



# Kirton Primary School

## Autumn Term Newsletter 2024

**We know what we are, but know not what we may be.**

Welcome back to another exciting year at Kirton Primary School. We would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all the new children and their families who have joined us, as well as two new members of staff.

As ever, the end of the summer term was extremely busy. Our hard-working staff managed to fit in a fabulous Y6 production, a Leavers' Assembly, cup presentations, year group trips, sporting events, a Gala, sports days, the opening of the Coronation Garden, two school discos and several national award ceremonies - all of which contributed to a fabulous finale to the school year.

Thank you to everyone who made this happen. We can't wait to get started again!

### A Sad Farewell to Mrs Donley



In July, we said our goodbyes and expressed our gratitude to our long serving, Executive Headteacher, Mrs Donley.

Mrs Donley accepted the role of Headteacher at Kirton Primary School back in 2007, and served and led us for 17 years. When she inherited the school, it was unable to meet even the minimum floor standards set for a primary school. At the time, the school was also on a long, downward trend of declining academic results and behaviour - and was considered in the county to be a 'sink school'.

In the 17 years she led us, our school became one of the highest performing schools in the country, winning multiple national awards, including the TES Award for Staff Wellbeing, and appearing in multiple local and national publications. We were even shortlisted for an international award with the award ceremony held in Dubai. Such is the profile of our acclaimed school, we have also had film cameras in the school on numerous occasions. Mrs Donley quite has literally transformed Kirton Primary School, put it on the map and made it everything it is today - a thriving and successful school.

The staff and governors are immensely grateful to our outgoing Executive Headteacher for her belief in the community and the unstinting dedication that she gave to everyone in it.

Our mission statement is: *We know what we are, but know not what we may be.* Mrs Donley personified this statement by acknowledging children's starting points, but proving that the sky is the limit in terms of what they are able to achieve if they receive the highest quality education. This vision will continue to drive everything we do in school as Mr Neall takes on the mantle of Headteacher.

Mr Neall was previously our Head of School and knows the school well. He originally started his career with us, moving briefly to a school in another county in a leadership role before returning to our school, such was his affection for Kirton Primary. He knows the school's systems well, having worked closely with Mrs Donley and the Governors for many years. The transition from Mrs Donley to Mr Neall as our Headteacher will be a seamless process.

In the meantime, we wish Mrs Donley a long, happy and well-earned retirement!

### Education Awards 2024



Congratulations to Mrs Donley, who was awarded Headteacher/Principal/ Dean of the Year 2024 at the Education Awards held in Birmingham in July. She was up against other headteachers, principals and university deans

for the title. The judges praised Mrs Donley 'for supporting staff by motivating them and leading them to their full potential'.

The school was also a finalist in the category 'Primary School of the Year'. The judges were impressed by 'how the school works as an establishment on its own and within the community that it is part of'.

Excitingly, both nominations had been made by Pearson Education who had heard of the huge success of Kirton Primary School and put Mrs Donley and the school forward for each award.

What a great note for Mrs Donley to end her career on!

### TES Awards 2024



Mrs Donley was a finalist, representing Kirton Primary School, as Curriculum Lead of the Year for all the work the school does to develop provision.

The TES Awards are the Oscars of the education world with the award ceremony being held at a glittering ceremony at the Grosvenor Hotel on Park Lane, London in June hosted by Alex Horne.

## Education Business Awards



Our school was also a finalist in two categories of the national Education Business Awards held in London in June and hosted by Ashley John-Baptiste. The categories were the STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) Award and the Outstanding Progress (Primary School) Award.

The judges informed us that researchers examine many information sources, such as positive news reports, case studies, Ofsted inspections, information supplied by parents and local authorities before selecting their shortlists.

## Primary Awards for Green Education in Schools 2024



Congratulations to Kirton Primary School for being regional winners in the national Primary Awards for Green Education in Schools 2024. The award has secured £500 for the school to be spent on further green projects. The judges commented: *With over 270 entries received,*

*being selected to win a Regional Winner's award is a real achievement!*



Thank you to Mrs Herd, Miss Wilkinson and Mr Stanfield for working on the winning project, 'Understanding Our World & Kirton's Green Fingers' in the Green Action Takers category.

The school was also a runner up in the category, 'Green Action Researchers' and received another £200 for reaching the final stages.

## External Assessment Results

Congratulations to our amazing children across the school!

We are pleased to report that 69% of last year's YR (Reception) cohort achieved a good level of development compared to last year's national average of 67%.

We are also delighted to report that our talented Y1 cohort, last year, achieved an 88% pass rate in their phonics screening check. This compares to last years' national average of just 79%.



Last year's Y4 cohort took part in the multiplication tables check in the summer. At Kirton Primary School, 72% of our children achieved a 100% pass rate which is an amazing achievement. This compares to last year's national figure of just 29% of children achieving full marks in the same test.

We are equally proud of our Y6 cohort who achieved at well above the national average in Key Stage 2 SATs. Our school achieved a combined score (reading, writing and maths) of 70% reaching the expected standard compared to the national figure of just 61%.

Well done to everyone who has contributed to these amazing, academic successes across the school! These are the results of fabulous staff working with fabulous parents and children.

*We know what we are, but know not what we may be!*

## Opening of the Coronation Garden



At the end of last term, we celebrated the official opening of the Coronation Garden. Our garden is an exciting and unique project that allows children to 'travel' and experience biomes of different parts of the world.

We have two huge glasshouses: one housing tropical plants and the other housing Mediterranean plants. We also have raised vegetable beds, a dipping pond and flower beds to appreciate our own temperate climate.

The gardens were officially opened by Mrs Donley as the inspiration behind and designer of the gardens. The opening was attended by parents, local businesses who have supported us, and staff and governors who have given up their own time to help develop the gardens.

## School Day Ends at 3:25

Please remember that the school day will now end at **3:25**. Our start time remains the same. We start officially at 8:55 but open our doors at 8:45.

## A Visit to Advocet House



A local care home, Advocet House, asked whether Kirton Primary School could arrange for some children to visit them. Y5 children quickly volunteered to show the residents some of the work they had completed in school, play games and have a chat.

The residents asked for the following messages to be relayed to the school:

- 'Such polite and eloquent children.'
- 'So lovely to listen to young children, all with such high ambitions for the future.'
- 'How lovely to see the beautiful work and talk to such confident children.'
- 'Their parents must be so proud!'

It's all true, of course, but it's a delight to hear it expressed by third parties.

## Y4 Celebrated American Food



At the end of a Geography topic on North America, the children sampled typical American foods that we aren't used to eating in this country. Their verdict was very positive, particularly with regards to the the Hershey bars!

## Opening of the Kirt Café



We are proud to announce the opening of the Kirt Café which began trading officially on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024. As an addition to our High Street, already comprising a Shop, Bank and Pop Up Market Stall, the café offers yet another opportunity for children to practise their financial management and understand the rewards of earning and saving.

Food items at the café sell for 2K each and drinks are on sale for 1K. As in the rest of the High Street, the café is run entirely by the children in our school, who even make the drinks and snacks.



Children can withdraw their money from the Bank and have a quick catch up with their friends over a drink and snack in the café whenever it is their turn to visit the High Street, which is once a fortnight.

### Y4 Make their own Pan Pipes



Y4 were thrilled to be able to make - and play - their own pan pipes. Sadly, the photo is without audio!

### Ducklings Visit to Hardy's Animal Park Farm



The Ducklings had an amazing day out, visiting Hardy's Animal Park Farm. They fed the alpacas, groomed the ponies, made friends with

the sheep and goats, and went on a very bumpy tractor ride!

To see more about what the children in our Nursery have been up to, check out their Facebook page.

### Year 4 Music Workshop at Thomas Middlecott Academy



Y4 walked to Thomas Middlecott Academy to witness TMA pupils demonstrate and perform a range of different musical instruments as part of their learning on 'Sound and Vibrations'.

Not only did the children get to witness and hear performances, they were also given the opportunity to try all the many different percussion and string instruments that were there (the electric guitar was VERY popular).

### Y4 Visit the Boston Stump



Y4 visited St. Botolph's Church (the Boston Stump) as part of their learning on pilgrimages and symbols found within a religious setting.

The children learnt about the history of the town's iconic landmark, as well as the significance of Boston Stump. They explored many areas of the church, including the new gardens found just outside the church. They also enjoyed a large number of educational activities throughout the day.

Y4 explored the building using their special packs to complete a treasure hunt, created their own stain glass window, built objects they had seen with Lego, and added a brick to the Official Lego Boston Stump model!

### Chicks in School



Later this month, we will incubate and hatch our own brood of hens' eggs and intend to put a live link on our website. We have done this previously for both chickens and ducks, and this has provided amazing learning opportunities for our children.

Further details to follow.

### More Attendance Awards!



Term 4 had huge number of children achieving 100% attendance! Well done to all the children who were awarded 5 Kirts, a certificate, a trophy and a limited edition, branded, LED torch!



Term 5 attendance awards saw a record number of children achieving the goal of 100% attendance. There were 285 children in total!

For their efforts, they gained more knowledge, 5 Kirts to spend in the shop, another trophy and a limited edition, exclusive, attendance frisbee!

Please encourage your children to aim for that 100% goal in attendance. The impact of being in school as much as possible cannot be underestimated and Kirton Primary School is

leading the way with its attendance figures compared to Lincolnshire data.

A huge thank you to everyone who has made an effort to get more children in school more of the time.



### Avoiding Fines for Poor School Attendance



We monitor children's school attendance over twelve-month rolling time periods. 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 19 fines to parents at Kirton Primary School. Fines are £80 per child per parent, so the fine for a family with two children with poor attendance is £320. This fine doubles to £640 if the fine is not paid within 21 days.

These are a huge amounts of money to lose, and we want to help you avoid this.

Additionally, the courts are able to **fine parents up to £2 500** and can sentence parents to **imprisonment for up to three months** for their child's non-attendance at school.

Even greater fines have been announced for children who are taken on holiday more than once. The school has been informed by the Local Authority that, if a second holiday is taken within term time, the fine is set to be £160 per child per parent, with no option to pay the lower amount. If a third holiday is taken within 3 years, the Local Authority intends to take parents straight to prosecution. We await official confirmation on this and will keep you updated.

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.

If you are invited to a school attendance panel meeting, we urge you to attend. We arrange these panels to help you and they will only ever involve our own school staff. No surprise visits from the Local Authority!

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.

The school is not allowed 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 the school to authorise holidays.



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



### **Encouraging 100% Attendance**

As part of our drive to improve school attendance, we will continue to offer a suite of rewards to the children this year.

Each term, those children who have achieved 100% attendance will receive a certificate, a small trophy, a prize and 5K to add to their bank account! (Kirts are for Y1 to Y6 only as younger children do not have bank accounts.)

If a child is unable to achieve full attendance in any one term, they simply start again the following term. This means, each child has the potential to reap full attendance awards six times a year.

If your child has an underlying health condition which requires medical reviews, hospital appointments 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.



### **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 a 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. You will also find songs and videos made by our staff and children that you might like to sing along to.

At the end of Y4, our children take part in a national, statutory multiplication check.



**Spelling:** From Y2 to Y6, your child will bring home a set of 10 weekly spellings to learn. These will 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 an annual 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.

## Knowledge Organisers

You and your child have access to Knowledge Organisers at the beginning of each term which spell out the key pieces of knowledge your child will be required to retain by the end of the term. Alongside the termly newsletter for each year group, these will provide you with lots of key information about what your child will be learning each term.

You will find these organisers on our website, and they will be shared with the children in school. Why not quiz each other to see what you can both remember?

## Passports of Achievement

Your child will be bringing home a Passport of Achievement shortly (from Y1 to Y6). 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 which is awarded in assembly.

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.

## Donation from Allison Homes



A huge 'thank you' to Allison Homes who donated some bags which are on sale to the children in Kirton Stores for the bargain price of only 3K!

## Our Virtual School Tour

If you haven't seen it yet, we have a new, 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/>

We hope you find it useful. Please feel free to share it with perspective parents.

## Kirton Nursery School

If you have a child about to start Nursery, come to see our incredible provision for yourself.

We have our own web page. Please visit us at: <http://www.boston-nur.lincs.sch.uk/Kirton-Nursery-Home> You can also find us on Facebook where you will see some of the exciting things our children get up to.



Put your child on the path to a first-rate education. Our Nursery is often full, and we have to begin a waiting list for places. If you are thinking of requesting a place for your child, we fully recommend that you act early so as not to be disappointed. We often have places at the beginning of the year, but they are unlikely to be free for long.



Our award-winning provision for three and four-year-olds, which is led by a fully qualified, schoolteacher, provides seamless transition and promotes excellent progress for every child entering Kirton Primary School. Did you know, for instance, that the children in Nursery begin early phonics and number work that will give them a head start when they begin school in Reception? We notice a marked difference in the starting points of those children who have

attended our own Nursery and those who have attended other settings.

As well as the 15 free hours a week, to which all three-year-olds are entitled, we offer additional sessions over and above this. We also offer flexibility when selecting sessions for your child. You may choose mornings, afternoons, or a mix of both - or even five full days a week. We will do our best to accommodate your request, but we are more likely to be able to do this if you get your child's name down early.

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. The purchase of a lunch is also available if required.



Please contact us to discuss your options and see for yourself what one of the best pre-schools in the county has to offer.

If you know anyone else who might benefit from our excellent Nursery facilities, please ask them to get in touch.

## Message from the Governing Body

Hello and welcome to all new parents - and welcome back to all our parents returning to a new school year. We hope you have enjoyed the summer holidays.

We would like to publicly thank Mrs Donley, our outgoing Executive Headteacher, for the amazing work she has done with the school. Whilst the national plaudits speak for themselves, we saw her hard work and dedication at firsthand and never failed to be impressed. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

We have no doubt that Mr Neall will lead the school to further success over the coming years and we are delighted to be working with him.



'What do Governors do?'

The Governing Body is an elected group, including teachers, support staff, parents and members of the local community. We work as a voluntary team with the Headteacher for the benefit of all the pupils and staff across the Federation.

We're here to give the school a strategic direction and to act as 'a critical friend' -

helping to guide the school to improving the standard of education for all our children. We don't get involved in the day-to-day operation of the school but set the criteria by which the school is managed. We ensure that local and national government legislation and targets are met, that we spend our school budget wisely, that the safety of everyone is paramount, and that the curriculum is delivered to benefit all children. Governors take an active role in the school, not only attending meetings, but also school functions, leading assemblies, undertaking visits to classrooms and assisting with school visits.

If you require any further information, regarding our Governing Body, please refer to the school's website.



## Message from the PTA



We would like to thank everyone who supported our most recent events: the Sponsored Walk, the School Disco and the Summer Gala.



Thanks to your generosity and support, the Sponsored Walk raised over £1780, the Gala made £2697 (£300 more than last year!) and the School Disco raised approximately £450.



The money raised will be spent directly on improving learning opportunities and experiences for the children in our school. In the last twelve months, we have paid for a theatre production, fish and chips for Y6, gifts for our Y6 Leavers, stock for the school shop, a Christmas entertainer, and Santa's candy and satsumas for our younger children.

However, most of our funding goes towards subsidising trips and visitors to make the curriculum more engaging for our children. We are aware that these activities receive far more subsidy from the school itself.

We would like to add our good wishes to Mrs Donley for her retirement, having worked with her in close partnership for many years. Mrs Donley's support has been much appreciated and her retirement is well deserved!

## Sport Update

### Tennis Development Day



Ten Y4 children took part in the Tennis Development Day at Boston Tennis Club alongside other schools.

Great sportsmanship was shown as everyone learned about the sport and took part in a range of tennis activities. The children showed great

interest in the sport. Well done to the children who took part.

### Mini Tennis Tournament



Four Y4 children took part in the Mini Tennis Rd Tournament at Boston Tennis Club against a large number of other local schools.

All four children were amazing in every tennis match they played, showing great skills with the racket, ball control and great sportsmanship. They complimented good shots from their opponents and congratulated them at the end with a handshake whether they won or lost.

We achieved third place in the tournament, which is an incredible achievement against some very talented opponents from other schools.

A fantastic effort and a big well done to all four players!

## Y5 Dynamo Cricket Tournament



A team of enthusiastic children took a trip to Boston Cricket Club to partake in a Y5 Dynamo Cricket Tournament. Competition for a space on the team was intense. It was such a hard decision on who to take.

With the unpredictable British weather holding true-to-form, one day before the event and there was a torrential downpour. Luckily, on competition day, the sun shone, the wind eased, and all was good!

Kirton managed to get through to the semi-finals, after some truly wonderful games, but lost a close-fought match by just a few runs. This secured the team fourth place. Competition, this year, was the toughest it has been in a while so the whole team deserves credit.

## Tri-Golf at Boston Golf Club



At Boston Golf Club, ten Y4 children took part in the Tri-Golf event. Our children competed against nine other local schools.

After an excellent display of sports' skill and effort, our children came third and earned bronze medals and certificates!

## A Visit from Boston United Football Club



Kirton Primary School received some visitors from Boston United Football Club to share the story of the football club's success in the league.

The overriding message the children took away was: determination is a great thing to have, never give up and stay positive.

Boston United had to win three away games in the play-offs to secure promotion to the higher league (one they hadn't been in for 14 years). These games were scrappy, tight and dramatic; two went to penalty shoot outs! The children loved hearing the stories and having their picture taken with the actual league cup.

Kirton Primary School works closely with the BUFC community team all year round and we wish the football team all the best for the new season in an even more challenging league.

### Sports Clubs Available this Term

Monday	BUFC KS1 Multi Sports
Tuesday	S2D Multi Sports KS2 Girls' Football Academy (S2D)
Wednesday	S2D Multi Sports KS2 Boys' Football Academy (S2D)
Thursday	BUFC KS1 Multi Sports

More clubs may be added throughout the term.

### School Uniform

We are proud of the way our children present themselves at our school and are thankful to have parents who are supportive and sensible about school uniform. We have very few concerns and regularly get positive comments from school visitors, or when we take our children on trips, with regards to our children's presentation. Ofsted also commented positively on the way our children dress for school and the pride they show in their appearance.

Whilst school uniform bearing the school logo is very smart, we do not insist that our children wear clothes with logos..

Please take the time to remind your child that jewellery should not be worn at school ie no bracelets, chains, rings, wrist bands etc. We make an exception for stud earrings, (although earrings should not be worn on PE days).

Hairstyles should be conservative. Coloured/bleached hair, gel and close or patterned shaves, extreme or adult styles are clearly not appropriate in a primary school, which you are sensible to recognise. Nail polish and transfer 'tattoos' are also not appropriate.

For more information, please refer to our website. As ever, we thank you for your good commonsense and support.



### Health and Safety News and Reminders

#### Defibrillator

We have a defibrillator in school. In an emergency, report an incident at the front office where staff have access to this. It is not just for emergencies in school; it is for the use of the whole community.

#### Keep Us Updated

If your child normally goes home on the school bus, please let the office know if your arrangements change so we may amend the bus register. Failure to inform the office could hold up the entire bus whilst we try to locate your child.

If anyone, other than the usual adult, is to collect your child at the end of the day, please ensure that the school has been made aware.



We won't release children to other adults without your permission.

If you have moved house or have changed your telephone number over the summer, please make the office aware of your new contact details. Please also ensure that we have at least two contact details in school should we need to contact you urgently.

### **Photos in School**

Please remember that no images must be made with recording devices, including mobile 'phones, anywhere on our school site without the express permission of the Headteacher. Mobile phones must not be used by parents or visitors anywhere within the school building.

Children should hand in their mobile phones at the front office and collect these at the end of the day.

### **Climbing Frame Safety**

Please ensure that your children do not access the gym equipment or the climbing frames except under the direct supervision of staff.

### **Dogs**

With the exception of support dogs, no dogs are permitted on the school site at any time. Please note, this includes puppies and small dogs which are carried.



### **No Smoking**



The entire school site, including outdoor areas, is a no smoking zone. This ban includes e-cigarettes and vapes as we anticipate that all adults will be positive role models whilst on site.

### **Bikes**

Bikes and scooters are a fabulous way for our children to get to school, being both speedy and active.



The children are aware that they should not cycle or scoot on the school grounds as this could cause an accident. We remind our children regularly in class and in assemblies to dismount while on paths and playgrounds. Please remind your child should they forget.

We actually have two bike sheds. The more popular shed is the one near our nursery block. However, there is a much larger shed outside

the Y2 classrooms should the smaller one be full.



### Nut-Free School



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.

### Parking

Out of respect for our neighbours, please take care not to block people's driveways when parking.



Please take the opportunity to teach your children about road safety on the way to school and model the use of the zebra crossing on Station Road.

### Pharmacy Update

A poster from the NHS and HM Government titled "PHARMACY FIRST services available without a prescription". It lists services for patients in eligible age ranges:

<b>Earache</b> 1 to 17 years	<b>Sinusitis</b> 12 years and over
<b>Impetigo</b> 1 year and over	<b>Sore throat</b> 5 years and over
<b>Infected insect bites</b> 1 year and over	<b>Uncomplicated urinary tract infections</b> Women 16-64 years
<b>Shingles</b> 18 years and over	

Did you know your pharmacy can issue prescriptions for some ailments without the need to visit a GP? Please see which services they can offer above.

### Whooping Cough

An NHS poster featuring a pregnant woman in a yellow top. A teal circular graphic contains the text: "The whooping cough vaccine is highly effective at protecting babies from developing whooping cough in the first few weeks of their life."

Whooping cough can be very serious for young babies. If you're pregnant, you can help protect your baby by getting vaccinated ideally from 16 weeks up to 32 weeks pregnant. Speak to your midwife or GP team.

### Parenting Courses

Please feel free to access these free-of-charge parenting courses available to any family residing in Lincolnshire:

<https://inourplace.co.uk/lincolnshire/>

### Oversubscribed

Many of our year groups are currently oversubscribed. We have waiting lists in school, but it is worth noting that parental appeals have never been successful.

Although it may seem a long way off, if you are aware of friends or neighbours, who have children who are due to start school in **September 2025**, please remind them to apply in good time (before Christmas if possible) in order to be in a better position of securing a place at our ever-popular school.

School admissions are handled by Lincolnshire County Council for a September start in Reception. However, we organise our own admissions to Nursery, and we recommend you register your interest at the office as early as possible.



### Bug Busting

Every school has to deal with head lice, and we are no exception. The problem is often more prevalent when children return to school after a break. Although we will never eradicate head lice, there are things that we can do to alleviate the problem. This **Saturday, 7th September**, we ask that every child's hair is checked at home for lice.

The following advice comes from the school nursing team:

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.



## Staff Car Park

Children and vehicles are a bad combination. For the safety of all our children, please do not bring vehicles into the staff car park.



We advise parents to model using the pathways and to avoid cutting through the car park.

Should you witness parents parking in our car park or in the zig zag lines outside the school, please inform the police and the school. A photograph, clearly showing the numberplate, is helpful to the police.

Unfortunately, staff are unable to simultaneously supervise children coming into school (we open our doors at 8:45 despite an 8:55 start) and patrol the playgrounds, car park or roads to the school. We rely on parents and carers to play their part in ensuring child safety.

There is no excuse for putting children's safety at risk.

## Meet our New House Captains



Meet our new house captains.  
Representing Parks, Emilia and Alexia.  
Representing Pankhurst, we have Jake and Poppy.  
Representing Peel, we have Cody and Lexi-Mai..  
Representing Gandhi, we have Nicole and Nella.

## Meet our New School Councillors



Meet our new school councillors.  
Representing Y3, we have Isaac and Evelyn.  
Representing Y4, we have Oscar and Ella.  
Representing Y5, we have Migle and Artjom  
Representing Y6, we have Dylan and Jessica.

## Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership



We are working with the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership and two Junior Road Safety Officers have been elected Carter and Casey.

Please remind your children of the following:

- Do not cross the road where you cannot see clearly - avoid crossing between parked cars or on the bend of a road.
- Where there is a crossing, use it - even if you have to walk slightly out of your way, it is a lot safer.
- Look in ALL directions before you cross the road - keep doing this as you cross so you can spot any potential danger approaching.
- Always walk, not just when you are crossing the road. Running increases the risk of tripping which can be dangerous if cars are approaching.
- Dismount your bike or scooter before crossing the road.
- Always stay near your adult if you are not permitted to walk to school alone.

- Avoid distractions when you are crossing the road - do not look at your mobile phone or talk to a friend.



## Keeping Children Safe Online

Families often think they know exactly what their children get up to online, and that they understand all the apps and sites their children use. But with technology changing every day, that's not always the case.

The NSPCC has an online safety helpline: 0808 800 5002 and a website: <https://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc> that offers support and advice to parents and carers.

## Healthy School

Please be aware that the only snack children should bring in for break-time is fruit.

Children should only have water in their water bottles.



## Facebook and other Social Media

We thank our whole community, especially parents and carers, for their vigilance over negative or inappropriate comments made on Facebook or other social media sites about the school or its staff. Please be assured that all information received, which is thankfully very little considering the size of our school, is treated in the strictest confidence in terms of its source.

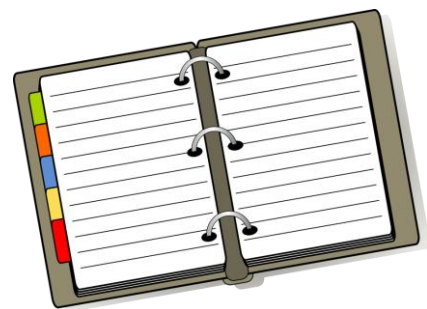
Negative comments can have an impact on staff morale and, in turn, on the children in our school. Parents and volunteers have also expressed their distress and despair at reading comments that have been made in the past. We take our staff's mental wellbeing extremely seriously and engage the support of the police and legal services whenever necessary. Indeed, we are grateful to the police for their robust stance on this antisocial and damaging activity.

We also ask that any photographs or filming, undertaken by family members at school, is of your own child and for your own personal use. Children's images taken at school should not be shared on social media sites or in the wider community - even images of your own children. This is to ensure that we can continue to invite parents to photograph their children at school events.

We thank you again for your understanding and welcome your continuing support.



## Term Dates for your Diary



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 to the school's own website and newsletters.



The following dates are subject to change, but you have told us how helpful it is to have advance warning. Further information will come

out for many of the listed events, and many more events will be added.

2.9.24 First Day of Term 1  
7.9.24 'Bug Busting' Day  
13.9.24 11+ test in school for Y6  
16.9.24 Theatre Production for Y2-Y6  
17.9.24 School photographer YR-Y6  
18.9.24 Phonics Workshop for parents 2.15pm  
20.9.24 11+ test in school for Y6  
4.10.24 Harvest Festival at church at 2.15pm  
for Y4-Y6 - all welcome  
7.10.24 Enterprise Week for Y3-Y4  
15.10.24 Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm

16.10.24 Parents' Evening 3.30-5pm  
18.10.24 Last day of Term 1  
4.11.24 First day of Term 2  
10.12.24 Reception Christmas performance 2pm  
11.12.24 Y1 Christmas Performance 2pm  
12.12.24 Y2 Christmas Performance 2pm  
13.12.24 Nursery Performance to parents  
16.12.24 Carol Service at church at 2.15pm for  
Y4-Y6 - all welcome  
18.12.24 Children's Christmas dinner  
20.12.24 Last day of Term 2  
6.1.25 First day of Term 3

### **Term Dates for 2024 - 2025:**

**TERM 1:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 24 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 24 35 days

**TERM 2:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 24 – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 24 35 days

**TERM 3:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 25 – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 25 30 days

**TERM 4:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 25 – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 25 30 days

**TERM 5:** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 25 – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 25 23 days  
*May Day Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May*

**TERM 6:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 25 – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 25 37 days