



# Kirton Primary School

## Autumn Term 2020 Newsletter

Welcome back to a new year at Kirton Primary School.

We were delighted this morning with the sensible way in which our children came into school and have adhered to the guidance given to them by their teachers.

We would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all the new children and their families who have joined us, as well as new members of staff.

### Coronavirus Update

We thank you for assisting us in operating our rolling drop-off and collection times. Please try to select the quietest times in order to reduce congestion and the number of people with whom you will come into contact. We ask that only one adult accompanies each family group. Please try to keep children from different year groups apart, and maintain a two metre distance from our staff. Above all, we ask everyone to be patient under these trying conditions. We are all hoping that we can get back to normal soon.

From the Government's guidelines to primary schools:

**The DfE recognises that younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing, and it is acceptable for them not to distance within their group.**

Our essential measures for opening are:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home;
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene;
- enhanced cleaning arrangements;
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace;
- reduced contacts and maximised distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimising potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.

Please note: for the sake of reducing transmission of the virus, the school office is currently closed to parents and carers. However, should you need to contact us, you may email your enquiries directly to the school at [enquiries@parliamentfederation.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@parliamentfederation.co.uk) and we will respond as quickly as possible.

Please do not send any child into school with coronavirus symptoms. Symptoms include a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). Let the office know if you are worried about your child or unsure what to do, but do not bring them into school.



If your child is sent home due to having symptoms, their sibling(s) will also need to be collected. You will be advised to arrange a test for the child who is unwell.

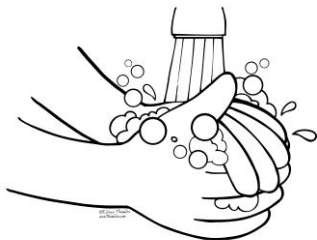
Unless the school is advised of a negative test result, your child will not be able to return to school for ten days (their sibling must stay away for fourteen days). This is in line with the Government guidelines.

Should the test result be positive, please contact the school as a matter of urgency.

The school is obliged to report all children who are sent home to the local health protection team who will follow up test results.

It is important to take this disease seriously. Remember, children tend not to get particularly ill with this coronavirus - thankfully. This is why it is important that we all engage with the NHS Test and Trace, even when symptoms are mild.

### **Handwashing Advice to Defeat Coronavirus**



Everyone in school will be washing their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs a mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the

drain. Drying hands thoroughly afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus.

Out of school, hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (eg when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing hands together and rinsing with water provides.

Please do not allow your children to bring hand sanitiser into school. They will always have access to soap and water. Please leave hand creams at home as they provide a 'sticky surface' for the virus to adhere to on children's hands. Should your child's hands become dry, it is safer to apply cream when they get home.



The Government advises against the use of face coverings for primary school children. Children find it difficult not to touch their faces when wearing a mask. For safety reasons, children cannot take part in PE or playground games whilst wearing a face covering. They also need to remove and replace the mask each time they eat or drink which increases the likelihood of transmission.

In the interest of your child's safety, please do not ask your child to wear face coverings in school.



### Lincolnshire School Games Award

Kirton Primary School is proud to announce that it has once again been awarded the Lincolnshire School Games Award in recognition of its participation in physical education (PE) and physical activity.

A special thank you to Mr Greaves for steering our staff and children through this process, and for his never-ending enthusiasm for raising the profile of sport and fitness across our school.

### Gold School Games Award 2020



The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across the school and into the community.

Kirton Primary School was well on its way to achieve the School Games Gold Mark Award for the third year running. Unfortunately, these awards were put on hold when the country went into lockdown and a decision was made not to present any awards in 2020. However, we remain proud of the work that had been completed prior to March 2020 in the field of sport, games and physical activity in our school.

### Support your Child's Learning

$$2 \times 2 = 4$$

**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. All children in Y4 will have their multiplication skills formally tested in June. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please discuss them with your child's class teacher.

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, whatever year group they are in. 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 to practise with your child. You will also find songs and videos made by our staff and children that you might like to sing along to.

**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, topic 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 are not as easy as you might think!

**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 exceptional handwriting skills.

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

abcdefghijklmnopqrst  
vwxyz

### Learn to Draw

Why not visit our Learn to Draw section in the 'Children's' section on our website?

Encourage your children to draw at home or learn to draw with them.

### Passports of Achievement

Children from Reception to Y6 each have a passport which lasts one year, and encourages the children to take part in challenges both at home and at school.

It makes a wonderful home-school link and you will enjoy supporting your child in achieving their challenges for the year. Each completed passport earns your child a medal.

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

### Kirton Nursery School



We have our own web page. Please come and visit us at:

<https://www.parliamentfederation.co.uk/kirton-nursery-school>

Put your child on the path to a first rate education. At the end of the summer term, 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 in September, 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. The children in our 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 Kirton Nursery and those who have attended other local settings.

As well as the fifteen free hours a week to which all three-year-olds are entitled, we offer additional sessions above this. We also offer flexibility when selecting sessions for your child. You may choose mornings, afternoons, or a mixture 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 fifteen hours**, may be purchased at a cost of £12.50 for 3 hours. This is extremely competitive. Eligible working parents may be entitled to **30 free hours** for their child. The purchase of a lunch is also available if required.

Please contact us to discuss your options and to hear 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 forward our details to them.

### 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.

### 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.

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 are clearly not appropriate in a primary school. 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 sense and support.

### Health and Safety Reminders

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.

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 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.



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

With the exception of guide and hearing dogs, no dogs are permitted on the school site at any time. Please note, puppies and small dogs which are carried are also not allowed on site



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 while on site.



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.



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.

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

### Oversubscribed

Many of our year groups are currently oversubscribed. 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 2021**, please remind them to apply in good time in order to be in a better position of securing a place at our 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 you may register your interest for 2021 with the office now.

We are usually able to admit children midyear into all other year groups directly through the school office, as long as we have a space.

### Bug Busting

Every school has to deal with head lice and we are no exception. The problem is often more prevalent when children start back at school after a long break. Although we will never eradicate head lice, there are things that we can do to alleviate the problem. This **Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> 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.*

### 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

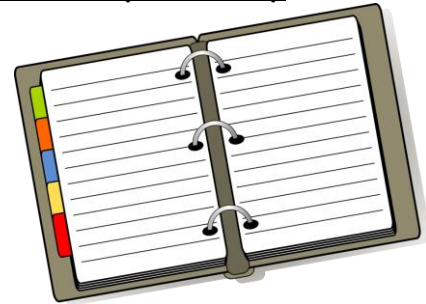
We thank our whole community, especially parents and carers, for their vigilance over negative or inappropriate comments made on Facebook or other social media sites about the school or its staff. Please be assured that all information received, which is thankfully very little considering the size of 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 upset such as this extremely seriously, and engage the support of the police and legal services where necessary. Indeed, we are grateful to the police for their robust stance on such 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 - even images of your own child. This is to ensure that we can continue to invite parents to photograph or film their children at school events.

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

### Term Dates for your Diary



The following dates may be subject to change or addition, but we know it is often useful to have advance warning. Further information will be available for many events, including some not listed below.

5.9.20 'Bug Busting' Day  
18.9.20 11+ test in school for Y6  
25.9.20 11+ test in school for Y6  
16.10.20 Last day of term  
2.11.20 First day of term  
18.12.20 Last day of term  
4.1.21 First day of term

### **Term Dates for 2020 - 2021:**

#### **TERM 1:**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 20 - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 20

#### **TERM 2:**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 20 - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 20

#### **TERM 3:**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 21 - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 21

#### **TERM 4:**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 21 - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 21

#### **TERM 5:**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 21 - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 21

May Day Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

#### **TERM 6:**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 21 - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021