

School Update – October 2017

Welcome to the first update for this school year, in addition to this we have also prepared a diary for the coming half term (see attached). Paper copies of all correspondence sent home can always be found in the blue folder in the front entrance or on the school website. All letters and updates are sent home by email unless you have specifically asked for paper copies. If your email address changes please let us know and we will update our mailing list. If you change any of your other contact details (mobile, home phone number or home address) please let the office know immediately.

Admin Email Contacts

Just a reminder of our new contact details for the office – if in doubt send your email to the admin address where it will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff.

Clubs, sporting events and medical issues. Any queries should be directed to Mrs Pearson (every day except Thursday): -
clubs.holmfirthjin@kirkleeseducation.uk

General Admin, school meals, milk and general day to day issues. Any queries should be directed to Mrs Brown (Monday – Friday): -
office.holmfirthjin@kirkleeseducation.uk

School Website

Please take the time to have a look at the school website (<https://holmfirthjinschool.net/>). The website is updated daily and is full of information about the activities your children's classes take part in every day. If ever you need any other information about the school you can find it on the site - including letters to parents, diary dates, school updates etc.

New Starters

A reminder for parents of children in Nursery, please don't forget to register your child for a Reception place for September 2018. The closing date is the 15th January 2018 and all applications should be made on-line at www.kirklees.gov.uk/admissions. Please contact the school office if you require any assistance.

Absences

If your child will be absent from school please telephone the school office by 9.30am giving a reason for their absence.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Parents Evening sessions will be held on Monday 16th October and Wednesday 18th October, between 2.30pm and 6.00pm. Bookings should be made online, a letter was sent home last week giving details of how to make a reservation.

Each year, all schools must carry out self-evaluation, which is based upon academic performance, teaching, learning and assessment, behaviour and leadership and management. Ofsted inspections focus upon these areas and report accordingly.

School Development Plan

From self-evaluation, stems school development planning, this highlights the priorities to be addressed for the coming year. Action plans are then produced to facilitate these priorities.

In 2016-17, our school focus was in three areas:

- Problem solving, reasoning and explanation.
- Development of links with the community.
- Promotion of health and wellbeing.

Moving into 2017-18, our priorities are as follows;

- To ensure that Mathematics attainment and progress continues to be in line with Reading and Writing.
- To develop the teaching of Spelling and Phonics.
- To develop Writing at greater depth.
- To ensure that both attendance and punctuality are above the national average for all classes.
- To ensure that Performance Management for teachers takes into account a range of criteria.

Free School Meals/Pupil Premium

Are you in receipt of benefits? Your child may be eligible for Free School Meals and/or Pupil Premium funding – further information can be found [here](#). A letter explaining eligibility was emailed to parents on 26 September and a copy can be found on the school website – follow this [link](#).

Dinner Money

The amount due for the coming half term is £82.68. All payments for milk and dinners should be paid in advance regardless of whether you pay weekly or half termly.

Please can you ensure that any outstanding money for this half term are paid, via ParentPay by Friday 20th October.

If your child currently has school dinners and wishes to stop having dinners and have sandwiches instead, please be aware that the kitchen require 3 weeks' notice, to enable them to reduce their food orders.

Parking

Once again we are receiving complaints from local residents about inconsiderate parking. Please note that Goose Green is NOT a one-way road and can be accessed from the bottom of the road on Hollowgate and from the top of the road off Cemetery Road – please take care not to block either entrance. We would ask that local residents are treated respectfully. Thank you.

Head Lice

We have had a number of cases of head lice in school, we would therefore ask that over the holidays you check and treat your child's hair if appropriate. To help eliminate head lice we ask that long hair, for girls or boys, be tied back at all times.

Flu Immunisations

The children in Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 & 4 (where parents have given permission) will be having their flu immunisations on Tuesday 7/11 in the morning.

PE Kit - Reminder

Some children are still coming to school with no PE kit – please can you ensure that your child(ren) have the following PE kit in school at all times, shorts, t-shirt, and trainers. In cold weather joggers and a sweatshirt/hooded top should be worn. Long hair should be tied back and no jewellery should be worn. This applies to children in Years 1 to 6.

Jewellery

Jewellery is not allowed to be worn in school, apart from simple stud earrings if your child has pierced ears. This should be removed or covered during the PE lessons.

School Trips/Events

In September Year 2 went on a Blackberry walk and then made jam (which was delicious) with Mrs Loughlin, thanks to her and the parent helpers who went on the walk. Year 2 also welcomed parents for a 'Get Together' in class.

Year 1 held an Open Morning for their parents and carers. They also had a visit from the 'Police'.

Year 3 have had their 'Pedestrian Training', to help keep them safe when they are out and about.

Thank you to everyone who supported our school book fair last week. It was a great success; you bought around £850 worth of books which has raised around £400 for school. This a huge amount for us, thanks again.

On Wednesday 11th October Year 5 will be staying at Cliffe House for their residential trip. They will return to school on Friday 13th October. They will have a great time and will be very tired I'm sure.

On Thursday 19th October Year 3 are holding an open afternoon, (at 2.30pm – 3.30pm) for parents/carers to come along to see the children's work. On the same day Year 4 will be holding a 'Rainforest Café' for their parents/carers).

On Thursday 30th November Year 1 will be visiting the Colne Valley Museum. Details will follow.

The Year 5 children will have the opportunity to attend the 'Bikeability' training sessions during the second week back after the holidays (7/11 – 10/11). Further details, such as which days, the children will ride will be given to the children by Mrs Turner/Mrs Perrons to those children who had permission given by their parents. 19 parents are yet to reply to my

e-mail sent last month. Please reply by Monday 16th October, confirming whether your child is taking part, so that final arrangements can be made.

On Friday 17th November it is Children in Need day and we will once again be raising money in school. Further details will be given nearer the time.

Our Nursery new starters can visit the Nursery on Tuesday 12th December at 9.30am until 10.30am

Sporting Events

During this half term coaches from the Huddersfield Giants have been working with Years 2, 3 & 4 each week. They have learned ball skills and how to play the game. Year 2 have also been having weekly yoga sessions, which they have enjoyed very much.

A Year 3/4 & 5/6 cross country competition and Year 1/2 Fun Run was held at Holmfirth High School in September. The children ran with great enthusiasm and came away with some fantastic results.

Well done to all those children taking part.

The annual 'Sports Hall Athletics' competition will be held on Tuesday 31st October. The Year 5/6 children will be selected next week for the team. We will let you know by letter if your child will be taking part and the details of the event.

Before and After School Clubs

Details of the clubs taking place next half term were sent out last Friday. Places are still available at the clubs please reserve your child's place by making a payment to your ParentPay account. After signing up for a club your child should attend regularly, if your child will not be attending any of the sessions please let the office staff know so that we can mark them off the register. After half term all children will need to be collected from school after the clubs have finished as it will be dark at 4.30pm.



Mission Possible

We have been lucky enough to secure a Big Lottery Fund grant for some play equipment in Mission Possible. This work will be carried out over the next couple of months.

Building Works

You may have noticed that we have been very busy over the summer holidays having repairs done to the roof, Foundation Stage and Year 1 & 2 classroom areas and the main hall. We now have a new roof over the bottom end of school (Foundation Stage/Year 1 & 2 corridors and classrooms). Over the years the leaking roof has caused many internal leaks and a lot of damp, so you will notice that around school there are quite a few areas with exposed brickwork and temporary flooring; this should allow the brickwork, stonework and timber to dry out. Obviously this will all take time and ongoing repair works will continue until sometime in the Spring of 2018 before we can get the everything completed and the decorators in. This means that we may not look very pretty at the moment – but we will when we have finished our makeover – please bear with us! There are pictures on the website if you would like to see the work so far, follow this [link](#).

FONS

FONS AGM 17.10.17 at 3.30pm in the Tiger Suite – all welcome to attend.
There will be a Halloween Disco on the 2nd Nov – FSU/KS1 6.00pm – 7.00pm and KS2 classes from 7.15pm – 8.15pm.
A Christmas disco will also be arranged together with Santa's Grotto.

Below are details on how your generous donations through FONS events are allocated and spent through the school year. As you can see the money is gratefully received and well spent!

FONS FUNDING

EVENT	USE OF FUNDS
SUMMER NABBFEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each class receives funding to provide curriculum enrichment (visits / visitors / activities / resources)• Finishing touches to Mission Possible - planting
CHRISTMAS DISCO / GROTTTO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each class receives funding for games / activities / resources.
AUTUMN DISCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Council receives funding for projects which they have identified.
SPRING DISCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School receives funding for one or more priorities identified within the School Development Plan.

New members are always welcome, especially parents of new starters. Call into the office if you would like details about FONS and we will introduce you to committee members.

Christmas 2017

Here are some dates for your diary for the Christmas period:

The Christmas tree will be decorated during an assembly on Monday 27th November.

Each class will be arranging their own 'mini fairs' this year dates and details will be given in due course. This is what we know so far:

Year 1 will be holding Xmas Sale on Wednesday 6th December at 2.30pm – 3.30pm.

Year 3 & 4 Christmas Café will be held on Friday 8th December at 1.30pm – 3.30pm.

Jack and the Beanstalk will be performed at the Lawrence Batley Theatre in December. Our Reception, Year 1, 2 & 3 classes will be going to watch on Wednesday 13th December at 10.00am – 12.00pm and Years 4, 5 & 6 will go on Thursday 21st December at 1.00pm – 3.30pm. Further details are available on your ParentPay account or from the school office.

The Christmas lunch will take place on Monday 18th December. Children who normally have sandwiches will be able to have a school meal on this day. A letter will be sent home nearer the time.

The Early Years/KS1 performances will be held on Wednesday 20th December at 10.00am – 11.30am and 2pm – 3.30pm. The dress rehearsal will be held on Thursday 14th December.

Class parties will be held on Tuesday 19th December.

The KS2 Carol Service will be held on Wednesday 20th December at 6pm – 7.30pm at the Holy Trinity Church Holmfirth.

Further details for all these events will be given in due course.

Holiday Dates

School closes for half term on Friday 20th October and re-opens on Monday 30th October.

The school will close on Thursday 21st December for the Christmas holidays. We will re-open on Monday 8th January 2018.

We hope you have an enjoyable half term holiday and would like to thank you for your continued support of the school.

Regards
The Leadership Team