

KIRKBURTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 4

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February 2012 Newsletter

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2012. It seems to have been quite an eventful few weeks, not least with the introduction of our new 'Burton Bistro' and catering arrangements. After some initial 'teething problems', to be expected with such a major change, everything is now in place and running smoothly and effectively. The feedback from the children has been extremely positive and, as they say, 'the truth of the pudding is in the eating' – the uptake of school lunches has increased by 50%! The children are also able to enjoy light snacks and a drink before school and during morning break-time. Whilst the quality of what is on offer is excellent we are also conscious of possible increased costs to parents. As a result each child has now been given a spending limit of £3.50 per day. This can be determined for each individual so if you would like your child's spending limit to be different to the one set please send your requirements in writing to the school office.



MAYOR'S VISIT

Your support for our non-uniform day on the 9th January, where we raised a superb £230 for the Lord Mayor's chosen charity, the "Forget-Me-Not Trust", a new children's hospice in Huddersfield, was very much appreciated. We were privileged to hand this cheque to the Lord Mayor when he visited the school on the 19th January to talk to our Year 8 pupils as part of their Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship lessons. The Lord Mayor then toured the school, escorted by our School Council members who answered questions raised in a very mature and knowledgeable manner. Well done to all involved.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

It seems a long time ago now but I just wanted to say an enormous thank you and well done to all the pupils for their impeccable behaviour when each Year group either visited the cinema or the theatre in the final week of last term. These events really do develop a sense of community, as well as being great fun, and the children did themselves and their parents proud. Thank you also to everyone at home for supporting these trips financially, it is very much appreciated.



Well done also to our Christmas singing group who entertained the residents and staff at Croftlands Nursing Home on the last day of term. The staff said it was 'wonderful'!

VALENTINE DISCO

Our School Council and Friends Association are organising a Valentine Disco on Thursday 9th February, 7.00 – 9.00 p.m. Tickets are being sold in school for £1 which includes a hot dog and drink.



INVESTORS IN PUPILS

This half-term our Investors in Pupils work has focused on the finances of the school and class and individual target setting. Pupils have had an insight into where the money comes from to finance school and how it is spent. Pupils and their teachers will be reviewing previous targets and formulating new ones that will help pupils improve their work and National Curriculum levels. The forth coming pupil/parent review evenings on the 2nd February for year 8 and 7th February for year 7 will form part of this process.



INVESTORS IN PUPILS



SCHOOL POLICIES

It is common practice to regularly update and review our school policies. The most recent to be updated are Safeguarding, Attendance and Anti-Bullying. As we feel it is important that parents and pupils are involved in the reviewing process, these policies are available on the school website to read. Please forward any comments to Mrs Jackson.

PUPILS WE ARE PROUD OF . . .

Tim Needham (and his brother Alex Needham, now at Shelley College) who has recently been accepted in to the Great Britain Taekwondo Cadet Squad and is currently ranked in the top two for his age group in the country. Tim’s family are currently trying to raise enough money to help with their coaching fees, equipment and training - a total of around £4000 each. Both boys will be travelling to Holland, Belgium, France and Sweden this year and have set up their Facebook page for anyone to contact them or who wants to follow their progress on-line. We are currently looking at ways we can support Tim financially through fund-raising etc. If any parent or friend of the school knows of any corporate or private funding which might be available please do not hesitate in contacting school, we would love to hear from you!



Lily Kilcoyne and Rebecca Dowse who were ‘extras’ in the filming of The Syndicate on TV.

Congratulations and well done to Olivia Filak who passed her Grade 2 Clarinet exam.



Isabelle Hunt and Danielle Lambe who raised a superb £70 for the charity ‘Make-a-Wish’ when they went Carol Singing around Highburton. The Foundation was set up to grant magical wishes to children and young people fighting life-threatening conditions. Well done and good luck with your singing next Christmas girls!

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING . . .

MATHEMATICS VISIT

19 pupils who are all very able in mathematics, Mr Moss and Mr Townend visited Bletchley Park near Milton Keynes on the 3rd February as part of their Maths course. Bletchley Park has become a museum to inform visitors about the vital wartime code-breaking that happened on the site and now has guided tours, exhibitions and educational programmes. In addition German ENIGMA code machines, working replicas of code breaking machines and a rebuilt computer, the first programmable machine ever built, can be seen. The group worked on the mathematics behind codes and toured the site and exhibitions. The pupils will include a write up of their experience within the next Newsletter.



INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME

The West Yorkshire Police Authority are appealing for adults (18 years and over) to volunteer their time to become a Custody Visitor who would observe, comment and report on the conditions under which persons are detained at Police Stations. These arrangements also provide an independent check on the way police offices carry out their duties with regard to detained persons and therefore increase public confidence in these matters. Training will be required prior to undertaking custody visiting duties and travelling expenses will be paid. If you would like further information please visit: www.wypa.org or telephone the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Administrator on 01924 294000.



BURTON COMMUNITY FUN RUN AND 5K

You are invited to enter the Burton community fun run and 5k multi terrain races which are taking place on the 25th March. There is a limit of 250 for each race - both are unsuitable for prams, wheelchairs or dogs. The fun run is suitable for all ages but the minimum age for the 5k is 15. Barnardo’s and Highburton & Kirkburton First School PTAs will receive a 50:25:25 split of all entry fees (£8 for the 5k and £4 for the fun run) and all finishers will receive a commemorative medal. The first three runners in each race will receive a trophy. During the events, activities will be taking place in and around the Highburton Village hall, including retail stalls, children’s entertainment, food and drinks. Enquiries to c.littlewood@sheffield.ac.uk or check the website for updates: www.runtolondon.info/funrun.html.

P.E. SWEATSHIRTS

The order for sweatshirts will be placed with our supplier on Thursday of this week. If you would like to order a sweatshirt please ask your son/daughter to collect an order form from the school office.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7 th February	Year 7 Parent/Pupil Review Evening
9 th February	Valentine Disco
10 th February	INSET Day (school is closed to pupils)
21 st February	Meeting of the 'Friends Association', 7p.m. in school – everyone welcome
7 th March	Year 6 Parent/Pupil Review Evening
13 th March	Chateau Baeumont Trip Information Evening with Mrs Sheridan, 7p.m.
22 nd March	Jumble and Bric-a-brac Sale in school (to be confirmed)
23 rd March	Sports Relief Day Mile Challenge (in school time)
30 th March	LAST DAY OF TERM (return Monday April 16 th)



Our School Website will be updated this week with links to E-safety games, downloads etc. Please visit our site www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk.

Check out our pupil help-desk by clicking on the clasping hands button. Internet Safety day is on Tuesday 7th February. One of the topics we will cover is re-emphasising how the pupils need to stay safe online. Please see below how you can help them too.

What is Social Networking - You have probably heard of Facebook, MySpace or Bebo. These sites allow children to be incredibly creative online, keep in touch with their friends and express themselves using a whole range of different media and applications such as video, photos, music, and chat. It's really important that you familiarise yourself with these services so that you can help to support your children in using them in a safe and constructive way. What sometimes appears as a private space for a child can become public very quickly and this blur between public and private expression can potentially put a child at risk in two main ways: Content and Contact. Here are 5 Ps that should be considered about social networking sites.

- 1. POSITIVE:** Stay positive about social networking sites. Get involved – ask them how to create a profile, get them to show you theirs and ask them to add you to their friends list!
- 2. PRIVACY:** Make sure that children know how to protect themselves on social networking sites through the tools provided.
- 3. PHOTOS:** Help them think about the implications of posting photos and what is suitable. Suggest that your child ask permission of other people in the images that they post. One question to ask your child is “would they want a future employer to see this photo?”
- 4. POSTINGS:** Think before they post. Set some ground rules about what is and isn't OK to say in a blog or profile. What starts off as a joke or gossip can quickly escalate to cause real pain which cannot be taken back.
- 5. POLICE:** It's really important that you encourage your child to tell you about inappropriate or illegal activity they may come across. It's vital that you help them keep a copy of the offending images or messages and report them to the police via the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre website www.ceop.gov.uk/reportabuse.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS THIS TERM

Monday...	Gym Club (8a.m.), String Group, Table Tennis, Girls' Football
Tuesday...	Windband, Boys' Hockey, Girls' Hockey, Art
Wednesday...	African Drumming, Badminton, Boys' Rugby
Thursday...	High 5 Netball, Choir, Advanced Recorders, Y7/8 Basketball, Y7/8 Girls' Netball
Friday...	Scrabble Club, Intermediate Recorders, Energise Dance

Also at various times throughout the week... Sports hall Athletics practices, Boccia Practices, inter-house football and netball competitions

**New opportunities at Kirkburton Middle . . .**

This term we have added Badminton and Rugby to our extra-curricular activities on Wednesdays after school and Allsorts sports on Tuesdays at lunchtime. Next half term we will be offering Year 6 a chance to try Golf, starting in school and then going to the John Letters Golf Academy. We hope these activities will continue to be popular and pupils will try hard to attend each week.

In curriculum time we have thanks to the Spin Partnership for the loan of some Dance Mats. These are very active and test co-ordination and partner work as well as being fun. One pupil commented “They would be easier to use if you had four legs!”

If you have any concerns please contact us. Mrs Jackson is responsible for Child Protection.

Congratulations to our Sportshall Athletics Teams who competed in the Newsome Partnership competition. There were some very exciting, close races and the final results were: Year 6 mixed team – First Place, Year 7 Girls and Boys – First Place, Year 8 Girls and Boys – Second Place. All teams will now go to the Kirklees Finals later in the term.



On Sunday 22nd January it was a pleasure to see a great many of our Year 7 and 8 pupils at the West Yorkshire Sports Hall Athletics events of their choice, against the very best athletes from West Yorkshire. We are very proud to inform you all that Hannah Stead and Terrell Frazer were both successful in getting selected for the teams and we wish them the best of luck in the county competition.



Our Year 8 Netball team recently won 13-4 against Salendine Nook High School but lost 13-26 against King James'. Our Year 7 team also played and lost 6-5 to Salendine Nook, winning 18-0 to King James'.



Congratulations to our school Boccia Teams. Our two Boccia Teams – Ellouise Davies, Leo Fountain, Matthew Wait and David Wilby, Emma Dewhurst, Nathan Howe, Sam Osborne and Luke Rogers, attended a KS3 Competition on Tuesday 17th January at Newsome HS & SC. They played in two sections against teams from Castle Hill, Ravenshall, Longley, Newsome and Lydgate and when the sections were completed, Kirkburton A and Kirkburton B had won their sections. We faced each other in the final in a very tight match. Leo's team were the winners but everyone was so pleased with Kirkburton's performance that it was a victory for everyone. We are now all through to the Kirklees Youth Games so get practising everyone! A great sporting morning and excellent performances – very well done and thank you to all the staff for their coaching and encouragement.



Our Table Tennis team Sam Barrow, Ted Chamberlain, Annie Greenwood, James Howard, Jacob Kilner and Emily McKinnell played in a tournament at Scissett Middle School against Colne Valley High, Moor End High and Scissett Middle. They played in two sections and took second place in one section and fourth in the other. Well done everyone. We were particularly proud as we were the only mixed team. "There was a very high standard of play and it was tough against some of our opponents." "One of the hardest games was against the spin backhand." "We all enjoyed going, it was good experience especially playing on different tables in a different area." "Thank you to Roger for umpiring our games



The Boys Hockey team (Blayne Bennett, Philip Crampton, Lewis Jones, Joshua Roberts, Lewis Sharpe, Matthew Stacey, Dan Turner and George Whittaker) played on Tuesday 31st January in a home triangular match against Newsome High School & Sports College and Scissett Middle School. In the first game against Newsome we had lots of the play but they defended well. We kept up our 'out-wide passing', brought our defence forward and won the game 2-0. We then faced Scissett and we really had to work hard together. We kept up the constant pressure in their half and Matthew realised we needed an early goal and moved forward resulting in a score! In the last minute, they took a corner but we held on. A well deserved 1-0 victory to Kirkburton. An excellent captaincy from Matthew Stacey. Thank you to Hanif the goalkeeper from Newsome who helped us out and to our hockey girls for their support. Kelly our coach was delighted to see the boys implementing the skills they have learned in their Tuesday sessions. Well played and great teamwork.