



Headlines

Autumn Term Week 8

www.melthamceschool.co.uk

Date: Friday 6th November

Facebook: Meltham C.E Primary School

office.meltham@kirkleeseducation.uk

Twitter: @melthamceschool

Welcome back everyone

Good Morning everyone, I hope you've all had a restful half-term break and that the children have enjoyed their return to school for the start of the new term.

Although Class 2 are currently working at home and we are missing them greatly, this week in school has been a lovely one. This morning I led a Year 1 Celebrations assembly! It's the first one we've done since March, and the chance to see the children, even though each class was socially distanced from the other, was the highlight of my week: the children have produced some wonderful writing and are working hard learning their number bonds to 10 (*they also taught me a thing or two about Guy Fawkes!*). I've seen Year 5 children battling some tricky graph work this week and Reception (*in Class one and on Twitter from Class 2*) making their early steps to becoming readers by learning their letter sounds. Year 3 have enjoyed a fantastic Welly Day outside in our woodland area, learning about the Stone Age and having the chance to leave those side by side desks behind and work together in the great outdoors! Year 4 have begun their exciting drumming lessons this week (*which has gone down a treat as always*) and at the moment, it's also Barvember (*look it up if you don't know what it is*) - I know Year 6 have been using bar models to tackle some of their maths problems in class.

I know I haven't mentioned every class or group that's going on in school, but I hope that this gives you a flavor of the wonderful work your children are doing at the moment. There are smiling faces wherever I go and it makes a challenging job for all our staff a really worthwhile one.

Parents evening

It's the start of our parent's evening fortnight next week. The teachers will be contacting you by phone at the arranged times so don't forget to look out for withheld or private numbers. We'll try a few times to contact you for your ten minute appointment, but remember that we won't be leaving messages about your children on answerphones. I hope this will give you a feel of what's been going on in class and give you all the opportunity to ask any questions you have.

School meals

Our return to using the school hall has been fantastic. Simply giving the Key Stage 2 children the chance to eat there again gives another layer of normality and the opportunity to spread out into other spaces than their classroom. I hope more of you take up the chance to return to school dinners this term. And Key Stage 1... well, I'm sure it won't be long until January when you will

have your turn to eat in the hall again.

Lockdown

I won't mention it too much, but of course this week marks the start of the second national lockdown. At this stage, primary schools are unaffected and we will continue to do everything we can both to keep children and staff safe and to keep open our school. Unfortunately, this means that Year 4's return to **swimming** has been delayed (*at least until early December*) so your children will not need their pool paraphernalia just yet.

Children in need and non-uniform day

Next week we will be marking Children in Need. Every day the children will have a wellbeing activity led by their class teacher. As well as all the hard work children are doing, we are trying to work hard to make sure children have the chance to experience regular wellbeing activities to help the recovery after such a long time spent away from school in the spring and summer. This will provide an added opportunity to do that, but for a splendid cause. On Friday we will join in with Jo Wicks' 24 hour PE Challenge and also have a non-uniform day (*feel free to add Pudsey Bear ears and spots to your outfit*) and collecting real live actual money for the appeal. Our class council members will safely collect the money in each class. We are asking for a donation of £1 or £2.

Attendance

Please remember that unless your child is isolating, they must be in school. I know the world seems a different and sometimes scary place at the moment, but the children need to be here with their friends and their teachers unless they are following government guidelines to isolate. I firmly believe that the impact of children spending further unnecessary time away from their friends (*in terms of the adverse impact upon child mental health and learning*) far outweigh the potential dangers. I would like to personally thank you for your commitment to bringing children here even though I know that for many of you, this has not always been easy.

Pupil and parent wellbeing

Don't forget that if you're finding things hard, as we all are at the moment, we have our pupil and parent wellbeing section of the website where you might find a little help (*either for you, your children or for someone you might know*) if it's needed...

Thanks for listening, and I'll see you again next week.

Mr. G

Remote learning and isolation

Mr. Aspey's message (*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>



Young Minds

Please see attached the following link we have been sent by Young Minds, which gives lots of help and guidance on getting support for mental health during the ongoing pandemic:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/looking-after-yourself/coronavirus-and-mental-health/>