



Kirkburton Middle School - Parent Bulletin

28 September – 9 October 2020

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Word from the Head

I hope you and your family are well in these ever changing times. As you are aware, for the first time, we had to ask members of our school community to self-isolate following news of a positive Covid-19 case in school. I'm pleased to report the person in question has only experienced minor symptoms and will be ready to attend school at the end of their isolation period. Sending pupils home from school is the last thing a Headteacher wants to do at any time. I am therefore very grateful for the support and understanding shown by the parents of those children who have been asked to self-isolate.

This week we launched the remote learning section of our school website to support those pupils who are working from home. [Please click here](#) to access the website. The [assembly video here](#) contains further information for parents and pupils.

We are becoming increasingly concerned with the number of pupils who are congregating at the skate park in the mornings before school, some as early as 8am, and then arriving late to school or missing their staggered start time. This practice undoes a lot of the hard work staff undertake in school in terms of maintaining bubbles. Please contact your child's form tutor if our staggered start times are causing your family genuine difficulties.

Finally it has been great to receive so much positive feedback about the resumption of our traditional school lunch menu. I've made sure these have been shared with our kitchen team and they've asked me to pass on their thanks.

I hope you have a good and a safe weekend.

Mr Taylor

Face Coverings

Thank you for your support with sending your child to school with a face covering and a sealable plastic bag to store it in. We do have a small minority of pupils who are regularly arriving to school without a face covering. We have been loaning and laundering reusable face coverings however our supplies are now running low. If your child has borrowed a black or white school face covering we'd ask they return it to school on Monday. If we run out of face coverings we will have to supply disposable face coverings at a cost to parents.

Traffic around school

Thank you for your continued support in keeping the school perimeter a traffic free zone. A reminder that there are lots of places where you can drop your child off away from the school site which makes the start and end of the school day safe for everybody. The walk will do them good.

Library books

Our library shelves are looking a little bare at the moment. There are lots of books which haven't been returned following the school closure. Please could you have a good look at home for school library books and return them ASAP. If you have friends or neighbours with children in Year 9 at Shelley, please could you pass on this message.

These pupils can either return the books to us or to the library at Shelley from where we will collect them.

Building works

Roofing

I'm pleased to report that our roofing contractors are making good progress. There has been some noise generated by this work however disruption has been kept down to minimum. We hope the works will be completed early in the spring term.

Perimeter fence

The school has secured funding from the department of education in order to erect a perimeter fence around the full site. This is a decision we have not taken lightly however, following very careful consideration, we feel it is necessary in order to ensure all our pupils are properly safeguarded whilst they are in the care of the school. Please note, this action should not be seen as the school shutting the community out. As Headteacher, I firmly believe schools should sit at the centre of the communities they serve. As such we will continue to work closely with the local football club and other community organisations in order to ensure our grounds can be used in the evenings and weekends in a controlled and safe manner.

If you would like to know more about the project, full details can be found on the Kirklees Planning website, application number - 2020/62/92955/E.

TT Rockstars

All the pupils should have TT Rockstar logins now and the first battles have already commenced.

Times Tables are so important to so many areas of maths and TT Rockstars is a great way of practising them and the increasing the recall speed. It will not help them the pupils learn them tough, they should still be practising the ones they do not know, there are plenty of YouTube videos out there and and songs (check out Percy Parker on Spotify!).

They can go on the TT Rockstars anytime, there does not have to be a battle or homework set, regular practise would be fantastic. It is available as an app on mobile devices and on the webs on computers.

Happy multiplying!!

Change of circumstances – Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed with regards to your household income, it may be worth inquiring as to whether or not your child is now eligible for free school meals. You can do this by:

Logging on to: kirklees.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Emailing: freeschoolmeals@kirklees.gov.uk

Calling: 01484 221000

School lunches

Thank you for everyone's support over the last few weeks the fortnightly school lunch menu has been a success so we are going to continue. Thank you for the support of all pupils and parents/ carers.

All pupils should now be set up on ParentPay. A gentle reminder that these accounts need to have credited in preparation for Monday and the following week, alternatively cash can be sent to school in a named envelope. Many thanks for your support.



Ski Trip 2021

In view of the current situation with Covid 19, we have taken the decision to suspend payments on Parent Pay for the ski trip and will let you know as soon as possible what is happening once we hear from the insurance company.

Kind regards - Finance Team

Year 7 Dance sessions and Year 8 Gymnastics

Year 7 Dance sessions and Year 8 Gymnastics sessions are now free for boys and girls until October half term. Those who have already joined will not be charged. Dance is on a Monday and Gymnastics is on a Tuesday after school 3.40pm to 4.40pm in the school hall.

If your child is interested please ask them to pick up a letter from the school office and return the reply slip (ignoring the information about parent pay). We would love to see more pupils enjoying these clubs from next week!

Please can I add a reminder that PE bottoms should be plain black or with the KMS logo only. No stripes etc. Girls should not wear tights under their skorts for any reason.

Mrs Joyce – Head of Girls PE

Contacting school

Please see page five of the pupil planner for full details about contacting school. In most cases, your first point of contact should be your child's form tutor. We will always aim to provide a response within 48 hours.

First Day Absence - we ask that parents or carers telephone or email the school office (before 10:00am) on the rare occasion a student is absent and explain why the student is not at school. The school should be contacted every day thereafter until the student returns. From 10:00am onwards the school will contact home to seek an explanation for any unexplained absence.

Appointments during the School Day – please email the School Office or write in a note in your child's planner and we ask if pupils **do not** bring their phones into school on these occasions where possible. Thank you for your support.

Covid – 19 update

We ask pupils and their families for their ongoing support in doing everything they possible can to keep any infection out of school. We will continue to work in line with our approved risk assessment in order to keep 'contacts' between pupils and staff to an absolute minimum. Please could parents continued to reinforce the following with their children -

- Maintain high levels of hand hygiene and avoid touching their face.
- Tell an adult if they feel unwell.
- Following social distancing rules where possible.
- Keep their hands to themselves particularly at social times.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times on the buses.
- We recommend all pupils wear face coverings when moving around the school building.
- Follow 'catch-it, bin-it, kill-it.'
- Remember – 'Hands, Face, Space.'

Please see below for the latest government guidance. We have also sent out the latest 'Kirklees School child isolation guide for parents' with this bulletin and would ask all parents use this to guide them with any decision in relation to Covid-19. This will be the document we will use as a school when giving guidance.

- [Hands, face, space video](#)
- [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#)
- [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)
- [Testing and tracing for coronavirus](#)
- [How to wear a fabric mask safely](#)

Please click [here](#) to view the Covid-19 page of our school website where we will post the latest information for parents.

