



Kirton Primary School Spring Term Newsletter 2024

Welcome back.

Everyone at Kirton Primary School hopes you had a good Christmas and would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy New Year.



Nursery Nativity

The Christmas nativity productions, held in school, and the carol concert, held in the church, were truly amazing. Thank you to all the staff and parents who supported these productions.

We had huge turnouts to all the productions, adding to the festive atmosphere. As ever, we could not fail but to be proud of our incredible children.

We also collected £338.02 for the Children's Ward at Pilgrim Hospital. Thank you for your generous donations.

We are beyond fortunate to have a dedicated and talented staff and supportive parents here at Kirton Primary School - which is exactly what our children need and deserve to succeed.

Centre of Excellence for Financial Education



We are proud to have been reaccredited as a Centre of Excellence for Financial Education.

The school was asked by the judging panel to deliver a presentation about our bank, shop and post office at their National Conference in London. Mrs Fovargue was delighted to oblige and collected the award for our school whilst she was there.

Christmas Light Switch On



Children from Y3 and Y4, who have been attending the Kirton Primary Christmas Choir, were proud to represent the school when they sang at the Kirton Village Christmas Light switch on.

Although the weather was extremely cold, everyone was warmed by the sound of the children's voices singing a selection of traditional Christmas carols.

Email Update

The Parliament Federation has now dissolved. This means that the email address to contact the office has also been updated to: enquiries@kirton-boston.lincs.sch.uk.

Silver Reading Pledge



We are proud to announce that our school has been awarded the Lincolnshire Reading Pledge Silver Award.

To achieve this award, the school had to meet a total of 43 criteria - all of which demonstrate the children's love of reading, and our commitment to developing reading in school. The assessors upgraded what was originally a Bronze Award application to the Silver Award as they were so impressed with the reading provision in our school!

Eco Schools Award



We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag certification.

Eco-Schools is an international programme and our children have worked incredibly hard to achieve the 'Seven Steps' to success.

The Eco-Schools Team were impressed with our achievements and commented: *Thank you so much for submitting such a terrific application. We have loved reading about your journey and are incredibly*

impressed by all you have achieved. We have no hesitation in awarding you an Eco-Schools Green Flag, congratulations!

This year, the team wants children from every year group to participate in helping to make our school, and the world, more environmentally friendly.

Junior Road Safety Officers



Jack and Gracie, in Y6, have been selected to be Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) to help promote road safety issues at school and in local community. The Lincolnshire County Council JRSO scheme is an effective and popular way to share road safety messages with the children and provides an excellent opportunity for the children to develop their communication skills.

The JRSOs had the opportunity to deliver important road safety messages to the entire school community in a fun and innovative way, which started with the launch of Road Safety Week. The role of

the JRSO is to spread road safety messages to the school community by:

- giving talks;
- running competitions;
- putting up posters; and
- using their own ideas to spread the message.

Postal Workers



Many thanks to our postal workers who took on temporary contracts to deliver all our Christmas cards over the Christmas period. They did an amazing job!

Win Prizes - Just for Coming to School!



From September 2023, our children were able to win these wonderful prizes! All they needed to do was achieve 100% attendance for the term! They received their rewards in a special assembly so their friends could congratulate and celebrate with them.

If your child has an underlying health condition which requires medical reviews or hospitalisation, please provide evidence of this at the office for each appointment so that we can exempt these visits. Please note that GP, optician and dentist appointments should be taken out of school time so your child will not qualify for a prize should they attend one of these appointments in school time.



We had our first '100% Attendance Awards' at the start of Term 2. The assembly was to celebrate the achievements of every child (from reception to Y6) who had achieved the maximum percentage for attendance. Every winner received a Kirton-branded water bottle, a trophy, 5 Kirts (to bank or spend in the shop) and a certificate.

Nearly 300 children achieved the award last term which is a fantastic achievement.

Winners for Term 2 will receive an exclusive Kirton Teddy Bear Keyring along with their trophy, certificate and 5 Kirts.

Please remember this is a new initiative and we may have a few teething problems. Please bear with us.

There are six chances to win prizes every year. How many trophies can you earn this year? Good luck, Everyone.

Avoiding Fines for Poor School Attendance



We monitor children's school attendance over a twelve-month rolling time period. We do this to promote good attendance in the school, but also to support families and to ensure they avoid fines for their children's non-attendance.

Last year, the Local Authority issued 47 fines to parents at Kirton Primary School. Fines are £60 per child per parent, so the fine for a family with two children with poor attendance is £240. This doubles to £480 if the fine is not paid within 28 days. This is a huge amount of money to lose, and we want to help you avoid this.

Additionally, the courts are able to **fine parents up to £2500 and can sentence parents to imprisonment for up to three months** for their child's non-attendance at school.

Contrary to popular belief, the school does **not** receive the money from the fines. The school does **not** issue the fines, this is carried out by the Local Authority. It is as much in our interest to have children in school.

If you are invited to a school attendance panel meeting, please attend. We arrange these to help you and the panels will only ever involve our own school staff. It is surprisingly easy to fall below the 96+% which the Government considers satisfactory attendance. In fact, it takes only seven and a half days of absence over a whole year.

Please help us to help you and your child.

The school is unable to authorise family holidays, so we strongly advise you avoid taking these in school term time - and avoid the associated fines. Please don't ask us to authorise these.

We also recommend that doctor, optician, hospital and dentist appointments are made outside the school day wherever possible. Please also avoid your child being late for school.

If your child is just a little under the weather, bring them into school and mention this to the teacher. That way, we can keep an eye on them and give you a call should they deteriorate.



Reception Nativity

Is My Child Well Enough to Attend School?

Inevitably, children get ill from time to time. Please see the advice below which should help you to decide whether your child is well enough to come to school or should stay at home. You can also find this information on our website for easy reference.

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to cover their mouth when they cough, throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

High temperature

If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.

Chickenpox

If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared. Please inform the office of the diagnosis.

Cold sores

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a cold sore. Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist though. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

COVID-19

If your child has not taken a test:

If they have mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either:

- have a high temperature; or
- do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities.
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What to do if your child has tested positive

Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with

other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away. Seek advice from your pharmacist.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child has hand, foot and mouth disease, but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Please inform the office of the diagnosis.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice and nits

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP. However, it must be treated.

Impetigo

If your child has impetigo, they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school. Please inform the office of the diagnosis.

Ringworm

If your child has ringworm, see your pharmacist, unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment. Please inform the office of the diagnosis.

Scarlet fever

If your child has scarlet fever, they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP, otherwise, they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics. Please inform the office of the diagnosis.

Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have slapped cheek syndrome because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Please inform the office of the diagnosis.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away. A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of tonsillitis.

Threadworms

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have threadworms. Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a

treatment. Please inform the office of the diagnosis.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Alice in Wonderland Performance



Children (and staff) from Y1 to Y6 enjoyed a fabulous production of Alice in Wonderland, performed by a travelling theatre company.

It was so much fun, we have already booked the troupe for next year.

Free e-books for your Child to Read



Every child in school can freely access a range of e-books on the Collins Big Cat e-book library.

Our Harvest Festivals

Each book, on their own personal bookshelf, matches their current reading level. If your child is in KS2, they can 'quiz' on these books in school to earn Kirts.

To access your child's Big Cat e-books, go to: <https://ebooks.collinsopenpage.com/>

Enter the username and password provided by your child's teacher to access your library.

Important Reminder for Y6

This year's SATs assessments for Y6 children take place in the week beginning **Monday 13th May 2024 and end on Thursday 16th May.**

If your child is in Y6, please ensure they are in school for the whole of this week as these important results travel with them to their secondary schools. Inevitably, they will be disadvantaged if they are not in school for the SATs, so please make a note of the date.

Our staff and children are working harder than ever to ensure our Y6 cohort is 'secondary ready' and that they have made up any lost learning due to the pandemic.

Last May, over 70% of our children achieved the expected target in reading, writing and maths in Y6, compared to a national average of 59%. Our results put us well above the national average - as ever.



Thank you to everyone who sent produce into school and/or was able to join us in the church for our Harvest Festival celebration. The children performed excellently, and we collected a record amount of produce for the charity Centre Point.

Our younger year groups celebrated Harvest Festival back in school as, due to the size of our school, we are not all able to fit in the church.

Centre Point told us: The majority of the food will be used to provide hot snacks for homeless and vulnerable people visiting our drop-in support and advice sessions which are held six mornings a week. We also provide food packs for clients struggling to afford to buy food. Some of the donated items will also be used at our 'Cook Along with Us' sessions where we teach participants how to cook simple, healthy meals on a low budget.

Remembrance Day 2023



A group of Y5 and Y6 children went to the church of St Peter and St Paul's to plant poppy crosses. They felt proud and honoured to represent the school in their community.

We also raised £162.64 through the sale of poppies in school. Thank you to everyone who donated.



We also remembered those who gave their lives for us in school. Every class made giant poppy wreaths which were displayed in school.

Reception Classes Celebrated a 'Wedding'



Rev Val Ogden visited us to officiate our class weddings. It was a special day, complete with a wedding ceremony and a wedding breakfast.

Later in the term, YR visited the church in the village to admire the trees in the Christmas Tree Festival.

Y6 had Visitors from World War II



To support Y6's learning about the "Impact of War", the children had a World War II Experience Day.

Children took on the role of evacuees, experienced life within a 1940s classroom, survived frequent air raids(!), took part in

a variety of drills, and celebrated the end of war with a street party celebration!



Y3 Stone Age Experience



As a wonderful end to the Stone Age topic, the Y3 children visited The Wild Woodcraft Stone Age Experience. The children had the opportunity to secure their learning by being transported on a journey to the Stone Age. They had hands on experiences with replica Stone Age tools and artefacts, watched how food would have been cooked and even got to taste a fish cooked on hot rocks -

just like the Stone Age people would have done. Everyone made their own shelter in small groups, using items found in the forest, but the most exciting part of the day was when they built and started their own fires.

Y4 Roman Britain Workshop



Y4 had an incredible, history-filled day, learning about Roman life in Britain.

The children explored the many different aspects of Roman life in Britain 2000 years ago. They explored archaeological excavations, learned how to be a 'real' Roman soldier and were able to create many different Roman artefacts that they were then able to keep.

It was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Nursery Had Special Visitors



The children in nursery have been finding out about and had some special visitors: Kirton Fire Brigade. Firefighters Dan and Tom showed the children round their fire engine and helped them to explore the equipment.

Dan and Tom answered lots of interesting questions asked by the children, including, 'How many ladders do you have?', 'Why are the hoses different colours?' and 'Where do you get the water from?'

The Ducklings were so excited to be able to sit in the fire engine and pretend that they were on their way to an emergency. Afterwards, the children returned to nursery and created their own fire roleplay, finding fires hidden around the nursery and extinguishing them.

A huge thank you to Fire Fighters Dan and Tom from @KirtonFireStation.

Road Safety Awareness in Y5



Y5 participated in a Road Safety Awareness workshop specialising in the use of cycle helmets. The workshop involved a visual demonstration using eggs as 'heads' and a practical activity on the importance of wearing a cycle helmet.



Reception Classes Celebrated Nursery Rhyme Week



Children in the Reception classes learnt a series of nursery rhymes and engaged in lots of craft, role play and practical activities to reinforce their learning.

Christmas Tree Festival at the Church

Children at Kirton Primary School also made decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival held in the village church. It certainly set the mood for Christmas.

Y5 Visited Flag Fen



Y5 visited Flag Fen, the Bronze Age settlement, to learn more about the topic - Our Local Area.

As always, the trip was packed full of fun, facts and hands on experiences. The children became experimental archaeologists when they made replica cooking pots. This was followed by learning how to be a field archaeologist whilst trying to figure out what an item was made from, what it was used for and which time period it had been used in.

During a tour of the site, Y5 got to see a 4000-year-old bridge, sit in an Iron-Age round house and appreciate how clever people from the past were by understanding how they lived.

The visit helped the children understand local geography and history as well as embed knowledge about Saxons. It even gave them a glimpse into Viking life which they will learn about in Term 5.

Sporting Updates

Orienteering



The first sporting trip for Kirton Primary School this academic year was Orienteering at Witham Way Country Park. For a change, the weather was stunning allowing all the Y5 children to have a thoroughly enjoyable morning.

Split into teams of three, the excited 'treasure hunters' were taught how to orient a map correctly and then find way points to reach a specific destination. The morning involved teamwork, athletic skills and some science knowledge; they were also set challenges of finding seeds, feathers and other natural items in the park.

For the first 45 minutes, all the children had time to get used to the skills needed to be a good outdoor explorer. The final part of the morning saw the teams competing in an orienteering challenge.

Girls' Football Development Day



Boston United (The Pilgrims) were once again hosts for this wonderful event. The Y5 and Y6 girls who attend the Kirton Primary School Girls' Football Academy got to experience a variety of activities that promoted teamwork, tactics and determination.

As a team they were taken on a stadium tour, played different football mini games (designed to develop ball skills), tried "Crazy Catch" and even got to work on their ultimate frisbee skills.

Once the morning session was finished, the afternoon was used to put their newly enhanced skills into real football situations by playing matches against the other schools. Although there were no medals for the competitive games, Kirton won 3:0, 4:0, 4:0 and 5:0!

There were some superb shots on target, numerous goals scored and a tremendous amount of passing and defending

Kirton Primary School Football Academy



Winter weather welcomed the Kirton Primary School Football Academy to Boston United in November.

The eight, talented footballers competed against 11 other schools in a 7-a-side football competition.

With a solid win, a hard-fought draw and one loss, the team didn't quite reach the finals (lost out on goal difference!) but they put in a quality performance. The defence never gave up, midfield ran the length of the pitch with tremendous effort and up-front, and balls were sent flying towards the opponents' goals on numerous occasions.

Team Kirton should be very proud of the way they represented the school. Well done everyone.

Change4Life Event



A group of Y3, Y4 and Y5 children took part in a sport and activity event hosted by Boston College at Peter Paine Sports Centre.

Our children split into two groups and took part in many different activities with children from other local schools. These games and activities included a lot of teamwork and a lot of fun! They had a wonderful morning and set a brilliant example of Kirton Primary School, receiving a special certificate for taking

part. Well done to all our children who took part!



Clubs Available this Term

Please encourage your child to join our clubs. These are currently all funded or run by the school as we believe it is important to give our children as many experiences as possible and to encourage them to be physically fit.

If your child is interested in joining a club, please email the office at enquiries@kirton-boston.lincs.sch.uk with the word 'Clubs' in the subject line. Remember to include your child's name and year group, and which club(s) they are interested in joining. Often, our clubs are oversubscribed, but the children's names can be placed on a waiting list, and you will be contacted should a place become available.

	After School
Mon	KS1 Multi-sports BUFC KS2 Multi-sports S2D Girls' Football Academy S2D
Wed	KS2 Multi-sports S2D Boys' Football Academy S2D
Thurs	KS1 Multi-sports BUFC KS2 Choir

Our Virtual School Tour



We have a virtual school tour which you can find on our website or by pasting the following into your search engine:
<https://virtual-tour.educatedmedia.co.uk/kirton-primary/>

Please feel free to share it with perspective parents.

A Message from the PTA



We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank all those who supported our plant pot sale last term. We hope you are pleased with your purchases. We know the children enjoyed making them with their teachers.

By buying your child's plant pot, you helped us raise £906 which will be used to support the school.

We are increasingly being asked to supplement the children's school trips (which the school is keen to cap at no more than £12 per visit) and educational visitors

to the school. We are pleased to do this. We believe these trips bring learning alive. Who amongst us can forget the excitement of a school trip? However, costs are increasing all the time, particularly the cost of travelling by coach. We want to do everything we can to support the school.

Our next event is the sponsored walk which takes place in the spring. Details to follow. Thank you for always ensuring this is a well-supported activity.

A Message from Kirton Primary School's Governing Body

We hope you had a good Christmas and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year. We would also like to welcome Rev Val Ogden to our full governing body.

We are not involved in the day-to-day management or running of the school, so please do not approach us about that; we will simply direct you to the school staff. We work at a strategic level, defining and shaping the school's direction alongside the very capable and successful senior leadership team.

As you are aware, the Parliament Federation was dissolved on 31st December, so we now only represent Kirton Primary School and Nursery.

Latest Covid 19 Guidance from the Health Protection Team.

What to do if your child has a positive COVID-19 test

It is **not** recommended that children and young people (under 18 years of age) are tested for COVID-19. If, however they do test positive, the advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days from the date of the positive test, with the day of the test being day zero. Children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults. A child or young person, who is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, should continue to attend school as normal.

Respiratory infections are common in children and young people and for most will not be serious. Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend school.

What to do if you have a positive COVID-19 test (adults)

Adults with a positive COVID-19 test should try to stay at home and avoid others for 5 days after the test has been taken. The day the test is taken will be counted as day zero.

Source: Health Protection Team

We continue to ensure an airflow through classrooms and communal areas, whenever possible, and to encourage regular handwashing. We also review our CO2 monitors regularly. However, at the direction of the Government, the school no longer operates under a Covid risk assessment.



Year 1 Nativity

Keeping Safe Before and After School

Although our school day officially begins at 8:55, for the safety of our children, we open our doors at 8:45 and staff take responsibility for the children once they have entered the building. As our staff are committed to ensuring children's safety inside the building, we are unable to patrol the playgrounds simultaneously. We rely on parents and carers to take responsibility for their children before and after the school day.

In the interests of health and safety, children must not arrive unaccompanied before 8.45. Our classroom doors close at 8.55 and, should you arrive after this time, you must bring your child to the office to sign them in. Arrival after 8.55 will be recorded as late and a late arrival will be placed on your child's file.

In the interests of safeguarding, we are required to report unattended children on our grounds, so it is important that children do not arrive early and unaccompanied.



Please insist that your children use the paths and that they avoid taking shortcuts across the car park and bus park. Please ensure your children dismount bikes and scooters at the school gate and do not allow them to ride these once on the school site. Please do not bring dogs or any other animals onto the school site.

As the evenings are darker, we recommend that children wear reflective materials over their coats to make crossing the road safer. We have reminded children about basic road safety in school, but they are young and benefit from constant reinforcement at home as well.



Year 2 Nativity

Measles Update

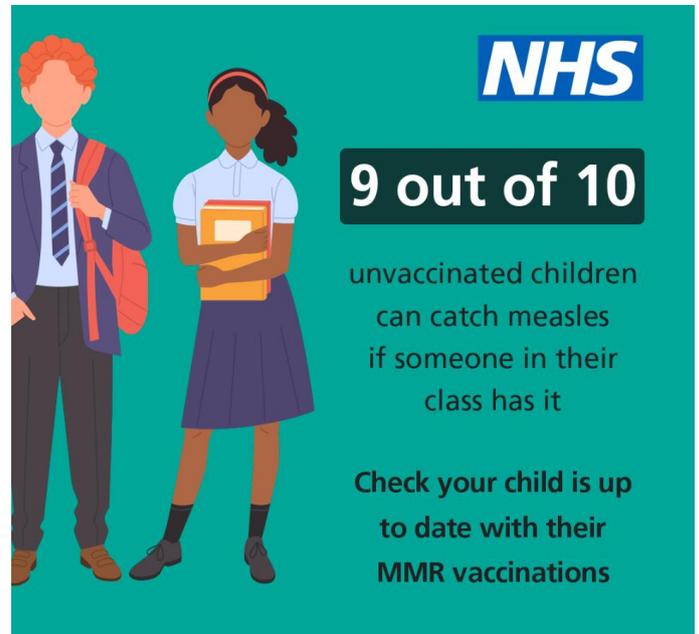
Measles cases are rising across the country, with over 102,000 children starting primary school in England being at risk of catching the disease. Please note these key messages from the NHS about measles / MMR and how to get vaccinated.

The [Back to school MMR Guidance](#) from the NHS includes information, which can be found here: [NHS Vaccine Poster](#) and [NHS MMR Poster](#).

Measles is highly infectious and, if left unvaccinated, nine out of ten children in a

setting can catch the disease if just one child is infectious.

Please ensure your child is vaccinated.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. Please check out the most up-to-date information in the section labelled 'Parents' on our website.

Admission to Reception in September 2024 - Act Now!

Places are already filling up quickly for our Reception classes for September 2024. To join our Reception cohort, a child's date of birth must fall between 1.9.19 and 31.8.20. Please note, we do not administer our own admissions to Reception; applications must be submitted to Lincolnshire County Council who allocate places on our behalf. You may apply online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

or make a telephone application by contacting the Education Team on 01522 782030.

The closing date to secure a place is 15th January 2024.

Ofsted said of our Reception classes:

The early years classes are inspiring and safe places to learn. Teachers provide a range of stimulating activities to support children's learning across different areas of the curriculum.

Children's reading, writing and mathematics skills are developed well in the early years. Teachers plan frequent opportunities to develop these skills through stimulating learning activities. Good teaching and care enable children to make good progress.

We accept children from the surrounding area, not just Kirton village. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that children who have attended our Nursery, or who have siblings already in school, will be allocated a place at Kirton Primary School, so it is important to get your application in early.

If you know anyone who has a child who would like to start with us in September, please let them know the importance of completing the online form as early as possible. Kirton Primary is a very popular school and some of our year groups already have waiting lists.

Admission to Nursery

Places are filling quickly for September in our award-winning nursery.

If your child's date of birth falls between 1.9.20 and 31.8.21, and you would like a place at our Nursery, email enquires@kirton-boston.lincs.sch.co.uk and we will forward details on how to apply.



Remember, every child is entitled to 15 **free** hours a week at our teacher-led Nursery. This can be taken in the morning, in the afternoon or all day, as long as we have enough places available. Afternoon places are often easier to secure than morning places which are regularly oversubscribed.

As well as the **15 free hours a week**, to which all three-year-olds are entitled, we offer additional sessions over and above these, as well as flexibility when selecting sessions for your child. You may choose mornings, afternoons, or a mixture of both, including full days - or even 5 full days a week. We will do our best to accommodate your request.

Most working parents are able to access **30 free hours a week** at our Nursery. Please ask the office for details.

If you are not entitled to 30 free hours a week, additional sessions, above the free entitlement of 15 hours, may be purchased at a cost of £12.50 for 3 hours. This is extremely competitive locally. Eligible working parents may be entitled to **30 free hours** for their child. Lunch is also available if required at a cost of £3 for the session.

We have a new Facebook presence/ Please scan the QR code below or look us up on the Kirton Nursery website. Please 'like' or 'share' our posts.



If you know anyone else who might benefit from our excellent Nursery facilities, please let them know. Remember, we are the only local provider with **fully qualified schoolteachers**.

Ofsted said of our Nursery:

Children in the Nursery Year settle quickly and make a good start to their school life. Staff build effective relationships with parents to meet children's learning and care needs well. Relationships between adults and children throughout the early years are nurturing and positive. Well-structured routines and procedures mean that children enjoy their time in school and

are kept safe. They cooperate with each other and behave well.

For further information, contact the office at enquires@kirton-boston.lincs.sch.co.uk or on 01205 722236.

Safety Reminders

Please contact the school **early on the morning of the first day** of your child's absence. A lot of office time is lost chasing up absent children, which we do to ensure they are safe. You will appreciate that we would much prefer to direct our resources to supporting our children in the classroom.



Please remember, in the interest of keeping children safe, no images of children may be taken on the school site without the express permission of the Executive Headteacher or the Head of School. Any images, you have permission to take, must not be posted on social media sites or shared publicly. We also do not allow visitors to use mobile 'phones inside the building.

These safeguarding measures ensure that we may be sensible about allowing parents and family members to take photos and videos of their children at events such as Sports Day and Christmas productions, which we understand is important and we are keen to continue.

If you have changed your address or telephone number recently, please ensure that you have let the office staff know. We must be able to contact you in case of an emergency. Also, ensure that the school has at least one emergency telephone contact, in addition to your own, in case we are unable to contact you. Remember that this contact or number may also need updating.

If your child brings a phone to school, please remind them to hand it in to the office in the morning. They must remember to collect it at the end of the day.



Some of our children risk suffering a life-threatening reaction to nuts - even by simply being in the vicinity of a nut. For this reason, we ask that no child bring any food items into school that contain nuts, even for their own consumption.

Children and adults should dismount their scooters and bikes when on the school site.

How You Can Help Your Child at Home

The best place to discover what your child will be learning in the upcoming term is the year group newsletter. These newsletters come out six times a year. They contain ideas about how to continue learning at home. Teachers are only too happy to let you know how best to support your child should you have specific enquiries. They

are also always happy to discuss your child's progress - you do not have to wait until parents' evening. The end of the school day is the best time to talk to staff. We recommend that you make an appointment through the school office to guarantee that your child's teacher is available.

Multiplication Tables Test for all Y4 Children

$$2 \times 2 = 4$$

All children in Y4 will have their multiplication skills tested formally in June. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please discuss them with your child's class teacher.

Support your Child's Learning

Multiplication Tables: One of the challenges of the national curriculum is that every child should know their tables up to 12 X 12 by the end of Y4. We have a Tables Challenge in school and we teach tables regularly in class, but learning tables is matter of constant repetition so, whenever you get a moment, please practise with or test your child. As an incentive, every set of full marks in your child's weekly tables test earns them another Kirt to save in the bank or spend in the shop.

We are keen for our children to know their tables but wish the learning of them to be as much fun as possible. To this end, our

website contains useful resources to support your child's learning at home. These may be found in the 'Parents' section under 'Support Your Child's Learning', as well as in the 'Children's' section.

You will find a tables' grid and some practice sheets to download should you wish to use them with your child.

Spelling: From Y1 to Y6, your child will bring home a set of 10 weekly spellings to learn. These may include words that support the spelling rules your child is learning in class, commonly misspelt words, or useful words recommended by the National Curriculum.

If you want to take a look at the National Curriculum spelling vocabulary for Key Stage 2, it is on our website. They're not as easy as you might think!

Remember, we are running a Spelling Championship in school with a top prize of 100 Kirts to spend at Kirton Stores, and every set of full marks in your child's weekly spelling test earns them another Kirt.

Handwriting: We use a cursive script from Y2 to Y6 in order to improve handwriting and presentation. Initially, this may result in a more 'untidy' style as children get to grips with the joins. However, with perseverance, your child's handwriting will improve. Visitors often praise our children's handwriting skills.

If you would like to practise handwriting with your child at home (perhaps by writing

out their weekly spellings), please follow the exemplar below:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Passports of Achievement

These passports make a wonderful home-school link. Please support your child in achieving their challenges for the year. Each completed passport earns your child a medal.

Encourage your child to take care of their passport and to treasure it as replacement passports incur a charge of £4, and the children would need to complete the challenges again from scratch if misplaced.

The Myth of 'The Head Lice Letter'

Occasionally, parents request that a 'head lice letter' be sent when it appears there has been an 'outbreak'. However, unlike in smaller village schools, in a school of over 550 children, it would be safe to say that a number of children will have head lice on any given day. Younger children, in particular, often put their heads together when playing, and may pass lice on to their friends and/or siblings. This can lead to the impression of an 'outbreak'.

On the advice of healthcare professionals, the school does not send out a letter every time lice are detected - such a letter on a daily basis would soon lose its impact.

We have also been advised that to send a letter advising on head lice would be to give the false impression that there is a

particular problem at a particular time when in fact it only appears that way to the small group of families who are dealing with the issue. It is, therefore, preferable that all parents and carers remain vigilant at all times.

On the advice of healthcare professionals, we hold 'Bug Busting' days on a regular basis instead.



Key Stage 2 Carol Concert and Nativity

Bug Busting

Every school has to deal with head lice, and we are no exception. Although we will never eradicate head lice, there are things that we can do to alleviate the problem. This **Saturday, 6th January**, we ask that every child's hair is checked at home for lice.

The following advice comes from the healthcare professionals:

*A fine-tooth plastic comb is best for detecting head lice and you should check school children and family members at least once a week. Young lice are the size of a full stop and adults the size of a sesame seed. Treatments are available from your GP and are **free** for children. You should only treat those people with lice living in their hair.*



Are you reading this newsletter via Parent Mail?

Most parents have now signed up to our Parent Mail service. Make sure you never miss a letter or other important information. If you haven't signed up yet, ask at the office for more details.

Medication in School

We only permit prescribed medication in school. A care plan and administration must be drawn up and agreed before medication is brought into school. This is so we can arrange safe storage and be assured of the correct dosage.

Wherever possible, we request that parents arrange for another adult to administer the medication. However, where this is not possible, staff will administer, or oversee the child administering, *prescribed* medication.

Under no circumstances, should a child bring prescribed or unprescribed medication into school without a care plan in place. This includes medication such as cough sweets, pain killers and travel pills.

School Closures

We do our utmost to remain open despite inclement weather conditions and other hazards. However, there may be rare occasions when, following a risk assessment, the school has no alternative but to close.

If your up-to-date details, including your email address and mobile number, are registered on our ParentMail system, you should receive a message automatically in the event that we are forced to close the school.

However, our ParentMail system has collapsed in the past when bad weather has forced the closure of multiple schools on the same morning. Please check our website which will also run updates.

Dates for your Diary:

Term Dates up to the Summer Holiday:

TERM 3: Wednesday 3rd January 24 – Friday 9th February 24 28 days

TERM 4: Monday 19th February 24 – Thursday 28th March 24 29 days

TERM 5: Monday 15th April 24 – Friday 24th May 24 29 days
May Day Monday 6th May

TERM 6: Monday 3rd June 24 – Friday 19th July 2024 35 days



We are aware that there are several websites purporting to advise on Kirton Primary School's term dates. Unhelpfully, many of these sites have the incorrect dates. The school has no control over other websites. We strongly recommend that you refer only to the school's website and newsletters.

3.1.24 First day of term 3

6.1.24 Bug Busting Day

6.2.24 Parents' Evening face-to-face

7.2.24 Parents' Evening by telephone call

8.2.24 Stay and Play for pre-school children - Nursery 2pm - 3pm

9.2.24 - Ducklings' Art Exhibition

9.2.24 Last day of term 3

19.2.24 First day of term 4

7.3.24 World Book Day

28.3.24 Last day of term 4

15.4.24 First day of term 5

Term Dates for 2024 - 2025:

TERM 1: Monday 2nd September 24 – Friday 18th October 24 35 days

TERM 2: Monday 4th November 24– Friday 20th December 24 35 days

TERM 3: Monday 6th January 25 – Friday 14th February 25 30 days

TERM 4: Monday 24th February 25 – Friday 4th April 25 30 days

TERM 5: Tuesday 22nd April 25 – Friday 23rd May 25 23 days
May Day Monday 5th May

TERM 6: Monday 2nd June 25 – Tuesday 22nd July 25 37 days

Remember that our school day will be extended by 5 minutes and end at 3:25 from September 2024. The start time remains unchanged.