



# Headlines

Autumn Term Week 13

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

Date: Friday 11th December

Facebook: Meltham C.E Primary School

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

Twitter: @melthamceschool

**Good morning** everyone, what a week it's been! I wish you could all see school this morning, it looks fantastic with the children in their Christmas jumpers! Next week I will let you know how much we have raised for Save the Children and also how much school have raised through the big raffle and the virtual Christmas Store.

Despite our class bubbles and our ongoing efforts to ensure the children are as safe as can be in these unusual days, we have been working hard to find the Christmas joy! We're finishing our preparations for the Reception Nativity and the Key Stage 1 Christmas performance as well as the years 3 and 4 Christmas service. All three of these should be with you via a link before the end of term! The children have had such fun with them, although it is a shame not to have a stage and an audience! We've also been furiously crafting away with the art work for our Christmas Virtual Store and the children are very proud of their efforts (we hope you like them too).

More widely than Christmas things, the children have continued to work hard with their school work which has not stopped! There has been some super BREAKOUT learning this week and I've had a great time joining in with singing and also a little phonics!

## Punctuality

Please try hard to get your children to school on time. I'm so grateful for all your efforts to work around the staggered times and I know this can be problematic, especially when the weather is wet and cold. It's so important the children are here for their start time because we begin our morning's work quite promptly and we don't want children to miss out, especially after so much lost time last year!

## Timings and small changes for next term

One of the things lots of parents fed back to us in the parental survey was related to the start times. If you are a Year 6 or Year 3 parent you will be aware that you often wait for prolonged periods at both drop off and pick up. As the children (and you!) are far more accustomed to the timings than in September, I feel that we can make small alterations after Christmas. In January, the start and finish times will be as follows and the changes only effect years 3 and 6:

Year	Start Time	Finish Time
R	8:35 am	3:00 pm
1	8:45 am	3:10 pm
2	8:35 am	3:00 pm
3	8:50 am	3:15 pm
4	8:45 am	3:10 pm
5	8:35 am	3:00 pm
6	8:50 am	3:15 pm

As you know, Reception and Years 1 and 2 will begin eating their lunches in the hall after Christmas and Key Stage 2 will return to lunching in class. The parents feedback forms also had suggestions for school meals and Christine in the kitchen will now be providing Key Stage 2 with a choice of hot boxed meals in class. The menu is on the school website.

## Christmas stuff

Thank you for your ParentPay donations to the virtual Christmas store. If you don't have access to ParentPay you can leave donations and also contributions to the Christmas parties with your child's class teacher. We are asking for a contribution of £1 per child towards the Christmas parties and any donation you can manage for the Christmas store which will go towards improving our school. Party dates are:

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

## Contact tracing over Christmas

As I said on Facebook this week, school is open on Friday 18th December. Despite the government's announcements that schools could rearrange INSET days to take this day off, the implications are too complex—we already have INSET planned and as a parent myself, I also understand how difficult it is to arrange child care at such short notice.

However, school still has a part to play in the contact tracing right up until 24th December. With this in mind, **should any of the children** have a positive test result for COVID in the week up to the 24th December, please contact me by email on the following address:

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

I will check emails to this address up until the 24th, which is the last day schools are required to take part in any contact tracing. After the 24th you will not need to notify me of a positive result for one of the children. If I receive a positive notification from any of you, Kirklees Emergency Planning and Public Health England will advise me which contacts are required to self-isolate and I will contact you by email if your child has been identified as a close contact.

I really hope that I won't need to do this and won't tempt fate by writing when the last school positive case was! Please continue to do all you can to support the school to be as safe as possible! Follow the Hands... Face... Space rules, please observe social distancing.

Thank you for your continued help!

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## Can you help us develop our exciting Art curriculum?

### Past... present and future..

As a school we are starting to think about textiles in our area.

Do you have any stories relating to textiles you can share with us?

Do you currently work in textiles?

Did anyone in your family work in textiles industry in the past ?

Do you live in a building or area linked to textiles ?

Do you have any photos?

Are you a knitter, weaver, sewer, printer, dyer, fashion designer, embroiderer, upholsterer, artist.... or have any other exciting link to textiles ....?

Do you have a textile skill to share ?

Do you work with new technologies linked to textiles ?

We would really appreciate hearing from you - as we want to gather lots of information and build this into our new textile curriculum. Thank you for your continued support.

Please let us know via tweets to @melthamceart or email us at:

stephanie.bartholet@kirkleeseducation.uk

shirley.harrison@kirkleeseducation.uk

## 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.

## 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

Please find below a short list of mental health related websites that you can access if you are finding things difficult this Christmas, or if you know someone who might benefit from them.

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

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/looking-after-your-mental-health-at-christmas>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/christmas-and-mental-health/christmas-and-coronavirus>

[https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=supporting\\_parents&utm\\_content=december20](https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=supporting_parents&utm_content=december20)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-be-happier-with-tal-ben-shahar-tickets-126889801813>

Have a lovely weekend

Mr Gibbins

## Community

Please see the attached flyers for...

Legacy Sport activities in the run up to Christmas.

Christmas tree recycling with Kirkwood.

Topbins Football.