



# Headlines

Autumn Term Week 9

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

Date: Friday 13th November

Facebook: Meltham C.E Primary School

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

Twitter: @melthamceschool

## Good morning

Good morning everyone. I hope you are all well, and I'll keep my *witterings* brief this morning as there's lots to say.

I'm happy to report another lovely week in school. Lots of super learning, happy faces and *lots* of physical activity keeping our minds and our bodies healthy in support of Children in Need (organised in school by Mrs. Pearson— thank you!) The children have been getting involved with Joe Wicks' fitness sessions throughout the week and today, of course, is non-uniform day where we hope to raise money as we always do to contribute to a good cause. Your donations will be kept quarantined in school until next week when we will count up and let you know how much the children have raised.

We are getting through our parents evening calls (*although I know some of you are having your calls next week*) and I would like to thank all of you on behalf of the staff, firstly for being so adaptable and secondly for your kind comments and suggestions. It means such a lot to be recognised and thanked for our efforts in these strange times!

## Odd socks for anti-bullying week.

Earlier in the term, Miss Drake delivered a virtual assembly on anti-bullying. We do this every year and next week we will be marking Anti-bullying week through the medium of odd sock wearing. Children are invited to wear their odd socks all next week, but don't let them get too excited - it's still uniform as usual!

## Fundraising

The Coronavirus pandemic has all but put a stop to our PSA fundraising this year. If you have had children here over a number of years, you know we are missing our discos; our Christmas fair with all the trimmings; the assembly tea, coffee and biscuits... the list goes on. You might also know that these events help renew our library stock; purchase and replenish valuable and much needed IT equipment; enhance our playgrounds; and fund Christmas gifts for each class in school. The PSA will, I'm sure make a much needed physical reappearance in the near future, but in the meantime...

I hope that I might ask you to join in with our *virtual Christmas store*. I fully understand that for many families the lockdowns have had a significant effect on finance and Christmas is an expensive time, so I promise I won't ask for too much!

In Art lessons this term, all the children from Reception to Year 6 will be creating something special to bring home and enhance the festive feel of your houses! There is so much outstanding clay work in school, and I know that if you ask your children about it they will be excited to tell you what they have made. Next week we will open a Virtual Christmas Store on ParentPay and I hope that you will be able to contribute a donation of a pound or two to our school funds.

I promise we will spend the money on improving our school for your children!

In addition, the PSA have organised our participation in the Big PTA Raffle and details can be found on the attached flyer and on Facebook. You could be in with a chance to win up to £5000 and again, this raises much needed funds for our school. Good luck!

## Silk flowers

If anyone has silk flowers at home that you no longer use (*or that you never used and don't know what to do with!*) our Art teachers are needing some for their ongoing work with the children (*it's fairies I think, but don't quote me on it*). We will put a silk-fairy-box outside the front door for the next few weeks and perhaps some will magically appear? Thank you.

## Please be vigilant

Earlier in the week I reported that there had been an incident in the Meltham area in which children attending Honley High were spoken to and approached by a local man. Please be reassured that the police are aware and are dealing with the matter. They have said that the individual has not tried to make any physical contact with children, but I ask that you be vigilant, especially if you have older children who walk to or from school alone. Please let school or the police know immediately if anything happens, and encourage children to let parents know.

## Recruitment

School is currently looking to recruit lunchtime supervisors, so if you're interested in joining our lunchtime team, please have a look for the advert on Kirklees' jobs page.

## Uniform Exchange

The kind people at Uniform Exchange have lots of warm winter coats available if you need their help this winter. If you would like some assistance in accessing them please do let school know and Uniform Exchange will get the items to school within a few days. Uniform Exchange have asked that if you wish to donate any items to them please follow this link for the donation points: <https://www.uniform-exchange.org/donation-points/>

## Individual Photos

Some of the tempest school photos will come home this week. Others may arrive next week but we will get them to you as soon as they arrive.

(continued page 2)

## COVID-19 advice for families

The rules are very complicated, I think because there are so many of them, but please remember that if **you, your child or anyone in your household** develop any of the key symptoms of COVID-19:

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough (coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)
- A loss or change to the sense of smell or taste.

then the entire household must isolate and children should not come to school. You should access a COVID test (see the section below) and await the results together in isolation.

Given the potential risk to others' health (and the impact positive cases may have with regards to closing parts of the school) it is vital that families who are experiencing symptoms or are awaiting a test remain at home. Please do not gamble on a negative test! Once a **negative** test comes back, please forward confirmation of this to us and your child can then return to school.

If a **positive** test for your child is returned, your child must continue to self-isolate for 10 days from the start of their symptoms. If a **positive** test is returned for any other household member, your child must self-isolate for 14 days from the start of their family member's symptoms before they can return to school.

Please remember that all our learning will be available through our remote learning platform, Purple Mash for completion in your Home Learning books.

Thank you so much for your support with this, you really have been amazing in supporting us to keep everyone as safe as we can and in keeping the school open as much as is possible.

## Where can we get a test if we need one?

Tests can be booked online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

You can also contact 119 for advice and local advice (including locations of mobile testing units in Kirklees) can be accessed at:

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/health-and-well-being/covid19-test-and-trace.aspx>.

## Remote learning and isolation

Mr. Aspey's standing 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>

## Pupil and parent wellbeing

This one is always important at the moment, so I've left it on from last week: 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/>