



Kirkburton Middle School - Parent Bulletin

15 – 29 October 2021

Issue: 20



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Word from the Head

Welcome to our fortnightly parent bulletin, I hope you and your family are well. It's hard to believe we only have one more week until our first half term of the year is complete. Time certainly flies when you are having fun!

There has been lots to celebrate once more over the past fortnight including some excellent sporting performances, including a very busy schedule of lunchtime inter house competitions, fantastic attendance at lunchtime activities and a victory for one of our Year 7 pupils in a national poster competition – watch this space for further details.

Last week we hosted Mr Wadsworth, Principal at Shelley College. He spent the morning with myself and then toured the school to see the work of our Year 8 pupils. Mr Wadsworth was most complimentary about the excellent work and exemplary behaviour he saw across the school.

We also hosted a colleague from Kirklees Council's Safeguarding team last week who was in school for our annual safeguarding review. Our visitor was very impressed with what she saw both in terms of safeguarding policy and practice but also the general ethos and atmosphere around the school.

We are looking forward to meeting parents at our Year 6 'Settling in' parents' evening on Thursday. If you haven't already done so, please book your appointment via Edulink One. On the same night, we also have our invitation only 'progress review' evening for some parents Year 7 and 8.

Looking further ahead, we have our first parent forum meeting of the year on Thursday 4th November, further details about this will be sent out next week.

I'd like to thank all the staff for their hard work since the return to school in September, parents for their ongoing support and our pupils for their engagement in all aspects of school life. I very much look forward to all that the next half-term holds including, dare I say it, Christ.....

Mr Taylor

Curriculum Map

Help those 'what have you done at school today?' conversations go more smoothly: click on the [Curriculum map](#) link to see a brief overview of what your child will be learning each half-term, in each subject.

Homework Club

From Monday 18th October we will begin a lunchtime homework club in the Library. This will run for the full hour and will be led by HLTAs Mr Turner and Mrs Haigh-Edwards. It will be run on a first come first serve basis and we will look to expand the offer if the demand is high enough.

Breakfast Club

Please note after half-term breakfast club will be available for pupils from 8:00am to 8:50am each morning, with last orders at 8:40am!

Uniform

Can we remind parents that pupils are expected to attend school in full school uniform each day. Our uniform expectations can be found [here](#) on the school website or in the planner. **If for any reason your child is not attending in school uniform, please write a note in their planner to explain why.** We have lots of spare uniform in school, including shoes, so will endeavour to supply this for the day. If you have any questions regarding school uniform, please contact your child's Head of Year / Key Stage. Free school uniform can be requested from [Huddersfield Uniform Exchange](#).

In April, a [new law was passed by parliament in relation to school uniform](#). We are awaiting the publication of new guidance from the Department of Education in relation to this, which is due to be published this term. As soon as the guidance is published, we plan to carry out a full uniform review during which we will consult all stakeholders including parents and pupils.

Lateral flow tests

Please find the attached letter from the Department of Education and Department of Health and Social Care in relation to Covid-19 and young people in England.

We ask that all pupils in Years 7 and 8 continue to test themselves for COVID-19 twice a week, and more frequently if they are specifically asked to do so. This way, we can find individuals who have the virus but are not showing symptoms, and stop them from passing it on to others.

We have distributed more test kits this week to our year 8's and we will distribute to our year 7's next week. [Families can also access test kits via the NHS website](#). If you have any questions whatsoever, please contact the school office. [Please see here for some frequently answered questions for parents](#), from Dr Mary Ramsay, Head of Immunisation at the UK Health Security Agency in relation to testing and vaccines.

Bus driver shortages

As you are aware, there is currently a national shortage of HGV drivers. We have been told this is also having some impact on the availability of bus drivers. We would like parents to be aware of the following information which we have received from Metro.

'...bus operators no longer have the usual number of spare drivers and are not able to deal with 'last minute' absence issues in the way they did previously.

What this means for school buses is that there may be occasions when one of the following scenarios will apply.

- *Journeys will be doubled up i.e. one service will have to operate after another and the second one will be significantly late.*
- *Journeys will be combined. Buses will be much fuller and journey lengths may be longer.*
- *Journeys will be cancelled. Children will have to use public transport or be reliant on their parents to take them to school.*

Whilst we may not be able to avoid this happening, we can ensure that parents and pupils are made aware of issues and that parents have a contingency plan in the event of service failure.

In terms of communication, we would encourage parents and students to follow us on Twitter '@metrogenm' where we will publish up to the minute information on service disruption. We will also be asking operators publish information as soon as they are aware of a problem and to tag the aforementioned Twitter feed and the school's feed, if they have one.'

To date there have been no concerns with the supply of drivers for our buses at KMS. Parents are reminded that [full information about our school buses can be found on the Metro website](#).



Sports Update

Year 6 Cross Country Team

A massive well done to all of the Year 6 KMS runners who took part in the Cross Country finals at Newsome Academy. We had a winner in the girls' race and the girls team came second overall, just 1 point behind Scissett! The boys ran amazingly well and came in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 11th and 18th! This means our school teams came first and second overall! The next round will be the Kirklees Final on Tuesday 2nd November in the afternoon. We will be taking one girls team and two boys teams and letters will go out early next week. Congratulations to all, hopefully we can make it through to the West Yorkshire Final!

Football Fixtures Update:

Year 8:

KMS v All Saints Drew 4 - 4
KMS v Scissett Won 5-3

Year 7:

KMS v Salendine Nook Drew 2-2
KMS v Scissett Won 4-3
KMS v Lightcliffe Won 8-3
KMS v All Saints Won 15 - 0

Year 6:

KMS v St Patricks Won

PE Extra Curricular Clubs after October half term

There will be some changes to the lunchtime and after school clubs after October half term. Please see the 'What's On' in PE document attached to see these changes.

Please note the last after school hockey session will be on Monday 18th October. This will start again after February half term. After school Football, Dance and Netball will continue, the football will move to the AWP to allow for light. You may notice Dodgeball has been added after school. If your child would like to do this club, they will need to collect a letter from the school office and return it ASAP. Places will be limited to 30.

Sports Leaders and House Captains

All of the Sports Leaders have now been informed of their successful applications. They will begin the role following half term and we look forward to working with all of them. House Captains have now been selected for each house. Congratulations to the successful pupils, we know you will do a great job leading your house this year in PE and Sport.

Yours sportingly - Mrs Joyce

Remote Learning PE

It is not possible for to deliver live lessons for PE due to the practical nature of the subject. From Monday, all work for PE lessons will be in the Year group Team. Please look for the work to complete for the week.

Careers Questionnaire

Mrs Greenleaf hopes you will encourage your child to complete the questionnaire below to support with our Careers learning within school.

[Careers Survey](#)

Water bottles

Please ensure your child brings a labelled water bottle to school each day. Pupils can fill water bottles up during break time and lunchtimes but not during lessons. Our school office is a very busy place and the staff working in the office do not have time to provide cups of water for pupils, unless of course they are ill. This will also help reduce our use of single use plastic. Your support with this is very much appreciated.

Edulink One - Homework

Parents are reminded that all homework in school is set via Edulink One. If you have not already done so, we would encourage you to download the App onto your mobile device so you can see what homework your child has been set and view the deadline dates. We also encourage those pupils with mobile devices to download the app.

[Apple App Store Link](#)

[Google Play Store Link](#)

Edulink One can also be accessed via a desktop PC or laptop.

<http://www.edulink.com/>

The school postcode is HD80TJ.

Your username and password have been sent out to you from the school by email. Please contact the school office if you have any questions regarding this.

Lost property

We now have even more lost property since we last wrote to you, pupils are leaving jumpers, PE bags, lunch boxes, water bottles and coats. As the items are not named we cannot return to your child. Please ensure items are named and ask your child to look in the large hall for lost items. Anything not collected by half-term will be taken to a charity shop.



School Safeguarding Contacts

Mrs Senior – Safeguarding Lead
gsenior@themast.co.uk

Mr MacIntyre – Deputy Safeguarding Lead
amacintyre@themast.co.uk

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

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

