

Kirkistown Primary School Newsletter

September 2020



Welcome Back

I am absolutely delighted to be able to welcome our school community back to Kirkistown Primary School after a very strange five and half months. I am sure that many of us have learned a lot over the intervening period, experiencing both the highs and lows of having our routines destructed by the impacts of a worldwide pandemic.

My thanks are offered to the school community for their understanding of the situation and your support in assisting us to help your children through the move to online learning. In a short space of time, Key Stage 2 transitioned to using Google Classroom complete with online learning videos, photographs and a multitude of attached documents providing some continuity and assistance to the learning process. Children in Key Stage 1 continued their learning via Seesaw making use of the varied options of evidencing work (videos, photographs, drawings, writing) to move learning forward while Foundation Stage worked through 'Home Learning' packs. All teachers undertook to make calls with their classes with Mr Graham making additional calls to additional pupil groups. Subscribers to our school YouTube channel almost doubled during this time with almost 6 hours of maths tuition provided by this service.

We are extremely grateful to be back and to have our children back with us in school. During the first couple of weeks, staff will be busy instituting online classrooms and providing parents and carers with the necessary details should a local outbreak cause any closure or partial-closure of school in future. We would ask that families test these passwords and facilities upon receipt to ensure that everything is functional.

External Decoration & Resurfacing Works

I am delighted to inform our school community that school will be externally decorated during the current academic year. The entire school building and the exterior wall will be given a fresh coat of paint after the completion of a number of pre-painting repairs to the exterior of the building. This is a great result for school after months of lobbying. Work is due to begin soon.

School has also been successful in a minor works bid to resurface the very back end of the rear playground. A new 'soft play' surface will be installed making a great multi-purpose area for children to access both during class and play times. A timetable for these works is yet to be finalised.



Cloughey Beach

Families are reminded to send outdoor shoes or wellington boots suitable for use on Cloughey Beach. All classes will make more frequent use of the wonderful setting on our doorstep and we want to ensure that new school shoes don't become unnecessarily worn or scuffed by sand or the other elements.



Healthy Me Programme

School is delighted to be involved in Action Mental Health's 'Healthy Me' Programme this year.

What is it?

Healthy Me is a vibrant and engaging health promotion programme designed to teach children aged 8-11 about the importance of staying healthy – both physically and mentally/emotionally. It also supports their key contacts in taking a whole-school/community approach to resilience and wellbeing.

What is covered?

Healthy Me aims to:

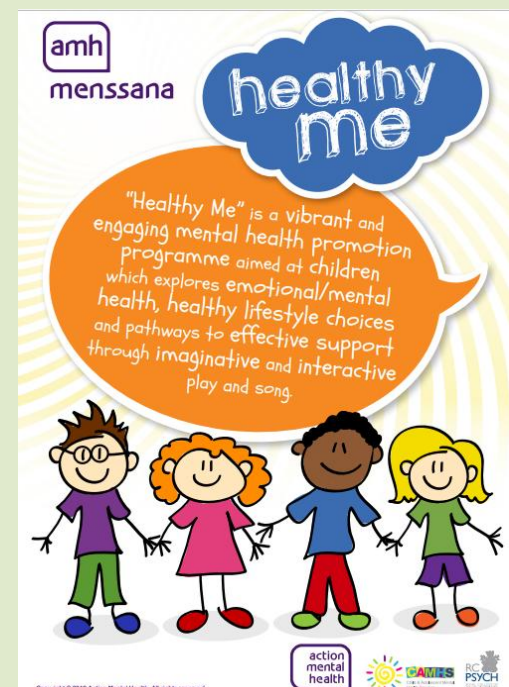
- Improve social and emotional well-being through use of coping skills and managing feelings
- Encourage help-seeking behaviour
- Promote the equality of mental health with physical health
- Encourage multi-agency working in relation to support of children with mental health needs
- Support transition from primary to secondary school

Primary 5 and Primary 6 & 7 will have their 'Healthy Me' training sessions on Wednesday 30 September 2020. Follow up work will then be completed in classes as all classes take part in Mental Health Awareness week.

It is hoped that an online workshop for parents / carers will then be facilitated.

Further information is available on the **Action Mental Health** website:

<https://www.amh.org.uk/services/menssana/healthy-me-2/>



P.E Days

On P.E days, children may come to school in their P.E kit. **Please note that only school P.E kit should be worn.** For children not wearing plain navy tracksuit bottoms or plain navy shorts, leggings worn should be those used for sporting purposes with a heavier density and not be translucent. This is especially important as P.E lessons are increasingly likely to take place outdoors. Further information on school P.E kit is available via our website: <http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/school-uniform.html>.

Class	P.E Days
Reception / P1	Monday & Friday
P2 / P3	Tuesday & Thursday
P4 / P5	Tuesday & Friday
P6 / P7	Monday & Wednesday

Parent Curriculum Meetings

Our traditional Parent Curriculum Meetings will not take place this year due to Covid-19. Each class will instead upload useful curriculum information for parents on their respective class pages on the website on the **Week beginning Mon 14 September 2020**.

The links below will take you to each page directly:

Reception & Primary 1:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/reception-class--primary-1.html>

Primary 2 & Primary 3:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/p2--p3.html>

Primary 4 & Primary 5

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/p4--p5.html>

Primary 6 & Primary 7:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/p6--p7.html>

Healthy Snack

We strongly encourage our families to support healthy eating at morning break and lunch time. For the safety of all our children, **we are a nut free school.**

Mid Morning Snack

Our mid morning break is an ideal opportunity for children to get some fresh air and recharge their batteries with a small snack. As it is only just over an hour between morning break and lunch, ***the snack should be something small that be eaten easily in 10 minutes.*** Fruit contains natural sugars that will provide a healthy boost to help concentration prior to lunch while water quenches thirst and helps the body function well. Snacks that contain lots of sugars are unhelpful and make concentration more challenging in lessons. Some examples of other foods that maybe useful are provided below. For children in Key Stage Two (P5 – P7), we would ask parents not to send foods for morning break that will require a spoon or other form of cutlery to eat them.

Lunch Time

At lunch time, children will have between 20 and 25 minutes to eat. We encourage healthy choices for all our children but understand that families may want to include a small treat in their lunch eg- a small chocolate biscuit to help keep their child going. School Meals are available to families with payments being made via 'SchoolMoney' or online payments system. The menu for each term can be found on our school website:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/school-meals-menu.html>

Examples: **Yes, please.**



Examples: **No, thank you.**



Contact Details

Please ensure you complete and return the 'Data Capture Contact Form' for your child(ren) as soon as possible. These contact details are vital in the event that school would need to contact you in an emergency and to ensure you receive information from school by text. School should be informed immediately of any change to these details including mobile phone number, home address or e-mail address.



Letters home

As part of our plan to be more efficient, more eco friendly and in response to coronavirus, school will send the majority of letters to families by e-mail this year. It is therefore imperative that school maintains up to date contact for families.

Where a reply slip is required to be signed, school will still send these letters home in physical form. Families without access to e-mail can contact school to request physical copies of all letters but it is hoped that, wherever possible, families will be able to engage with the use of email to improve the efficiency of providing information to families.



Medications

Families of children who have prescribed or emergency medication as part of a Healthcare plan are reminded that they should ensure the appropriate medication and a copy of the latest Healthcare plan are given to the school office, preferably in a sealed lunchbox containing:

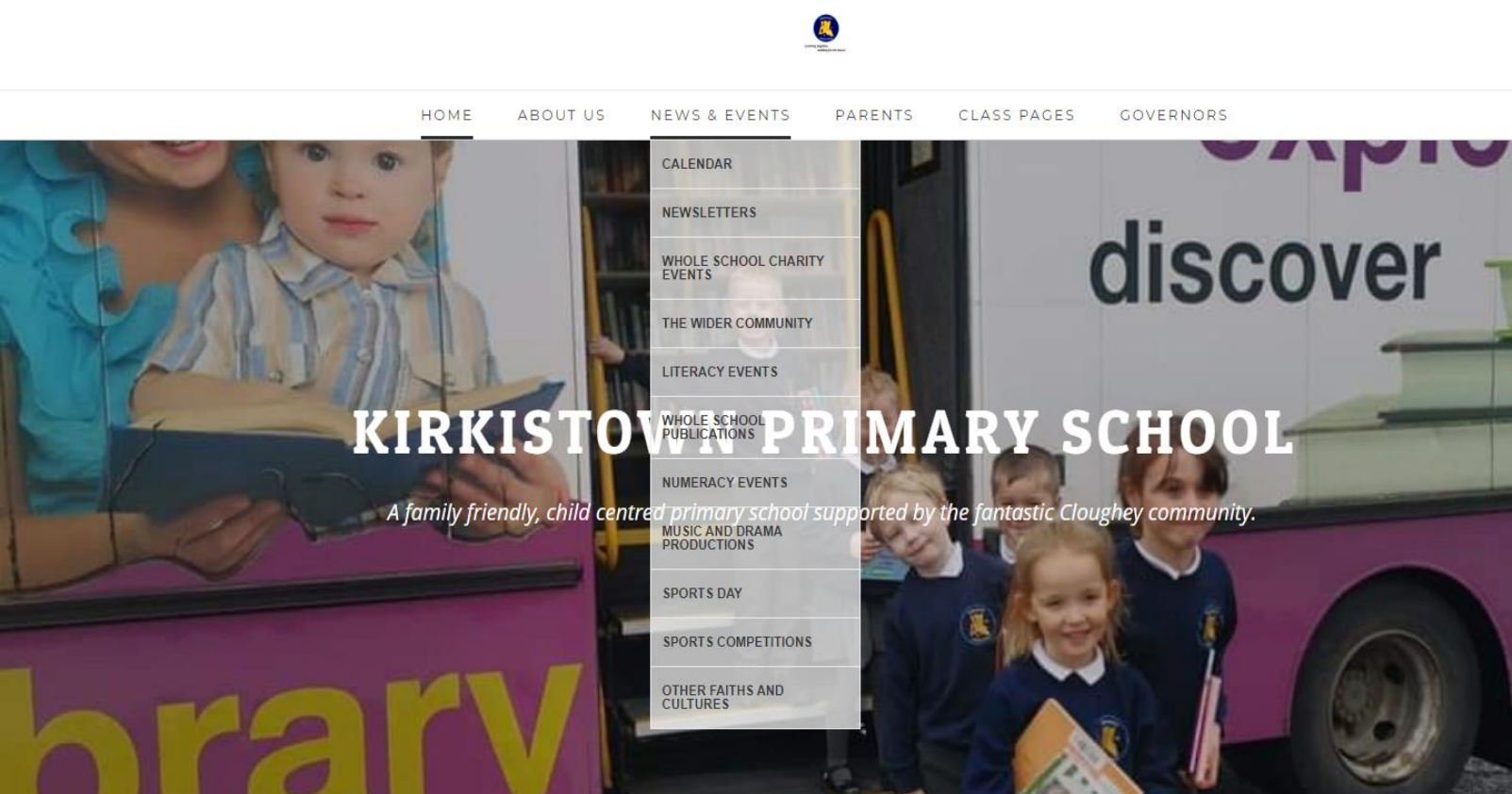
- Your child's name
- Parent contact details
- A list of contents
- A sheet indicating when medication is taken and dosage is available to complete at the school office and this should be placed with the medication also

All medication should contain the label showing the name of the child it has been prescribed for.

While school makes every effort to periodically check the expiry dates of medication, it is essential that parents understand that they assume responsibility for this.

School Website

Over the past 9 months, extensive work has been carried out on the school website, with it being redesigned from scratch. The website now contains a host of information and is very regularly updated. It is hoped that parents, the wider community and visitors will find it a very useful source of information. We warmly welcome feedback on positives and anything else you would like to see there. <http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/>



2020-2021 Calendar and Term Dates Now Online

Calendar dates for Autumn Term 2020-2021:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/calendar.html>

Term dates for the 2020-2021 school year are now available via our school website. Paper copies are available on request:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/term-dates--holidays.html>

Looking Further Ahead...

School Photographs

The photographer is due to be with us on **Friday 02 October** for school photographs with a 8:30am start available for families with pre-school siblings. Like many events planned this year, the date and range of services available may be subject to change. We will keep families updated as best we can.

Harvest Donations

We would warmly welcome donations of tinned goods for the Trussell Trust Foodbank which go to help families in times of difficulty. Each year, the Trust support a nationwide network of food banks and together they provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK. Donations will be gratefully received by **Tuesday 13 October 2020**. More information is available at:

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/>



Christmas Panto

Our Christmas Panto visit to the Grand Opera House (Goldilocks), tentatively booked for Thursday 17 December 2020, has regrettably been cancelled due to the ongoing issues surrounding Covid-19. While we will be unable to attend a panto this year we will look forward to doing so in 2021.

Diary dates

Our calendar, denoting any significant weekly events can accessed via our website:
<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/calendar.html>

Term dates

Term dates for the 2020-2021 academic year can be accessed via a document at the bottom of the following page: <http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/term-dates--holidays.html>

Contact Us



Kirkistown Primary School,
Main Road,
Cloughey,
County Down,
BT22 1JA



(028) 4277 1455



www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com



info@kirkistownps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk



www.facebook.com/KirkistownPrimarySchool



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk2P4BsM0Ti7umhkr8Cw1pA>



**Learning together,
building for the future**