

Kirkbie Kendal School

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PHn/BPe

8th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you well.

I wanted to start by thanking you all for the outstanding support you provide the school. That is most evident in the fantastic engagement of our young people, and the encouragement you provide. I would also like to thank you for the excellent turnout for the recent Year 9 Parents' Evening; it is lovely to be able to continue those evenings in these difficult times.

Student Success/News

The school library book Click and Collect service is working well. We loaned 150 books in the last two weeks. To request a book simply complete the order form that can be found at the following link: [Kirkbie Kendal School Library](#) Mrs Bousfield will then contact you to arrange collection from school reception.

The student mufti day before Christmas raised £474 and the proceeds have been shared between the purchase of two new picnic benches for students which will arrive next week and a donation of £230 to the mental health charity Wellmind.

The Reverse Advent Calendar Food Collection for the King's Church Food Bank was a great success - we received more than we anticipated which was brilliant and the food parcels were all used and gratefully received. The school would also like to thank the King's Church for the kind donation received to support disadvantaged pupils with their online learning.

As you may know, the school uses Twitter as a way of communicating events and celebrating students' achievements. There is less news to share at the moment but please see the school website

<http://www.kirkbiekendal.cumbria.sch.uk/> and/or follow Kirkbie Kendal School using a free Twitter account @KirkbieKendal (please note that the correct Twitter address has no gaps and no underscores).

External Examinations

Well done to students for their hard work. It was confirmed this week that the outcomes of the DfE/Ofqual consultation on how grades will be awarded at GCSE and Post-16 will be announced on Monday 22nd February. I would imagine that shortly after that exam boards will inform schools of how centre assessed grades are to be determined and what assessments will be used.

Year 5 Moving Up Evenings

Please read this paragraph if you also have a child(ren) in Year 5. Moving Up Evenings explain the process of moving up to secondary school and provide a short taster of what Kirkbie Kendal School provides. These evening events are scheduled on seven nights this year, starting at 5.30pm and ending at 6.30pm, between Monday 15th March and Wednesday 24th March 2021. At the moment, due to the COVID-19 restrictions it looks unlikely that we will be able to hold the meetings in school and so we have been planning how to provide information for you. Therefore in early March all parents/carers in the Kendal primary schools will receive a letter via their primary school's messaging system explaining how the moving up event will work this year. In the meantime, there is information on transition to KKS and admissions on the school website at <http://www.kirkbiekendal.cumbria.sch.uk/year-6-into-7-transition/183.html> or use the 'Admissions' tab on the school website.

We have a number of students at KKS who have family in Year 5 in schools that are outside the direct Kendal area (eg, Windermere, Levens, and Crosscrake) and we would like to let you know that you and your Year 5 child(ren) are very welcome to attend a KKS Moving Up event. If you would like to attend, please contact Natalie Oddie (noddie@kksa.co.uk) for more information.

Holiday Dates

When planning holidays, please ensure that you use holiday dates from the Kirkbie Kendal School website. The dates on third-party websites and the Cumbria County Council dates are not accurate. Schools are not allowed to authorise any absence unless it is for exceptional circumstances.

Free School Meals/Clothing Vouchers

We are pleased to remind you of the online application process for free school meals and clothing vouchers, details of which are available on the County Council's 'Citizen Portal' at the following link:

https://emsonline.cumbria.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCitizenPortal_LIVE

You will need to register on the Portal to gain access to the service, which will also enable you to check the eligibility criteria before submitting an application. If you apply and are eligible, the school also receives some funding to support educational provision.

Free school meals and clothing vouchers are available if you are receiving one of the qualifying benefits detailed on Cumbria County Council's webpages:

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/freeschoolmeals.asp>

KKSA

The KKSA are currently looking forward to meeting again face to face and planning the next car boot sale once it is safe to do so. Just before Christmas the nearly new uniform sale raised £120.

Weather

As a matter of principle, we will remain open whilst it is practical and safe to do so. Please note that in the event of possible closure arrangements are as follows:

- In case of any unexpected closure during the school day, please make prior arrangements (if necessary with relatives or neighbours) for your children to return home or to them. The school will email/text to inform you if there is an issue.
- Check local radio, (BBC Radio Cumbria and Heart Radio) and the school website www.kirkbiekendal.cumbria.sch.uk .

School Angel

Thank you for using School Angel when making your online purchases. To date, funds raised total £1710. School Angel also kindly donated three new laptops to school to support remote learning during this lockdown and these have been loaned out and are being well-used.

As a reminder, School Angel is a non-profit making charity raising money for schools. There are no pop-ups or passwords and you get the cheapest price. As well as the large range of retail stores, there are now over 80% of all top travel and holiday companies listed. To access School Angel please use the 'Links' tab on our School website, or internet searching 'School Angel Kirkbie' also works well.

Lateral Flow Tests and Re-opening

The most recent news is that schools will reopen from 8th March - it is not clear if that is a full, phased or partial re-opening and when we know more we will write again. We do understand that we will be expected to test all students prior to their return to school. Therefore, if your child is under 16 and you have not already done so, please remember to tick the consent box on Edulink. Thank you to the 70% who have already given consent. School is supportive of the testing because we believe that it will help reduce transmission of the virus and enable school to operate as normally as possible and be even safer for students and staff. Instructions on how to use Edulink to provide consent are here <http://www.kirkbiekendal.cumbria.sch.uk/filedownload/A9622E91-F751-3433-257C7BFAC679326B.pdf/edulink-instructions--how-to-provide-parental-consent-for-cv19-test--18.12.20.pdf> and attached.

It has been a busy time for everyone and I hope the half-term break is good for your family and all the staff as well.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 12 th February	Break up for half-term (normal length school day)
Monday 15 th - Friday 19 th February	February half-term - school closed
Thursday 4 th March	World Book Day
Thursday 11 th March	Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Evening
Thursday 25 th March	Year 7 Parents'/Carers' Evening
Friday 26 th March	Break up for Easter (normal length school day)
Monday 12 th April	Start of the Summer term

Best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Hyman
Headteacher