



## Kirton Primary School Autumn Term 2023 Newsletter

Welcome back to another exciting year at Kirton Primary School. We would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all the new children and their families who have joined us, as well as some new members of staff.



As ever, the end of the summer term was extremely busy. Our hard-working staff managed to fit in a fabulous Y6 production, a Leavers' Assembly, a Coronation celebration, cup presentations, year group trips, sporting events, a Gala, sports days and several award ceremonies - all of which were enjoyed immensely.

Thank you to everyone who made it all happen; we're looking forward to making it happen all over again!

### External Assessment Results



Congratulations to all our amazing children across the school!

We are pleased to report that 70% of last year's YR (Reception) cohort achieved a good level of development compared to last year's national average of 65%.

We are also delighted to report that our talented Y1 cohort last year achieved a 91% pass rate in their phonics screening check. This compares to a national average of just 76% last year.

Last year's Y2 cohort took part in the KS1 SATs in the spring. 65% of our children achieved the grade in maths, reading and writing combined. This compares very favourably with last year's national average figure of just 53%.

Last year's Y4 cohort took part in the multiplication tables check in the summer. At Kirton Primary School, 70% of our children achieved a 100% pass rate which is an amazing achievement. This compares to last year's national figure of just 27% of children achieving full marks in the same test.

We are also proud of our Y6 cohort who achieved at well above the national average in Key Stage 2 SATs. Our school achieved a combined score of at least 76% reaching the expected standard (some papers have been

submitted for remarking so this may rise) whilst this year's national figure was just 59%.

Well done to everyone who has contributed to these amazing, academic successes across the school! These are the results of fabulous staff working with fabulous children!

### ERA Awards Educational Establishment of the Year 2023



We are delighted to announce that our school was awarded 'Educational Establishment of the Year' at the national ER awards, despite being up against secondary schools and universities in the same category.

The awards were held at a glittering ceremony at the NCC in Birmingham, hosted by the comedian and celebrity, Hal Cruttendon.

The judges said of Kirton Primary School:

*With a Good Ofsted rating for over 20 years, Kirton Primary school looks beyond the national curriculum, making the best use of their school building to foster a love of learning, a desire to come to school and a thirst for knowledge.*

*Judges liked the all-inclusive free of charge approach to after school activities and the fact the school addresses protection and training of*

*staff, resulting in low staff turnover and the wellbeing of students.*

*They constantly aim to put the wellbeing of children and staff at the forefront of strategies and systems which pays dividends - with a positive mantra of. "Nothing else matters."*

### ERA Awards Leadership in Education Award 2023



On the same night, Mrs Donley took to the stage for a second time when she was awarded 'Leadership in Education'.

The judges said:

*Nicky Donley has been head teacher for over 20 years and is known for valuing the education of the 'whole child'.*

*Nicky aims to motivate a passion for hard work and learning, while inspiring the children to generate and take control of their own success and her staff recognise how she protects them with highly visible safety nets.*

*With a strong commitment to the development of pupils' understanding of personal finance across the school and fostering a close working*

*relationship with parents and carers, Nicky is a very worthy winner of this category.*

### Lincolnshire and Spalding Education Awards



Congratulations to Mrs Chapman who was a well-deserved winner at these awards in the category 'Support Staff Member of the Year'.



Well-deserved congratulations also go to Mrs Lewis who was highly commended in the category 'Inspirational Teacher of the Year'.

### Education Business - Leadership Award



Mrs Donley was awarded the EB Leadership Award at a glittering ceremony, at the Leonardo Royal in London, hosted by four-time Olympian Donna Fraser OBE.

The judges said: *As executive headteacher, Nicky Donley has achieved sustained success in improving educational standards for children at Parliament Federation schools. As executive headteacher at Kirton Primary, her communication skills have enabled effective collaboration with organisations both inside and outside the school, which has become a pillar of the community. Academic success places Kirton in the top 2 per cent of schools for progress and her work to provide money management skills to pupils has been recognised through numerous awards along with the school's initiatives to improve staff wellbeing.*

On the same night, Kirton Primary School was highly commended in the category of 'Outstanding Progress for a Primary School'.

## Education Awards



We were also finalists in the national Education Awards held at Millenium Point in Birmingham. Once again, the school was shortlisted in the category 'Primary School of the Year' and Mrs Donley was shortlisted in the category 'Headteacher/Principle/Dean of the Year.'

Although not winners on the night, Kirton Primary School was proud to reach the final stages.

## TES School Awards



Kirton Primary School is extremely proud to announce we were finalists in **two** categories at the national TES school awards held at a glittering ceremony at the Grosvenor House

Hotel in London, hosted by the actor, James Nesbit.

We were finalists in the categories 'Primary School of the Year' and 'Curriculum Leader of the Year'.

Although not winners on the night, these awards are considered to be the 'Oscars' of the educational world and regularly attract over ten thousand entries across the UK. We were proud and honoured to be considered worthy finalists.

## Lincolnshire Education Excellence Awards



Congratulations to Miss Wilkinson who was a well-deserved finalist at these awards in the category 'Primary School Teacher of the Year'. Congratulations also to Mrs Donley who was a well-deserved finalist in the category 'Headteacher of the Year'.

The judges said of Miss Wilkinson and Mrs Donley: *This momentous accomplishment is a testament to your unwavering commitment, hard work and dedication towards excellence in the field of education.*

*The Lincolnshire Education Awards are a prestigious platform to celebrate the individuals who continually go above and beyond in nurturing and guiding the future generations of our society. To be selected as a finalist is a distinct honour, and you should be immensely proud of your commendable achievements.*

*This is a clear indication of your talent, your passion, and the high esteem in which you are held by your peers and your community. As educators, you are truly shaping the future, and we are all beneficiaries of your incredible work.*

### The Princess Trust



One of our pupils, Gracie Sellars, heard about a charity called 'The Little Princess Trust' and decided she would like to help. The Little Princess Trust provides **free**, real-hair wigs to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions such as alopecia. They also fund childhood cancer research searching to find kinder and more effective treatments.

After months of growing her hair, on the 26<sup>th</sup> July, Gracie had her hair cut off ready for donation. Gracie has set up a Just Giving page to help raise money for the Charity. So far, she has raised an incredible £350.

The page is still open should anyone wish to donate: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/faith-rann-1689366187201?utm\\_term=MDJ3QGBmg](https://www.justgiving.com/page/faith-rann-1689366187201?utm_term=MDJ3QGBmg)

Well done, Gracie!

### Reading Pledge



We are delighted to announce that Kirton Primary School has been presented with the silver award for its work of raising attainment and the enjoyment of reading across the school.

### Celebrating the King's Coronation



Although we planned for all the children to come together to celebrate in a Royal Garden Party, the weather forecast didn't look favourable so we moved the party indoors at the last moment. Farm Kitchen did the children proud with fabulous party packs.

The children made thrones, wore bowler hats, sang the national anthem plus a new song they

had learned 'To the Sound of Trumpets, waved flags, and made and flew their own kites.



Some children told us they had never flown a kite before - and they loved it.

Thank you to all the staff who helped to make this celebration so special.



Some of our Y5 and Y6 children were lucky enough to experience an adventure-filled, three-day visit to PGL Caythorpe, accompanied by staff members. Children experienced a huge range of outdoor activities that promoted teamwork, confidence-building and problem-solving (as well as lots of laughter and fun!)



Each day consisted of a wide range of activities including raft-building, wall-climbing, a huge swing, aeroball - and much more! Every child was given the opportunity to take part in each activity and everyone did brilliantly. Even the teachers got involved.

## PGL - Caythorpe



As well as activities, the children built on their independence by sharing a bedroom with a group and organising what they needed each day

and night. The children also made the most of the delicious food and a disco with the teachers!



This was a wonderful experience for all and will lay down memories for years to come.

### Activities Week



Whilst some of the Y5 and Y6 children were away at PGL, the remaining children didn't miss out on the fun. Activities included creating complex computer games, making sculptures from clay, and even building 'volcanoes' and making them erupt!

As well as the indoor activities, all the children got to try Kirton's brand new Orienteering course as well as games such as: spike ball, tri golf, archery, speedminton, tennis and handball.

All three days were full of fun, super memories for the children - and may even inspire some to try a new sport outside of school.

### Last Year's Reception children Visited Grimsthorpe Castle



Last year's Reception children thoroughly enjoyed their school trip to Grimsthorpe Castle and learnt about the history of the castle and the family who lived there. They also had lots of fun exploring the beautiful castle grounds and gardens.

### Last Year's Reception Children Raised Seedlings



For their topic 'Let's Look Outside', last year's reception cohort enjoyed the story 'The Tiny Seed' before growing a tiny seed of their own. They learnt what their seed needed to grow into tall sunflowers.

### Last Year's Y4 Music Workshop Visit to Thomas Middlecott Academy



As part of their topic 'Let's Look Outside', last year's reception cohort learnt about different minibeasts. They enjoyed raising their own butterflies to learn about their life cycle.

Once the butterflies were fully grown, they were released into the wild to fend for themselves.

### Last Year's Y6 Learned about the Ancient Greeks

Y4 visited Thomas Middlecott Academy for a fun-filled experience to learn more about how sound and vibrations work within different instruments. The children watched performances by previous Kirton Primary School pupils who are now part of many musical bands and groups at the secondary school including samba bands, choirs and learning instruments such as drums and guitars.



After watching a number of performances, all our children were able to try the different instruments they had seen and heard. The children had a wonderfully NOISY time!

Last year's Y6 cohort became ancient Greek citizens for the day. They completed various activities in the agora, including: making mosaics tiles, soap sculpting, building clay pots and making wax tablets.

### Last Year's Reception Children Release their Butterflies

They also learned about ancient Greek theatre and performed a selection of Greek myths whilst enjoying a Greek banquet.



## Last Year's Y4 Visited the Boston Stump



Last year's Y4 cohort visited Boston Stump to learn about religious and special signs and symbols at St. Botolph's Church (Boston Stump).

The children explored much of what Boston Stump had to offer, including discovering historic parts of the building, completing fun challenges and lots of interactive learning.

With the assistance of the wonderful staff at Boston Stump, Y4 discovered many important signs and symbols, both inside and outside the Stump. They also learned about the history of this historic building and the part it plays in Boston.

The children had a fantastic time and even got to add their own Lego brick to the Lego Boston Stump model that is currently being built in the church.

## Nursery trip to Springfields Festival Gardens



Despite the wet weather, the nursery children had a wonderful time exploring the gardens at Springfields to continue their learning about the woodlands.

An artist demonstrated how to make splatter paint butterflies and a fairy came to read stories as well as play a fun game of hide and seek. The children enjoyed bird spotting, exploring the vegetable patch, dancing in bubbles as well as a trip on the mini train!

It was described as, "The best day ever!"

## Avoiding Fines for Poor School Attendance



We monitor children's school attendance over a twelve-month rolling time periods. We do this to promote good attendance in the school, but also to support families and to ensure they avoid fines for their children's non-attendance.

Last year, the Local Authority issued 47 fines to parents at Kirton Primary School. Fines are £60 per child per parent, so the fine for a

family with two children with poor attendance is £240. This doubles to £480 if the fine is not paid within 28 days. This is a huge amount of money to lose, and we want to help you avoid this.

Contrary to popular belief, the school does **not** receive the money from the fines. The school does **not** issue the fines, this is carried out by the Local Authority.

If you are invited to a school attendance panel meeting, please attend. We arrange these to help you and they will only ever involve our own school staff. It is surprisingly easy to fall below the 96+% which the Government considers satisfactory attendance. In fact, it takes only seven and a half days of absence over a whole year. Please help us to help you.

The school is unable to authorise family holidays, so we strongly advise you avoid taking these in school term time - and avoid the associated fines. Please don't ask us to authorise these.

We also recommend that doctor, optician, hospital and dentist appointments are made outside the school day wherever possible.

If your child is just a little under the weather, bring them into school and mention this to the teacher. That way, we can keep an eye on them and give you a call should they deteriorate.

### **Encouraging 100% Attendance**

As part of our drive to improve school attendance, we are offering a suite of rewards to the children.

Each term, those children who have achieved 100% attendance will receive a certificate, a small trophy, a prize and 3K to add to their bank account! (Kirts are for Y1 to Y6 only.)

If a child is unable to achieve full attendance in any one term, they simply start again the following term. This means, each child has the potential to reap full attendance awards six times a year.

### **Support your Child's Learning**

**Multiplication Tables:** One of the challenges of the national curriculum is that every child should know their tables up to 12 X 12 by the end of Y4. We have a Tables Challenge in school and we teach tables regularly in class, but learning tables is matter of constant repetition so, whenever you get a moment, please practise with or test your child. As an incentive, every set of full marks in your child's weekly tables test earns them a Kirt to save in the bank or spend in the shop.

We are keen for our children to know their tables, but wish the learning of them to be as much fun as possible. To this end, our website contains useful resources to support your child's learning at home. These may be found in the 'Parents' section under 'Support Your Child's Learning', as well as in the 'Children's' section.

You will find a tables' grid and some practice sheets to download should you wish to use them with your child. You will also find songs and videos made by our staff and children that you might like to sing along to.

At the end of Y4, our children take part in a national, statutory multiplication check.

**Spelling:** From Y2 to Y6, your child will bring home a set of 10 weekly spellings to learn. These will include words that support the spelling rules your child is learning in class, commonly misspelt words, or useful words recommended by the National Curriculum.

If you want to take a look at the National Curriculum spelling vocabulary for Key Stage 2, it is on our website. They're not as easy as you might think!

Remember, we are running a Spelling Championship in school with an annual top prize of 100 Kirts to spend at Kirton Stores, and every set of full marks in your child's weekly spelling test earns them another Kirt.

If you would like to practise handwriting with your child at home (perhaps by writing out their weekly spellings), please follow the exemplar below:

*abcdefghijklmnopqrst  
vwxyz*

Children begin to use this cursive style and to join their handwriting from Y2 upwards.



## Passports of Achievement

Your child will be bringing home a Passport of Achievement shortly (from Y1 to Y6). These passports make a wonderful home-school link. Please support your child in achieving their challenges for the year. Each completed passport earns your child a medal.

Encourage your child to take care of their passport and to treasure it as replacement passports incur a charge of £4, and the children would need to complete the challenges again from scratch if misplaced.

## Our Virtual School Tour

If you haven't seen it yet, we have a new, virtual school tour which you can find on our website or by pasting the following into your search engine:

<https://virtual-tour.educatedmedia.co.uk/kirton-primary/>

We hope you find it useful. Please feel free to share it with perspective parents.

## Kirton Nursery School



The outdoor learning environment at Kirton Nursery School has undergone a complete transformation, costing £83 000 (eighty-three thousand pounds). If you have a child about to

start Nursery, come to see our incredible provision for yourself.



We have our own web page. Please visit us at: <http://www.boston-nur.lincs.sch.uk/Kirton-Nursery-Home>

Put your child on the path to a first-rate education. Our Nursery is often full, and we have to begin a waiting list for places. If you are thinking of requesting a place for your child, we fully recommend that you act early so as not to be disappointed. We often have places at the beginning of the year, but they are unlikely to be free for long.



Our award-winning provision for three and four-year-olds, which is led by a fully qualified school teacher, provides seamless transition and

promotes excellent progress for every child entering Kirton Primary School. Did you know, for instance, that the children in Nursery begin early phonics and number work that will give them a head start when they begin school in Reception? We notice a marked difference in the starting points of those children who have attended our Nursery and those who have attended other local settings.

As well as the 15 free hours a week to which all three-year-olds are entitled, we offer additional sessions over and above this. We also offer flexibility when selecting sessions for your child. You may choose mornings, afternoons, or a mix of both - or even five full days a week. We will do our best to accommodate your request, but we are more likely to be able to do this if you get your child's name down early.

Additional sessions, above the **free entitlement of 15 hours**, may be purchased at a cost of £12.50 for 3 hours. This is extremely competitive locally. Eligible working parents may be entitled to **30 free hours** for their child. The purchase of a lunch is also available if required.



Please come to talk to us to discuss your options and to see for yourself what one of the best pre-schools in the county has to offer.

If you know anyone else who might benefit from our excellent Nursery facilities, please let them know.

### **Message from the Parliament Federation's Governing Body**

Hello and welcome to all new parents - and welcome back to all our parents with children returning to a new school year. We hope you have enjoyed the summer holidays.

#### **'What do Governors do?'**

The Governing Body is an elected group, including teachers, support staff, parents and members of the local community. We work as a voluntary team with the Executive Head Teacher and the Heads of School for the benefit of all the pupils and staff across the Federation.

We're here to give the school a strategic direction and to act as 'a critical friend' - helping to guide the school to improving the standard of education for all our children. We don't get involved in the day-to-day operation of the school but set the criteria by which the school is managed. We ensure that local and national government legislation and targets are met, that we spend our school budget wisely, that the safety of everyone is paramount, and that the curriculum is delivered to benefit all children. Governors take an active role in the school, not only attending meetings, but also school functions, undertaking visits to classrooms and helping out with school visits.

If you require any further information regarding our Governing Body, please refer to the school's website.



### **Message from the PTA**



We would like to thank everyone who supported our most recent events: the Sponsored Walk and the Summer Gala. Thanks to your generosity and support, the Sponsored Walk raised almost £1 990 and the Gala made over £2 390!

The money raised will be spent directly on improving learning opportunities and experiences for the children in our school. In the last twelve months, we have paid for a theatre production, fish and chips for Y6, gifts for our Y6 Leavers, stock for the school shop, a Christmas entertainer, and Santa's candy and satsumas for our younger children.

Most of our funding goes towards subsidising trips and visitors to make the curriculum more

exciting for our children. However, we are aware that these activities receive far more subsidy from the school itself. As this is to the benefit of all our children, long may this continue!

### Sport Update (by Mr Saw and Mr Greaves):

#### Tennis Development Day



Ten Y4 Kirton Primary School children took part in the Tennis Development Day Boston Tennis Club. All ten children showed excellent sportsmanship, effort, fair play and a love of tennis. It was wonderful to see all the children enjoying their time learning and playing tennis. All ten children showed a natural ability with very good ball control and skill with a racket. Boston Tennis Club were impressed and proud of all who took part from Kirton Primary School. We look forward to seeing their names at a future Grand Slam!

#### Celebrating Success

Max in Y5 was awarded "Player of the Year" by the football team he plays for every weekend. He plays for Boston United Blacks. They train

every week and have matches at least once a week.



Max told us, "I play in defence, which can be hard against very tall forwards. In every match, I try my hardest, show respect and work with my other defenders to try and stop attackers scoring. It doesn't always work - but we do try!"

Max's goals for the following season are to achieve tighter marking on the opposition - especially when there are crosses coming into the box.

Kirton Primary School wish him all the luck for the season ahead and look forward to hearing about his sporting exploits.

#### Danish Longball



Sunshine, fun, exercise and a little bit of competition made the annual Danish Longball competition even more memorable than usual!

Kirton Primary School took two teams (Y4 and Y5) to Holbeach United FC for an inter-school competition organised by Sport2Day.

Danish Longball is a tactical game that combines elements of cricket, rounders and dodgeball. Two teams compete per match - both getting the opportunity to field and bat. The object of the game is to get from one end of the pitch to the other and back again. Batters can be "out" through being caught, running out of the area, hitting the ball too far or having the ball hit them below the waist. Teamwork is essential.

Both the teams tried hard and showed the utmost respect to both their team members, the opposition and the referees. It was a pleasure to witness.

Y4 finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place (out of nine teams) and the whole team wanted to try the competition again next year!



Y5 played with exceptional tactics; attacking when needed, risking runs when the time was correct and bowling and batting consistently in

every match. They managed to bring home the trophy with a win - beating 8 other schools.

A superb outcome for all involved. Well done.

### Girls' Dynamo Cricket



Dynamos cricket, a brand-new event for the year's sporting calendar, took place recently at Boston Cricket Club. Eleven local schools came together for an intense, closely fought competition.

Team Kirton went from strength to strength throughout the day's competition, ensuring that focus and determination were at the forefront of their minds. There were some tough games in the league stages of the tournament - in one match, there were only 3 runs between the teams!

Kirton Primary met Butterwick, who had just hit 3 sixes in five balls in the semi-finals, in the last game of the competition. The match was a superb final with Kirton eventually winning by 17 runs. The victory qualified the team Kirton to represent the Boston area in the Lincolnshire County Finals.

### Girls' Dynamo Cricket- the Lincolnshire County Finals



A warm summer's day, eight excited Kirton Primary School girls and a road trip to Lincoln meant only one thing - the Lincolnshire County Cricket Finals.

The event was a round robin initially, and Team Kirton won two of their three matches which ensured they reached the semi-finals. With some exceptional tactics, solid bowling and great run stealing, the girls managed to get to the final. Every team member developed their skills throughout the day - which was great as the final was a tough game. Both teams managed to score some runs by taking wickets.

When the results were announced, teachers and children were slightly nervous as the result of the game had a difference of only one run!

Kirton Primary retained their County Championship status by winning in the tightest game possible. Well done to all of the team for playing well, showing determination and demonstrating great etiquette throughout.

Will we break a record and win three years in a row? Check out next year's newsletter to find out!

## Ultimate Frisbee



One hundred and sixty, excited visitors came to our school take to part in an Ultimate Frisbee Development Day. Children from Y3 to Y6 learnt how to throw backhand and forehand, make impressive catches and some of the rules of the game. They were coached by Kirton's very own frisbee experts from Y5 and Y6.

At the end of the session, everyone got to play a game so they could use the skills they had developed and experience the excitement of the game!

## Capture the Flag Competition



Twenty Y4 children took part in the fast, team-based game Capture the Castle against a number of other local schools at the Thomas

Middlecott Academy. Many of our children were quite new to this game but learned very quickly!

Our children did a superb job, playing attacking tactics to get the flag in multiple matches to reach the final.

The team played a close, attacking game against a well-practised team, eventually achieving second place. Each child was awarded a silver medal, as well as a trophy to bring back to school.

Well done to all the children who took part!

### Sports' Days



Sports' Days mean:

- unpredictable weather;
- lots of stickers; and
- lots of fun.

This year was no different!

From nursery to Y6, all the children tried their best, never gave up and supported each other really well.

Teachers volunteered to demonstrate races - much to the delight of our children and the adults that came to cheer them on.

The British weather ensured it was a challenge for the organisers, but all the events were delivered in a timely fashion.

Thank you to the helpers, without whom the events would not have been possible, including ex-pupils who are now at Thomas Middlecott Academy.

Here's looking forward to next year.

### Sports Clubs Available this Term

Monday	BUFC KS1 Multi Sports S2D Multi Sports KS2 Girls' Football Academy (S2D)
Tuesday	
Wednesday	S2D Multi Sports KS2 Boys' Football Academy (S2D)
Thursday	BUFC KS1 Multi Sports
Friday	

More clubs may be added through the term.

### School Uniform

We are proud of the way our children present themselves at our school and are thankful to have parents who are supportive and sensible about school uniform. We have very few concerns and regularly get positive comments from school visitors, or when we take our children on trips, with regards to our children's presentation. Ofsted also commented positively on the way our children dress for school and the pride they show in their appearance.

Whilst school uniform bearing the school logo is very smart, we do not insist that our children wear clothes with logos.

Please take the time to remind your child that jewellery should not be worn at school ie no bracelets, chains, rings, wrist bands etc, We

make an exception for stud earrings, (although earrings should not be worn on PE days).

Hairstyles should be conservative. Coloured/bleached hair, gel and close or patterned shaves, extreme or adult styles are clearly not appropriate in a primary school, which you are sensible to recognise. Nail polish and transfer 'tattoos' are also not appropriate.

For more information, please refer to our website. As ever, we thank you for your good commonsense and support.



## Health and Safety News and Reminders

### Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

We do not currently have any confirmed RAAC in our buildings and we have not been asked to close any areas. However, if RAAC is identified, we will let you know straight away, and we will put contingencies in place.

Any contingency plans will prioritise the continuation of education and ensure that, if RAAC is identified, any impact on children is kept to an absolute minimum.

Rest assured that the safety of children and staff is of paramount importance.

### Defibrillator

We now have a defibrillator in school. In an emergency, report an incident at the front office where staff have access to this.

### Keep Us Updated

If your child normally goes home on the school bus, please let the office know if your arrangements change so we may amend the bus register. Failure to inform the office could hold up the entire bus whilst we locate your child.

If anyone, other than the usual adult, is to collect your child at the end of the day, please ensure that the school has been made aware.

If you have moved house or have changed your telephone number over the summer, please make the office aware of your new contact details. Please also ensure that we have at least two contact details in school should we need to contact you urgently.

## Photos in School

Please remember that no images must be made with recording devices, including mobile 'phones, anywhere on our school site without the express permission of the Head of School or the Executive Headteacher. Mobile phones must not be used by parents or visitors anywhere within the school building.



Children should not come to school with 'smart watches' or any other devices capable of taking images or sending/receiving messages. This is to ensure the safety and privacy of other members of our school community.

Children should hand in their mobile phones at the front office and collect these at the end of the day.

## Climbing Frame Safety

Please ensure that your children do not access the gym equipment or the climbing frames except under the direct supervision of staff.

## Dogs

With the exception of support dogs, no dogs are permitted on the school site at any time. Please note, this includes puppies and small dogs which are carried.

## No Smoking

The entire school site, including outdoor areas, is a no smoking zone. This ban includes e-cigarettes as we anticipate that all adults will be positive role models whilst on site.

## Bikes



Bikes and scooters are a fabulous way for our children to get to school, being both speedy and active.



The children are aware that they should not cycle or scoot on the school grounds as this could cause an accident. We remind our children regularly in class and in assemblies to dismount while on paths and playgrounds. Please remind your child should they forget.

We actually have two bike sheds. The more popular shed is the one near our nursery block. However, there is a much larger shed outside the Y2 classrooms should the smaller one be full.

## Nut-Free School



Some of our children risk suffering a life-threatening reaction to nuts - even by simply being in the vicinity of a nut. For this reason, we ask that no child bring any food items into

school that contain nuts, even for their own consumption.

### Parking

Out of respect for our neighbours, please take care not to block people's driveways when parking.



Please take the opportunity to teach your children about road safety on the way to school and model the use of the zebra crossing on Station Road.

### Covid Precautions

Covid continues to circulate and is expected to increase as the effect of vaccinations wane and winter sets in.

If your child develops a cold, please arrange for a Covid test to take place. Your child can remain in school whilst you arrange this. If your child tests positive, they only need to remain off school for three days (for adults, this is five days).

### Oversubscribed

Many of our year groups are currently oversubscribed. We have waiting lists in school, but it is worth noting that **parental appeals have never been successful.**

Although it may seem a long way off, if you are aware of friends or neighbours who have children who are due to start school in

**September 2024**, please remind them to apply in good time (before Christmas if possible) in order to be in a better position of securing a place at our ever-popular school.

School admissions are handled by Lincolnshire County Council for a September start in Reception. However, we organise our own admissions to our Nursery, and we recommend you register your interest at the office as early as possible.

### Bug Busting

Every school has to deal with head lice, and we are no exception. The problem is often more prevalent when children return to school after a break. Although we will never eradicate head lice, there are things that we can do to alleviate the problem. This **Saturday, 9th September**, we ask that every child's hair is checked at home for lice.

The following advice comes from the school nursing team:

A fine-tooth, plastic comb is best for detecting head lice and you should check school children and family members at least once a week. Young lice are the size of a full stop and adults the size of a sesame seed. Treatments are available from your GP and are **free** for children. You should only treat those people with lice living in their hair.

## Staff Car Park

Children and vehicles are a bad combination. For the safety of all our children, please do not bring vehicles into the staff car park.



We advise parents to model using the pathways and to avoid cutting through the car park.

Should you witness parents parking in our car park or in the zig zag lines outside the school, please inform the police and the school. A photograph clearly showing the numberplate is helpful to the police.

Unfortunately, staff are unable to simultaneously supervise children coming into school (we open our doors at 8:45 despite an 8:55 start) and patrol the playgrounds, car park or roads to the school. We rely on parents and carers to play their part in ensuring child safety.

There is no excuse for putting children's safety at risk.

## Meet our New House Captains



Meet our new house captains.

Representing Parks, we have Alexia and Freddie.

Representing Pankhurst, we have Lexi and Archie.

Representing Peel, we have Teyanna and William.

Representing Gandhi, we have Rose and Tyler.

## Meet our New School Councillors



Meet our new school councillors.

Representing we have Y3 Peace and Jacob.

Representing Y4, we have Theodore and Alexandra.

Representing Y5, we have Angela and David.

Representing Y6, we have Ruby-Sue and Elliott.

## Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership



We are working with the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership and two Junior Road Safety Officers have been elected - Jack and Gracie.

Please remind your children of the following:

- Do not cross the road where you cannot see clearly - avoid crossing between parked cars or on the bend of a road.
- Where there is a crossing, use it - even if you have to walk slightly out of your way, it is a lot safer.
- Look in ALL directions before you cross the road - keep doing this as you cross so you can spot any potential danger approaching. Just because you have done it once, you cannot predict whether a car is coming behind you.
- Always walk, not just when you are crossing the road. Running increases the risk of tripping which can be dangerous if cars are approaching.
- Dismount your bike or scooter before crossing the road.
- Always stay near your adult if you are not permitted to walk to school alone.

- Avoid distractions when you are crossing the road - do not look at your mobile phone or talk to a friend.

### Booster Seat Advice

If your child is under the age of 12, they should be using a booster seat. These are important because they raise a child's body to a suitable height so that they can be secured using an adult seatbelt.

There are two types of booster seat: backless and high-back. Backless booster seats do not have a head rest but lift a child higher in their seat so an adult-seatbelt functions as it should - your child should weigh more than 22kg to use one of these. High-back booster seats have padding to protect a child's head and neck. These should only be used if your child is between 15kg and 36kg.

### Keeping Children Safe Online

Families often think they know exactly what their children get up to online, and that they understand all the apps and sites their children use. But with technology changing every day, that's not always the case.

The NSPCC has an online safety helpline: 0808 800 5002 and a website: <https://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc> that offers support and advice to parents and carers.

### Healthy School

We are proud recipients of the Healthy School Award, but there are certain conditions to which we must adhere in order to maintain this status.

Please be aware that the only snack children should bring in for break-time is fruit.

Children should only have water in their water bottles.

### Facebook and other Social Media

We thank our whole community, especially parents and carers, for their vigilance over negative or inappropriate comments made on Facebook or other social media sites about the school or its staff. Please be assured that all information received, which is thankfully very little considering the size of our school, is treated in the strictest confidence in terms of its source.

Negative comments can have an impact on staff morale and, in turn, on the children in our school. Parents and volunteers have also expressed their distress and despair at reading comments that have been made in the past. We take our staff's mental wellbeing extremely seriously, and engage the support of the police and legal services whenever necessary. Indeed, we are grateful to the police for their robust stance on such antisocial and damaging activity.

We also ask that any photographs or filming, undertaken by family members at school, is of your own child and for your own personal use. Children's images taken at school should not be shared on social media sites or in the wider community - even images of your own children. This is to ensure that we can continue to invite parents to photograph their children at school events.

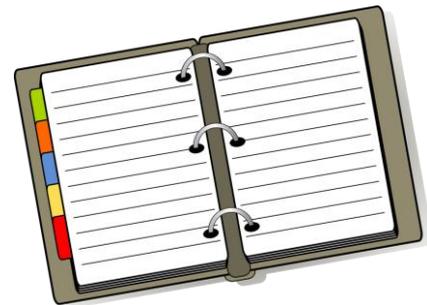
We thank you again for your understanding and welcome your continuing support.

### Parents' Questionnaire

Please find attached the results of the parents' questionnaire undertaken last term.

Thank you to everyone who completed this.

### Term Dates for your Diary



We are aware that there are several websites purporting to advise on Kirton Primary School's term dates. Unhelpfully, many of these sites have the incorrect dates. The school has no control over other websites. We strongly recommend that you refer only to the school's own website and newsletters.

The following dates are subject to change, but you have told us how helpful it is to have advance warning. Further information will come out for many of the listed events, and many more events will be added.

- 4.9.23 First Day of Term 1
- 9.9.23 'Bug Busting' Day
- 15.9.23 11+ test in school for Y6
- 13.9.22 Theatre Production for Y2-Y6
- 18.9.23 School photographer YR-Y6
- 19.9.23 Phonics Workshop for parents 2.15pm
- 22.9.23 11+ test in school for Y6
- 6.10.23 Harvest Festival at church at 2.15pm for Y4-Y6 - all welcome
- 9.10.23 Enterprise Week for Y3-Y4
- 17.10.23 Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm

18.10.23 Parents' Evening 3.30-5pm  
20.10.23 Last day of Term 1  
6.11.23 First day of Term 2  
14.12.23 Reception Christmas performance 2pm  
12.12.23 Y1 Christmas Performance 2pm  
13.12.23 Y2 Christmas Performance 2pm  
15.12.23 Nursery Performance to parents

18.12.23 Carol Service at church at 2.15pm for  
Y4-Y6 - all welcome  
19.12.23 Children's Christmas dinner  
21.12.23 Last day of Term 2  
3.1.24 First day of Term 3

### **Term Dates for 2023 - 2024:**

**TERM 1:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 23 – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 23 35 days  
**TERM 2:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 23– Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 23 34 days  
**TERM 3:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 24 – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 24 28 days  
**TERM 4:** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 24 – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 24 29 days  
**TERM 5:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 24 – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 24 29 days  
*May Day Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May*  
**TERM 6:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 24 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024 35 days