



# Headlines

Autumn Term Week 12

[www.melthamceschool.co.uk](http://www.melthamceschool.co.uk)

Date: Thurs 23 November 2023

[office.meltham@kirkleeseducation.uk](mailto:office.meltham@kirkleeseducation.uk)

Twitter: @melthamceschool

Good morning everyone,

I hope you have all had a good week and the children have enjoyed wearing their odd socks in school to celebrate our individual differences. After a frantic week last week with Children in Need, this week we have been enjoying listening to the practice of the Year 3 children building up to today's year group assembly. I have particularly enjoyed the time I have spent in Early Years and Key Stage 1 classrooms this week listening to the children and staff working on their Little Wandle phonics and reading practice session. Of course we have the beginnings of the odd creative Christmas activity going on in school (I know the kiln is constant use firing ceramics!) and even the recorders are starting to sound a touch more musical!

## School development priorities

Under more normal circumstances, I would have updated you on school development priorities before this stage of the autumn term. It is important that school shares its priorities with you so that you know the direction in which the school is progressing.

As you may know, the school's under performance in last year's Key Stage 2 assessment was disappointing, particularly in regard to writing attainment which fell well below the high standards we set ourselves. I want to reassure you that this is not an endemic picture within our school. Our Key Stage 1 writing assessment for 2022 was in fact, in excess of the national average for writing last year. Our in year data does not reflect the KS2 attainment last year.

However, what is most important now, is that the staff, the governing body and I, reassure you all that school will respond appropriately at both a strategic and operational level to ensure the writing provision, assessment, moderation process and ultimately, both attainment and progress, allows our current children to attain the results I know they will work so hard for. The school's 3 main improvement targets for 2023-24 are therefore:

1. Improving writing
2. Developing children's independence in emotional response and self-regulation across the school
3. Whole school church effectiveness

Thank you, have a wonderful weekend and we will see you all on Monday.  
Phil

## Friday 24th November - Teacher Training Day

Don't forget that the above date is a teacher training day and the school will be closed to all children. The staff will be working off site refreshing our training around the neuroscience of learning and of the impact of early life trauma, further developing our expertise of trauma informed

approaches to working with children.

## The children's Commissioner Big Ambition campaign

Currently, the children's commissioner for England is encouraging parents and children to take part in the national survey to ensure the voices of children across Yorkshire and the Humber are heard. I have attached the link to this week's newsletter and hope you can find some time to look at this with your children:

[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)

## Christmas Dinner

There is now a survey on School Spider regarding if your child would like a Christmas Dinner. Please respond by the 28th November if you would like your child to be included.

## Meltham CE Primary School PSA Christmas Fair 2023

We hope you will join us at our first Christmas Fair as a whole new PSA committee!

The Fair is on the 1st December, 3:30pm-5:30pm and there will be a variety of stalls, including one from our very own Eco Committee.

As well as our infamous Bottle Stall and Chocolate Tombola, we will be serving Hot Dogs and hot drinks; and there will also be wine and beer available at our cake stall.

We have a fabulous range of raffle prizes to be won and new for this year we also have Santa!

So come along and get into the Festive spirit all while helping to raise money for our wonderful School!

*Sarah Heywood and the PSA Committee*

## Christmas Fair Donations

It's that time of year again where we ask for your kind donations to our Christmas Fair. Any cakes donations would be greatly appreciated on the day of the fair or the day before. Bottles can be donated W/C 27th November. This can be anything such as shampoo, alcohol, water.. basically anything in a bottle.

## Reminder of Unauthorised Absence Penalty

We'd like to remind parents of the Kirklees Absence Requests policy - *Kirklees state that parents may be fined if you take your child out of school unauthorised for 5 consecutive school days or more.* There is the possibility of a fine of up to £1,000 and receipt of a criminal record if the fine remains unpaid and the matter is heard in court.

*Continued ...*

## Lateness

Please can we remind you that a parent or guardian **must** come into the school office to sign your child in to school if they are arriving late for school (after 9:00am). We have had a number of children arriving late without an accompanying adult.

## Sports Hall Athletics at Honley High School

Last week a team of 18 year 5 and 6 children went to Honley High School to compete in Sports Hall Athletics against 5 other schools. After completing in several running, throwing and jumping events the team finished a fantastic 2nd place meaning they progress to the Kirklees finals after Christmas. Very well done to Isaac, Harry, Freya, Phoebe, Florence, Tristan, Seb, Theo, Miles, Alice, Maisie, Lilly, Jack, Eden, Sophie Billy Abigail and Archie.

A couple of days later, the year 3 and 4 event took place. The children took part in similar events and the atmosphere was amazing. All children cheered on their team mates and showed amazing skill and fabulous sporting attitude. We really thought we'd won the competition as we did so well in the heats, however, we were pipped at the post by Honley Juniors.

It was a great event organised by Honley High School and it was lovely to see past pupils helping our children with the activities. Very well done to Noah, Jed, Freddie, Sidney, Alfie, Oliver, Mason, Adrianna, Willow, Harriet, Archie, Jacob, Nina, Ella, Gracie Chloe K, Alice and Chloe H.

## Children In Need

We raised a fantastic £337.60 for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who donated. We will make sure the money finds its way to where it's needed on your behalf.

## The Branch - Family Panto

We are pleased to let you know that we will again, be holding our annual Family Panto and Snacks & Singing with Santa!!

This not only provides affordable opportunities for families to have a wonderful Christmas experience, but also helps us create an environment of fun and togetherness at what can sometimes be a very stressful time for people.

Here is a link to our events page: [Events | The Branch](#)

## Locala Family Community Event

Find out more about Locala's services, get advice and support for your health and wellbeing, and discover more about jobs and volunteering opportunities with Locala.

Locala Health and Wellbeing is inviting everyone to join our Family Community Event on Saturday 25th November.

The event at the Al-Hikmah Centre in Batley runs from 12pm to 5pm.

To find out more visit: [www.locala.org.uk/news/locala-family-community-event-everyone-welcome-saturday-25th-november](http://www.locala.org.uk/news/locala-family-community-event-everyone-welcome-saturday-25th-november)

## Celebrations

Please see attached for all our wonderful celebration winners this fortnight or visit the school [website](#) and view it in Headlines Attachments.

## Online Safety

Smart TVs have become more affordable in recent years, making them readily available to most consumers. These more advanced systems offer numerous features beyond those of a normal television set –

chiefly, the ability to access the internet and interface with popular streaming services without the need for a set-top box or other intermediary device.

This increased functionality, however, also brings additional threats to privacy, security and more – as you'd perhaps expect from any device capable of going online. As TV is such a cornerstone of our home lives, these dangers can be uniquely difficult to manage. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide breaks down the major risks, with tips on helping children to enjoy TV ... stress free.

## Cost of Living

Remember that if you would like regular updates and support on ways to help this winter in the face of the cost of living crisis, you can sign up for the latest information direct to your email at: [www.kirklees.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

## Wellbeing Links

<https://www.melthamceschool.co.uk/page/wellbeing/93763>  
<https://www.nhs.uk>  
<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/mental-health/index.aspx>  
<https://www.thrivingkirklees.org.uk>  
<https://www.triplep-parenting.uk.net/uk/hot-parenting-topics/my-child/parenting-during-covid-19>  
<https://www.mind.org.uk>  
<https://www.annafreud.org>  
<https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder>  
<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/cost-of-living/index.aspx>  
<https://www.thewelcomecentre.org/articles/cost-of-living-support-from-kirklees-council>  
[www.kirklees.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

## Dates For Your Diary

[Refreshments are available in all assemblies for a suggested donation of £1]

**Friday 24th Nov** - School closed—INSET DAY

**Friday 1st Dec** - PSA Christmas Fair—tbc

**Friday 8th Dec** - Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children

**Tuesday 12th Dec** - KSI Dress rehearsal to school—9:30am

**Wednesday 13th Dec** - KSI Performance to parents - 9:30am

**Wednesday 13th Dec** - Years 3 & 4 Christmas Service in Church

**Thursday 14th Dec** - KSI Performance to parents 9:30am

**Thursday 14th Dec** - KSI performance to parents 6:00pm

**Friday 15th Dec** - FS Dress rehearsal to school 9:30am

**Monday 18th Dec** - FS Nativity to parents - 2:00pm—to parents

**Tuesday 19th Dec** - FS Nativity to parents - 9:30am - to parents

**Tuesday 19th Dec** - Years 3 & 4 Christmas party

**Wednesday 20th Dec** - FS/KSI Christmas party

**Thursday 21st Dec** - Years 5 & 6 Christmas party

**Thursday 21st Dec** - Singing round the tree - TBC

## Attachments

We attach flyers and information sent to us by external businesses promoting events and activities which you may find useful. All attachments can be found on the school website [here](#).

You can also find the newsletter online [here](#)

