

Newsletter January 2023

Welcome Back!

I would like to wish all our families a Happy New Year and welcome all your children back into school. We have got off to a good start to the year seeing lots of smiling faces and hearing stories of everything that has happened in the holidays.

Attendance & Punctuality

Attached to this Newsletter is the attendance and punctuality data for your child for last term. A huge “well done!” to those children who are above 99%. We will continue to focus on and reward good attendance in school and hope that you will support us with this. Please be reassured, that we will always ring you if your child is unwell in school.

I also wanted to explain why we put so much time and effort into contacting you if your child is absent – this is called “First Day Calling” procedures and is required of us by Kirklees.

In the past there have been children who have not been in school and, because an adult was not contacted, they suffered harm or death. There are two very sad but true examples below.

Helen Daykin (a mum) was travelling for work when her husband Chris died of heart failure in October 2016. He was a stay-at-home dad who looked after their daughters Pearl, four, and Iris, two, and did the school run. Despite having mobile phone numbers for both parents, Pearl’s school did not try to reach Helen after failing to reach Chris, its primary contact. This meant the two girls were left at home alone with their dad who had died until police broke the door down the following night – almost 24 hours later.

Chadrack Mbala Mulo died of malnutrition and dehydration in Hackney, east London. Officials say that he died on October 18th 2016 and was subsequently found in the flat with the body of his mother, Esther Eketi-Mulo, approximately 48 hours after his death. It is believed that he is likely to have survived alone in the flat for “over a fortnight”.

School only had one phone number for this child and could not gain access to the building where he lived.

It is as a result of these and other similar cases that we have to know where every single child is every day. If we cannot contact you or anyone else to find out where your child is we have a duty to conduct a home visit and if we still cannot find your child we have to contact the police. I would like you to know that this is not a threat but it is part of what we have to do in order to make sure all children are safe.

Please ring us or email if your child is not coming to school; if you leave a message please could you tell us who you are and why your child will not be in school. **The school text number is no longer available to use.**

Telephone number – 01924 477544

Email Address - office.milllane@kirkleeseducation.uk

Strengthening Families Course

We are hoping that Kirklees will be able to offer this course in school for you. I have sent out information via the Hub about this so please ring the office if you are interested – we need between 8 and 15 people to attend for them to be able to run it.

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Uniform

Thank you for sending your child in school uniform – this helps them feel part of the team and means they are ready for all activities at all times.

The school uniform **DOES NOT** include dresses or skirts for any children other than nursery.

Jewellery, apart from stud earrings and a small flat watch, is not permitted in school as it poses a potential danger to the child wearing it and others.

If anyone is struggling with uniform please let us know as we keep a stock in school and we can contact the uniform exchange where they can provide free uniform.

Food Banks Collection

Thank you so much for all your kind donations for the food banks – they were overwhelmed with your generosity and you will have helped many families this winter.

Opportunities to Visit School

Last term we offered parents the opportunity to attend the rewards assembly for children in Key Stage 2 and then spend some time in class finding out what they had been learning about.

This was very successful and we will, as a result, extend this offer to parents of children in reception and Key Stage 1.

On Thursday 9th February parents can come into school to watch the rewards assembly for their child's class and then spend a short amount of time in the classroom where your child can talk about their learning.

Parents of children in Key Stage 2 (classes 3/4, 4/5 and 5/6) please be at school at 2.40pm ready to watch the assembly at 2.45pm

Parents of children in Key Stage 1 and reception (classes 1,2 and reception) please be at school at 2.55pm ready to watch the assembly at 3.00pm.

If you have children in both key stages you are welcome to watch both assemblies.

I will send out a reminder nearer the time and ask you to ring to book a place so we can get an idea of numbers.

School Trips

Thank you for responding to my questions about school trips and the outcome was overwhelmingly in favour of visits away from school with over 98% wanting this and agreeing to pay the full amount of between £20 and £25.

This year we will use our school trips to give children the opportunity to develop as individuals by facing new challenges and building their resilience – and have some fun together.

Next year we will return to more traditional school trips which are directly linked to learning in the classroom.

Details of trips and the costs will be sent to you after February half term.