



Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 2

April 2026

This has been an extremely short half term but jam packed as always!

You may have noticed we have put a parent information board on the window in the café. This might be a useful point of reference for you to keep up with key dates and information.

Please change your Parent Pay email address if you are missing our letters.

We are in a period of change as a school. We hope to manage this as well as we can for the children.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Hall, who is joining us from Dean Bank, as the new Headteacher.

During these holidays parents find out school places for Reception for September. Time really does fly!

We hope you all have a lovely Easter and enjoy some quality family time.

Mrs Murray



Events:

The children enjoyed the Reading Cafes and the opportunity to read and talk about favourite books. I think we agree that Roald Dahl books continue to be a firm favourite!!!

Year 3 have been learning the clarinet and played for the whole school in assembly.

Year 4 have visited Hardwick Park

Year 5 have worked with the Mini Police on the role of a police officer and how they tackle crime.

Year 1 have walked around the village to learn about different kinds of houses.

Year 5 + 6 have attended a range of sports events including Girls' football and Tag Rugby.

We have had three Intra school sports competitions for family groups where winning groups have been rewarded with extra outdoor play!

World Book Day and Red Nose Day are always enjoyed by the children.

Well done to Joey and Samuel for representing the school in the Cross-Country Finals. They both did amazing!

School Meals:

Please see your email for the new menu for after the holidays.

PTA:

Thank you so much for the Easter raffle donations. This made £360 for PTA funds.

The Summer Fair is on Friday 26th June at 2:30pm.

We still need some volunteers please to help on the day with setting up the stalls and activities.

We would also be grateful for any raffle prizes.



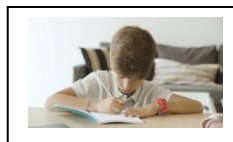
Homework:

Well done to all the children who got a Book Worm certificate today for reading three times every week this half term!

We know getting children to do work at home can be tricky. They really benefit from practising their spellings and times tables. We can really see the difference between those who do and those who don't.

Mathletics is also a good way for them to revise their learning from class.

For the older children they need to be prepared for Secondary School homework.



Sports Day:

Wednesday 15th July 1:15pm

Training Days for 2025/2026:

Monday 20th July 2026

KMPS has Talent:

We really do have a school full of talented children. It is lovely to hear them talk in assembly on a Monday morning about their achievements out of school. They are welcome to bring certificates, awards etc to share on that morning.

Please send us some pictures of your child showcasing their talents for us to update our corridor display.

Website:

<https://www.kirkmerrington.durham.sch.uk> - click on the Parent tab at the top.

The club letters and previous newsletters are on there if you need to look back on them. Clubs are under the Pupil tab.

Parking:

Please do not use the school car park unless you are using Nutmeg and Sprout or you have a blue badge. This is for safety reasons but equally it has to be fair for everyone!

Our school risk assessments do not cover families being in the staff car park.

Please park with consideration to residents in the village, we continue to get complaints about parents swearing and blocking drives!

Holidays:

We always understand why people choose to take term time holidays. We know the costs are so much cheaper, however, the DFE and the local authority have a firm stance that children need to be in school every day. Please make sure you know the rules:

- **Fine:** £80 (within 21 days) or £160 (within 28 days).
- **Applicability:** Per parent, per child (e.g., two parents taking two children can be fined £320-£640).
- **Threshold:** 5+ days (10 sessions) of unauthorized absence within a 10-week period.
- **Repeat Fines:** A second fine within 3 years is automatically £160.
- **Legal Action:** A third offence (or non-payment) can lead to prosecution, with fines up to £2,500.

Please be on time: School starts at 8:55

Did you know

15 minutes late daily equates to 10 days of missed learning per year!

Independence: Please encourage your child to be as independent as possible.

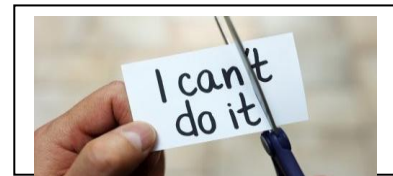
Can your child do up buttons and zips? Children from Reception should be able to do this.

Can your child cut their own food with a knife and fork? Children from Year 1 should be able to do this.

Can your child tie their own shoe laces? Children in Year 2 should be able to tie their own shoe laces. (If your child is older than year 2 and cannot tie them then they need to practice!)

Can your child remember their water bottle, to complete their homework and reading books? Children from Year 3 need to learn to do this. The more independent they are the more resilient they will be and the better prepared they will be for their next steps.

We know some children find these things difficult but they can all try. Please let me know if they have mastered something you are proud of so I can reward them!



Contact Details:

It is vital we have the correct contact details for you. Please let the school office know if you have any changes in phone numbers or names of emergency contacts who can pick up your child from school if needed.

Dates for the diary: (More information to follow nearer the time)

- 20.4.26 Back to School
- 4.5.26 Bank Holiday Monday
- 6.5.26 Year 4 STEM event at Shildon
- 11.5.26- 14.5.25- Year 6 Sats
- 18.5.26-20.5.26 Robin Wood Residential for Y6
- 26.6.26 Summer Fair
- 15.7.26 Sports Day- 1:15pm start
- 17.7.26 Last day of school

Assessment Dates for your diary:

(Please do not book holidays at this time)

Year 6 Sats wc: 11th May 2026

Year 4 multiplication check any time in the 2 weeks from 1st June 2026

Year 1 Phonic Screening Check-wc: 8th June 2026

Year 2 Phonics for children who need to re-sit wc: 8th June 2026

We use the **STOP** sign to help children understand the word bullying.

Several Times On Purpose

