

Kirkburton Middle School



Parents Bulletin – 7th November 2023

Important Dates

A warm welcome back to the second half-term of the academic year, here is a look at the important events coming up over the next half-term:

- Friday 10th November – Remembrance Service
- Tuesday 21st & Tuesday 28th November – Year 8 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 30th November – Year 6 SATs Information Evening for Parents – 6pm
- Friday 1st December – Inset Day

Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

You may be aware from recent press coverage that the government is currently reviewing the RSHE statutory guidance for schools. Relationships education has been compulsory for pupils in primary education since September 2020, while secondary schools, are required to teach students relationships and sex education (RSE). Health education is now compulsory in all schools too.

We recognise parents may be keen to see what children are being taught in the school about relationships sex and health education (RSHE); all our content can be viewed on the [PSHCE section of the school website](#). If you have any further questions about RSHE, please contact Mrs A Glencorse who is our strategic lead for the subject.

Please see the [Department for Education blog here](#) for more details about the RSHE and the current review.

Mrs Glencorse can be contacted via email at aglencorse@themast.co.uk.

Is my child too ill for school?

As we move into the autumn season, we expect to see the usual increase in the circulation of mild respiratory illnesses within our school community. We are aware that the COVID-19 pandemic may have caused some parents to feel less confident with assessing whether their child is well enough to be in school. The information below has been written by the Chief Medical Officer and leading health professionals in order to provide a clinical and public health perspective on mild illnesses and school attendance.

'There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.'

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.

In addition to respiratory illnesses, we are aware that more children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it.'

The link below gives details of when it's best to keep your sick child at home and when it's okay to send them to school.

[Is my child too ill for school? \(NHS\)](#)

We hope you find this information helpful.

Careers – 'Working Lunch' Club

In order to help our pupils develop a greater understanding of the world of work and the different career paths available to them, we would like to start a 'working lunch' club in school. We are looking for people to speak to our fantastic pupils about their careers, working lives and the world of work. There will also be the opportunity for a short question and answer session.

- Could you spare 30 minutes to speak to our pupils - either in person or remotely?
- Could you recommend somebody else who could speak to our pupils?

If this is something you can support the school with or you know somebody else who can, please complete the short form below to provide further details.

[KMS 'Working Lunch' expression of interest form](#)

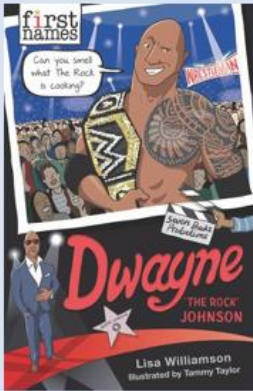
Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Water Bottles

We would like to remind you of the importance of sending your child to school with a water bottle. Hydration is crucial for wellbeing and a pupil who has a water bottle in their bag has easy access to refreshment throughout the day. In an effort to be kind to the environment, we would like to reduce the number of plastic cups we are using each day. By using reusable water bottles, we can significantly reduce plastic waste and set a positive example for our pupils.

Recommended Reads

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Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson is one of the most successful wrestlers in WWE history and one of the highest paid Hollywood actors. This is the story of how he got there, from a childhood where money was so tight his family were evicted from their apartment, to playing college football, and the road to wrestling stardom.

Johnson shows how he found ways to persevere through many ups and downs thrown at him, but by being adaptable when faced with challenges, he ultimately succeeded in making his dreams a reality.



A dying girl. A sick planet. One last hope to survive. The world is run by **Industry** and the only thing that matters is to buy, buy, buy. People live in crowded cities where cars are stacked vertically and people traverse through corridors and shopping centres that run miles into the sky. Celeste lives in Tower 330 barely visible in the immense city, shrouded by a fog of fumes.

On the day she starts school on the 110th floor of a tower block, she meets a lonely, young boy. The next day she doesn't return. Her blood has become as polluted as the seas and rivers. Her lungs as contaminated as the city. Will the world realise the truth of Celeste's disease? Will there be time for her, and the planet, to recover?

All books are available to collect from the school library.

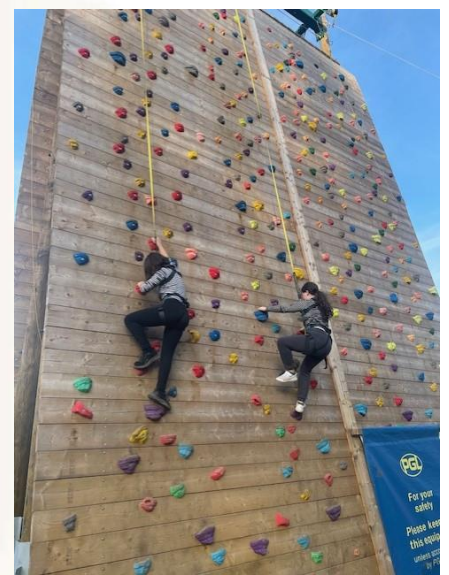


Year 7 PGL Trip

What an incredible 3 days we had with the Year 7 Residential to Newby Wiske Hall. The weather was great and the children threw themselves into every activity. I was so incredibly proud to see some of our children overcoming their biggest fears; the smiles on their faces after they had abseiled down a 13m tower was so lovely to see and the children were clearly very proud of

themselves too. Lots of stories to tell and some fabulous memories made. 10 action packed activities over 3 days, delicious food and very cool bunk beds. All in all a very successful trip! Thank you to all the staff who accompanied the trip too!





Music News

Congratulations and well done to the following Year 6 pupils who have completed a 5 week FREE taster violin course with Miss Chappell, our violin teacher from Musica: Austin W, Lucy B, Eleanor M, Isabella H, Pippa H and Lyla Blakeney.

A huge thank you to the following pupils who performed in our House assemblies before half-term: Elijah M (Booth House), who played the melody of a song, Moon River on his Basson, Jenson P (Moxon House) who sang 'You're Welcome' from Moana and Isaac S (Carter House) who played 'Greensleeves' on his Double Bass.

Useful Contacts

Thriving Kirklees

Healthcare advice, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Support, Healthcare Signposting

www.thrivingkirklees.org.uk

0300 304 5555

Kirklees Children's Services

Safeguarding Services and Duty and Advice

www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk

01484 456848

Childline

<http://www.childline.org.uk>

0800 1111

Northorpe Hall – Kirklees

Children's mental and emotional health service

<http://www.northorpehall.co.uk>

01924 492183

Thriving Kirklees – Chathealth

Text message services for young people – direct link to School Nurse

07520618866

NSPCC

Support for Parents and Children

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Parents/carers – 0808 800 5000

Children – Via Childline 0800 11 11