



Headlines

Autumn Term Week 7

www.melthamceschool.co.uk

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A big thank you and have a restful break.

We have come to the end of our first half-term, and what a rollercoaster ride it's been!

It's been wonderful to be back in school with all of the children, and I know I speak for the whole staff when I say what a pleasure it's been to have them all back after such a peculiar summer term and conclusion to last year.

I want to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to you all for supporting school during this unusual time. Thank you for bringing your children back and trusting us to keep them safe; for being so understanding about how limited we are at the moment in terms of space and capacity; for supporting us by wearing face coverings in our playgrounds and for keeping a safe social distance; for understanding the need to put in place the staggered start and finish times of the day; and for appreciating what an enormous strain working under these conditions is for our school staff.

I know things aren't exactly what we want yet, and we are working with so many restrictions, but with your support and the fantastic efforts of the children and the creativity of the whole school staff, we have been able to accomplish so much this half term! I feel extremely proud to be part of such a supportive and understanding school community.

But as the half-term draws to a close, we have some tired children to hand back to you this afternoon—they have worked so hard this half-term and deserve a wonderful rest over the holidays. I hope that—*whatever you are doing*—they manage a good long rest and a little break from their endeavors. So take care, and I'm already looking forward to seeing them all back on Monday 2nd November (especially Class 14 who have been beavering away at home! I can't wait to see you all again).

Take care and stay safe. Mr. Gibbins

The other things...

Class assemblies

After half-term, many of our classes will be putting together assemblies for the other children to watch remotely from their own classrooms. Nearer to Christmas, we will also be putting together Christmas themed assemblies as we cannot perform our traditional Christmas nativities in the same way (*boo!*).

We also hope to allow you to see these *new era* assemblies by emailing a Google Drive link to the families of the children in each class. What this means in practice, is that if

Class 5 produce a video or slideshow assembly, only Class 5 parents would receive the link. This week we have sent out a request for permission to include your children in these assemblies. I hope that you will allow us to do so. Please complete your permissions request that went out this week so we know. Just like social media, please understand that without permission, some children will be unable to fully participate in some aspects of these assemblies. This would be very sad, especially for the Christmas assemblies in Reception and Key Stage 1. Thank you for your support.

Parents evening

I hope that all parents evening slips have now gone out from school (*I'm sorry if yours was a little late!*) and that you will be able to answer the phone for your appointments. Don't forget that if you really are unable to take a call during your appointment time, please contact the school after half-term and our helpful office staff will do their best to rearrange your appointment for you.

School meals

Don't forget that after half-term, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be taking their school meal in the hall again. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue with lunches in class and will begin their lunches in the hall after Christmas. It's going to be interesting, and very challenging for the staff and the kitchen, but it's one more step on the road towards normality...

Clothing and uniform

As the weather turns wetter and becomes colder, children will of course need their warmer clothes. All of your children's clothing will need to be named and will continue to come into class with them, so please try not to overload them with anything non-essential. Children will continue to come in Forest School or PE kits on their given days, but may I ask that children come in full uniform on other school days. This includes school shoes and appropriate jewelry (watches are allowed, but no wrist bands or bracelets please; earrings should be removed for PE days (*or retainers worn*) and should be gold or silver studs, not bright colours—I'm sure you can imagine how difficult it is to explain to other children why they need to follow these rules while others do not).

Car parks

If you are accessing school through the staff car park, please be careful! It's not ideal and there will usually be a staff member there to help. However, I cannot always guarantee this, so please accompany children through this area and be mindful that some vehicles need to use it as busy times. Thank you.

A letter from Mel Meggs who is the Strategic Director for Children's Services and from **Cllr. Carole Pattison**, Cabinet member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities is attached to this week's Headlines. It's nice to be recognised from up on high for the hard work schools are all doing!

Using your libraries update

Some libraries are open for safe borrowing:

- Huddersfield (Mon—Sat 10:00—1:00pm)
- Honley (Tues—Fri, 1:00—4:00pm)
- Holmfirth (Mon & Tues 10:00—12:30pm; Thurs & Fri 2:30—5:00pm; Sat 10:00—1:00pm)

The *Ring and Read* offer is available, and you can contact Kirklees libraries on 01484 414868. Staff will explain the service for you and can choose books for you, ready to collect at your pre-arranged time and library—you can ring to book a slot at Meltham library.

IT service appointments are also available at some libraries with an appointment service only. You can book a 45 minute slot by ringing Kirklees Libraries or accessing the online booking system (<https://bookapc.kirklees.gov.uk/>)

Remote learning and isolation recap

We never know what will happen over half-term—I sincerely hope that everyone will remain well and your families have a restful and COVID free break. However, should any of you be affected during the half-term holiday and need to isolate in the first week back, don't forget that work will be available on our Purple Mash platform for work to be completed in your Remote Learning book.

I therefore re-attached Mr. Aspey's message from last week (*just in case!*):

“As you know... Purple Mash is now the system teachers are using to send homework and remote learning home. This replaces work being sent out via school Spider. If your child is required to isolate you will receive a learning timetable (through school Spider) that reflects as closely as possible what the children would be doing in school. Your child will find all the work, resources and the timetable in their area of Purple Mash. Using Purple Mash they can complete the work and hand it back to their teacher.

Purple Mash includes a Parent Portal for you to keep track of what your child is asked to do. Follow the link below or use the QR code to access a selection of guides and help videos. We hope these guides for Purple Mash will help make remote learning a lot easier for you. The guides include: Parent Portal, Finding work set, Hand in work from Purple Mash app, Hand in work (Tablet, Phone) and Guide to Mini Mash (For Foundation stage parents.)”

<https://tinyurl.com/Melthguides>

