



Headlines

Summer Term 1, Week 5

www.melthamceschool.co.uk

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Good morning everyone, I hope you have had a lovely week and are looking forward to a little sun over the weekend.

The summer term is rattling onwards and since the last news letter, we have seen our Reception and Year 2 children in their STANDOUT assemblies, the fire service visiting the school to speak to children in EYFS and years 5 and 6. Reception have also seen a visit from the Mountain Rescue dog! It didn't take a minute to locate Mrs. Mottram hiding in the trees!

The next few weeks are busy too. Reverend John will be in school to deliver his worships to the school on Monday, the SATs tests begin and the first Neiley Race is on Wednesday next week and beyond this, Year 4 will be bussing across to Chester Zoo and we have our Air Ambulance funds raising day. Please check the dates for the terms for more important dates, enjoy your weekend and I'll see you next week.

Phil

Mobile Phones

Hopefully you saw the school's appearance on BBC Look North last night (I think it's still available to see until this evening on the iPlayer), If you did, you may already know that some of our Year 4 parents are trying to make a stand and delay the purchase of smartphones for their children until the end of their primary school journey. A huge thank you to Julia and the other parents driving this initiative, something which school is wholeheartedly behind.

Next week, we will host the video on our website in the parent section along with an editable template for the parents pledge for other year groups to consider themselves.

As a parent myself, I know how hard it can be to resist the call of smartphone technology and social messaging apps, but it is clear that we are feeling the impact in school on our children's wellbeing, levels of anxiety and energy levels. As it said on the BBC article:

- 66% of our Year 4, 5 and 6 children have access to a smartphone.
- 94% of these have messaging or social media access.
- 61% of children with access to these apps report one or more instances of feeling sad, upset, worried and having a negative impact of their school experience.

In Year 6, the figures deepen. Almost all the children have smartphone access with social media access and 62% of the children have experienced upset impacting their school experience.

This is a genuine and concerning issue. Of course I don't deny that smartphones and messaging apps have their place and have many positives, but in school we are seeing tired children having been up late into the night on devices. We are seeing social problems, disagreements and online unkindness spilling over into the school day and impacting negatively on learning and wellbeing. We are seeing emotional based school avoidance

contributed to, in part, by social media interactions and it's in our power as parent to make a stand. And all this is happening not just occasionally, but on a regular basis.

I've included the pledge letter which the Year 4 parents have drawn up, along with a small section from the school so you can have a look at what they are trying to achieve. I hope you're interested and that you consider taking a stand alongside the Year 4 parents. Smartphones are the present and the future, but I can't help but feel we could delay this just a little while longer for the sake of our children.

You can find out more information on this national initiative at the smartphone free website if you follow this link:
<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

Sunscreen

With the sun shining, we have had a few parents enquiring about the use of suncream in school. I'd like to ask parents to apply sunscreen to their child first thing, this should last until lunchtime. However, I can confirm that suncream in school is allowed, but there are certain criteria which **must** be met, or we cannot accept your sun cream.

1. Your child must be capable of applying the suncream by themselves.
2. It **must** be a roll on application.
3. There are some children with allergies, we therefore cannot accept your sun cream if it contains any allergens including Almond Milk

If you believe your child requires sun cream in school, you will need to come to reception and complete a **sun cream in school form** and confirm that you are meeting the above requirements.

If you have already completed a sun cream form, you will not need to do this again.

Netball

Two weeks ago, we sent two teams of Year 4 and 5 children to a netball tournament at Honley High School to compete against the other local primary and junior schools. Each team enjoyed six games, had a great time and were an absolute credit to the school. Thank you to the staff, children and parents involved in getting the children there.

Lip Gloss

We have had some issues with the younger children (mostly years 1 and 2) bringing in lip-gloss from home in recent weeks. If children have dry or chapped lips, a lip-salve is fine to bring in, but we'd rather not see sparkly lip-gloss please. Thank you.

Continued ...

Testing

Next week is the start of the Key Stage 2 SATs tests. As ever, we'll do our best to make it as relaxed as ever. Once the first one is done, they'll be absolutely fine and realise SATs week is actually quite a nice one for Year 6. Don't forget SATs breakfast is available for Year 6 children each morning of the test, and parents will already have details of this directly via School Spider.

Monday 13th May - English grammar, punctuation and spelling

Tuesday 14th May - English Reading

Wednesday 15th May - Maths Papers 1 and 2

Thursday 16th May - Maths paper 3

Neiley Races

Thank you for all the entries received so far. Please keep the entries coming in, but because of the postponement the last date for entries will now be Friday 3rd May.

New Race Dates

Race 1 - Wednesday May 15th

Race 2 - Wednesday May 22nd

Race 3 - Wednesday June 12th

Wear Something Yellow for Yorkshire Air Ambulance

Don't forget on Friday May 24th we are supporting the very worthy charity 'Yorkshire Air Ambulance' by wearing something yellow, the colour of the helicopter the YAA use.

On Tuesday 21st May a volunteer from YAA is coming to speak to all the children about the amazing work they do and why our money is needed.

Our School Council would like all children and staff to wear something yellow for the day and bring in a suggested donation of £1. You may want to support the charity further by purchasing a YAA t-shirt. Children's t-shirts are £6.50 following the link below

<https://www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk/product/support-yaa-kids-yellow-t-shirt/>

Many thanks for your support.

Support our PSA

Would you like to support our amazing PSA Team in raising money for our school? We have a dedicated team of parents and staff who arrange fundraising events such as Christmas fairs, summer fairs, disco and much more. All money raised is used to purchase much needed IT equipment, books and many other things. We really need more support from volunteers to keep these events and projects going.

To find out more go to <https://www.melthamceschool.co.uk/page/psa/51519> or contact Sarah Heywood at slheywood89@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Honley Woods Orienteering

We are holding a family friendly orienteering event in Honley Woods, Meltham on Sunday 12th May from 10:30 to 12:30. There will be courses to suit all ages and abilities and instructors on-hand to help anyone new to orienteering. For more information [click here](#)

Applause Theatre Works

We are Applause Theatre Works providing upbeat and informative musical theatre classes for school age children. We are eager to make our classes accessible for all and bring musical theatre into the community. Our classes give children the opportunity to explore different learning styles, develop confidence, personality and a whole range of skills! Applause offers a weekly class covering dance, singing and acting. If you would be interested in any of our workshops or after-school clubs, please get in touch to discuss Applausetheatreworks@gmail.com

The Great British Sewing Bee

We are excited to announce that applications for Series 11 of The Great British Sewing Bee are now open and we are looking for a new bunch of amateur sewers to take part. We are keen to hear from anyone 18+ who has a passion for sewing and creating clothes for themselves or others, so if you or someone you know is a talented amateur sewer then please do encourage them to apply at www.applyforsewingbee.co.uk

Applications Close: 8.00pm on Wednesday 15th May 2024

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

www.myhappymind.org

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

<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

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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.



Dates For Your Diary

Further dates will be added as term progresses.

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)

Wed 15th May - 1st Neiley Race (KS2 - details TBC)

Thurs 16th May - Key Stage 2 Maths SAT (paper 3)

Wed 22nd May - 2nd Neiley Race (KS2 - details TBC)

Wed 22nd May - Tempest Class photographs in school

Wed 22nd May - New Sept. starters meeting 6:00pm

Thurs 23rd May - Year 4 trip to Chester Zoo, 8:30am

Thurs 23rd May - Sing up assembly, 2:30pm

Mon 27th - Fri 31st May - Half term holiday

Fri 7th June - Year 1 assembly to parents, 9:10am

Tuesday 11th June - Science sound workshop (Class 10)

Wed 12th June - 3rd Neiley Races (KS2 - details TBC)

Weds 12th June - Science sound workshop (Class 9)

Thurs 13th June - Year 4 assembly to parents, 2:30pm

Friday 14th June - Sports Day

Thurs 20th Jun - Year 4 visit the Sports Barn all day

Weds 26th June - Year 6 performance 1, 7:00pm

Thurs 27th June - Year 6 performance 2, 7:00pm

Wed 3rd July - Class 7 school trip to Tolson Museum

Thurs 4th July - Class 8 school trip to Tolson Museum

Fri 5th July - School Summer Fair (details and times TBC)

Sat 6th July - Meltham Memories

Friday 12th July - School reports published

Fri 19th July - Year 6 leavers' assembly to parents, 9:30am

Fri 19th July - school closes for the summer holiday

Wed 4th September 2024 - School reopens, 08:45am

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.*****

You can also find the newsletter online [here](#)



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