

Dear Parents,

We had a lovely morning today welcoming our I1 pupils for their transition day; they arrived looking exceptionally smart and very grown up in their new Kirkham Grammar School uniform. I am sure that they went home full of enthusiasm about the start of their journey in the Infant department. Hopefully the time in school this morning will have enabled them to gently settle into their classroom and routine, with the expert support and guidance of their Class Teachers, surrounded by old and new friends. It was lovely to chat with many of you this morning during drop off and collection. The photographs we took will be posted on our social media pages in due course.

Tomorrow we welcome back all of our pupils from Pre-School through to J4. I do hope that your children are all eager and excited to return and that they feel refreshed and ready for the term ahead. Our pupils will be delighted to hear that we will no longer be operating in bubbles; we will, however, still be managing reported cases in line with advice and direction from Public Health, only reintroducing bubbles for a temporary period if necessary. Our Outbreak Management Plan can be found on the School website under ***Parents > Useful Information.***

With this in mind, the entrance points from 8.25 am tomorrow morning have been slightly amended. Pre-School parents should drop off and collect their child from the Pre-School entrance. For Infant and Junior parents, you may drop your child off either at the School Office entrance or playground entrance, whichever is more convenient for you. At 8.25 am, a member of staff will welcome your child on the playground entrance, and will remain on duty until 8.45 am. Miss Sharman, our new School Secretary, will welcome any pupils at the School Office entrance at 8.25 am; she will continue to 'buzz' pupils through the front entrance until 8.45 am. Any pupils arriving at Registration time onwards (8.45 am) should report to the School Office and enter through this door. Collection points remain the same as the last academic year; should you be unsure as to where to collect your child then please do contact the School Office for assistance. Please also note that Breakfast Club and Late Room will both commence tomorrow from 7.30 am, and until 6 pm respectively.

As mentioned in my letter home at the end of last term, the pupils, including Pre-School, will continue to wear KGS sports kit on the days that they have PE/Games. For tomorrow, please could all pupils, apart from J1 and J2 arrive in full winter School uniform including their KGS coat. J1 and J2 pupils should wear their tracksuits and bring all other PE/Games kit in their Junior Sports Bag.

At the end of our first full week back, your child will receive their curriculum timetable on Google Classroom; they will also receive a paper copy for their Reading Record. Please note that we require a week to ensure that the timetable runs as planned and that class changeovers work as anticipated before issuing a finalised copy. Thank you for your patience in this regard. We will, however, ensure that you are clear about the days that they will need to wear their PE/Games kit for next week. This information will follow in a separate email.

Google Classroom accounts will be set up in readiness for their return, and each Class Teacher will run through the use of these with every class, so that our pupils feel confident in accessing this resource independently. Google Classroom will be used for communication with our pupils for their homework only. All other School/parental communication will be sent via iSAMS emails. Please do get in touch with the School Office if your email address has changed, or if there have been changes to any other personal details that we need to be aware of. If your child has any dietary and/or medical requirements, please also inform/update the School Office accordingly.

The co-curricular lunchtime and after school clubs are being collated as I write to you; by the end of next week, your child will be able to select their desired club/s in readiness to start the week commencing 13 September 2021. Further communication will be sent to you next week in relation to these new and exciting activities. Please note that our PE staff will send information to our older pupils' parents about any sporting activities that are due to commence next week.

Phase 1 of the planned work on our gates and parking unfortunately has been delayed due to building supply restrictions, but we are hoping that the contractors will be able to begin work before the end of this term. On a positive note though, you will note that we have invested in numerous new windows around School, including new sky light windows in Pre-School. All of our outdoor lighting has been upgraded to LED in readiness for the darker evenings. Our School Offices have also seen some refurbishment, including an additional meeting room for parents next to the School Office. Our disabled bays on the playground have been upgraded with the appropriate space marked out between vehicles. The School has remained operational throughout the holiday, with numerous works completed in readiness for this academic year, and items planned for completion this term and beyond. I do hope that your child feels welcomed back to a classroom that is organised, well-resourced and conducive to learning; their Class Teachers are waiting in eager anticipation for their return.

Prior to me sending out dates for the term ahead next week, please make a note in your calendar that we will be hosting a Parents' Social Evening for all Infant and Junior parents at 7 pm – 8 pm on Wednesday 15 September 2021. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you back to live events! Further details about this date will follow next week.

I do hope that your son/daughter enjoys their first day back. I very much look forward to seeing you all tomorrow.

With best wishes

Mrs O'Donoghue
Headmistress