



Kirton Primary School Spring Term Newsletter 2022

We hope you had an enjoyable Easter break. It is lovely to have the children back in school and eager to learn.

We are delighted to be able to share photos of our children as life in school returns to a more normal experience. Long may it continue!

We are still battling with high absence for staff and children due to Covid. We are also still experiencing high numbers of chicken pox amongst our children.

World Book Day



World Book Day

Thank you to everyone who supported our Book Day last term. We received almost £815 in commission from the Book Fair to spend on books for the school, and our children have also benefitted from having some lovely books to read at home. We hope you enjoy the photos.



Our children (and staff!) looked fabulous dressed as book characters. Thank you to all parents, carers and members of staff who supported these ventures.



World Book Day

Comic Relief - the 3 Leg End Legend

The whole school took part in three-legged challenges for Comic Relief - raising £183.22 for this worthwhile charity.

Day for Ukraine

We thank all the parents and staff who took part in our Day for Ukraine - despite the short notice.

The event was by organised by the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine appeal, supported by the First News Ukraine Schools and promoted by the Department for Education. The purpose was to raise money to supply relief to refugees.

Our staff and children wore blue and yellow to school for a minimum donation of £1.

We raised £526.97 for the appeal.

Chicks in School

We will incubate and hatch our own brood of hens' eggs in the summer and intend to put a live link on our website.

We have done this previously for both hens and ducks, and this has provided amazing learning opportunities for our children.

Further details to follow.

Winner of Get Caught Reading



The winner of our Get Caught Reading competition was Rose in Year 1. Well done to everyone who took part - there were some very creative locations - and an especial well done to Rose!

Jubilee Celebration

We are planning to hold a Royal Teddy Bears' Garden Party for our children, staff and teddies on the day we break up for half term (Friday 27th May). We hope that the weather is kind but, as this is England, we have a contingency plan should it let us down.

We will all be wearing red, white and blue on that day - no school uniform required - and we have invited some prominent guests.

Our food supplier is planning a party packed lunch for the children as well. Remember to book one for your child. We are looking forward to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee together.

More details to follow.

Shop and Bank Reopening

Ahead of the reopening of the Shop and Bank (all our staff will be new and require intensive training!), we introduced a mobile market stall and ordering system. This gave the children the experience of ordering goods similar to the way they would online - budgeting for and selecting their purchases.

Once our new 'staff' have completed their rigorous training, the children will once again be able to spend their hard-earned Kirts. We anticipate quite a rush on the Bank after a two-year closure and have introduced quantitative easing measures!

Our 'Learn and Earn' initiative will continue to engage and inspire our children. The children learn the skills of managing their personal finance by working hard across many areas of the curriculum, and by earning interest should they choose to save.

Y4 were Visited by the Police



Police officers from the Kirton Police Station came to visit Year 4 to tell them about their job and the equipment they use, including the police car which every child sat in - and activated the sirens. Our neighbours must love us!
Children also had the chance to dress as police officers!



Poetry writing

We would like to share a few lines from poetry the children have been writing about our school. They're sure to make you smile.

*There's one thing you can say for certain
The best school in Boston is Kirton
Bonnie*

*We're as wise as the Kirton owl
So when you lose a test don't scowl
Cody*



World Book Day

Important Reminder for Y6

This year's SATs assessments for Y6 children take place in the week beginning **9th May 2022**.

If your child is in Y6, please ensure that they are in school for the whole of this week as these important results travel with them to their secondary schools. Our staff and children are working harder than ever to ensure this cohort is 'secondary ready' and that they have made up any lost learning.

Inevitably, they will be disadvantaged if they are not in school for the SATs, so please make a note of the date.

Sports Update by Mr Saw

Goalball SEND Tournament



Six Y5 children took part in this exciting Goalball Tournament at Peter Paine Sports Centre where they played against a large number of schools. The children were in two teams (Kirton A and Kirton B). Kirton B did extremely well, winning a match and supporting their school brilliantly.

Kirton A incredibly won the tournament having taken part in the semi-finals and finals against tough opposition.

A fantastic morning and achievement for Kirton Primary School and all that took part today. Super well done!

Paralympic Experience



Some Y5 children got to learn about the adaptability of sport when they experienced Boccia, New Age Kurling and Goalball as part of a Paralympic Experience.

The children were shown various British sports women and men competing. Once some of the history of the sport and some rules had been discussed, the children had a go themselves.



It was a great afternoon which all the children enjoyed and some had some real skills for the games. Everyone came away appreciating non-ambulant people a little more and realised that sport really is "for all".

Can't wait for next years' experience already!

High 5 Netball Development Day



A group of Y3 and Y4 children took part in a fun High 5 netball day. All the children had a wonderful time, learning how to pass the ball to one another in different ways, how to move around a court, learning to shoot like a professional netball player and playing a game of netball at the end of the event. The children were able to show a growing confidence as well as socialising with children from other schools.

All the children had an amazing time and thoroughly enjoyed their trip.

Well done to all Y3 and Y4 children that took part!



Aim High!

Change 4 Life Festival at Peter Paine Sports Centre



A group of Y4 and Y5 children took part in a fun and exciting mixed-sport event which required working together as a team to complete a variety of activities. This also gave the children the opportunity to socialise with other children from our school and others, and to experience a wide range of ball skills, coordination skills and team-based skills in an exciting, energetic way.

The children had a wonderful time at the event and they could not stop smiling for the rest of their day!

Well done everyone in Year 4 and Year 5 who took part!

Cross Country Event



The Year 4, 5 and 6 children that took part in the cross country run at Thomas Middlecott Academy did a fantastic job of representing their school and showing their very best in the event. All the children were excited and thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the race. Kirton competed against a large number of other schools from within the local area. Every child ran well, resulting in the Kirton Boys' Team coming third overall.

Well done to all of the children involved!



New Age Kurling SEN Tournament



Gymnastics Development Day

Some Year 4 children took part in the Gymnastics Development Day and had a fantastic time. Each child commented on how much fun they had taking part in the different gymnastic activities. Each station was run by Boston High School pupils (including past Kirton Primary School pupils) who were wonderful with our children. Our children were brilliant at taking part and listening carefully to the students too. Congratulations to all who took part!

Six Year 5 children took part in a fantastic sporting event based on the popular Winter Olympics event 'Kurling'. By taking part in New Age Kurling, the children were able to use their social skills and sportsmanship to play games and matches with other teams from other schools while experiencing a brand new type of sport. The children had a great time and all earned a certificate for taking part. Well done everyone involved!

Basketball Development Day



Fifteen excited children visited Thomas Middlecott Academy for a Basketball

Development Day. The session was to give the children chance to have some fun, exercise, learn some new skills and even inspire them to play basketball as a hobby.

The first part of the day was all about learning some skills: passing, shooting, defending, dribbling and tactics. This was followed by lots of games of basketball to put their new found skills to use.

Nearly all the referees and coaches were ex-Kirton Primary pupils and they represented themselves and Middlecott really well - as did our pupils.

Four schools visited and although it was a competition, two of our pupils were chosen by the sports coaches for their effort, attainment and conduct during the day. A huge well done to Josh Ward and Ava Fountain.

Clubs Available this Term

	Lunchtime	After School
Mon		Multi-sports (Y1-Y3)
Tues		Boys Football Academy (Y5/6)
Wed		Girls Football Academy (Y5/6)
Thur	Art Club (Y6)	Football Club (Y1-Y3) Choir (Y5/6)
Fri		Multi-sports (Y4-Y6)

Covid Update

On Tuesday 29 March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, set out the [next steps for living with COVID-19](#) in England from Friday 1 April.

Updated guidance advises:

Children who are unwell and who have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

Adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.

We will no longer advise staff or children to take a test.

Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice is 3 days.

The school will no longer provide remote education (Google classroom) for children

who are absent from school.

We are aware that the ever-changing rules are confusing. Let the office know if you are worried about your child or unsure what to do, but do not bring them into school until you have spoken to someone. We are always happy to advise you.

Sadly, we believe that continued staff shortages this term are inevitable. Many of our children have not been vaccinated, and this makes our staff vulnerable. Many of our children have already caught Covid for a second time.

We will do our utmost to maintain face-to-face teaching and to keep the school open. This may mean that some days your child will be taught by staff members other than their normal teacher. It may even mean that they join another class at times.

Spring Vaccine Booster

People aged 75 and over, and people aged 12 and over who are immunosuppressed, are now eligible for a Spring COVID-19 booster vaccine. The NHS will contact eligible people to book their next vital jab.

Visit <http://nhs.uk/covid-booster> for more information.

We recommend that all children, who are eligible for a vaccination, ensure they get one in order that they do not miss any more time away from school. Please seek advice from your child's GP practice.



Chicken Pox

Chicken pox has hardly circulated at all over the last 2 to 3 years due to social distancing. Unfortunately, it has returned with a vengeance across the country, and we currently have multiple cases in school.

Chicken pox often begins with a child or adult feeling unwell, developing a rash and then the classic 'spots'. If children develop these symptoms, they should remain at home until the spots have crusted over.

Pregnant women should seek advice from their GP if they are concerned.

A Message from the PTA



We will be running our Sponsored Walk event again in May. The times and dates for each year group will be dependent on class timetables and, of course, the weather. Thank you in advance for the

fabulous support you always give us for this event. More details will follow.

Our Gala will be held on Friday 24th June between 3.30 and 5pm. A letter will come out shortly with suggestions on how you might be able to support us.

These are traditionally our best fund raisers - and it has been some time since we have been able to raise funds. Please help us to support our amazing school.

A Message from the Parliament Federation's Governing Body

We would like to wish you all a warm welcome back to school for the summer term - no doubt it will be action packed and full of fun and learning.

As a Governing Body, we are made up of members from many walks of life, and we all feel really privileged to be part of this amazing school. We are lucky enough to take part in school-life and we see first-hand how happy, friendly and engaged our children are.

Kids' Club

Congratulations to Kids' Club on their fabulous - and well-deserved - Ofsted outcome last month.

If you need childcare before or after school, please contact Kids' Club. They run sessions from 7.30am before school until 5.45pm after school during term time. For more details, contact them on 07583762072.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. Please check out the most recent information in the section labelled 'Parents' on our website.

Admission to Nursery



Nursery children (and staff) enjoying World Book Day

Places are filling quickly for September in our award-winning Nursery - and we are already oversubscribed for many sessions this term.

If your child's date of birth falls between 1.9.18 and 31.8.19, and you would like a place at our Nursery, please send an email to enquires@parliamentfederation.co.uk and we will forward details on how to apply.



Remember, every child is entitled to 15 hours a week at our teacher-led Nursery **completely free**. This can be taken in the morning, in the afternoon or all day as long as we have enough places available. Afternoon places are often easier to secure than morning places which are regularly oversubscribed.

As well as the 15 free hours a week, to which all three-year-olds are entitled, we offer additional sessions over and above these as well as increased flexibility when selecting sessions for your child. You may choose mornings, afternoon, or a mix of both, including full days - or even 5 full days a week. We will do our best to accommodate your request.

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. Lunch is also available if required.

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

Remember, we are also the only local provider with **fully qualified, school teachers**.

Ofsted said of our Nursery:

Children in the Nursery Year settle quickly and make a good start to their school life. Staff build effective relationships with parents to meet children's learning and care needs well. Relationships between

adults and children throughout the early years are nurturing and positive. Well-structured routines and procedures mean that children enjoy their time in school and are kept safe. They cooperate with each other and behave well.

Contact the office for further information.

Boston Nursery School



We are part of a federation. Last year, when our Nursery became full, some of our parents discovered our sister nursery, Boston Nursery School.

Boston Nursery School has the same Governing Body, the same Executive Headteacher and, most importantly, the same high values and rates of success.

As one of only five maintained Nursery Schools in the whole of Lincolnshire, Boston has fully qualified teachers and is inspected by Ofsted under the Schools' Inspection Framework rather than the early years' framework. Their intent, like Kirton Nursery, is to give all children the best possible start when they begin school.



Boston Nursery School also has provision for two-year-olds in a separate area of the Nursery with its own playground and outdoor area.

Check out their website or book a visit to see the fabulous education they can offer your child.

Contact Boston Nursery School on 01205 358647. You can find the Nursery School on Church Road PE21 0LJ. They also have their own website: <https://www.parliamentfederation.co.uk/boston-nursery-school> and a Facebook presence.

If you click on the owl on our school website, it will take you to Boston and Kirton nurseries.



World Book Day

Safety Reminders

Please contact the school **early on the morning of the first day** of your child's absence. A lot of office time is lost chasing up absent children, which we do to ensure that they are safe. You will

appreciate that we would prefer to direct our resources to supporting our children in the classroom.



Please remember, in the interest of keeping children safe, no images of children may be taken on the school site without the express permission of the Executive Headteacher or the Head of School. Any images, you have permission to take, must not be posted on social media sites or shared publicly. We also do not allow visitors to use mobile 'phones inside the building.

These safeguarding measures ensure that we may be sensible about allowing parents and family members to take photos and videos of their children at events such as Sports Day and Christmas productions, which we understand is important and are keen to continue.

If you have changed your address or telephone number recently, please ensure that you have let the office staff know. We must be able to contact you in case of an emergency. Also, ensure that the school has at least one emergency telephone contact, in addition to your own, in case we are unable to contact you. Remember that this number may also need updating.

If your child brings a phone to school, please remind them to hand it in to the office in the morning. The children must

remember to collect it at the end of the day.



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.



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.



One of our bus drivers has expressed concern that some of our children are crossing the roads to and from school without using the road crossings. Please model safe crossing to your children and remind them if they come to school on their own. We have delivered road safety messages to the children in school.

This is particularly important with the new roadworks which will be taking place in the village.

How You Can Help Your Child at Home

The best place to discover what your child will be learning in the upcoming term is the year group newsletter. These newsletters come out six times a year. They contain ideas about how to continue learning at home. Teachers are always only too happy to let you know how best to support your child should you have specific enquiries. They are also always happy to discuss your child's progress - you do not have to wait until parents' evening. The end of the school day is the best time to talk to staff. We recommend that you make an appointment through the school office to guarantee that your child's teacher is available - they often attend after-school meetings.

Multiplication Tables Test for all Y4 pupils

$$2 \times 2 = 4$$

All children in Y4 will have their multiplication skills tested formally, beginning in June 2022. This has been cancelled for the last two year due to the pandemic which means that our current Y4 cohort will be among the first in the country to take part in this new assessment.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please discuss them with your child's class teacher.

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 another 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 sing along to.

Spelling: From Y2 to Y6, your child will bring home a set of 10 weekly spellings to learn. These may 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 a 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.

Handwriting: We use a cursive script across the school in order to improve handwriting and presentation. Lower down the school, this may result in a more 'untidy' style at first as children get to grips with the joins. However, with perseverance, your child's handwriting will improve. Visitors often praise our children's amazing handwriting skills.

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

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Passports of Achievement

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.

The Myth of 'The Head Lice Letter'

Occasionally, parents request that a 'head lice letter' be sent when it appears there has been an 'outbreak'. However, unlike in smaller village schools, in a school of over 500 children, it would be safe to say that a number of children will have head lice on any given day. Younger children, in particular, often put their heads together when playing, and may pass lice on to their friends and/or siblings. This can lead to the impression of an 'outbreak'.

On the advice of healthcare professionals, the school does not send out a letter every time lice are detected - such a letter on a daily basis would soon lose its impact.

We have also been advised that to send a letter advising on head lice would be to give the false impression that there is a particular problem at a particular time when in fact it only appears that way to the small group of families who are dealing with the issue. It is, therefore, preferable that all parents and carers be vigilant at all times.

On the advice of healthcare professionals, we hold 'Bug Busting' days on a regular basis instead.

Bug Busting

Every school has to deal with head lice, and we are no exception. Although we will never eradicate head lice, there are things that

we can do to alleviate the problem. This **Saturday, 23rd April** we ask that every child's hair is checked at home for lice.

The following advice comes from the healthcare professionals:

*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.*

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.



Are you reading this newsletter via Parent Mail?

Most parents have now signed up to our Parent Mail service. Make sure you never miss a letter or other important information. If you haven't signed up yet, ask at the office for more details.

We do our utmost to remain open despite inclement weather conditions and other hazards. However, there may be rare occasions when, following a risk assessment, the school has no alternative but to close. If your up-to-date details, including your mobile telephone number, are registered on our Parent Mail system, you should receive a text automatically in the event that we are forced to close.

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 over the coming term. By their nature, Sports Days are always weather-dependent.

- 20.4.22 First Day of Term
- 23.4.22 Bug Busting Saturday
- 9.5.22 SATs Week for Y6
- 16.5.22 Sponsored Walk Week
- 27.5.22 Royal Teddy Bears' Garden Party
- 6.6.22 Y1 Phonics Screening this Week
- 13.6.22 Arrival of Hens' Eggs
- 22.6.22 New Reception Intake Evening 4:30pm
- 24.6.22 Summer Gala 3:30 - 5pm
- 29.6.22 New Nursery Intake Evening 4.30pm
- 5.7.22 Y5 and Y6 Sports Afternoon
- 6.7.22 Y3 and Y4 Sports Afternoon
- 4.7.22 Nursery Sports Day (morning and afternoon sessions)
- 7.7.22 Reception and KS1 Sports Afternoon
- 18.7.22 Y6 Production 4.30pm
- 19.7.22 Y6 Fish and Chip Supper
- 21.7.22 Reports sent home
- 21.7.22 Children meet their new teacher
- 22.7.22 Last day of Term 6
- 1.9.22 First day of Term 1

Term dates up to the summer holiday:

TERM 5:

Wednesday 20th April 22 – Friday 27th May 22

May Day Monday 2nd May

TERM 6:

Monday 6th June 22 – Friday 22nd July 2022

Term dates for 2022 - 2023:

TERM 1:

Thursday 1st September 22 – Friday 14th October 22

TERM 2:

Monday 31st October 22 – Friday 16th December 22

TERM 3:

Tuesday 3rd January 23 – Friday 10th February 23

TERM 4:

Monday 20th February 23 – Friday 31st March 23

TERM 5:

Monday 17th April 23 – Friday 26th May 23

May Day Monday 1st May

TERM 6:

Monday 5th June 23 – Friday 21st July 23