

# MARCH NEWS

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors, Staff and Pupils

## Mrs Tomlinson Retiring!

We are sad to see Mrs Tomlinson leaving the school after 19 years as she retires. She has been an amazing staff member in her role as Senior lunchtime supervisor and she will be greatly missed by all. She has been a great help to everyone and is a very dedicated professional. Lunchtimes will be very different without her.

The children have all contributed a picture for a card and all the staff provided gifts for her.

We wish her well in the future.



## Thank you to all of you!

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who is involved with the school for all their hardwork this term. It has been a great challenge for all of us and we have managed to get to the other end. We know of many parents who have been working so hard to ensure their children are making progress and that is evident in the assessments we have been carrying out over the past two weeks.

A big thank you as always to the teaching staff who have worked long hours week by week to produce content for home learning as well as working in school with those children coming in. The teaching assistants have done what has been asked of them willingly, doing more than has been expected of them before. The other support staff, which includes the catering staff who have been amazing and have always been flexible, the cleaners who have kept us safe day by day, the lunchtime supervisors who have suffered change after change having to work differently than before and finally Mr O'Neil and Mr Prince who continue to clean, mend, move and work over and above to ensure the school runs smoothly.

It is so clear by the actions of the staff that they care about the children and the school. I am proud to be their Headteacher.

There is a big challenge ahead.

## The way forward

The government catch up funding has been useful but it only relates to an extra £80 per child. This was used to pay some of the cost for providing extra teaching assistant support since September. We now have an extra seven teaching assistants. The assessments have been able to provide us with a clear understanding of what your child's needs are moving forward. The school is investing more money towards extra support in the summer term and we are in the process of reviewing our programme of interventions for all children depending on their need. This may involve your child coming into school early or staying after school for extra sessions. We will have staff working extra hours and class teachers/teaching assistants will be working with specific groups of children on specific objectives at different parts of the day. This is on top of normal English and Maths lessons. There will be a big push in the summer term to see what strides we can make.

We will also need support from you to help your children complete their homework each week. This will be regular reading and using the Doodle software. The Doodle work can be carried out on a tablet or on a computer. We have evidence of those children that are consistently working at home are doing better and making great

progress. Without your support it takes time out of the curriculum in school as the consolidation work that is supposed to be covered at home is having to be done in school instead.

### Mathletics

From the end of this month our Mathletics subscription will end. We have found that Doodle provides more for the money we spend and a greater range of curriculum areas are covered.

### Bubbles!

I am sorry to say that we will need to continue with class bubbles as we are still not out of the woods yet and with the Year 2 having to isolate this week I think it is the only responsible thing to do as we want our young people in school as much as we can. This will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

### Parent's Evening

Understandably, you will want to talk to your child's class teacher about their progress and we will be providing this opportunity using our Parent's Evening System or SchoolCloud(new name).

The meetings will occur on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. This will be carried out via the internet. You will need to log on to the site and book your slot initially. This will go live on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 9pm.

On the day you will need to log in again and wait for your meeting. This will start on time and will last for ten minutes. Once the ten minutes are over the computer will turn off the feed and move on to the next parent(s). Hopefully this will help you as you will know time won't run over but obviously everyone in the meeting will need to keep to time.

We think it will be a very important session for teachers and parents to discuss the way forward for your child.

### Sports Day and Teddy Bears Picnic

We are being optimistic and hoping we will all be able to meet by the end of term. With is in mind, and knowing that many of you need to book time off in advance, we will be hosting Sports day on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July with the Foundation, Year 1 and 2 in the morning and the Year 3, 4 , 5 and 6 in the afternoon.

On the last day we plan to have our Teddy Bears picnic in the afternoon. The gate will open at 1.30pm and children will be allowed to leave from 2.30pm with an adult. Further details will follow nearer the day.

### Gardening Club

The school are looking for volunteers who would be willing to give some of their free time to help maintain the Gardening Club Area and support pupils and staff to grow vegetables and flowers at school. If you know of anyone who may be interested please get in touch with the school by calling the office or email [office@kirkella.eriding.net](mailto:office@kirkella.eriding.net)



### Lining up outside at the beginning and end of the day

As a reminder, please can you make sure that you wait socially distanced as you wait for the gates to open at the start and end of the day.

Can you also ensure that you are not blocking the pathway too much (I know this is hard) to ensure other members of the school and local community can pass by without walking onto the road.

Have a great Easter