



Mrs Rhiannon Jones head@kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk
Nelson Street • Kirkham • Preston • PR4 2JP Tel: 01772 682866

Weekly Newsletter – 8th January 2021

Happy New Year!

What a start to 2021. Normally I begin the first newsletter in January by saying welcome back – unfortunately, we have had a very different start to the term this year.

We were as surprised as you were by the Prime Minister’s announcement on Monday evening and I must say a huge thank you to all our parents for being so understanding about the situation we found ourselves in. I was particularly disappointed that the news wasn’t broken just a few hours earlier as I know many of our lovely children were already asleep and were upset when they woke up expecting to come back to school and couldn’t.

I am so proud of my whole staff team who have worked tirelessly this week, whether with the key worker children in school or delivering the home learning, to try and minimise the impact of this ‘closure’ on our lovely children. We know that this is a difficult time for so many of our parents and want to do all that we can to support you and your child.

Home Learning

We have had to hit the ground running with home learning and it has been a steep learning curve for staff, parents and children alike. I know that Class Dojo can be a little tricky at times. However, it is enabling the classteachers to liaise directly with their pupils and to upload teaching videos, giving children the opportunity to ‘see’ their classteacher which I know is especially valued by our younger children. We have produced a ‘user guide’ to help with some of the more frequently asked questions which may help to alleviate some of the issues. This will be emailed out and added to Class Dojo.

I must say a huge thank you to everyone who has already enabled their children to engage so well with the home learning – we have been blown away by the amount of work that has been completed in just a few days. I am very proud of how hard so many of our children have worked this week and the resilience they have shown to overcome any technological difficulties. We are hoping that as the children get more confident they will need less support from parents. We are aiming for most of the children to be able to watch the videos and complete the relevant work independently as we know many of our parents are having to work from home.

We are also putting together work packs with exercise books in so that there will be some activities that the children can complete on paper as directed by the classteacher via Class Dojo. The workbooks have been ordered we are just awaiting delivery. Hopefully, the packs should be ready during the first part of next week.

We don't want any child to miss out on home learning so if your child doesn't have access to a device please could you click on the following link [devices request](#) and complete the form. Please note this is the same form which was posted on Class Dojo earlier this week so if you have already completed it there is no need to fill it out again.

Unfortunately, although we have been allocated 15 devices by the Government, we are not allowed to order them until next Friday so we are unsure when they will arrive. However, in the meantime we will try and loan devices to those that need them if we can.

If you are struggling with anything in relation to home learning please do get in touch with the classteacher via class dojo or myself via dojo, email or phone. We know that this is a difficult time for many of parents especially if you are working from home so we want to help.

Staffing Update

Before Christmas, I informed the Governing Body that I intend to retire from teaching at the end of this school year, July 21.

This wasn't an easy decision to make as KWPS has been a huge part of my life since 1997 when I was appointed as Deputy Head and Y6 class teacher. I have been Headteacher for over 15 years and both my boys were lucky enough to come to this school too. Throughout this time I have been privileged to work with the most wonderful staff, children, parents, Governors and wider community. I couldn't ask for a better school to finish my 33 year teaching career in.

The Governors have recently met to start the selection process for the new Headteacher and the post will be advertised next week. This will allow plenty of time to ensure that the next Headteacher will be in place at the start of the new school year, September 2021. The Governors will of course update you when the new appointment has been made.

Keep in Touch – We are Here to Help

I do feel that Class Dojo is helping us to keep better connected to our children and parents during this lockdown. However, we know that it will be a challenging time for many of our parents so please do not hesitate to get in touch – we are here to help – not just in relation to home learning.

I am available via email, Class Dojo, facebook messenger at most times or you can contact me on week days at school by telephone.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend – enjoy the snow while it lasts.

Best wishes

Rhiannon Jones

