



# Headlines

Autumn Term Week 4

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

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## **This week in school we have mostly been...**

Working hard to get back into our routines. It's been tough at times this week—the children are tired, especially in an afternoon and the teachers and support staff are working hard to balance understanding with the need to catch up on lost learning in a Covid-altered school. Still, I'm happy to report that the children remain happy in class and are building new friendships with other children and new relationships with their adults. I think, if I may dare to suggest, that an early night or two over the weekend would help (I certainly need one!)

I know some of you have enquired about the temperature in school (many of the staff have been asking me about the temperature in school!) as we now need to keep classrooms well ventilated with doors and windows open. This week the heating is on in school so things are a little more toasty than they were!

Amongst other things this week, children in school have been learning about Space and using autumnal findings to help practice counting. Our Forest School and sports coach sessions have been blessed with tolerable weather and children have really been enjoying breaking out and taking their learning into the outdoors. I am delighted that Year 6 and Reception have met their virtual buddies and a huge thanks to Mrs. Wimpenny, Mrs. Osbourne, Miss Drake and Mrs. Mitchell for sorting this out. It would have been such tradition in our school. Who knows, maybe one day they can meet up in person? The Twitter feed has shown me some very proud school council members and I know that on a Friday afternoon, classes will be sending out their Celebration certificates electronically to children who have done super jobs—I hope it's you this week!

## **Parents Evening**

This year the autumn term parents evenings are to be conducted by telephone. They will go ahead during the week beginning 9th November. I will let you know the booking arrangements as soon as possible.

## **School photos**

Thursday is school photo day. Please remember that we are only able to offer individual photos with no siblings. If your child has PE on Thursday, you are welcome to have the photo taken in their games kit, or you can send them with uniform to pop on over their kit (or spare uniform to do PE in—polo shirt and sweat shirt).

## **Class 12**

I'm sure you will have speculated, but I can confirm today that Miss Ellis has begun her maternity leave, a little earlier than planned. We wish her all the best and I'll update you on any baby news when I know!

Yesterday Mrs. Turner and I appointed Mr. Jonathan

Davies as Class 12 teacher until the end of the year. I am delighted to say that, all being well, he will be able to start on Thursday October 8th, which is fantastic news for the children who need the chance to get to know their new teacher. A big thankyou to Mr. Free who has provided consistent cover over the last few weeks as well as to Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Price who have also dug deep to help out. From next week, our year 5 team looks like this:

Class 11: Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Mellor

Class 12: Mr. Davies, Mrs. Booth and Mrs. Peace

## **Remote Learning Update**

Today children should return home with a Remote Learning book. Inside there should be a letter from me and the passwords for Purple Mash, TT Rockstars and any other electronics platforms your child may use.

From Monday, all Remote Learning will be made available through Purple Mash and we hope that once you get used to it, it will be a more efficient system than School Spider.

In school we will show children how to use it and I will circulate helpful instruction guides and a few of Mr. Aspey's home made help video clips to support you.

Further details will come out this afternoon with the books and via email.

## **Christmas Cards**

Our PSA are still going ahead with Christmas cards as usual this year, but in order to do it in a Covid safe manner we need to crack on! Your child's designs will come home next week. Be assured that the work will either have been quarantined for the appropriate length of time, or the work will have been managed using rigorous hand hygiene measures in your child's class. The designs need to be returned to school no later than Monday 12th October in order to ensure return by Christmas.

## **Cliffe House**

The Year 5 trip to Cliffe House is still shrouded in uncertainty. In order to give the children the best possible chance of going, we have moved the trip to the week beginning 26th April 2021. Whether it will happen at all is impossible to guess, but I'm hoping it will be more likely the later into the academic year it is timetabled for. Please continue to pay, as we need to make the deposit payment, and if it does need to be cancelled in the future, then we will of course ensure that we re-credit money.

## **Parking**

This is a perennial issue for us as a school. Both at Durker Roods and on Wetlands and Calmlands road a small minority of parents park inconsiderately, on the pavement, across drives etc. Remember, to keep children safe, prams need to be able to pass safely. Please do your part in keeping all our children safe by parking appropriately. Thanks

## **Coats and jumpers**

It's getting chilly so please send you children in with coats and jumpers. Please don't forget to name your children's clothing—PE kits, Forest School clothing and uniform this year!

## **Monday home time for Year 5 pupils**

From Monday, I have asked year 5 children to be let out through the front of school to reduce crowding in the Reception play area at the end of the day. Letters have gone directly to Year 5 parents. Thank you to those of you who have made us aware of other arrangements.

## **Library service**

Don't forget that the library service is able to offer many of it's books online to library members. You can find further details on Kirklees' elibrary page.

## **Northorpe Hall**

Northorpe Hall are offering workshop sessions for children about anxiety and worry relating to school after the long closure resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. A link to available online workshops available in October and November can be found on their website (as can lots more helpful information on children's mental wellbeing)

<https://www.northorpehall.co.uk/yp-learn-about-my-mental-health>

## **Mud Kitchen**

Ruth Patterson is creating a mud kitchen in the school grounds and has asked if parents could donate the following please:

Metal or wooden spoons, pans trays etc. No plastic or crockery.

Please bring them to the school office and we will pass them on, thank you.