



Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 1

February 2021

This has been an extremely challenging half term for the children, parents and staff. One which I hope we never have to repeat! Thank you to all of those parents who have kept their children at home, I appreciate this has been very hard. We are very keen to have all of the children back in school as soon as possible. We are hopeful Boris will make an announcement on this straight after the half term in order for us all to prepare.

We will update you nearer the time with information around times for dropping off and picking up as these will need to be staggered again in order to maintain bubbles and social distancing.

In the mean time we will continue with two weeks of our home learning timetables. We plan to increase opportunities to join more Zoom lessons for those of you who wish to participate. Please continue to send us work daily when you can.

The staff are now doing Lateral Flow tests twice per week which provides reassurance to us and I'm sure to you.

Thank you for all of your lovely messages, it really does help lift the morale in school when we receive them.

I hope you all have an enjoyable half term, as best you can! Keep safe.

Mrs Murray

Chinese New Year:

The children enjoyed our Chinese New Year celebrations.

I know many of the children at home enthusiastically joined in on Zoom.

It was lovely to see the pictures and crafts they made at home as a follow up.

Thank you very much to Mr Clarey for his time!



Wellbeing:

The wellbeing of the children at home has been of growing concern to me. They are desperately missing that contact with their friends and wider family. Many children are becoming withdrawn, angry and more emotional.

We know many of you have enjoyed wellbeing Wednesday and have benefitted from a more relaxed day.

Please see our school website for more support.

One of our families have recommended this initiative: <https://www.thecalmfolk.co.uk/> The website includes resources but also private sessions if more intensive support is required.

Please be assured that when the children return to school we will endeavour to provide the additional support individuals need to help them. We have booked in some additional training for staff in April to help with this too.

Uniform:

We are conscious many of you will have uniform the children have barely worn this year that they may have grown out of. We are looking to set something up when you get send uniform into school so it can be reused by others. Obviously, this will help financially but is also helping from a recycling perspective.

More details to follow!

PTA:

Thank you to the PTA for the children's Virtual Disco. We are always grateful for their time and the additional funds they raise.

Well done to the numbers club winners!

World Book Day:

We have emailed letters about World Book Day author workshops on **Wednesday 3rd March**. Access for children at home will be sent nearer the time.

The children in Year 4,5 & 6 will be working with Jenny Pearson.

The children in Year 3/4 will be working with Serena Patel.

The children in Year 1 and 2 will be working with Hannah Shaw.

Please let us know if you would like to order one of their books.

We are encouraging children to dress up on **Thursday 4th March**.

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 see our school website for holiday dates.

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 10 days.** The 10-day period starts 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 10-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.

Train update:

Thank you to Jenson's Mum who has supported us through Barclays with Match Funding our Reindeer Dash. This is greatly appreciated and has significantly helped to boost our funds.

Thank you also to Oliver's Dad and Gracie's Dad for grants they have sourced through Northumbrian Water and Veolia. Unfortunately, nothing much has happened recently due to the lockdown. We are currently getting the ramp designed. Once the ramp is in place we will be able to allow access for the internal works to be carried out. We have to insulate it, install lighting and heating etc before the solar panels can be put on.

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

Communication:

The emails are sent through Parent Pay. If you are not receiving our emails you need to change your email address on your Parent Pay account.

If you have changed any contact details please ensure school has the correct information.

We send messages via Facebook, Class Dojo, email and text. Our website is also a good point of reference.

We don't want you to miss out on information you need!