



Kirkburton Middle School - Parent Bulletin

4 – 18 December 2020

Issue: 5



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Word from the Head

Welcome to our fortnightly parent bulletin, I hope you and your family are well. We've got a very busy bulletin this fortnight so I'll try and keep my section brief.

Covid 19

I'm pleased to report that the number of people testing positive for Covid 19 within our school community has dropped significantly in the last fortnight. From the 8th – 21st November there were a total of 47 confirmed cases. Since then, there have only been 4 confirmed cases and the most recent case was reported last Saturday. It therefore seems that the measures we have taken have had the desired effect. We recognise the difficulties caused when we are forced to send pupils home or close bubbles and I would therefore like to thank all parents for the trust they have placed in the school and for their fantastic support during these difficult weeks.

It has been great to see so many pupils return this week and we look forward to welcoming most other pupils

back to school next week. Can we thank those pupils who have been self-isolating for the ongoing efforts with the remote learning curriculum and we hope the introduction of some live lessons has helped with this.

Operation Healthy Holiday

On Monday, we introduced the changes to the school day and structure that I mentioned in my letter last week. Nicknamed operation Healthy Holiday / Covid Free Christmas, we have outlined to pupils the important role they play in ensuring we all stay safe and everybody has the opportunity to enjoy their Christmas Holidays. To date, the pupils have responded magnificently to these changes and we have been delighted with the way they have adapted to the new routines. Please see [here](#) to view the slides from the launch assembly.



OFSTED

On Tuesday this week, we had a remote visit from two OFSTED inspectors. The day consisted of 6 different meetings where they met with members of the senior leadership team in order to learn about the impact of Covid 19 on our school. Topics included the curriculum, remote learning, behaviour, safeguarding and attendance. In general, the inspectors seemed positive about what they heard however they were not allowed to give any detailed feedback. A letter outlining the findings of the

visit will be available very soon and we'll share this with parents as soon as we receive it.

Today we learnt that OFSTED will resume their usual programme of monitoring visits under section 8 of the education act from January with an aim to returning to full inspections in the summer term. For many schools this may be an unpopular decision however we welcome this news as it will give us a chance to demonstrate to OFSTED the progress the school has made since the last inspection.

Key Stage 2 SATs

As you may have seen in the press, the government announced today its plans for the summer exams next year. This also included an announcement about Key Stage 2 SATs which will be take place as planned in May. The only exception is that pupils will not be required to sit the English grammar, punctuation and spelling tests. We will write to Year 6 parents in January with more information about the SATs.

Christmas at KMS



I'm pleased to report that Christmas has arrived in school this week. Thank you to those parents who donated decorations and even some trees. We are determined to celebrate this very special time of year as best we can despite all the restrictions. Things will start with our warm jumper day next Friday. Pupils are invited to leave their school jumper at home and wear a 'warm' jumper instead.

This will tie in with the national Christmas jumper day and pupils may wish to wear a Christmas jumper should they have one, I know the staff are getting theirs prepared. During the final week of term we will have our virtual pantomime, Christmas lunch and a whole school assembly on the final day.

Parent Forum

We are looking forward to our first parent forum meeting of the year next Thursday where we will be discussing assessment and reporting, homework and pupil wellbeing.

Finally as the nights draw in, we would ask parents to remind their children about the importance of staying safe on the way to and from school. We will most definitely be reinforcing this message in school.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support and please let us know if we can support you or your family in any way.

Mr Taylor

Remote learning

A reminder for all parents that our remote learning platform can be accessed from the school website [here](#). The remote learning site is the **first place** pupils should go to in order to access work for the week; there will be instructions for pupils each week and/or lesson about what they should do. Currently we are only using Microsoft Teams if we have to close bubbles and if we have sufficient staffing. Please encourage your child also to complete the google survey at the end of their isolation period. Whilst this site has been designed specifically for pupils to use if they are unable to attend school due to a need to self-isolate or if they are suffering mild symptoms due to COVID-19, it also provides a useful resource to support the learning of all our pupils.

If you require any subject specific advice, please contact your child's subject teacher in the first instance. Please send all other enquiries to the office.

Warm Jumper Day – Friday 11th December

Friday 11th December we will be taking part in Warm Jumper Day, raising money for Save the Children. Pupils are invited to wear a warm jumper instead of their school jumper, though please note this is not a full non uniform day. A suggested donation of £1 can be made through Just Giving, using the link below. Many thanks for your support!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cjd200018087>

Pantomime – Year 6

A gentle reminder that there are still outstanding payments on ParentPay for the virtual Christmas Pantomime. Kind regards – Finance Team.

Welcome Centre

We would like to support The Welcome Centre again this Christmas where possible. There is a link below for the much needed items, rice, jam and pasta sauces and would really appreciate any item being brought into school by Friday 11th December. Thank you.

<https://www.thewelcomecentre.org/pages/36-how-to-help-this-christmas>

We are also very much aware that Covid is adding to the financial pressure of some of our families. Please don't struggle in silence. In school, we have access to a variety of support so please contact your child's Head of Year for further information.

Maths - TT Rockstars

Year 6 - please keep encouraging your child to continue to log onto TT Rockstars regularly to keep their times tables as sharp as possible. They should really be logging on three times a week for about 10 to 15 minutes.
Thank you - Maths Department.

Christmas Gift of Music

In the aftermath of the pandemic, we are very much hoping the Christmas Gift of Music will get more musicians of all ages seeing the benefit of music in their lives and parents/carers/families the opportunity to gift the 'Christmas Gift of Music'.

<https://fb.watch/1-outVi9WJ/>

@musicakirklees @musica_kirklees and #ChristmasGift

Santa Run - PE

During the last week of term leading up to the Christmas break all pupils will take part in the Santa Run during one of their PE lessons. This will be a fun based run on the back fields. Pupils should bring a spare pair of trainers/shoes to change into for this activity as the fields are very muddy! Santa hats or Reindeer ears are very welcome as an accessory to normal PE kit for this fun run.

Many thanks - PE Department

PSHE

The Department for Education published statutory school guidance to ensure the Health Education and Relationships Education aspects of PSHE (personal, social, health and economic) education become compulsory from summer term 2021. This is, and will continue to be taught as part of our comprehensive PSHE curriculum, which also covers mental health and wellbeing, physical health (including healthy lifestyles and first aid) and learning about safe, healthy relationships, including understanding consent and online safety. As part of the process towards the new guidance being implemented, we want to ensure parents are fully informed and clear as to the PSHE curriculum content covered. We have attached further information relating to the new PSHE guidance for parents, which is produced by the Department of Education. A list of FAQs relating to the guidance can also be found by clicking [here](#).

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 16th December

We are having our Christmas lunch on Wednesday 16th December, pupils can pay on ParentPay or bring £2.30 on the day. Please note the Deli Bar will still be on open.



Thank you

A huge thanks to 'Christmas Trees Yorkshire' in Farnley Tyas for supplying our Christmas tree this year, it looks very festive in school now and many thanks for the lovely baubles and tinsel that have been kindly donated by parents too.

Careers

Next week in all lessons students are learning about Careers in the Curriculum.



PE skills at work

Strategic thinking
Interpersonal Skills
Communication
Patience and Adaptability
Organization
Creativity
Time Management
Leadership
Teamwork

What jobs involve PE in these sectors?

Public Sector Construction Law
Environment Healthcare

Covid 19 – Self-Isolation

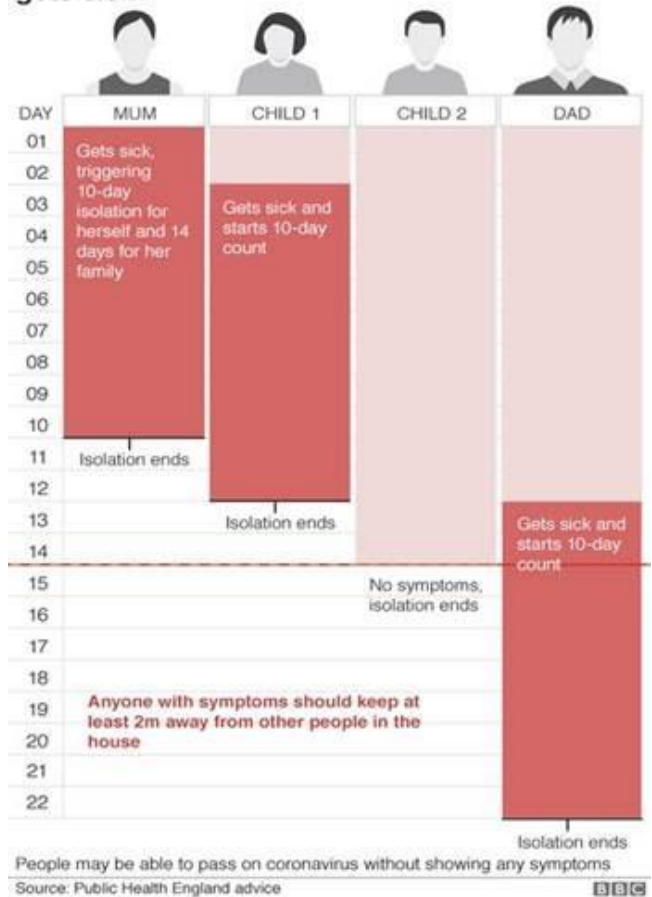
It seems there has been some confusion about isolation periods in relation to Covid 19 – this is partly because Test and Trace have been giving different information to what is recommended by Public Health England.

Where someone is isolating as part of a household bubble they maintain their own individual personal timeline, which remains unaffected by the results of others in their home once isolation has begun. In other words, if you are due to isolate for 14 days and remain well for your 14 days you may return to work/school at the end of your isolation.

If you, or someone in your household bubble tests positive during your isolation period, the person testing positive begins a new 10 day self-isolation timeline but others in the household will remain on their original timeline. PHE have confirmed that this is accurate and correct. If, however, the positive test comes after the isolation periods have ended, re-isolation would be necessary.

We have also been asked to share the poster [here](#) in relation to Tier 3 restrictions which I am sure you are very familiar with.

What happens if someone in your family gets sick?



Vacancies

We currently have the following vacancies within The Mast Academy Trust. Please see the links below for further information.

[Part-time Site Operative](#)

[Part-time Grounds Operative](#)

[Cleaning Supervisor](#)

