



# Kirkburton Middle School - Parent Bulletin

## 15 – 28 January 2021

### Issue: 7



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#### Word from the Head

Welcome to our first parent bulletin of 2021; I hope you and your family are well despite the challenging circumstances we find ourselves in once again. It is hard to believe we are only two weeks into the new school term; currently each day seems to feel like a week.

We are naturally bitterly disappointed to have to, once again, close our doors to all but our vulnerable pupils and the pupils of critical workers. Hopefully, with the roll out of the vaccine and the heightened national restrictions, we can return to some semblance of ‘normality’ in the not too distant future.

Can I thank all parents who have kept their children at home over the past two weeks. As you may be aware, in a recent press conference, the Prime Minister described schools as ‘vectors for transmission, causing the virus to spread between households’. We are taking all possible steps to keep children and adults in school safe however the fewer people we have on site the easier this is. **We therefore ask, in line with government guidance, that all parents keep their children at home if they can in order that we can facilitate the full return to school as quickly as possible.** Please [see here for our latest site risk assessment](#).

On a positive note, it has been very pleasing to see how well the introduction of live lessons has gone. Staff have worked incredibly hard to move their curriculum online and, despite the inevitable initial teething problems, lessons seem to be progressing very well. We have been delighted with the high levels of attendance and staff have been extremely impressed with the way pupils have adapted to this new way of working. We will continue to monitor and review our remote learning provision over the coming weeks in order to ensure it best supports all our pupils to make great progress. If you haven’t already done so, please read the letter that Mrs Kerr, our remote learning lead, sent out earlier this week which explains all about our offer. **If your child has any issues whatsoever accessing live lessons, please let us know in order that we provide any support we can to overcome potential barriers.** As mentioned previously, those pupils in school receive exactly the same provision as they would at home i.e. they attend live lessons via a computer or tablet.

Finally can I thank you for your support with the weather conditions at the end of the week. It is always a difficult decision to ask parents to keep their children at home however in this time of remote learning it makes it slightly easier knowing that we can still provide educational provision even when pupils are not in school. I would like to thank those staff who came into school on both Thursday and Friday to support the families working in frontline professions during this national pandemic. It is this kind of teamwork which will hopefully accelerate our progress out of these difficult times.

I hope you have a good weekend and please remember we are here to support all members of our community in any way we can. Please get in touch if you need us.

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

## Family Support

Kirklees Adult Learning have a range of free short courses that can support parents/carers to support their children via their Family Learning offer. [Please see here for further details.](#)

## Chat Health

Chat Health is a texting service where young people can access a support from qualified nurses on a range of health issues. All pupils have been shown the short video clip below as part of their class time this week however if it may be something you may want to watch with them.

<https://youtu.be/sq4-RVtO0D4>

## Parent Survey

Thank you to everybody who has taken the time to complete our parent survey. For those still wanting to provide feedback [the survey can be accessed here](#). Your views are very important to us and your feedback is crucial in supporting us with our school improvement plans. The survey will close on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm. We will then start our analysis of the results and we will share this with parents once complete.

## Admissions

A reminder that January 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for applying for a place for our 2021 Year 6 cohort. **Full details about admission to KMS can be found [here](#)**. Please feel free to share this information with friends and neighbours.

## Ski Trip 2021 - Update

Following the Christmas break we have once again approached the Insurance Company about the cancellation of the Ski trip and the possibility of refunding monies collected. I am pleased to report that we have received confirmation that cover is now provided for trips leaving up to, and including, 26th March 2021 (the exact date of our trip). We are in the process of making the claim and funding the parent pay system so that money can be returned to you as quickly as possible. There is no need to contact us. We will make the refunds as soon as ParentPay provides us with the bank details and the money transferred to them. Our aim is to complete the refunds by the end of the month.

## Music

### Keeping up with your daily practise?

Please try to find time to keep up with practising your instrument and singing if you have lessons from Musica and/or private lessons. Lessons can be taught via zoom/teams depending on which platform your instrument/vocal teachers are using. Try to take up the offer of an online lesson. This will help with continuing to make progress and keep you connected with your teacher(s). Send me a video clip(s) of you playing/singing. It would be good practise and I would love to hear you.

## Careers

Please look at the link below for useful careers resources.

<https://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/resources/hub/>

## Remote Learning

### The School Day

The government guidance changed at the end of last week and schools are now required to provide 4 hours of work for key stage 2 pupils each day and 5 hours for key stage 3 pupils. You will notice that our lockdown school day only offers 4 hours and 30 minutes of teacher contact. We have kept 30 minutes free each day for pupils to work on any assignments or to revisit any lesson recordings where they feel the need. Please contact school if you have any questions regarding this.

**Period 1: 9.00 – 9.50**

**Period 2: 10.00 – 10.50**

**Period 3: 11.10 – 12.00**

**Class time: 1.00 – 1.20** Mon – Assembly, Tue & Thur – Private reading / assignments, Wed & Fri – Tutor lead session

**Period 4: 1.30 – 2.20**

**Period 5: 2.30 – 3.20**

### Assignments

Assignments are a great way for us to challenge the pupils and assess their learning, often as they are working. However, there have been some issues with editing documents on various devices. Please can you check with your child as soon as possible, outside of their lesson, that they have a way of being able to access and edit Assignment documents.

Teams on Windows app and on the web has Word, Powerpoint etc built in, so it is easy for it to open documents up and be edited live.

Android and Apple iOS versions do not have these programs built in (they do allow a preview), so they require the apps to be installed separately. They also have a requirement to be logged in, so once installed, login with your Office365 MAST account.

However, Apple devices running iOS 12.5 or below, will not allow Word etc. to be installed. In this case, the only option is to create the document elsewhere and upload it

or to take a picture of a paper version of the work unfortunately.

The following videos should demonstrate the above on various devices.

Apple iOS - <https://youtu.be/q3HD-6DkQGg>

Android - <https://youtu.be/A53XpWzpZ4U>

Windows (should also be same method on Chromebook) - [https://youtu.be/nXsEb\\_XwXxM](https://youtu.be/nXsEb_XwXxM)

[Please see here for further advice and guidance on accessing live lessons.](#)

### IT Support

[Please report any technical issues here in relation to accessing live lessons.](#) This will direct your query to the most appropriate person and enable us to deal with issues in a more efficient manner.

## In school rapid testing

We are just finalising our plans in relation to rapid testing for Covid 19 in school using the government supplied lateral flow tests. We aim to pilot this with staff next week and once we are comfortable with our level of provision, we will look to extend this offer to the year 7 and 8 pupils who are working on site. We are however very conscious about the ongoing debate in relation to this programme and will continue to review our plans in line with the latest advice and guidance. Please remember that all critical workers who live or work in Kirklees can access rapid testing via the mass community testing programme. [Please see here for further details.](#)



## **Kirklees Support Services**

### **Thriving Kirklees**

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

[www.thrivingkirklees.org.uk](http://www.thrivingkirklees.org.uk)

0300 304 5555

### **Northorpe Hall – Kirklees**

Children’s mental and emotional health  
service

[www.northorpehall.co.uk](http://www.northorpehall.co.uk)

01924 492183

### **Kirklees Children’s services**

Safeguarding Services

[www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk](http://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](http://www.childline.org.uk)

0800 1111

### **NSPCC**

Support for Parents and Children

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Parents/carers – 0808 800 5000

Children – Via Childline 0800 1111

Duty and Advice – Quick Reference Numbers	
The following are phone numbers for Children's Services Duty and Advice team. If you have an <u>immediate</u> concern for a child's safety call the police on 999	
For professional (24 hours):	01484 414 960
For members of the public (9am-5pm office hours):	01484 456848
For members of the public, outside of 9am-5pm office hours:	Please call the relevant services
If you are a child:	01484 456 848 or Child Line: 0800 1111 (calls are free)



## Thriving Kirklees

If you're aged 11-19 (Year 7 and above) text your Thriving Kirklees nurse **07520 618866**

ChatHealth

[www.thrivingkirklees.org.uk](http://www.thrivingkirklees.org.uk)

