



**MELTHAM MOOR
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

NEWSLETTER

Friday 19th January 2024



Happy New Year!

We hope that you had an enjoyable and exciting Christmas and New Year and on behalf of everyone at school, I would like to wish you a very Happy New Year! I hope you are healthy and well, and that you managed to enjoy a nice rest with your families over the Christmas period. A particularly warm welcome to our new children and their parents. The children are settling in well; we hope they have a very happy and successful time with us.

A Fond Farewell

We have said goodbye to two of our valued members of staff today! Our Year 1 teacher, Miss Hepworth left school before Christmas and is planning to come in to school for an official goodbye with the children and staff in the next week or so.

Our caretaker, Mrs Heywood, has also left Meltham Moor today. We are very sad to see both go and wish them the very best for the future. Recruitment processes are underway to fill both positions.

GOODBYE

Open Morning

Parents, carers and grandparents are warmly invited to an Open Morning on Thursday 1st February. This will be an opportunity for you to come and see some of the wonderful learning taking place in school. Younger siblings will be allowed in the classes; however, please can we ask that the children are closely supervised so they don't disrupt the teaching and learning, and that they don't run around the hall (for health and safety reasons). Please come in through the main entrance at 9.00 am where there'll be refreshments and a short information session about supporting children's wellbeing whilst class registers are taken and the children are settled. Following this, you will be able to visit your child/children's classroom where you can remain for an hour (until approximately 10.30). We look forward to seeing you all!

Training Day

On Monday 8th January, our teaching staff enjoyed a productive and informative training day with our partner schools from the Together Learning Trust. This was delivered remotely to the primary schools. The morning began with a keynote from Olympic Swimmer and motivational speaker, Chris Cook <https://www.chriscookgb.com>, on keeping things simple, and teacher workload.

The remainder was training from literacy consultant, Philip Webb. This is our second year working with Philip on our primary trust development area of improving standards of writing through a staged approach, writing for a purpose and the use of quality texts. Philip is also delivering workshops to our higher achieving writers in years 1,3,5 and 6, supported by their class teachers, so that they receive further professional development through the process. Further training is arranged for all teachers in March. The impact of this work can be seen in the children's writing.



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Parenting Pathway

The Meltham Moor Parenting Pathway is our offer to parents and carers. An offer of what support, guidance, training and involvement we will provide to our families during their time with us as part of the Meltham Moor family.

The pathway includes a range of ways in which we will involve you in school life, ways we will make ourselves available to you, and training and learning opportunities for parents/carers.

Our Parenting Pathway includes things such as how to support your child's emotional wellbeing, managing transition to high school, setting boundaries, healthy lifestyles, supporting your child with reading / maths/ phonics and much, much more.

Our intention is that across your time with us as a parent/carer you will be able to access opportunities from this pathway at an appropriate time for yourselves.

Please take a look at the the flyer at the bottom of the newsletter.

Reading Volunteers

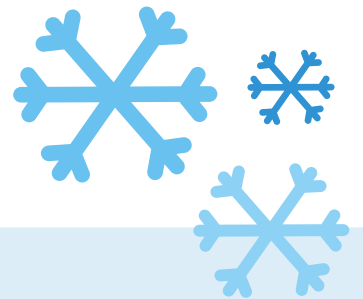
We have a small number of very dedicated reading volunteers who do a fabulous job of listening to the children read - something class teachers have difficulty finding time to do. Reading is the cornerstone to all other learning and can bring huge enjoyment to the children. It is vital that all children leave us as fluent, confident readers. If this is something that you feel you can help with, even if it's just a couple of hours a week, we would be very grateful. You will need a DBS which is free and easy to complete. Please contact the school office if you are interested or would like more information.

Kirklees are currently offering free training for parents/grandparents to become a volunteer Reading Friend or a Maths Mate in school. If you would like more information, please see leaflets below.

Severe Weather Procedures

As we are currently experiencing cold, wintery weather, here is a reminder of our severe weather procedures: We have clear procedures for situations where the weather (usually snow) is so severe that we have to consider closing school; these are outlined on our school website. The following is a summary: The decision as to whether the school is to be closed or not is made as early as we can (around 7am). Once the decision is made, all parents/carers who have up-to-date mobile numbers on our school database will receive a text message notifying them of the decision. The information will also be posted on our school website, our Twitter account and Kirklees website. information will also be broadcast on Radio Leeds. If disruption from severe weather starts during the school day, school will remain open until 3:15pm. Parents may collect their children early, or arrange for them to be collected. If someone else is collecting your child you must ring and let us know unless they regularly pick up. If heavy snow is falling, all after-school clubs will also be cancelled. If a decision is made to close school at the beginning of the day then Moor Fun will also be closed. if children have already arrived at the club then Moor Fun staff will contact parents and advise them to collect their child. If heavy snow occurs at the end of the school day, the staff at Moor Fun will contact parents to advise them to collect their child as soon as possible.

If you have any queries or need to update your contact information, please contact school by telephone, email us on office@melthammoor.org or call in.





School Uniform

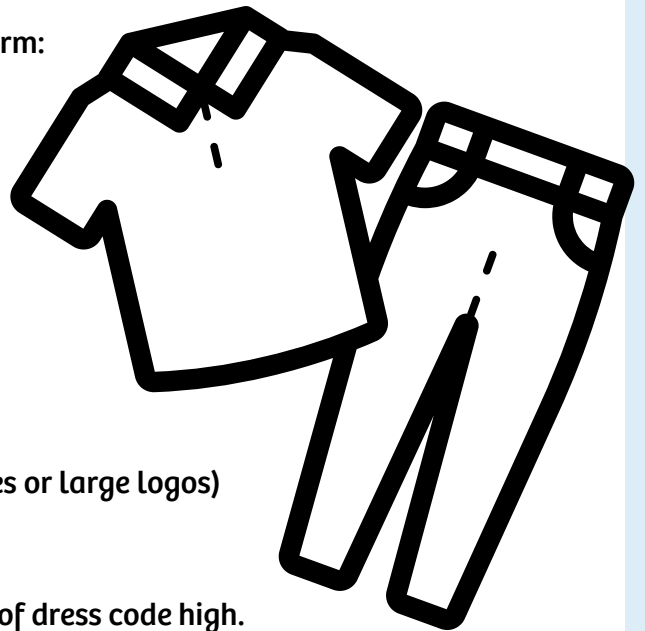
As you will be aware we have very high standards at Meltham Moor and pride ourselves in being the best that we can be across all areas of school life. We are all very proud to be part of the Meltham Moor family and we feel that wearing the correct uniform helps the children to feel part of this. This week we have been getting in touch with the parents of any children where uniform is not up to our expectations to see if any help can be offered. If anybody would like further help, please don't hesitate to ask. The Uniform Exchange provide free new uniform to any family, and we also have a huge amount of good condition uniform donated from our families. Please feel free to contact the school office or pop in if either of these are of interest to you.

Here's a reminder of our expectations for school uniform:

- Grey or black skirt/ trousers/ shorts
- White polo shirts
- Maroon red jumper
- Red/maroon checked summer dress
- Black shoes/boots (flat)

PE kit:

- Black shorts/ joggers / leggings
- Red school sports T-shirt
- Trainers
- Red or black sweatshirt or school jumper (no hoodies or large logos)
- Sensible trainers



Thank you for your support in keeping our standards of dress code high.

Holiday Requests

Good attendance (above 96%) is essential if children are to make good progress in their learning. The Together Learning Trust schools have a shared Attendance Policy. There is no 'right' to time off school and Headteachers' may not grant any leave of absence except in exceptional circumstances, which must be outlined in an application to school (forms can be found in the school reception area). The policy is in line with Department of Education Policy. Except in exceptional circumstances, absences will be treated as unauthorised and parents will be issued with a Penalty Notice (if the absence is 5 days or more) in line with Kirklees Code of Conduct.



Punctuality Matters

Unfortunately, there have been a significant number of children late through the school office since the start of term. Arriving at school in good time at the start of the day (8.55 am) is a vital part of children's learning and is a positive start to the day. On most days the children will immediately begin learning activities and those who are regularly late are missing out on this experience. If you are experiencing difficulties getting your child into school on time, please do not hesitate to contact school to discuss ways in which we may be able to help. PLEASE NOTE: In an attempt to improve punctuality, we are now asking parents/ carers to complete a Lateness Log (located in the school office) stating the reason for lateness. Therefore, could you please ensure that you accompany your child into school when he/she is late.

Earrings

We are seeing an increasing number of children with pierced ears who state they are unable to remove them for PE. This presents a safety hazard and as such we'd like to share our school policy on the wearing of jewellery in PE.

The wearing of jewellery, earrings and ear-studs (metal or plastic) during physical education lessons and other sporting activities such as out of hours school learning or competitive fixtures presents a safety risk. These items represent a potential hazard not only to the wearer but also to other children. Medical advice confirms that any jewellery worn in physical education lessons is an unnecessary risk and should be avoided at all times. Serious accidents have occurred as a result of contact between pupils wearing earrings or studs and other pupils or equipment, thus damaging the ear, or where items of jewellery have caught in apparatus and torn the ear lobe.

Pupils are asked to leave items of jewellery and earrings at home on days when they have PE lessons. Children who do wear earrings to school on PE days will be expected to remove them: staff will help younger children to do so. The only exception to this is where the ears have been pierced for less than 6 weeks and cannot yet be removed. In this case we will apply micropore tape over the earrings. The taping of jewellery is not ideal, and not our preferred choice. Taping can create a perception of safety. Tape can often fall off and does not reduce the risk of compression injury. Please be aware this will only be allowed during the initial 6 week window of healing. If taping is required we ask parents to contact school to request for this to happen. Otherwise earrings will need to be removed.

Newly pierced ears can take a period of up to 6 weeks before studs can be removed. We do remind parents and carers that ears should be pierced at the start of the summer holidays to allow sufficient time for earrings to be safely removed.

Parents cannot withdraw his/her child from PE lessons, as PE is a statutory subject in maintained schools until the end of Key Stage (KS) 4 and all pupils are required to attend. We ask parents to help by ensuring that school guidance on jewellery is adhered to and that ears are pierced at the start of the summer holidays to allow maximum healing time.



Reception Stay & Read Sessions

Thank you to everybody who joined Reception class's first 'Stay and Read' session. It was wonderful to see so many parents in school!

Reception Stay and Read will continue next Thursday 8.50-9.10am.



Wellbeing Drop In

Concerns about your child's wellbeing? Want to talk through a worry about them or ways to support them? Come and chat with Miss Manuel at an informal drop in on Thursday 25th January from 2.30 pm to 3.15 pm

Junior Choir

Our Junior Choir had their first session on Monday lunchtime which was enjoyed by all. If your child would like to take part in these sessions, please make payment on Parent Pay. The cost of this term's sessions is £9.00.



Considerate Parking

From time to time we receive complaints from local residents regarding parking over drives and generally inconsiderate parking when dropping off and collecting children from school. We value positive relationships with our local residents and we ask that parents/carers are considerate to them and their property. Thank you.

Support during the Cost of Living Crisis

Just a reminder that Kirklees have a website dedicated to supporting families in these difficult financial times. The website offers support and advice. If you are struggling and need immediate support, you can apply for a Local Welfare Provision Grant. Information can be found using the following link. [Financial support and debt advice | Kirklees Council](#)

A number of our families recently signed up to receive winter clothing and/or school uniform such as:

- Warm winter coats, plus hats, gloves and scarves
- New underwear items too, including tights, socks, pants and vests
- Wellies
- School uniform (polo shirt, school jumpers/cardigans, trousers, trainers, school shoes etc)

This service is available to ANY child who needs them. If you require any of these items then please contact Mrs Woodfield, Miss Manuel or the school office.

Diary Dates

FEBRUARY

Thurs 1st Feb - Open Morning - 9.15 to 10.30 am

MARCH

Monday 4th to Thursday 7th March
Book Fair

Thurs 7th March - School Disco

Thursday 14th March - Progress Evening

PARENTING PATHWAY

SUPPORTING PARENT/CARER LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Term 1

Phonics workshop
(EY and KS1 plus any one else welcome)

Reading Meeting (all parents/ carers invited)

Meet the new teacher drop in session

Term 2

Maths workshops
KS1 & KS2

Supporting your child's mental health meeting

Health lifestyles, information sharing & drop in (Locala)

SATS meeting for parents (year 6 only)

Term 3

Internet safety session

The challenges of parenting. Who's in charge? Setting boundaries

Transition to high school & becoming a teenager session (year 6 families)

More than meets the eye.

PARENTING PATHWAY

OTHER REGULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Termly family open afternoons. Come & join your child in class

Weekly special mentions assembly- every Friday 2.40pm. All welcome

Class sharing of work assemblies - spring & summer terms

Weekly stay & play sessions for nursery families

Weekly stay & read sessions for Reception class families

Termly drop ins with SENCO

Term 1 and term 2 parents evenings- face to face

Term 3 sharing of work afternoon- enjoy an afternoon with your child looking at their books/work from the year & enjoying some refreshments

Christmas performances. Daytime & evening options

Year 6 leavers' performance & presentation event

Playground staff support. There will always be a member of senior staff in the playground before & after school who are happy to help

Drop us a message on dojo, call or pop in anytime.

More than meets the eye.

Reading Friends Training

Ofsted Lead Inspector Quote:

"Volunteers develop a deeper understanding of child development, reading methodologies and current teaching methods. Headteachers value the support reading volunteers provide. Children become confident readers and their achievement in school increases significantly."

Could your school benefit from the contribution of a highly motivated, well trained, 'classroom ready' group of reading support volunteers?

If so, have you considered establishing a 'Reading Friends' group at your school?

How it Works and the Impact

Reading Friends is a reading recovery project based in Kirklees. Established for over 20 years, the project currently involves over 600 adult volunteers giving up some of their time each week to act as 'one-to-one' reading support mentors in over 60 primary and 10 secondary schools. Prior to volunteering in schools, participants are required to pass the Reading Friends training course to prepare for the role. Upon taking up voluntary roles in schools, Reading Friends then spend at least one hour per week giving effective reading recovery support to one or more of the pupils in school who might benefit the most. The most recent evaluation of the project indicated that pupils who participate for 1 hour per week improve by an average of 9 months reading age over the course of a typical 10 week scheme.



Quotes from heads:

"The scheme is invaluable and unique in supporting our struggling readers." Kirklees Headteacher

"One child has improved their reading age by 2 years after support from a Reading Friend. It is a fantastic scheme!" Kirklees Headteacher

The Ethos of Reading Friends

The aim of the project is to enable children to absorb and enjoy books by basing the support strategies of their Reading Friends on the principles of 'Reading for Understanding'. We recognise the importance of phonic awareness. We also recognise that some children may benefit from additional reading support based largely on helping the child to understand and enjoy the story. Reading Friends training is based on this recognition. Our overriding aim is help to create an environment where children enjoy books through understanding them better thanks to the support of enthusiastic, committed adult Reading Friends.

The Reading Friends Training Course

The objectives of the course include enabling learners to develop a good understanding of:

*The activities that children can participate in pre-school to better prepare them to learn to read in school and how these activities can impact on a child's reading development,

*What makes a good reader? (and how the answer to this question can inform reading support strategies),

*Phonics – how children learn to read today and the importance of phonics

*Using the cover and the pictures in the book to enhance the child's enjoyment and understanding of the book,

*Effective questioning strategies and their use in enhancing a child's enjoyment and understanding of the book,

*Different levels of support that can be used when reading with a child and the related strategies that can be used to enhance a child's enjoyment and understanding of the book, (e.g. how best to read to a child or what strategies to use when the child is reading),

*How to give specific praise and how to best design a rewards and recognition strategy,

*How to support children in reading non-fiction,

*The practicalities of working in school, (e.g. safeguarding, Prevent Duty, record keeping, confidentiality, equal opportunities).

The training course takes 12 hours and usually takes place on 4 mornings for 4 consecutive weeks.

Quotes from Learners:

"I want to give something back to my community and being a volunteer in my local school means I can help children to enjoy reading and I have made new friends too." Veronica.

"I want to work in schools so this course has really helped me." John.

Quotes from pupils:

"I enjoy reading now but before I didn't like it as I found it hard." Pupil.

"Books can be fun if someone helps you to understand them." Pupil.

"My reading is better and I understand my other subjects better now." Pupil.

"I love Reading Friends day." Pupil.

Interested?

What to do.

*Initially, just ring us on the number below or e-mail us at the address below to express an interest in booking a course.

*Upon receiving our course confirmation, set about recruiting a group of up to 15 volunteers to act as Reading Friends in your school. We can provide a flyer if required.

*Identify a person to act as both a contact for us and as a coordinator of the scheme in school.

What we will do.

*We will deliver the course to a group of up to 15 adult volunteers.

*We will provide additional advice to the coordinator of the scheme in your school on best practice in terms of managing the project.

School's Commitment.

A member of staff to act as a co-ordinator for the volunteers to have a point of contact

School is responsible for DBS checks of volunteers

For further information contact:

Nicola Addison 01484 234153 nicola.addison@kirklees.gov.uk

Success.centres@kirklees.gov.uk

What is Speech Stars?

Speech Stars is a new programme from Kirklees Success Centre who already run the established Reading Friends and Maths Mates schemes. We can offer a fully funded, high quality programme to boost early language and communication skills for children aged 3-7 years old.



Our Aims are to:

- **develop children's skills in listening and attention, vocabulary, sentence building, oracy, turn taking, social interactions and storytelling.**
- **impact on Early Years and KS1 outcomes in Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Early Reading and Literacy.**
- **recruit and train students and volunteers to deliver the programme in schools and settings across Kirklees as a volunteer or as part of their placement.**
- **promote quality interactions for children with adults and their peers and provide additional support for children with speech, language and communication needs.**

Our Speech Stars students and volunteers will:

- **receive full training covering all aspects of working within an educational setting, Safeguarding, Prevent and confidentiality as well as how to support children's speech and language development and deliver the Speech Stars programme.**
- **deliver the programme to a small group of children, chosen by the setting, who require some additional support in communication and language using a range of fun and engaging activities, resources and themed plans.**
- **track children's progress across the programme, including carrying out a baseline and summative assessment, to show the impact on their speech and language development and social interactions.**

For more information, or to speak to one of the Speech Stars team, please contact:

Email: speech.stars@kirklees.gov.uk

Phone: 01484 234153

