



Kirton Primary School

Spring Term Newsletter 2022

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.



Year1 Production

We were disappointed not to be able to put on our usual Christmas productions or attend our traditional carol service. However, the children remained a credit to us all by making the most of their opportunities to practise and perform in school. For those families effected, we hope you enjoyed the virtual shows.

We would like to congratulate Mr Greaves who joins our Senior Leadership Team as Assistant Headteacher. Mr Greaves started his teaching career with us over eight years ago and has never failed to impress with his talent, enthusiasm and commitment. He fought off a number of experienced and established leaders from other schools and academies in Lincolnshire and other local authorities in order to secure his position (we're an extremely

popular school to get into). His promotion is well deserved.

Recovery Programme

It is an unfortunate fact that, when we returned to school in September, many of our children were a long way behind where we would have liked them to be in their learning. Fortunately, intervention and accelerated learning are two of the areas in which Kirton Primary School excel, and our staff have not shied from this challenge.

We wish to thank all the staff and parents who supported our successful Recovery Programme as this has undoubtedly had a huge impact on the children's learning (see the first set of national results below).

Unfortunately, due to the current Covid situation, we have had to suspend the programme this term, but we hope to put it back into operation later in the year.

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 2021 when they were in Y1. Due to

disruptions and a lockdown, they also missed much key learning.

However, our children took the screening test just before Christmas and we are delighted to let you know that 83% of the children were successful. These results are above the national average under normal (non-Covid) conditions.

Considering the disruption and upheaval our children and staff have been through, these are amazing results.

We are pleased to report that they are reflective of the great endeavours and successes being experienced right across the school.

Healthy Schools' Award



We are delighted to announce that Kirton Primary School has been awarded the Gold award in the Department of Education's Healthy Schools rating scheme. This is a national award designed by the DfE to recognise schools' contributions to supporting children's health and wellbeing.

We were assessed on our food education, food standards and the amount of time children take part in PE each week and we certainly impressed the judges.

Kirton Primary School Leads the Way



After many setbacks due to Covid, and sadly many more anticipated due to a shortage of supplies and labour, it has been fantastic to get this project underway again. Groups of children have begun by planting in our raised beds.

Eventually, we intend to have a fabulous and unique environmental learning space with a Mediterranean glasshouse, a tropical glasshouse, a temperate growing area, and areas for den-making, gardening and pond dipping. We even plan a firepit.

We are not aware of any other school having embarked on such a largescale project. Kirton Primary School leads the way again!

Important Reminder for Y6

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

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

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.

Remembrance Day 2021



Nursery children in their Poppies.

We raised just over £94 through the sale of poppies in school. Thank you to everyone who donated.



A group of Year 5 and Y6 children went to Kirton Church to plant poppy crosses. They felt proud and honoured to represent the school in their Community.



A Wedding in Reception



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



It was a lovely day!

The Son of Thor Paid a Visit to Y5



Y5 had a Viking experience day to support their learning. As always, the day was a huge hit with the children (and teachers). They learnt lots of historical facts, got to use traditional Norsemen artefacts, play Viking board games and were even given a demonstration of Viking weaponry!

The Son of Thor had arranged a Viking quiz for the year group which the children really enjoyed taking part in. It was a fabulous way for children to embed their knowledge and learn some new facts from a true expert. The teachers were really impressed with the writing this day inspired.

Our First Passport of Achievement is Awarded



Congratulations to Carrie-Rose in Y1 who is the first child in the school to complete her Passport of Achievement this academic year, and wear her medal with pride.

Well done, Carrie-Rose!

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)

A Request from our Neighbours

Our neighbours on the Hardwick Estate have asked us to request that parents remain considerate when parking at the beginning and the end of the school day. Please take care not to block driveways as residents might need to get to work, hospital appointments etc

Covid Update

Sadly, we believe that staff shortages this term are inevitable. Our children have not been vaccinated, and this makes our staff vulnerable.

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.



We continue to rely on our parents and carers to be extra-vigilant in order to keep our school safe. Children and staff have displayed a variety of symptoms, including headaches, tiredness, runny noses, upset tummies, and sore throats. Cautious parents and staff have been fabulous at getting themselves and their children tested - and have often been surprised at a positive result since they have not been displaying the classic symptoms. We even had one child who reported a poorly tummy and sore legs - they tested positive! Remember, about a third of people have no symptoms at all.

If someone does exhibit any of the symptoms below, they must take a PCR test. The LFD tests you can pick up from the pharmacy are not as sensitive and often miss positive cases.

The official symptoms are still:

- 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;
- 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 to normal.

Your child does not have to exhibit all the symptoms above - just one. If your child displays any of the above symptoms, please do not send them into school. Book a PCR test and inform the school that you have done this. We will set work for them on Google classroom, but there is no expectation for your child to complete this if they are unwell.

Should we have any concerns about your child whilst in school, we will contact you and ask you to collect them. We realise this is often inconvenient and we are enormously grateful to you for your quick responses. Our parents' response and support cannot be faulted.

If your child tests positive, whether on a PCR or an LFD test, please let the school know as a matter of urgency. The NHS does not inform us of children's results so we are entirely reliant on parents and carers to keep us informed. We track cases across the school daily and use these to update our risk assessment on a regular basis.

If your child has a positive test result, Test and Trace will require them to self-isolate.

All adults who are fully vaccinated and all children over 5, who are identified as a close contact of someone with Covid, should now take LFD tests every day for seven days, unless they have a positive test result (if this happens, they must take a PCR test).

Your child must not attend school if they have been a close contact and are not taking LFD tests. Test and Trace will inform you if you or your child has been identified as a close contact and should explain the procedure you need to follow.

If you or your child is self-isolating, you must not enter the school site. It is illegal to break self-isolation rules and you can be fined by the police for breaking the law.

All adults can pre-book a booster dose online if it has been two months (61 days) since they had their second dose. They will be offered an appointment date three months after the date of their second dose. Walk in centres are also available.

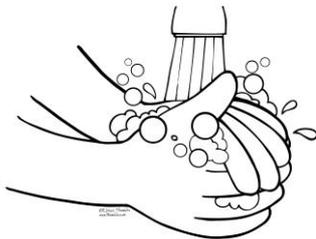
We are aware that the ever-changing rules are confusing. Let the office know if you are worried about your child or unsure what to do, but do not bring them into school. We are always happy to advise you.

We are extremely grateful to our families for taking this virus seriously and for supporting the school in mitigating

transmission. We could not do it without you.

Our priorities remain: keeping our community safe and maintaining quality, face-to-face education. For this, we need our children and staff to be healthy and in school and, beyond anything else, we want to keep our school open.

Handwashing to Defeat Covid



Everyone in school is washing their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Handwashing 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.

Children do not need to bring hand sanitiser into school. They will always have access to soap and water.

Face Coverings



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.

A Message from the PTA



We would like to thank all those who supported our photo frames 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



Although our school day officially begins at 8:55, for the safety of our children, we open our doors at 8:45 and staff take responsibility for them once they have entered the building. This means that staff are committed to ensuring children's safety inside the building and are unable to patrol the playgrounds at the same time. We rely on parents and carers to take responsibility for their children before and after the school day.

In the interests of health and safety, children must not arrive unaccompanied before 8.45. Our classroom doors close at 8.55, and, should you arrive after this time, you must bring your child around to the office to sign them in. Arrival after 8.55 will be recorded as late and will be on your child's file.

In the interests of safeguarding, we are required to report unattended children on our grounds so it is important that children do not arrive early and unaccompanied.

Please insist that your children use the paths and that they 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. We have reminded children about basic road safety in school but they are young and benefit from constant reinforcement at home as well.

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 2022. To join our Reception cohort, a child's date of birth must fall between 1.9.17 and 31.8.18. 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 **Saturday 15th January 2022**.

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 1.9.18 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 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.

Other 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 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 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:

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, 8th 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.

- 4.1.22 First day of term 3
- 8.1.22 Bug Busting Day
- 8.2.22 Parents' Evening 3.30 - 6
- 9.2.22 Parents' Evening 3.30 - 5
- 11.2.22 Last day of term 3
- 21.2.22 First day of term 4
- 3.3.22 World Book Day
- 1.4.22 Last day of term 4
- 20.4.22 First day of term 5

Term dates up to the summer holiday:

- **TERM 3:** Tuesday 4th January 22 – Friday 11th February 22
- **TERM 4:** Monday 21st February 22 – Friday 1st April 22
- **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 September 2022 – July 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