



Kirkburton Middle School

Turnshaws Avenue
Kirkburton
Huddersfield
HD8 0TJ

Head of School: Mrs S Kerr
Executive Headteacher: Mr C Taylor

Telephone: 01484 222737
Email: kirkburtonoffice@themast.co.uk
Web: www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Enjoying, Achieving, Succeeding Together

07/11/2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Supporting Good Attendance and Health This Winter

As we move into the colder months, we want to ensure that all our pupils remain healthy, happy, and engaged in their learning. Illness is currently the leading cause of school absence, and while some absences are unavoidable, many can be prevented through simple, proactive steps.

The Department for Education has recently shared guidance on how schools and families can work together to reduce the spread of seasonal illnesses. I'd like to highlight some key points and how we are applying them in school.

Why Attendance Matters – Even with Mild Illness

We understand that deciding whether your child is well enough for school can be difficult. However, most mild illnesses—such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough—do not require time off unless your child has a high temperature. Attending school with mild symptoms helps pupils stay on track with their learning and supports their overall wellbeing.

We encourage all families to refer to the [NHS guidance on school attendance and illness](#) for more information or contact the school office.

What We're Doing to Keep Pupils Healthy

We are committed to maintaining a safe and healthy school environment. Here are some of the steps we are taking:

- **Promoting vaccinations:** Flu vaccinations are being offered to all pupils this term. These are safe, free, and help protect the whole school community.
- **Encouraging hand hygiene:** Pupils are reminded to wash their hands regularly, especially before eating and after using the toilet.
- **Improving ventilation:** Classrooms are aired regularly to reduce the spread of airborne viruses.
- **Reinforcing good habits:** We use assemblies and lessons to teach pupils about hygiene, healthy routines, and the importance of looking after themselves and others.



Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing

We recognise that winter can also be a challenging time for mental health. Good attendance plays a vital role in supporting pupils' emotional wellbeing by helping them stay connected with friends, routines, and trusted adults.

We are committed to promoting positive mental health. Our pastoral team is always available to support pupils who may be struggling, and we encourage open conversations about feelings and wellbeing. If you have any concerns about your child's mental health, please don't hesitate to contact us—we're here to help.

How You Can Help

- **Send your child to school if they have a mild illness** and no fever.
- **Book medical appointments outside of school hours** where possible. If not, please ensure your child attends school before or after the appointment if they are well enough.
- **Talk to us** if you're unsure whether your child should attend—we're here to help.

By working together, we can reduce unnecessary absences, support your child's learning, and keep our school community thriving through the winter months.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr C Taylor

Executive Headteacher