



Kirton Primary School

Spring Term Newsletter 2021

Welcome back. We hope you had a good, if quieter, Christmas and would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happier and more joyful New Year.



YR celebrate Children in Need in rainbow colours

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Johnson's Garden Centre for donating a Christmas tree to the school last term. It certainly brightened up December for us.

Gold Artsmark Award



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Kirton Primary School became the proud recipient of the prestigious, national Artsmark Gold Award last term.

The judges of this award said: *Kirton Primary is clearly committed to the Arts and this is reflected in the high profile the Arts have across the school. As a result of your Artsmark journey, you now have a carefully planned curriculum which links arts and culture to wider learning opportunities and to different areas of the curriculum such as history and geography. Having a planned timetable of events during the year helps you to ensure equality of opportunities for all pupils such as watching and taking part in live performances, working with the artist-in-residence, visiting artists and professionals, and external visits. The focus on the Arts is resulting in your pupils talking enthusiastically about their learning. Well done on your achievements so far and I am in doubt that you will continue to build on your good work.*



YN celebrate Children in Need in rainbow colours

Year 2 Phonics Results

Our current Y2 children missed their phonic screening last year, which was due to take place at the end of the summer term when they were in Y1.

However, our children took the screening test just before Christmas and we are delighted to let you know that 80% of the children were successful.

Considering the disruption and upheaval our children and staff have been through, we are extremely proud of these results. They are above the national average under normal (non Covid) conditions.

This result is reflective of the great endeavours and successes being experienced right across the school.



Y4 celebrate Children in Need in rainbow colours

Important Reminder for Y6

This year's SATs assessments for Y6 children take place on the week beginning **10th May 2021**. These are still going ahead.

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 time last year.

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



Y2 celebrate Children in Need in rainbow colours

New Names for Houses and Playground Names

Our four Houses have been renamed to reflect British Values. The Houses are now named after people whose lives reflect each value. They are called: Mahatma Ghandi (Tolerance); Rosa Parks (Liberty); Robert Peel (The Rule of Law); and Emmeline Pankhurst (Democracy).

We hope that by teaching the children about such remarkable people, we will inspire them to live lives governed by these values.

We have also renamed our playgrounds. To foster our children's love of reading, we have named each playground after a much-regarded children's author. The authors are: Beatrix Potter (known for her stories about animals); C.S Lewis (best known for the Chronicles of Narnia novels); A.A. Milne (the creator of Winnie the Pooh); and E. Nesbit (author of over a hundred books, but perhaps best known for the children's classic, The Railway Children).

A large board in each playground displays a photograph of the author and information about them and their writing, so that the children can discover new books to enjoy.

Children in Need



*Staff celebrate Children in Need in rainbow colours
(big kids at heart!)*

For Children in Need, our children and staff dressed in all the colours of the rainbow (plus a few extra). They brought a dazzling array of colour to the school whilst raising over £450 for this worthy cause.

Thank you to everyone who entered into the spirit and donated.



Y2 celebrate Children in Need in rainbow colours

Experiencing French Culture in Y5



Last term, Y5 learnt about French food and words associated with the cuisine of France. They also turned their classrooms into French cafés to put what they had learned into practice.

Under the current Covid restrictions, Michelin star chefs were not allowed to prepare the food so beaucoup de Mesdames et Messieurs (staff!) supplied the authentic fare - croissants, French bread, pain-au-chocolat, brie, camembert and garlic butter.



The pop-up restaurant was a huge success with some amazing role play (carried out in French) by the children.
Food is a great motivator for learning!

A Wedding in Reception



As part of their topic on celebrations, our Reception children celebrated a 'wedding' complete with wedding clothes, food, a bride and a groom!



A lovely day was had by all.

Coronavirus Update



As you are aware, our area is currently in Tier 4 which is the highest alert in England. You will, undoubtedly, be aware of the concern over whether primary schools are safe enough to remain open. We need to be extra vigilant in order to reduce introduction and transmission of Covid-19 in school.



If you decide not to send your child into school, we are unable to provide Google classroom, unfortunately. This is just for those who are self-isolating.

In the event that your child's bubble or that primary schools close nationally, please ensure you have the information you require for your child to access Google classroom at home. We now have a limited number of laptops in school that we are able to lend out if your household has issues.

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 remind you that **only one adult** should accompany each family group. Please continue to keep children from different year groups apart, and maintain a two-metre distance from our staff and from

each other. You might decide to wear a mask whilst on the school site.

Remember not to arrive early as you will have to wait in the playground with other parents/carers and children, which is what we are trying to avoid. Please also avoid queuing at the school gate.

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 and wider building continue to be 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 and we will respond as quickly as possible. Our staff are still here and eager to help.

Coronavirus Symptoms

You must not send your child into school with coronavirus symptoms - no matter how mild those symptoms might be. Equally, if any other member of your child's

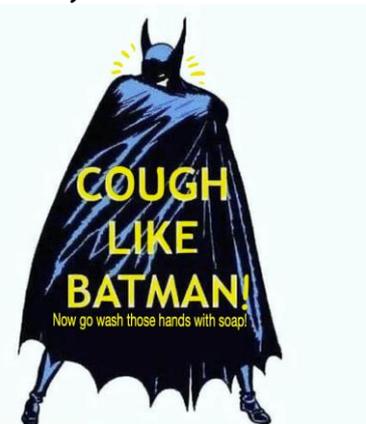
household is displaying symptoms, your child must stay at home.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

I have a **fever**.



- a high temperature - this means your child **feels hot to touch on their chest or back** (you do not need to measure your child's temperature);



- a new, continuous cough - this means **coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours** (if your child usually has a cough, it may be worse than usual);



- a loss or change to your child's sense of smell or taste - this means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different from normal.

The child does not have to exhibit all the symptoms above - **just one**. Most children have mild symptoms, or none at all, so please do not take a risk by sending them into school - **get a test**.

If any member of your household is exhibiting any of the symptoms, your whole household must self-isolate until the result of a test is known. This means you must not send your child into school if a sibling or parent is waiting for a test result. Everyone in the house must self-isolate.

It is illegal to break self-isolation laws.

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. We are always happy to advise you.



If your child is sent home due to having symptoms, their sibling(s) will also need to be collected so that the household can self-isolate. Remember to collect siblings from other schools as well. You only need

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(s) must also stay away for ten days). This is in line with the Government guidelines. However, getting a test is relatively quick and most children have their test results within 48 hours.

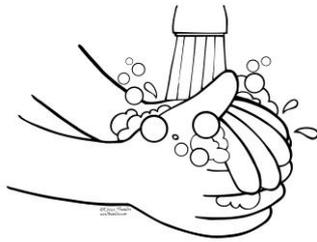
Should your child's test result be positive, please contact the school as a matter of urgency.

The school is obliged to report all children with positive results to the local health protection team who will advise the school on any course of action required. We need to make decisions quickly about other children and staff who could be identified as 'close contacts' in order to prevent an outbreak in school.



It is important to continue to take this disease seriously. Remember, children tend not to get particularly ill with Covid-19 - thankfully. This is why it is important that we all engage with the NHS Test and Trace, even when symptoms are mild and no matter how inconvenient it might be.

Handwashing to Defeat Covid-19



Everyone in school is 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. If possible, 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 plenty of cream when they get home. However, if your child's hands are particularly sore, they may bring in their own hand cream. Please ensure this is clearly named.

Everyone in school has dry hands due to the frequent handwashing. However, this is a small price to pay to keep our children and wider community safe.

Face Coverings



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 which increases the risk of transmission. 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 transmitting the disease with their hands.

In the interest of your child's safety, please do not ask your child to wear face coverings in school. The Government continues to advise that younger children are safer without them.

The Local Authority recommends face coverings for all children who use public transport (although this is not mandatory for children under 11). If you think your child is responsible enough to use a face covering on the school bus or taxi, the Local Authority recommends that you consider this.

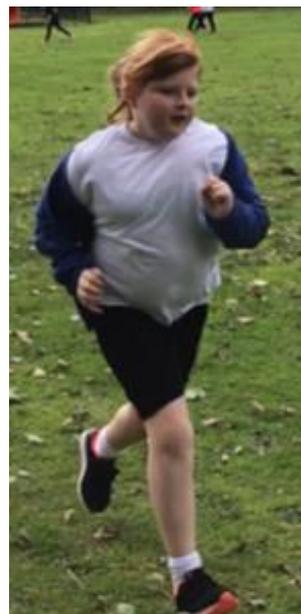
Cross Country Challenge



The annual cross country at Haven High School was postponed this year but that didn't stop Kirton Primary School enjoying some healthy, outdoor running.



A challenge from the Boston Schools' Sport Partnership was set: every child, from Year 1 to Year 6, was to run a mile. If all the classes completed the task, Kirton Primary would earn the Gold Award! Aiming high as always, every class at our school completed the run within the allocated timeframe.



Year 5 chose a day when 'classic' cross country weather ensued - blustery winds, intermittent showers and a cool temperature. Everyone still had a great time and really worked hard.

Gold award - achieved!

Well done everyone.



Read2Succeed

The children in Y4, Y5 and Y6 are given the opportunity to take part in an online quiz each time they complete their reading book. Successful completion of these

quizzes can earn the children Kirts to be spent in Kirton Stores. Children are still earning and saving Kirts in the bank, despite the shop not currently being open. Collectively, the children in these three year groups have already read 19 148 690 words (over 19 million!) in their reading books - which equates to 2 244 books (over 2 thousand) since September!

This is an amazing testament to our children's love of books.

Please encourage your child to read at every opportunity. They may also complete a quiz on a book they have read at home as long as we have that book title on our system in school.

We also have a bank of online books the children can access at home.

Fund Raising

Thank you to those of you whose children bought a poppy last term. We raised just over £113 for the appeal.

A Message from the PTA



We would like to thank all those who supported our Christmas tree decoration sale. We hope that you are pleased with

your purchases. We know the children enjoyed making them with their teachers. By buying your child's decoration, you helped us to raise £1486 to support the school.

Our next event is the sponsored walk in the spring. Thank you for always ensuring this is always a well-supported activity. Details to follow.

A Message from the Parliament Federation's Governing Body

Despite these strange times we find ourselves in, we hope you managed to have a good Christmas and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.

The Governing Body is an elected group, including school 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.

Keeping Safe Before and After School



We are currently operating a rolling system of drop off and collection. This means that staff are committed to ensuring children's safety inside the building and are unable to patrol the playgrounds simultaneously. We rely on parents and carers to take responsibility

for their children before and after the school day.

Please insist that your children use the paths, and avoid taking shortcuts across the car park and bus park.

Please ensure your children dismount bikes and scooters at the school gate and do not allow them to ride these once on the school site.

Please do not bring dogs onto the school site.

As the evenings are darker, we recommend that children wear reflective materials over their coats to make crossing the road safer.

Safeguarding

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

Admission to Reception in September - Act Now!

Places are filling up quickly in our Reception classes for September 2021. To join our Reception cohort, a child's date of birth must fall between 1.9.16 and 31.8.17. Please note, we do not administer our own admissions to Reception; applications must be submitted to Lincolnshire County Council who allocate places on our behalf. You may apply online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions or make a telephone application by contacting the Education Team on 01522 782030. The closing date to secure a place is **Monday 11th January 2021**.

We accept children from the surrounding area, not just Kirton village. There is no guarantee that children who have attended our Nursery, or who have siblings already in school, will be allocated a place at Kirton Primary School, so it is important to get your application in early. If you know anyone who has a child who would like to start with us in September, please let them know the importance of completing the online forms as early as possible. Kirton Primary is a very popular school and many of our year groups are already full. We are forced to children away on a regular basis.

Don't miss out!

Ofsted said of our Reception classes:

The early years classes are inspiring and safe places to learn. Teachers provide a range of stimulating activities to support children's learning across different areas of the curriculum.

Children's reading, writing and mathematics skills are developed well in the early years. Teachers plan frequent opportunities to develop these skills through stimulating learning activities.

Good teaching and care enable children to make good progress.

Admission to Nursery

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 1.9.17 and 31.8.18, 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.

Other Safety Reminders

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.

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.

We might be required to call the police to carry out a 'safe and well' check if you have not informed us that your child will not be in school and we are unable to contact you. This can be distressing for parents and children, and we are keen to avoid this situation.

If your child brings a phone to school, please remind them to hand it in to their class teacher in the morning. They 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 the 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.

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.

If your child is absent for a reason connected to Covid-19, their class teacher will set and mark work for them during their absence via Google classroom.

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 2021. This was cancelled last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic which means that our current Y4 cohort will be amongst 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:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy

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, 9th January**, 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.



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. Currently, there is the added possibility of having to close bubbles or directing groups of children to self-isolate. 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 either bubbles or the whole school.

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.

We intend to run parents' evenings by telephone in the same manner that we did in September. Details will follow.

- 4.1.21 First day of term 3
- 8.2.21 Parents' Evening 3.30 - 6
- 9.2.21 Parents' Evening 3.30 - 6
- 10.2.21 Parents' Evening 3.30 - 6
- 11.2.21 Parents' Evening 3.30 - 6
- 12.2.21 Last day of term 3
- 22.2.21 First day of term 4
- 4.3.21 World Book Day
- 1.4.21 Last day of term 4
- 19.4.21 First day of term 5

Term dates up to the summer holiday:

TERM 3:	Monday 4 th January 21 – Friday 12 th February 21	30 days
TERM 4:	Monday 22 nd February 21 – Thursday 1 st April 21	29 days
TERM 5:	Monday 19 th April 21 – Friday 28 th May 21 <i>May Day Monday 3rd May</i>	29 days
TERM 6:	Monday 7 th June 21 – Thursday 22 nd July 2021	34 days

Term dates for 2021 - 2022:

TERM 1:	Wednesday 1 st September 21 – Friday 15 th October 21	33 days
TERM 2:	Monday 1 st November 21 – Friday 17 th December 21	35 days
TERM 3:	Tuesday 4 th January 22 – Friday 11 th February 22	29 days
TERM 4:	Monday 21 st February 22 – Friday 1 st April 22	30 days
TERM 5:	Tuesday 19 th April 22 – Friday 27 th May 22 <i>May Day Monday 2nd May</i>	28 days
TERM 6:	Monday 6 th June 22 – Friday 22 nd July 2022	35 days