



Headlines

Spring Term Week 3

www.melthamceschool.co.uk

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office.meltham@kirkleeseducation.uk

Twitter: @melthamceschool

Good afternoon everyone,

I hope you have had a good week; I can certainly report a good week in school. Year 1 have entertained us with their Year Group Assembly to parents this week - we certainly have a talented bunch of children in Classes 3 and 4! Year 3 have been breaking out with their Welly Day and Year 6 are away on a residential trip and the school has been bustling with activity.

Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 5th February is the start of children's mental health week. Throughout the week, all children in school will be focusing on mental health at age appropriate levels. As you may know, this year's focus is Find Your Voice, which is all about empowering and equipping children to find their voice. There will be resources for families

Teaching and Learning Update

Two weeks ago, Year 1 parents were introduced to a new stock of Little Wandle linked reading books to go home. This week we have had a delivery of many new titles linked to our phonics scheme which will enrich our resources throughout the school up into Key Stage 2 for children who are still accessing phonics.

This term we have also had a big push on hand writing and basic punctuation in school. As you may recall, one of the school's development priorities this year is focused closely on writing. In all classes across school we have ensured regular handwriting practice in going on, but have also introduced a new, clearer assessment framework for all year groups. This will further help the teaching staff to more quickly identify and act upon areas for development in the children's writing. It will not alter the assessment which comes back to you at the end of the year, as judgements will remain the same.

In addition to this, and also to help earlier intervention in writing, we have sharpened our feedback to children, focusing upon quality verbal feedback. Our governors will soon see the draft marking and feedback policy and approve it, so when you see your children's books on parents evening in March, you will understand any differences you may see. Once the policy is approved, I will add it to the policies available on the website for your information.

School Dinners

Please make sure that you pre-pay your child's dinner money on Parent Pay to avoid going into arrears. Please be reminded that there's is a maximum arrears of £20 which should only be used in exceptional circumstances. Once this limit is reached, your child will not be able to order a school dinner until the debt has been cleared.

Inhalers

It is important that if your child requires an inhaler, even if this is just occasional use - that we have one in school to remain in their classroom. You must also complete an inhaler form and return to the school office. This can be collected from the school office.

KSI Ball Court After School

The small MUGA outside Year 1 classrooms is no longer in use for children to play ballgames after school. I know the children enjoy this, but the area is already too constricted with parents and younger children, so we need to keep everyone safe. We have asked the older children in school to make sure they go straight home at the end of the day, and I would be grateful for your support in making the area safe for parents and smaller children.

Robinwood

As you may know, Mrs Stier, Mrs Widdop, Mr. Pogson, Mr Baseford and Mr Charlesworth are away at the Robinwood activity centre in Todmorden. I visited on Wednesday afternoon to find children excited, having fun, hungry and on the tired side! They are having a great time and they will all be arriving back at school later today. I know parents and carers are looking forward to having them home (as are one or two little brothers and sisters).

School Discos

The PSA school discos are on the horizon! On February 8th, the EYFS and Key Stage 1 disco runs from 6pm until 7pm. The Key Stage 2 disco runs from 7:15 until 8:15pm. The cost is £3 payable on the door.

Smartphone Safety

According to Ofcom, 69% of under-18s use a smartphone as their main method of going online. Additionally, 49% of children use them for online gaming – putting smartphones only behind consoles (59%) as the device of choice for playing games on. Most people won't require such statistical evidence, however, to acknowledge the huge importance of phones to young people.

Given that Santa's recent visit is likely to have bestowed smartphones on an even greater number of young people, it's a particularly opportune moment to ensure that children are able to use their handsets responsibly – and, above all, safely. From passcodes to parental controls, and from screen time to scams, our #WakeUpWednesday guide has the essential advice.

See Headlines Attachments for more information.

Mini Musica Classes

If you've yet to plan your weekend, Musica Kirklees is having an open day tomorrow (Saturday 27th January) at Musica Holme Valley (Honley High School). I've copied their message to school below:

Mini Musica Open Day – Free taster sessions!

Saturday 27th January, 2024

10-10.30am Toddler Time (for walkers to age 3 and their grownups)

10.40-11.10 Discover (for pre-schoolers and their grownups)

9.20- 9.50 Explorers (for 5-7 year olds and their grownups)

Musica Centre Membership is just £47 a term. All brand new members get their first term for free!

Don't forget if there is anything else musically you need help with please don't hesitate to get in touch and we will do our best to help.

Best Wishes

Musica Holme Valley

Small Group Tutoring Classes

Mayall Maths is offering small group classes of up to five learners with their maths. Whether that be exam preparation for GCSE's, college re-sits or general help with maths.

For more information please follow us on:

Instagram: @mayall_maths

Facebook: Mayall Maths.

You can also email us at: info@mayallmaths.co.uk

First classes to start on Saturday 20th January.

Location: Carlile Institute, Meltham (above the Post Office)

Scout Recruitment Event

Are you over 18? Wanting to make a positive impact on children in the local area and help them exceed? Please join us on Friday, 26th January, at 19:00 at the Scout and Guide hut to find out more and for free beer and pizza! (Sorry no children). For more information please look on our Facebook page or email GSL@MelthamScouts.org.uk

Dates For Your Diary

Please note that further dates will be added as the term progresses.

Mon 5th Feb - Children's Mental Health Week in school

Thurs 8th Feb- PSA Discos in school (KS1 and EYFA from 6-7pm. KS2 from 7:15-8:15pm. Details to follow)

Mon 12th - Fri 16th Feb - Half-term holiday

Mon 19th Feb - Class 11 Road Safety Training day

Wed 21st Feb - Class 12 Road Safety Training day

Tues 5th and Wed 6th March - Colne Valley Museum trip Year 2

Thurs 7th March - Cannon Hall Farm trip - FS Year

Thurs Mar 7th - World Book Day in School (details TBC)

Mon 11th Mar - Parents Evening

Wed 13th Mar - Parents Evening

Fri 22nd Mar - Last day of term

Mon 8th Apr - School reopens for Summer Term

Wed 24th Apr - 1st Neiley Race (Key Stage 2—details TBC)

Mon 6th May - May Day Bank Holiday (school is closed)

Mon 13th May - Key Stage 2 English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling tests

Tues 14th May - Key Stage 2 Reading SAT

Wend 15th May - Key Stage 2 Maths SAT (papers 1 & 2)

Thurs 16th May - Key Stage 2 Maths STA (paper 3)

Wed 22nd May - Class photographs in school

Thurs 23rd May - Year 4 trip to Chester Zoo

Mon 27th - Fri 31st May - half term holiday

Thurs 20th Jun - Year 4 visit the Sports Barn all day

Fri 5th July - School Summer Fair (details and times TBC)

Fri 19th July - school closes for the summer holiday

Wednesday 4th September 2024 - School reopens

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

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

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](#)

