have said, and bad language or behaviour will be discovered – and they will learn good habits from seeing parents and families behave with courtesy online. It really is worth thinking about Social Media as an online CV rather than simply a place to chat. If you are concerned the law has been broken (eg grooming) then the ‘thinkuknow’ website ([here](#)) has advice and also a direct way of reporting concerns to the police.

3) Are you sure they have the right privacy settings? Each different Social Media site will have its own privacy settings and it is important these are set tightly. Having public accounts can cause particular problems. Anyone can find users and start a conversation, information can be seen by anyone and even user locations can be discovered. It is worth remembering that any photograph can be kept as a screen-shot even if settings are private. The website ‘net-aware’ ([here](#)) is a great place to find out more about how to set the different privacy settings, and is regularly updated.

4) What online safety controls have you set at home? Most search engines can have a password protected safe search put on them which will limit the images and sites that can be accessed. If you have bought your son/daughter a mobile phone on a contract, you can tell the company that it is for a young person and they will set controls on it for you – the contract is with you, not the young person. Many of the big Internet service providers have family-friendly internet filtering as part of their basic service now – if you contact, them they will tell you how to set it up.

The rapid changes in IT have led to the current situation where young people have technology that they are not emotionally mature enough to handle alone; one where the parent-school partnership is vital to meet the challenge it brings. We need your support in making sure that our young people stay safe and behave responsibly online so that we can maintain our focus on giving them the high-quality education you expect of us. We certainly understand that this is not an easy part of modern parenting and know that mobile phones in particular can be a point of conflict. However, we hope that by working together to ensure clear boundaries and strong guidance we can reinforce the positive values we aim to develop in our young people, support them to safely navigate the online world and reduce the number of issues we are seeing come into school.

Thank you for your support and please feel free to contact school if you have any further questions on this issue.

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, another week completed either in Home school or School itself. Monday sees many more of you joining us in School and I am looking forward to seeing lots of you either then or later on this summer. I decided this week to find out what firsts happened on 19th June in previous years. Did you know that it is Macklemore's birthday today and Louis the IV was crowned king in 987? What I want you to do is reflect on your time in lockdown and think about which firsts you might have accomplished. It might have been baking something or trying a new hobby. It could be helping your younger brother and sisters to learn something new. For me, I have found out lots of things I can do on my laptop I didn't know I could, like giving feedback through ClassCharts. It has been a time of firsts for us all.

Have a good week and keep being the best you can be. Miss Sharples.

Year 8

Please can we remind all year 8's, if they haven't already, to send their Shelley College transition activity to Miss Wigglesworth by the end of next week through ClassCharts or email.

Curriculum and Learning

From Monday we will have a significant number of our year 6 pupils with us in school as well as our key worker children. We will therefore have more staff working on site and fewer staff working from home setting and feeding back on work. Consequently we will only have the capacity to make phone calls to a small number of pupils and families from now on. However if you do wish to speak to a member of staff or have any concerns about your child's well-being please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office.

Music

Online music resources: Just a reminder that there are some very useful resources on the Musica website. There are instrument tutorials, resources for curriculum music and projects for children learning to play an instrument together with tailor-made activities so you can maintain your practice routine. Just follow the links below and continue to enjoy your music making.

<https://www.musicakirklees.org/resources-for-small-groupindividual-tuition#w>

Leavers Assembly

We are hosting leavers assemblies for our departing year 8 students. James area assemblies on Friday 3rd July and Martin area on Friday 10th July. Students are invited to attend school together with their teaching group on the following times. This will provide students with a chance to celebrate their time with us, say farewell and an opportunity to collect any valuables they may have in school. We look forward to seeing you all of course observing the social distance rules.

3rd July 2020

8A 09.00

8B 11.30

8C 14.00

10th July 2020

8D 09.00

8E 11.30

8F 14.00

School Catering

Please note that we are offering sandwiches, panini's, fruit pots, biscuits and fruit juices and milk-shake at lunch break.



The Growing together Kirklees project is bought to you by Grow to School CIC & is funded by the National Lottery and Community Learning Works.

Growing together Kirklees aims to support you and/or your family to plant, grow & nurture your own fruit, vegetables, flowers & herbs at home during these times of isolation.

Over the growing season we will be sharing our knowledge of growing with you by distributing growing packs every two weeks that will include; 'how to' growing guides & other useful information plus plants & seeds planting now and in the months to come.

We'd like to invite you to be part of our Growing together Kirklees community and so we can send you the things you need to get you Growing we'd like to know a few things:

What is your growing space?

- a. A garden
- b. A yard or patio
- c. A windowsill or balcony

How would you like to receive your growing guides and information?

- a. join our facebook community @GtKirklees to download information
- b. receive printed information with your pack

Please respond with your answers to the organisation or person who sent you this questionnaire.

Thank you



GROWING together Kirklees



Growing Pack

The Growing together Kirklees project is brought to you by Grow to School CIC & is funded by the Community Learning Works.

Growing together Kirklees aims to support you & your family to plant, grow & nurture your own fruit, vegetables, flowers & herbs at home during this time of isolation.

We invite you to be part of our Growing together Kirklees community. We will be sharing seeds, plants & materials to help you grow at home. You don't need a big garden; a few pots, a window box or a corner of your yard will do.

Over the next few months we will be sharing our knowledge of food growing with you & distributing information & seeds for planting now.

For more information, guides on how to plant, grow and care for your plants go to the Growing together Kirklees Facebook page - @Growing together Kirklees. In return we'd love you to join our Facebook community to share your experiences, pictures & ask questions & we will endeavour to answer them.

Look out for your next delivery..... & don't forget - Once you've got your first seeds in the soil please share what you're doing & how it's growing on Facebook - @Growing together Kirklees.



Something for the family

Who directed ET, Jurassic Park and Jaws?

What name refers to a boot, a football team and a female?

What three ingredients are typically used to make pancake batter?

Where would you find Mount Kilimanjaro?

What is a baby goat called?

What film and book franchise would you find Bella Swan in?

Where was Shakespeare born?

Can you name the original members of One Direction

What river runs through Paris

Complete the Taylor Swift lyric: 'I'll never miss a beat...'

Name the three primary colours

Who hosted the Olympics in 2008?

Answers

1. Steven Spielberg
2. Chelsea
3. Flour, eggs and milk
4. Tanzania, Africa
5. A kid
6. *The Twilight Saga*
7. Stratford-upon-Avon
8. Harry Styles, Zayn Malik, Niall Horan, Louis Tomlinson and Liam Payne
9. The Seine
10. '...I'm lightning on my feet'
11. Red, yellow, blue
12. Beijing