



# Kirton Primary School

## Autumn Term 2021 Newsletter

Welcome back to a new 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 new members of staff.

Last term, we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Stephenson. Mrs Stephenson had been with us at Kirton Primary School for 14 years, for the last 8 of which she was our Head of School. She will be missed by us all and we wish her every success in the future.

We are delighted, however, to congratulate Mr Neall on his appointment to Head of School at Kirton Primary School. Mr Neall originally joined our school as a newly qualified teacher. He left after several years to pursue a career in educational leadership before returning to our school in 2017 as Assistant Headteacher for KS2. Mr Neall has worked as a member of our Senior Leadership Team for four years and knows the school extremely well.

Although the end of last term was not as we would have hoped it would be, due to Covid restrictions, we did our best to ensure that the children did not miss out.

Our hard-working staff organised visitors to the school in place of external visits so that we could ensure Covid safety whilst still bringing joy to our children's learning.



*Reptiles Visit Y2*



*An Anglo Saxon Visits School*

In the absence of a live audience, our Y6 children filmed their end-of-year production so they still managed to share it with their parents and families.

Our Sports Days went ahead, and children took home photos to share with their families.

## Covid Update

This term, we are following the Government guidance by not operating a rolling drop off and collection rota.

As a reminder:

- in the main school, we begin at 8:55 (although our doors open from 8:45) and we finish at 3:20
- in the nursery, we begin at 8:45 until 11:45 and again at 12:30 until 3:30

The School's control measures include:

- *ensuring good hygiene for everyone;*
- *maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes;*
- *keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and;*
- *following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.*

Please do not send any child into school with Covid-19 symptoms. Symptoms include a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of/change in normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). People do not normally exhibit all these symptoms and may exhibit none at all. 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, you will be advised to arrange a PCR test for your child.

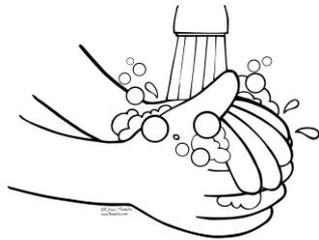
Unless the school is advised of a negative PCR test result, your child will not be able to return to school for ten days. This is in line with current Government guidelines.

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

It is important to be aware that we will not be sending 'bubbles' of children home as we will not be operating 'bubbles' in school. It will be up to Test and Trace to identify and contact close contacts - the School will no longer be doing this. These contacts will be asked to take a PCR test if they are under 18 or have been 'double jabbed'. If this is positive, they will need to self-isolate. If it is negative, they can resume normal activities and return to school.

We will continue to offer Google classroom to any child missing education as a direct result of Covid-19. We are not able to offer this for any other reasons.

## Handwashing Advice to Defeat Coronavirus



Everyone in school will continue to wash their hands regularly, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



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.

## Contact tracing and self isolation

As you will be aware, the Government confirmed the move to 'step 4' of its covid-19 roadmap from 19<sup>th</sup> July. As a result, new guidance for schools has been published by the Department for Education and Public Health England. This

latest guidance has implications for arrangements in our school.

As previously mentioned, the responsibility for contact tracing, when a pupil tests positive for Covid-19, has passed from our school to NHS Test and Trace. This means that it will no longer be the school that informs parents when children need to self-isolate.

The Government has also said that children will no longer be required to automatically self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive covid-19 case. Instead, you may be advised to take your child for a PCR test if they have been deemed to be in close contact with a positive case.

**It is important to note that any child who receives a positive PCR test will still be expected to isolate for 10 days and will not be able to attend school during that period. It is also important that you inform school as soon as possible should this occur.**

We are aware that there will be a wide range of views among families regarding the latest Government announcements. As you will understand, as a school, we are expected to have due regard for this new national guidance, as well as the additional local guidance provided to us by Lincolnshire Local Authority. Whilst we understand the frustration that these guidelines may cause, we respectfully request that you do not take out your frustrations on school staff. We appreciate your ongoing support, patience and understanding.

## Boston Water Saving Challenge



Last term, our Reception children were invited to take part in a competition for Anglian Water to help raise awareness of the need to save water, protect the environment, combat climate change and become more mindful about water. We were delighted to discover that Jacob, in last year's Owlets class, had been selected as a runner up for his fantastic water-saving poster.

Jacob had a big smile on his face when he was announced as a runner-up. He received a goody bag containing a bug garden activity set and declared, 'I can't wait to tell my mum. I love bugs. I rescued one in my garden!'

Well done to all the children who took part in the competition. We loved looking at your entries.

## Blackbirds Gymnastics



During the lockdown last February, Isabelle from Year 3, won a gymnastics competition with TJ Gymnastics Academy, Boston. The prize included a forty-five-minute gymnastics session for her whole class.

The children were lucky enough to receive this prize via a zoom call. The session was held by Sophie (one of TJ's instructors) and she taught the children the basics to some gymnastic moves.

The children learnt shapes a gymnast such as: Straddle, Pike, Tuck, Straight, Chair, Dish & Arch. This was then followed by a demonstration of each step to performing a handstand.

Gymnasts need to keep fit to perform all their energetic moves so every session they do involves a legs and core workout! Sophie had the children doing: Squats, Crunchies, Kneeling up & down and V Sits!

After cooling off the children were able to ask Sophie questions which ended up with the question: "How do you teach the splits?" Some of the children were able to show off how flexible they were!

We would like to thank TJ Gymnastics Academy Boston for this amazing opportunity and well

done to Isabelle for winning! The children all thoroughly enjoyed themselves!



### Year 5 Archaeologists!



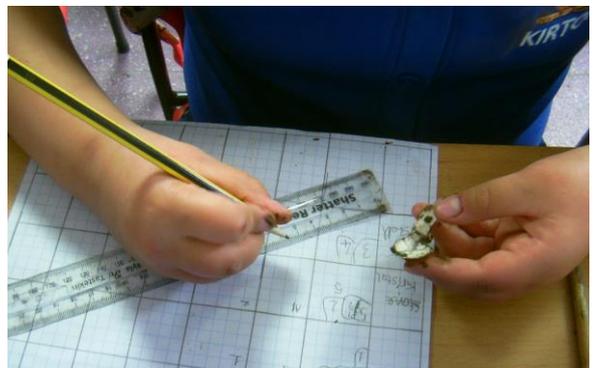
Two years ago, The National Lottery donated money so 'The King's Head', an old coach house in Kirton, could be renovated. As part of the deal, the historians and renovators have donated time to primary school children. They were booked in to come to Kirton Primary School. Due to recent global events, their visit had to be cancelled but that didn't stop Kirton Primary School.

Having watched videos on how to perform an archaeological dig - including safe working, accurate and precise data recording and drawing conclusions from evidence - Year 5 became historians for an afternoon.

Each pupil had a tray with numerous 'artefacts' and, armed with recording grids, paint brushes, enthusiasm and lots of wet mud (British weather at its finest), they carried out the Year 5 Dig.

The work fitted in with the topic of local geography and history, and everyone worked scientifically and carefully. The children really enjoyed themselves.

Hopefully, this year, Year 5 will be able to perform an actual archaeological dig.



### 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 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 their weekly spellings), please follow the exemplar below:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

### 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 alongside them.



*Reptiles Visit Y2*

### 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 will 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. Our Nursery is often full and we have to begin a waiting list for places quite early in the year. If you are thinking of requesting a place for your child, we fully recommend that you act early so as not to be disappointed. Currently, we have a limited number of places this 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 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 School 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.

### Boston Nursery School



*Boston Nursery School*

Last year, when our Nursery became full, some of our parents discovered our sister nursery, Boston Nursery School.

Boston Nursery School is a proud member of the Parliament Federation. It has the same Governing Body, the same Executive Headteacher and, most importantly, the same high values and success rates.



*Boston Nursery School*

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, Facebook or book a visit to see the fabulous education they can offer your child.



*Boston Nursery School*

Contact Boston Nursery School on 01205 358647. You can find the Nursery School on Church Lane 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.

### **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



The PTA wishes to thank everyone who supported our most recent event: the Sponsored Walk. Thanks to your generosity, the Sponsored Walk raised over £3 125.

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, fish and chips for Y6, leaving gifts for our Y6 children, stock for the school shop and satsumas from Santa for our younger children.

We look forward to your continuing support this year.

### Sports' Day (by Mr Greaves):



Although the format was a little different this year, the effort, enthusiasm and achievements of the children was, as always, INCREDIBLE!

The British weather and the current national situation did not deter Kirton Primary School. To ensure children kept to their bubbles, we put on eight separate Sports' Days for the athletic events and six mornings of field events - with the introduction of the triple jump for the very first time!

Teachers gave "memorable" demonstration races - much to the children's delight (with a few favourites not winning!).

Most children competed in:

- the flat race
- the obstacle race
- shuttle runs race
- egg and spoon
- quoit on the head
- sack race
- skipping race

As a result of their hard work, numerous stickers were awarded, with many children helping to start the races and organise equipment; showing great maturity and responsibility.

Well done, Everyone!



### Sports Clubs Available this Term

Monday	BUFC Multi Sports KS1
Tuesday	Sport2Day Football Academy
Wednesday	Sport2Day Girls' Football
Thursday	BUFC Football KS2
Friday	Sport2Day Multi Sports KS2

### 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 or bleached hair, gel and close or patterned shaves are clearly not appropriate in a primary school as most parents would agree. Nail polish and transfer 'tattoos' are also not appropriate.

For more information on uniform, 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 before or after school.



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 vaping.



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.



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.

### Oversubscribed

Many of our year groups are currently oversubscribed. We have waiting lists in school, but it is worth noting that **parental appeals have not 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 2022**, please remind them to apply in good time in order to be in a better position of securing a place at our popular school.

Even though your child may be attending our Nursery, they are not guaranteed a place at our school so please register your child for a place at school as well.

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 with the school office.



*Snakes Visit Y2!*

### 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, 4<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.nspcc.org.uk/help/nsppc> 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

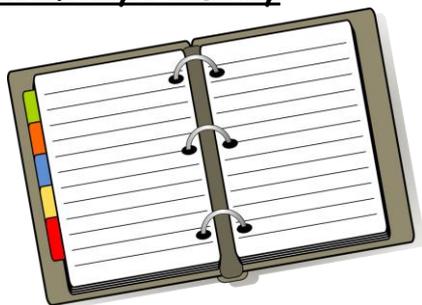
We thank our whole community, especially parents and carers, for their vigilance over negative or inappropriate comments made on Facebook or other social media sites about the school or its staff. Thankfully we have very few negative postings, considering the size of our school - and it tends to be the same people who make negative posts. Please be assured that all information received 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 the mental health of our school community 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 this antisocial 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.

- 4.9.21 'Bug Busting' Day
- 17.9.21 11+ test in school for Y6
- 20.9.21 School photographer YR-Y6
- 13.9.21 Theatre production for Y2-Y6
- 21.9.21 Phonics Workshop for parents 2.30pm
- 24.9.21 11+ test in school for Y6
- 1.10.21 Harvest Festival at church at 2.15pm for Y4-Y6 - all welcome
- 4.10.21 Enterprise Week for Y3-Y4
- 12.10.21 Parents' evening 3.30-6.30pm
- 13.10.21 Parents' evening 3.30-5pm
- 15.10.21 Last day of term
- 1.11.21 First day of term
- 7.12.21 Reception Christmas performance 2pm
- 8.12.21 Y1 Christmas performance 2pm
- 9.12.21 Y2 Christmas performance 2pm
- 13.12.21 Carol Service at church at 2.15pm for Y4-Y6 - all welcome
- 14.12.21 Children's Christmas dinner
- 17.12.21 Last day of term
- 4.1.22 First day of term

### **Term Dates for 2021 - 2022:**

- **TERM 1:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 21 – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 21 33 days
- **TERM 2:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 21– Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 21 35 days
- **TERM 3:** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 22 – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 22 29 days
- **TERM 4:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 22 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 22 30 days
- **TERM 5:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 22 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 22 *May Day Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May* 27 days
- **TERM 6:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 22 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 35 days