



Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 3

October 2020

It has certainly been an eventful return to school for us here in KMPS. We've had some challenging times but with your support and patience we've got through it. We have received so many lovely messages from you and we are very grateful for your ongoing support. Unfortunately, some of the children have experienced significant periods of time in isolation. This is naturally worrying in terms of both their learning and wellbeing but they are very resilient and are coping amazingly well. Most children enjoy being at school and love to be with their friends.

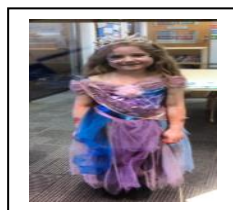
Our new Reception class have settled in so well. They are a lovely addition to our school and many of them are already enjoying learning to read.

We are pleased to welcome Mr Thompson as our new Parent Governor. We look forward to working with him on the strategic development of the school. Thank you also to the PTA this half term for their work on the Numbers Club! I hope you all have a lovely half term. Keep safe.

Mrs Murray

Halloween

The children have had a lovely last day of the half term. It is a shame for those children who cannot go out Trick or Treating this year so at least those who wanted to dress up have had the opportunity to do so!



High Standards

As you know we have high standards in terms of academic work, behaviour and standards. As part of this we value the work done by parents with their children with homework to support their education.

As part of our uniform policy then children should not have nail varnish, make up or their hair dyed. We also strongly recommend children have their hair tied up as we find this reduces the chances of them catching Head Lice.

For safety reasons children should only wear small stud earrings.

Wearing PE kit has worked well during this time so this will be continued. Please note the PE kit should be in school colours with plain white t-shirts.

Mrs Abson:

Mrs Abson will be leaving us on Friday 6th November to start her maternity leave. Her replacement, Miss Vayro, starts with us on Monday 2nd November. We look forward to welcoming her to KMPS. On behalf of the staff want to send our best wishes to Mrs Abson.

Clubs:

We have started up our after-school sports clubs for the Year 6 bubble with the sports coach and our Y4/5 bubble with Miss Wilson. If this is successful, after Christmas we will continue this with other bubbles. We are keen to keep encouraging children to remain as active as possible during these difficult times.

Concerns around missed education:

It is natural some of you are concerned about your child's missed learning.

The biggest way to help them is to **read as much as possible at home**. Children need to leave Primary School as strong, confident readers to help them access the Secondary Curriculum.

Our Year 5 and 6 children need to read regularly at home still and as their parent, they need you to ask them questions about the book, discuss characters and they need to predict what will happen next. We understand they may not want to read aloud to you but this is a good skill for them, even if they just read one page and read the rest on their own.

Other key priorities are: learning times tables and practising spellings. We can address other gaps quickly but these ones need more practice. It is the same as anything else- the more you practice the better you become!

Safeguarding:

Please let us know if your child is going to be absent and the reason for this.

Please try to ensure children keep to our markings for lining up before school and follow these rules on the school site. Some parents and children have become complacent and it is confusing for them. We have to remain vigilant.

We are also relying on parents sticking to social distancing rules outside of school. Thank you for your support with this.

Please do not park in the school car park.

Please do not let children play in the car park.

Training Days for 2020/2021:

Tuesday 1st September 2020

Monday 7th December 2020

Friday 30th April 2021

Monday 19th July 2021

Tuesday 20th July 2021

Please be on time!

**What to do if a family member is unwell with Covid symptoms:**

If you or anyone in your house is feeling unwell then it is important to get tested. Tests can be booked online through the [NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119. You need to keep your child off school and keep us updated about the result of the test. **If you test positive then all household members (including the children) must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.** The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill or if they do not have symptoms, from the day their test was taken. If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they must stay at home for at least 10 days from when their symptoms appear regardless of what day they are on in their original 14-day isolation period.

If you are not experiencing symptoms but have tested positive for COVID-19 you also must self-isolate for at least 10 days, starting from the day the test was taken.

Home Learning:

If the worst happens and your child has to isolate and is unable to come to school then they will be expected to complete work on **Oak National Academy**. The work will be set by the class teacher and will be in line with what the others are completing at school. The website has been devised by the Government specifically for this purpose. School has a limited number of laptops available to borrow if needed in these circumstances.

Train update:

You will have seen by now that one carriage has arrived. This is the carriage which will be used to create the library. A second carriage will be arriving shortly which we will be turning in to our Wellbeing Hub. As you can imagine this has created a lovely buzz and excitement in school today.

If any of you know of any grants we could access for resources then please let us know. As you are aware we are funding this entire project on donations as we do not have any school funds to support it.

We have already had significant amounts of time, money and resources donated by local companies which we are extremely grateful for. Our Go Fund Me Page has now generated £6229

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/dare-to-dream-library-train-for-children>

