



Headlines

Spring Term 2 Week 1

www.melthamceschool.co.uk

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It's the end of the week already and it's been a week in which we have already achieved so much. But in the interest of keeping it to two sides, let's crack on...

West Yorkshire Games

A big congratulations to our outstanding Year 4 and Year 5 athletes this week. Earlier this year, Gracie and Madeline qualified for the finals of the West Yorkshire games at Temple Newsome, which took place on 22nd February in the cold and the wet. From a field which spanned the entire of West Yorkshire, the girls competed alongside over a hundred other runners over a course in excess of 1000m.



Gracie (Y3) finished 20th in her race, and Madeline (Y5) finished 38th. Both girls took on the challenge with the perfect attitude and their placings represent an outstanding achievement. We (as well as their families of course) are incredibly proud of them. Well done girls - Neiley Races next!

A Meltham CE School Vision

Over the last 12 months, school has developed a new vision statement which children, support staff, teachers, the Diocese of Leeds and many parents (if you can remember back to the March parents evening last year) have been involved with. Our vision fits with our ethos, our values as a Church of England School and with our core curriculum drivers of *Standout*, *Shoutout* and *Break out*. In the end, of course, it was the children of our School Council who got the final say on the wording (and who am I to disagree!):

From little sparkles to shining stars, we Stand Out, Break Out and Shout Out to give us the confidence and skills to grow our Christian values and make a difference.

Over the coming months we will ensure it is visible in the learning environment, on our website and in communications.

Pupil Survey Headlines

Our annual pupil survey is a way of taking a snapshot of children's feelings about their learning and their school. Along with the parent's survey which comes later in the spring term, it helps to inform the school of areas of success, and areas we can try to make improvements in.

- 95% of our children enjoy being at school.
- 100% of our children said that they are challenged in their lessons every week.
- 91% of children told us that they enjoy all their learning.
- 96% of children told us that there is an adult in school they can trust to speak to if they are worried.
- 80% of children believe behaviour in class is almost always

good (whilst less than 1% believed behaviour in lessons is not good).

- 94% of children feel that bullying does not happen but if it does it is dealt with effectively.
- 98% of children feel safe at school.
- 98% of children think school encourages independence.
- 98% of children agree school encourages them to look after themselves physically.
- 97% of children told us that school teaches and encourages them to look after their emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- 96% of our children would consider recommending their school to a friend in another school.

Of course children's opinions of school change on a daily (or even lesson by lesson) basis, but we are certainly encouraged by the results of this year's survey.

Important Staffing News

After Easter, our Assistant Head and SENDCo Miss Drake returns to school in her Year 6 role. Sadly and reluctantly, we will say goodbye and good luck to Mr. Charlesworth, who moves on to a new job working with children outside the school environment with their learning and social, emotional and mental health development.

We also bid a fond farewell to Hayley Taylor who has supported both children and staff in Early Years for over eight years. I know she will be very much missed by children, staff and parents alike.

Also after Easter, Miss Varley returns from her own maternity leave and will take her place back in her own Class 5. She returns to work part-time, bringing her Year 2 experience to work alongside Mrs. Stocks who will continue her role as class teacher from Monday to Wednesday. A big thank you from me to Mrs. Myers, who has stepped into Class 5 to provide consistency this term.

Online Safety

As children, we rely on adults to help us resolve situations that cause upset, stress or worry. This is known as co-regulation. The next phase, once autonomy has begun to develop, is called **self-regulation**: this is when children start to become capable of exercising more control over their impulses and behaviours. This vital developmental milestone however, isn't reached spontaneously. Learning to self-regulate requires guidance from trusted adults – simply talking with children about their thoughts and feelings, for instance, can ease the route to self-regulation. This week we are sharing a guide to support parents when working with their children on self-regulation. It has some expert tips for supporting them to reach this goal.

Continued ...

Writing Development

As part of this year's school improvement priorities, you may be aware that we are currently focusing on writing and in particular, on raising standards in writing. As part of this work, we have undertaken several monitoring cycles of writing across the entire school, dating back to the summer term of 2022-23 with the most recent being this week.

As a result of our findings, we have put an increased emphasis on the accuracy and frequency of children's handwriting across school. We are also working hard to ensure the correctness of the children's basic punctuation, insisting that foundations such as capital letters, full stops, commas (among many other things) are present and correct in our writing.

School has now re-designed the way in which it assess the children's writing over the course of the year. We have been supported in this by our local pyramid of schools, with whom we take part in regular writing assessment moderation, and by the school's KLP (Kirklees Learning Partner) who has been working alongside us this term to provide external input on our progress against our target.

In addition to this, the way we provide feedback to the children has changed slightly: there is now a greater emphasis on direct constructive and celebratory communication with the children during their learning. Teaching and support staff will make 'point of misconception' interventions during writing sessions in addition to post-work marking, wherever possible. The idea is that we minimise the number of times children sleep on a misconception. You may notice a little less teacher pen in your child's book on parents evening, but this certainly doesn't mean it hasn't been looked at and reflected upon.

Parents Evening

Parents Evening will be on the 11th & 13th March. Appointments will be available to book through School Spider in the coming week. Please look out for further communications on the exact date and time that the slots will go live. If you make an appointment on these evenings, the children's books will be available for you to look at in the school hall.

FREE Maternity and Antenatal Workshops

Fresh Futures, Locala, Gentle Beginnings and Awakened Minds will be giving support and advice on breastfeeding, weaning, good mental health before and after pregnancy and strategies to help when things are not okay. This is a FREE event with refreshments for parents and children. For more information, contact the team at 01484 519988 or thrivingkirklees@freshfutures.org.uk

School Dinners

Please make sure that you pre-pay your child's dinner money on Parent Pay to avoid going into arrears. Please be reminded that there's a maximum arrears of £20 which should only be used in exceptional circumstances. Once this limit is reached, your child will not be able to order a school dinner until the debt has been cleared.

Dates For Your Diary

Further dates will be added as term progresses.

Tues 5th and Wed 6th March - Colne Valley Museum trip Year 2
Thurs 7th Mar - Cannon Hall Farm trip - FS Year
Thurs Mar 7th - World Book Day in School (details TBC)
Fri 8th Mar - Year 6 assembly to parents (9:10 am)
Mon 11th March - Parents Evening
Tues 12th Mar - Year 2 Welby day
Wed 13th Mar - Parents Evening
Fri 15th Mar - Year 5 assembly to parents
Thurs 21st Mar - Shining Stars at 2:30pm in school
Fri 22nd Mar - Last day of term
Mon 8th Apr - School reopens for Summer Term
Mon 8th Apr - Year 5 Bikeability programme begins
Wed 24th Apr - 1st Neiley Race (Key Stage 2—details TBC)
Mon 6th May - May Day Bank Holiday (school is closed)
Mon 13th May - Key Stage 2 GPS tests
Tues 14th May - Key Stage 2 Reading SAT
Wed 15th May - Key Stage 2 Maths SAT (papers 1 & 2)
Thurs 16th May - Key Stage 2 Maths SAT (paper 3)
Wed 22nd May - Class photographs in school
Thurs 23rd May - Year 4 trip to Chester Zoo
Mon 27th - Fri 31st May - half term holiday
Tuesday 11th June - Science sound workshop (class 10)
Tuesday 18th June - Science sound workshop (class 9)
Thurs 20th Jun - Year 4 visit the Sports Barn all day
Fri 5th July - School Summer Fair (details and times TBC)
Fri 19th July - school closes for the summer holiday
Wed 4th September 2024 - School reopens

Cost of Living

Remember that if you would like regular updates and support on ways to help this winter in the face of the cost of living crisis, you can sign up for the latest information direct to your email at: www.kirklees.gov.uk/cost-of-living

Wellbeing Links

<https://www.melthamceschool.co.uk/page/wellbeing/93763>
<https://www.nhs.uk>
<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/mental-health/index.aspx>
<https://www.thrivingkirklees.org.uk>
<https://www.triplep-parenting.uk.net/uk/hot-parenting-topics/my-child/parenting-during-covid-19>
<https://www.mind.org.uk>
<https://www.annafreud.org>
<https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder>
<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/cost-of-living/index.aspx>
<https://www.thewelcomecentre.org/articles/cost-of-living-support-from-kirklees-council>
www.kirklees.gov.uk/cost-of-living

Attachments

We attach flyers and information sent to us by external businesses promoting events and activities which you may find useful. All attachments can be found on the school website [here](#).

*****Meltham CE Primary does not endorse any of the services which we share with parents via email communications, with Headlines or on our website. We cannot guarantee the accuracy or validity of the content of any such advertisements or notices.*****



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