



Headlines

Autumn Term Week 10

www.melthamceschool.co.uk

Date: Friday 20th November

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Good morning

Good morning everyone. It's the end of another week and a week in which we have been delighted to welcome back Class 2 after working from home for two weeks! Thank you to all the Class 2 parents who have worked at home with the children and also to Mrs. Osbourne who has worked very hard to ensure the learning in Class 2 was as comprehensive and enjoyable as it could be under the circumstances. In school we have continued to work hard in all our classrooms: children have been working happily with their reading and their phonics and I have enjoyed hearing children singing in their class bubbles and sharing their achievements through class Twitter feeds. We have also enjoyed Welly Days in the woods and continued our outdoor work with our wonderful sports coaches. This week has of course been wetter (and colder). Teachers will continue to try and get the children outdoors into the fresh air as often as possible, and to make decisions on when to come (or stay) in. Thank you for supporting us by sending your children to school with the correct kits on PE days—those waterproof coats and warm kits are especially important as the winter progresses.

For me personally, I have particularly enjoyed the opportunity to deliver assemblies to class bubbles in the hall. Most of my contact with children now is largely limited to outdoor times, so seeing them in assemblies really is precious time.

Parents evening and feedback

Thank you all for your engagement with our telephone parents evening consultations. The teachers all commented on how positive the experience was and I have had some lovely feedback from you too. With feedback in mind, please take a moment to complete our parent questionnaire which will give you the opportunity to let us know how you think we are doing and chance to make suggestions as to how we might improve.

Christmas

This year Christmas will be different for all of us. School will be no different to this, and we will be limited by the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions this has in school. However...

Christmas Parties

We will be having COVID-safe class Christmas parties during the last week of term. There is a payment option open on ParentPay for each class and we are asking for a contribution of £1 per child towards the cost. Parties will take place in the afternoon and children may wear their own clothes on that day.

- Tuesday 15th December (Years 3 and 4)
- Wednesday 16th December (Years 5 and 6)
- Thursday 17th December (Years FS, 1 and 2)

Christmas performances and assemblies

As you already know, we are unable to invite you in to celebrate Christmas with our traditional nativities and our end of term Singing around the Christmas tree assembly.

This year we will be creating a reception Christmas film, a Year 1 and 2 Christmas film and a Year 3 and 4 Christmas Carol Service.

We have been collecting permissions to send these recordings to you via a Google Drive link; by the last week of term, we will be able to send these out to you. Please be reassured that you will only receive these links if you have a child in a Christmas assembly. If you have not given us permission, we will **not** include your child's image in the filming, but they will of course be involved in the learning, the singing and the work that goes into it. If you haven't filled in the survey, please go to School Spider to complete the survey. If you have already replied, thank you and please ignore the school survey that comes through.

Christmas Cards

This one is tricky! So...

If you would like to send Christmas cards in to school, we are only accepting cards for your child's class bubble. Any cards will be quarantined in class before being handed out. We will ensure that when cards are handed to your children, we have followed the enhanced hand hygiene procedures. Please do not send cards until December and remember that any cards that are sent after Tuesday 15th December will not have time to be quarantined and we will be unable to send them out from school.

Christmas Virtual Christmas Store

The children have really worked hard on creating something special to sell this Christmas. I hope you've already asked your children about their creations? A Virtual Christmas Store is now open on ParentPay and I hope you'll be able to contribute a donation of a pound or two to our school funds.

Fundraising & Charity

Our PSA have organised participation in the Big PTA Raffle and details can be found on Facebook and in last week's Headlines. You could be in with a chance to win up to £5000 which helps raise much needed funds for our school.

Christmas Jumper Day is on 11th December in support of Save the Children. We are asking for a £2 cash donation and children can wear a Christmas jumper with their uniform.

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Uniform Exchange

As I mentioned last week, the kind people at Uniform Exchange still have a collection of winter coats available if you need 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/>

Children in Need

This year school has raised £576.05 for Children in Need. Thank you to all of you who sent in donations and to Mrs. Pearson for organizing the fundraiser in school. A very worthy cause!

Flu vaccinations

Just a reminder that the vaccination program starts on Monday 30th November for children in all year groups whose parents have given permission.

Pets in the playground

Unfortunately, pets are not permitted in our playground. I know many of you have new pets join your families over the lockdown period, but as ever, they must still remain outside the gates at drop off and pick up. Thank you (and sorry!)

COVID-19

Remember that if anyone in your household develops the symptoms of COVID-19 (*a high temperature; a new continuous cough which last more than an hour; or 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 and await the results together in isolation:

I cannot stress how important it is to follow these national expectations, especially since the levels of infection in the Meltham area are rising. Infection rates in Meltham and the surrounding areas are now in excess of the overall rate for the whole of Kirklees!

With this in mind, please do not come into the playground if you or anyone in the household has any of these symptoms. Please continue to wear your face coverings on school premises; to maintain social distance from one another; and try to keep your children with you while you wait. I know this is often difficult, but we work so hard to keep the class bubbles separate in school!

Thank you so much for your support in keeping each other safe and helping to keep our school open as much as is possible.

How to book a COVID test if you 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/>

Supporting families who may struggle to afford a decent Christmas

I attach appeals from the Salvation Army and from the Big Present for those of you who have asked about providing for others this Christmas.

Have a lovely weekend

Mr Gibbins