



@KMSchool

Kirkburton Middle School



## Kirkburton Middle School - Parent Bulletin

12 March – 26 March 2021

Issue: 11



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### Word from the Head

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

Whilst, like teachers across the country, I was thoroughly looking forward to the full return to school, I would be lying if I said I didn't feel slightly apprehensive. I'm pleased to report that overall the first two weeks back have been a great success and the pupils have been absolutely fantastic. Whilst staff continue to deliver the usual high quality lessons, due to the strict bubbles and safety measures in place, the rest of our offer is far from where we'd like it to be. Despite this, pupils have continued to show tremendous resilience and every day I am impressed with the mature way in which they approach this challenging time. As you will see from this bulletin, there is still lots going on within school. I sincerely hope we will be in a position to slightly open up our bubbles in the summer term and start to offer some of the extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities which KMS is famous for. Dare I dream of a Year 8 leavers trip? Time will tell.

You will be aware from the press that many people are describing the young people of today as the 'lost generation' who have missed out on so much. Whilst we

agree the lockdown has been very difficult in terms of lack of social contact, we have no concerns whatsoever about your child's ability to 'catch-up' on missed work. We discussed this in our assembly last week and calculated that, assuming there are no more lockdowns, on average pupils will have missed just 2% of their total schooling. We also discussed that whilst sadly there will be some pupils whose mental health has really suffered during this pandemic, for many a simple return to structures and routines is all that is needed. Indeed for many pupils, their biggest concern about the return to school was either their hairstyle or the length of their trousers. **Where you feel your child may need additional support, please contact school.**

**Can I once again thank the 22 volunteers who came into school to assist with the lateral flow tests and the countless others who volunteered but were not needed.** It was lovely to have parents and community members in the building once again. We hope it won't be too long before we can invite all parents back into school for something slightly more glamorous than Covid-19 testing! A special thank you also to Mr Martin and his team of school staff for all their efforts during the past two weeks. In total over 1000 tests were conducted. We now look forward to the challenges of home testing and thank you in advance for your support with this.

Thank you to everybody who provided feedback on the fencing project. We expect the Southern field to be completed by the middle of next week and look forward to sunny days on the field in the summer term.

**Finally we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Breeze, our kitchen manager, next Friday when she retires after 27**

**Enjoying, Achieving, Succeeding Together.**

### years of wonderful service at Kirkburton Middle School.

We are extremely proud of the quality of our lunches in school and we know they are very well received by pupils. Mrs Breeze has always been so passionate about ensuring the school provides a healthy and nutritious meal to those pupils who dine in school and we will be extremely sad to see her leave. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Breeze all the very best in her retirement. Mrs Taylor (no relation) will take over from Mrs Breeze as our new kitchen manager and she has already joined us for a handover period prior to the Easter break.

As this is the last parent bulletin before the end of term, I hope you have a lovely Easter break and we very much look forward to seeing what the summer term brings. Thank you as always for all your ongoing support.

Mr Taylor

### Safeguarding

Whilst schools are now back open to all pupils, this is still an unsettling time for many families and as a school, we aim to continue to support our pupils in every way possible.

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](mailto:g.senior@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk)

Mr MacIntyre – Deputy Safeguarding Lead  
[a.macintyre@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk](mailto:a.macintyre@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk)

### DT - Instagram



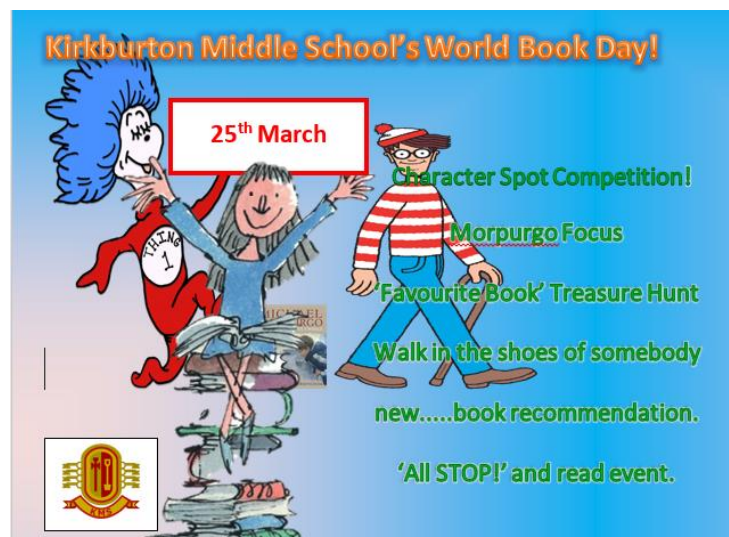
We like to use Instagram to show the work we are doing in DT, Food and Art. If parents and children would like to follow us they can see regularly what goes on in our area. Just search for kmsartdt – many thanks for your support.



### KMS World Book Day

**KMS is doing World Book Day on Thursday 25th March** - please see the poster below. We will be running a series of events throughout the week including a competition to work out the favourite childhood books of some of the staff, a 'walk in the shoes of someone different' book display, as well as a DEAR event - Drop Everything and Read. This year we will be serialising a Michael Morpurgo book throughout the day called 'This morning I met a Whale'. This short story has an environmental theme and as well as listening to the story, our pupils will complete some activities linked with this theme.

We would also like to run a 'book swap' event. If your child has a book they have finished with, and would like to swap for another book, please ask them to bring it into their classroom by **Wednesday 24th March**. We will collect all books and display them after Easter in the year group area so that pupils can choose a replacement. Any leftover books will be given to the library for use by other pupils. Please ensure the books are suitable for middle school pupils and in fairly good condition.



### RHSE

Many thanks for the feedback given on our draft RSHE policy. We will be holding an information evening for

parents on Thursday 25th March, for anyone who would like further information. **If you would like to book a place on our parents' information evening, please can you book a place by contacting the school office.** Thank you.

## Music

Musica are back!



This week we welcomed back our fabulous team of specialist teaching staff from Musica, covering all instruments; piano and keyboard, Brass, Woodwind, Upper and Lower Orchestral Strings, Electric and Classical Guitar, Drums and Voice. Over 50 of our pupils have, again, enjoyed 'reconnecting' with their specialist teachers and it has been great to see our pupils attending their lessons again and hearing them play.

Instruments should be placed in form rooms for the time being and all safety measures regarding Covid 19 apply.

It has been equally encouraging to hear about pupils who have taken up lessons during lockdown and some to be starting after the Easter break.

**If your child is interested in starting to learn an instrument and/or have singing lessons, please do not hesitate to contact school or you download an application form from the Musica Kirkless website.**

## Maths

***Pi Day 2021 (14th March 2021 – or as it is written in America, 3.14)***

Thanks to all those who took part in the annual Pi Day Challenge. How many places of Pi can you recite from memory? It was a very hotly contested event with the pressure too much for some! Special mentions go to the following for their efforts:

Yr 6 – Tyrus Holder 159 decimal places.

Yr 7 – Marley Mitchell 73 decimal places.

However, our overall Winner is:

Yr 8 - Maisie Park who managed to recite 207 decimal places.

Which is:

3.141592653589793238462643383279502884197169399  
3751058209749445923078164062862089986280348253  
4211706798214808651328230664709384460955058223  
1725359408128481117450284102701938521105559644  
6229489549303819644288109756659334461284756 .....

An incredible achievement! Well done

Thanks, Maths Department.

## Aimee Willmott

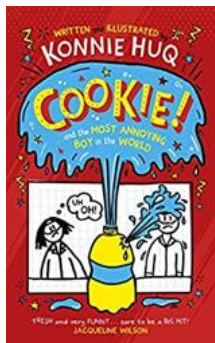
Aimee Willmott is an English competitive swimmer. She has represented Great Britain at the Olympic Games and England in the Commonwealth Games. **She was the 2018 Commonwealth Games Champion in the 400 metres individual medley.**

Aimee spoke to students about her career as a swimmer, including all of her ups and downs. There was a huge focus on resilience and determination in the face of adversity. This helped to inspire students to keep going, even though times are hard and to stay positive and look forward to the better times to come. She welcomed many wonderful questions from the students and was very motivating and uplifting. She will be representing Great Britain in the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games and we hope you will join us in supporting her!



## Spotlight Author

# Spotlight author



Cookie! ...and the Most Annoying Boy in the World' written and illustrated by Konnie Huq an ex Blue Peter presenter.

Aimed at older children and teenagers. This is the first of a planned series of children's books written by Konnie. Introducing science and humour.

*"Cookie's life is basically over. Her best friend in the whole world is moving to Solihull because one of her dads has a new job there. Solihull?! Where even is that?! Cookie begs her parents for a pet to fill the void but they have given her an absolute NO. It would be way too expensive and way way too messy. But Cookie has never been a fan of the word 'no' so she visits the pet shop anyway and sets her heart on the sweetest cutest kitteniest kitten ever: Bluey. But then . . . DISASTER! The most ANNOYING boy she's ever met in her entire nine years goes into the pet shop, buys Bluey and renames her Nigel! And then he joins her year at school! And if that wasn't bad enough, he moves in next door to her. AAAAGGGGHHHHH! But it's not all bad . . . Cookie gets the chance to go on her favourite TV show, Brainbusters. It's only a chance though – she'll have to win the school science competition first. It shouldn't be too hard . . . all she has to do is keep her head down, and not get too over-excited. Unfortunately that's not Cookie's strong point . . ."*

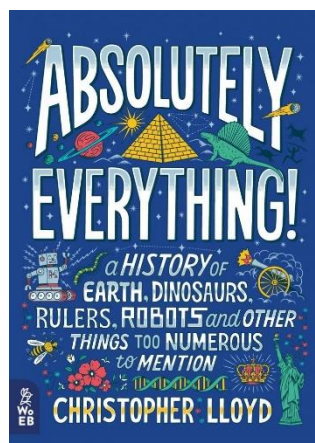
For more information about Konnie Huq and some great fun things to do, follow the link to the official site;

<https://konnie-huq.com/>

If you would like access for the whole family to free audio and eBooks use the link below to join Kirklees libraries;

[Join Kirklees libraries | Kirklees Council](#)

**Fancy a few facts? Try Christopher Lloyd's Absolutely Everything**

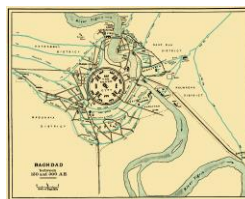


Take a wild, whirlwind tour through time. You'll be journeying across continents and millennia to find out about the Earth's creation, the age of dinosaurs, human history and technology and lots more, all wrapped up in an anecdote-packed, fascinating narrative. The author set out to write a "gateway to all the knowledge in the world", to spark a "lifelong love of questioning and finding answers" – and we thoroughly enjoyed the beautifully illustrated result, very accessible to young readers (and older ones!).

## Subject of the fortnight – History

### Year 6

We have been looking at Roman achievements over the last few lessons and how the Romans were able to use engineering to solve problems such as access to clean water and a road network.



Over the next few weeks we will be investigating why the Roman Empire collapsed and why this plunged Europe into the Dark Ages. This will then lead into our final unit of the year 'The Golden Age of Islam'; where we will compare the story of Europe in the Middle Ages with the achievements of Islamic Empire centred on the Medieval Round city of Baghdad.



## Year 7

We have been studying ordinary lives in the middle ages. Particularly looking at the impact of the Black Death and the transformation of Feudal society. Next, we will be looking at how religious people really were in the middle



ages – a time often called the age of faith! – Before concluding our study into the medieval period by seeing how much power medieval kings really had.

We finish the year by looking at the 'Early Modern period'. A time when new ideas and discoveries changed lives and the world became smaller with increased trade. We will look at the turbulent Tudors and how religious differences led to the English Civil War.

## Year 8

Throughout Lockdown we have studying the Slave Trade and its links to the industrial revolution. Now that pupils have returned to site we are looking at the consequences of the Slave Trade, how abolition shaped American History and the Civil rights movement. We will be looking



at some of the key aspects of the fight for equality throughout the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the 1960s and up to the present day.

During the summer term our focus of study will be WWI. This is a key unit of work in relation to transition, as Shelley College start their year 9 curriculum with the end of WWI and key pieces of work will be shared between the middle schools and Shelley College.

## Useful Websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zk26n39>  
<https://www.educationquizzes.com/ks3/history/>  
<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/discover/history/>  
<https://www.ducksters.com/history/>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/shows/horrible-histories>  
[BBC Black History](#)  
<https://www.thenational.academy/>

## Accelerated Reader – Year 6 & 7

### Accelerated Reader advice for parents

We have welcomed our students back over the last few days and we are very excited to get going with our reading sessions on a Tuesday afternoon with Accelerated Reader and reading at home.

We would really appreciate your help by encouraging your child to read every day/evening - possibly for 25 minutes, but anything is better than nothing.

All students have been given a reading level called a ZPD and it is important that the students try to choose books that are on this level (you can find books on the internet on a website called Accelerated Book finder)

Every student has been to the school library and should have a book. The students can still be reading at home on GetEpic.com.

When your child has finished their book - please can you encourage them to quiz on their book.

### Instructions on how to Quiz

1. Go onto KMS website
2. Click on subjects
3. Click on English
4. Scroll down to Accelerated Reader
5. Click on link
6. Click on Orange box
7. Put in the name of book
8. Press start quiz.



Your child's username is first name.second name  
eg adele.greenleaf

Their password is their date of birth.



Get Up to Speed with STEM, an annual employer-inspired science, technology, engineering, manufacturing (STEM) and construction careers spectacular usually held at the Magna Science Adventure Centre in Rotherham, is pleased to announce the launch of its first ever virtual showcase.

Organised by The work-wise Foundation and taking place from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Get up to Speed The Virtual Experience, will give young people the opportunity to learn about STEM industries and the careers available within the industries over the course of a week and from the comfort of their classroom, home or office.

The Fair is open from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March – 24 hours a day!

Visit this link for a short explanation on how to login and navigate the online platform: <https://youtu.be/it30729Kdj4>

To get onto this experience please go to [www.getuptospeed.org.uk](http://www.getuptospeed.org.uk)

### LOGIN

We are delighted to provide you with your Login and Password for the event:

**Username:** scissettmiddleschool

**Password:** yk8zqpf9bs

Another Year group competition, another set of great entries to look through. Ms Clark's Art competition threw up some incredible work, from 'arty' photographs to still life portraits, the students of KMS really showcased their talents. Well done to all who entered. You have all been rewarded with positives! But...who was the winning Year group? Well...after Year 6 triumphed in the musical competition the gauntlet had been laid down...Would Year 7 or 8 respond and take the glory??? No...they wouldn't...Year 6 did it again! Most entries for the second competition running!!! Well done Year 6 and well done all who entered. Now we are all back at school we are going to give the TEAMS competitions a break for a while but they may be back in the months leading up to summer...watch this space!!!!

Please see some of the brilliant entries below.

Many thanks for your contributions.

The Pastoral Team



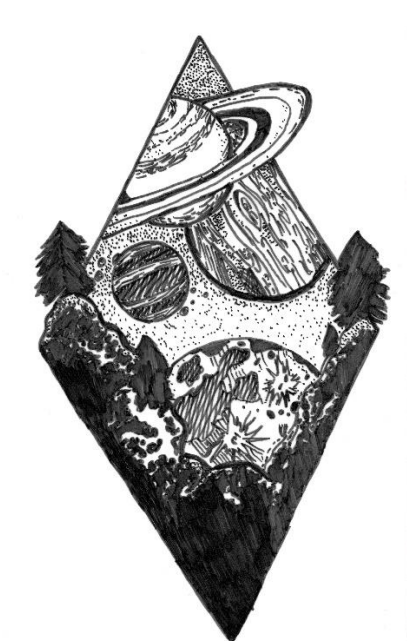
Evelyn M 6F



Faye H 6B



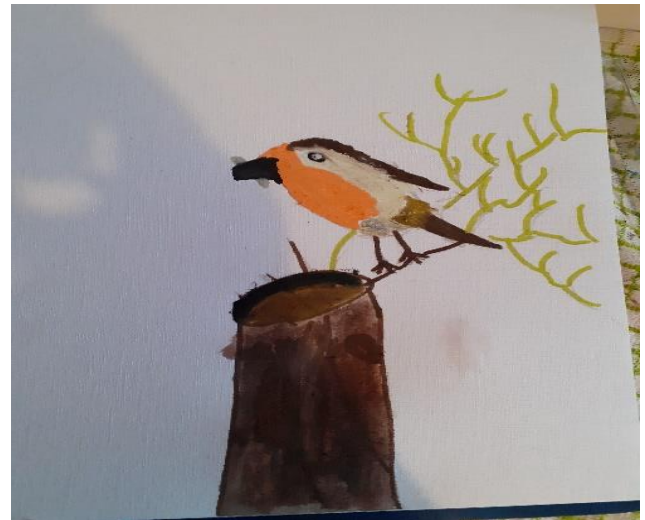
Natasha B 7A



Amelie K 8E



Poppy F 7D



Eva G 6D



Eleanor W 6C

## **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

