



Kirkburton Middle School - Parent Bulletin

26 February – 11 March 2021

Issue: 10



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Word from the Head

Welcome to our fortnightly parent bulletin, I hope you and your family are well.

As I write this I'm looking forward to 3.30pm today when hopefully up and down the country we will hear the sound of laptops closing and children (and I'm sure some parents) letting out a big cheer as we come to the end of another period of live lessons and remote learning (for most). You will not be surprised to hear that our week in school has been dominated by preparations for the full return of pupils from Monday. We know you will be as happy as we are to see the pupils back, I'm sure they feel the same – although they would never admit it. The key is that we do this safely for the benefit of everybody connected with our school. Thank you to those people who raised some questions following my letter at the start of the week. Understandably the two topics which caused the most discussion are the changes to rules on face coverings and lateral flow testing.

Face coverings in classrooms

Whilst I'm sure most pupils will take this in their stride, we know some pupils may find this difficult. Wherever we

can, we will work with pupils and families to provide support. Our school expectation is that where pupils are able to wear a face covering, they should. Part of our motto is 'succeeding together'; as face coverings predominately protect other people, we expect pupils to wear a face covering unless they are exempt. As mentioned in my letter, if it becomes clear pupils are struggling with this new approach, will look to take steps to reduce the length of time pupils are wearing coverings at any one time. If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering, please contact their Head of Year if you have not already done so. This requirement will be reviewed nationally at Easter.

Lateral flow tests

As with face coverings, asymptomatic lateral flow tests are very much about protecting the whole school community rather than individuals. We recognise some people have differing opinions on the efficacy of the tests however we would ask that every pupil who can take a test does so. The better we are at keeping the virus out of school, the safer our wider community becomes. It also means we can keep any further disruption to learning to a minimum.

In my assembly today I addressed both these issues with pupils and I also highlighted that some people can't wear a face covering or take a test for very genuine reasons. I told the pupils it is not their business to ask each other why, rather to be a kind member of our community and respect that we are all different and this is a good thing. The return to school assembly can be viewed [here](#) for those who missed it.

I would like to once again thank everybody who volunteered to support with the testing programme in school. It was so pleasing to see how many people were willing to give up their time freely to support the return

to school. Without this wonderful support we wouldn't have been able to test everybody we needed to by Wednesday. Volunteers were in school yesterday for training and they are thoroughly looking forward to meeting the children next week. A huge thank you to Mr Martin for leading on this logistically complex operation.

Finally, there seems to be some (convenient?) confusion amongst some of our Year 8 pupils in relation to the return to school. As stated in my letter, the day and time pupils have been allocated for testing is the point at which they will return to school permanently.

Fencing project

All parents should have received a letter today regarding our fencing project. **Your views are very important and as such we ask that all parents find two minutes to complete [the short form here](#)**. Full details of the project can be found [here on the school website](#).

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RHSE)

You will also have received a letter today (apologies to send so many at once) regarding our RHSE policy which we have a statutory obligation to share with parents. We feel it is important to share this anyway. Please could you [use the form here](#) to provide any feedback and to register an interest in attending an RHSE information evening. For further details about the RHSE curriculum in school, please [visit the school website here](#). Thank you to Mrs Johnson for all her excellent work in this area.

World book day

We are pleased to announce that KMS World Book Day is on the horizon. We have decided to delay the event in school as we wanted to wait until all pupils were back. Watch this space for more news.....

I think that's all for now. I hope you have a lovely weekend and I very much look forward to our full return on Monday. Once again, can I ask that you remind your child of the important part they have to play in ensuring we have a safe and happy return for all.

Mr Taylor

Safeguarding

The period of forced partial school closures is an unsettling time for many families and as a school, we aim to continue to support our pupils in every way possible. In addition to learning resources being provided, the Safeguarding team in school will also be monitoring the welfare of our most vulnerable children.

Should any of our families have concerns around the safety or wellbeing of children from our school community you can contact members of the Safeguarding team directly for advice or support on the following email addresses:

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

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

Spotlight author

Spotlight author



Local poet and author **Donavan Christopher** is...
Rappaman

Rappaman is a collection of poems for children that teach about the importance of respect, love, liberty, social justice, and truth and rights.

Rhyme and repetition – books and poems which include rhyme and repetition are great for encouraging your child to join in and remember the words

How can you support your child with reading?

Turn on the subtitles! Watch this 1 minute clip about supporting your child

[Stephen Fry Turn on the subtitles](#)

Top tips to help children enjoy reading

- Make books part of your family life – always have books around so that you and your children are ready to read whenever there's a chance.
- Join your local library – get your child a library card. You'll find the latest videogames, blu-rays and DVDs, plus tons and tons of fantastic books. Allow them to pick their own books, encouraging their own interests.
- Match their interests – help them find the right book, it doesn't matter if it's fiction, poetry, comic books or non-fiction.
- All reading is good – don't discount non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines and leaflets. Reading is reading and it is all good.
- Get comfortable! – snuggle up somewhere warm and cosy with your child, either in bed, on a beanbag or on the sofa, or make sure they have somewhere comfy when reading alone.
- Ask questions – to keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read such as, 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'Where did we get to last night? Can you remember what had happened already?'
- Read whenever you get the chance – bring along a book or magazine for any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's surgery.
- Read again and again – encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems. Re-reading helps to build up fluency and confidence.
- Bedtime stories – regularly read with your child or children at bedtime. It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with your child



Music

YSWN's Sent on behalf of Yorkshire Sound Women

Yorkshire Sound Women Network (YSWN) has partnered with Lawrence Batley Theatre to offer Sound Adventures, an introduction to music technology skills for girls aged 11-16 living locally.

The six-week course offers participants the chance to learn how to record and edit sound, and to create their own interactive soundwalk with an environmental theme.

The course starts on Wednesday 10 March and all the details of how to register are below.

Staying at home doesn't have to mean going nowhere! **Sound Adventures** offers the chance to start an **exciting journey into music technology and sound**. You will come away with a fantastic set of **technical and creative skills** to inform and inspire your future explorations into the world of sound and music, whatever direction that might take.

All sessions are open to participants with any level of music and/or technology experience, including complete beginners. No specialist equipment is required to take part, but you will need access to a smart phone (for recording) and PC/laptop (for editing sounds and building the walk), and be available to attend all the project sessions.

The course will be held weekly over six online sessions via Zoom, for further details please contact Miss Kaye.

How to Apply

The sessions will be held using Zoom. To apply, [download the application form here](#), complete and return it to info@yorkshiresoundwomen.com. Once accepted, you will be sent a private link and password for the sessions.

If you require the application in another format, please contact us at info@yorkshiresoundwomen.com.

Careers

This week has been National Careers Week. Throughout the week, pupils have completed careers related activities in lessons and there has been a real drive to help the pupils see how school subjects relate to the world of work.

Career of the week



Chef

Annual salary:

The average salary is £24,810 a year.

Qualifications needed:

4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 and or 2 A levels for a Level 3 diploma.

How long at college/University:

A Level 2 apprenticeship to become a chef can take up to 12 months to complete.

A Level 4 apprenticeship to become a chef can take up to 24 months to complete.

Career of the week



Personal trainer

Annual salary:

The average starting salary for fitness instructors is £19,459 per year, the lowest is £13,095 and the highest at £32,307.

Qualifications needed:

2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 for a level 2 course. 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 for a level 3 course.

How long at college/University:

Personal trainer courses can be completed within 4 weeks.

Career of the week



IT Technician

Annual salary:

Between £18,366- £29,000 a year.

Qualifications needed:

Some GCSEs, usually including English and Maths, for an intermediate apprenticeship.

5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, including English and Maths, for an advanced apprenticeship.

How long at college/University:

A Level 2 apprenticeship can take a year to complete with a Level 4-7 apprenticeship taking 3-5 years.

Gardening Club

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Gardening Club ran through the autumn term and 5 new members from Yr7 joined the existing Yr8 pupils.

Bulbs of garlic, daffodils and tulips were planted in their raised beds. Tete 'e' Tete and hyacinth bulbs were grown in pots in the greenhouse and taken home for Christmas. Also in the greenhouse broad beans were planted and are now ready for planting out.

The pupils started to prepare their raised beds for spring planting by adding well - rotted manure and now the weather is improving we need to get cracking again!

Hope to see you all soon.

Take care, Mrs. Seed

Subject of the fortnight – Science

The Science team

HOD Ms J.Sharples

j.sharples@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Ms S. Abbas S.abbas@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Mrs C. Davies c.davies@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Mr A.Sallu A.Sallu@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Mrs C.Moore (Technician)

c.moore@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Hello- it is the Science department's time to highlight what we are doing over the next fortnight.

It is an exciting time of year for the STEM subjects as it is British Science week from 5th -14th of March this year.



There are lots of activities for pupils to join with at home. If you click on the link <https://www.britishecienceweek.org/> it will explain a bit more about this nationwide event and has activity booklets for primary and secondary students.

Normally there would Science fairs taking place but instead there are online events that pupils can attend. <https://padlet.com/lslevin1/BSW> This link takes you to some of the TransPennine STEM events that are taking place this year. There are some brilliant opportunities and are free some please get involved.

Due to pupils returning during these dates, we will be running our annual Science week from the 15th of March. There will a competition run in form times, a Science

week assembly and most exciting of all our virtual online Science fair website will be launched for pupils to explore. More to follow on that development.

What we are currently learning-

Year group	Current topic
Year 6	Evolution topic- pupils are exploring classification of organisms, variation and adaptation, food chains and webs as well as evolution.
Year 7	Matter topic- Pupil are learning the particle model and how it can be applied to diffusion, air pressure and separating mixtures.
Year 8	Light and sound topic- Pupils discover how sound and light travel, the effect of different media on them, how the ear and eye both work and how they can be reflected, refracted etc.

How can I help support my child in Science?

This important question is often asked by parents and carers. There is a plethora of resources out there but is often difficult to where to start so hopeful this guide will help.

- 1) Using vocabulary- Where ever you can please encourage your child to discuss the topics they are learning using science specific vocabulary. Ask them about the keywords they may have learned that week and describe what they mean and how to use them.
- 2) Reading around the subject- Science is often in the news. Sharing articles about new discoveries or encouraging your child to read a science based book can work wonders. There are range of Horrible Science books which middle school age children can enjoy but Science underpins a lot of fiction or non-fiction based books too. The LRA at school has plenty to choose from.
- 3) Learning through watching- we are lucky that scientific programming is often on the TV and has content the whole family can enjoy. Any David Attenborough or Brian Cox programmes will

enthuse pupils about areas of Science as will many others.

- 4) Online learning- one of the positives of the remote learning is the amount of online packages available, many of which are free.

SENCEA LEARNING- <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>
This website will need your permission to set up an account. Once the account is set up, they can revise Science either through over-learning and revision of the content to aid understanding or the questioning to aid recall. There are different tasks based on the key stage and it isn't limited to Science. There are many other subjects available too. Some pupils may have already set up an account.

OAKACADEMY-
<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage> You can chose the key stage and then the subject. You can then chose the topic and join in with an interactive lesson prepared by teachers. Very useful for revision or pre-learning of a topic. Also good for checking understanding or over-learning. No account is needed.

BBCBITESIZE-
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z7nygk7> BBC bitesize has great interactive tasks, quizzes, knowledge and video clips to aid understanding or consolidation of knowledge and silks. Again no account is necessary. Chose the topic area you would like to know more about.

I hope this information is useful and appreciate your support with this.

Science jokes (I apologise in advance).

- 1) How does the moon cut his Hair? He eclipse it.
- 2) Why don't Ants get sick? Because they have Anty-bodies!
- 3) Two blood cells met and fell in love...Alas it was all in vein!
- 4) Never trust Atoms- they make up EVERYTHING!
- 5) I could tell you a good Science joke...but all the good ones Argon!

True or false Science facts.

Can you spot the true facts?

- 1) You need saliva to be able to taste food and human produce enough in their lives to fill 2 swimming pools full! What a lovely thought!
- 2) The Human eye has a resolution of 576 megapixels.
- 3) Grasshoppers have ears on their stomachs.
- 4) You are 10 times more likely to bitten by a New Yorker than a Shark.
- 5) Scallops have 200 eyes.
- 6) The UK has more tornados per square mile than any other country.
- 7) At birth, a Baby blue whale weighs as much as its Mothers' tongue.
- 8) Dinosaurs became extinct before the Alps formed.
- 9) Strawberries and raspberries are not berries. However pineapples, aubergines and tomatoes are.
- 10) 90% of modern apples can be traced back to just 2 trees.

Did you spot the true facts? Well they are all true!
Unbelievable. This is why I love Science.

Kirklees Support Services

Thriving Kirklees

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

www.thrivingkirklees.org.uk

0300 304 5555

Northorpe Hall – Kirklees

Children’s mental and emotional health service

www.northorpehall.co.uk

01924 492183

Kirklees Children’s services

Safeguarding Services

www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk

01484 456848

Services for young people

Thriving Kirklees

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

07520618866

Childline

www.childline.org.uk

0800 1111

NSPCC

Support for Parents and Children

www.nspcc.org.uk

Parents/carers – 0808 800 5000

Children – Via Childline 0800 1111



Term Dates 2021 - 2021

Monday 6th September 2021 – Staff Training Day

Tuesday 7th September 2021 – Return to School

Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October – Half Term

Friday 26th November – Staff Training Day

Monday 20th December – Friday 31st December - Christmas holiday

Monday 3rd January 2022 – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 4th January 2022 – Staff Training Day

Wednesday 5th January – Return to school

Monday 21st – Friday 25th February – Half Term

Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April – Easter holiday

Monday 25th April – Return to school

Monday 2nd May – May Day holiday

Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June – Half Term

Monday 6th June – Return to school

Friday 22nd July – Last day for pupils