

# MAY NEWS

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors, Staff and Pupils

The half term is going well and the children are working hard as well as getting some much needed time together in their year groups.

It is important that we think of the academic side to our role and the extra sessions are helping to give much added support the children need as they try and make progress up to the summer.

We also need to think about the children's mental health and we are trying our best to support this through a number of ways.

This includes:

- **Our 'Jigsaw' sessions** - which is a whole-school approach to Health and Well-being. It provides a detailed and comprehensive scheme of learning for everyone and provides resources for the teachers' to use.
- **Our emotional check-in lolly sticks** – which is an anonymous way to share how you are feeling that day and if you want to talk to someone. This would be with a teacher or a teaching assistant to support them.
- **Our ELSA's** - An ELSA is an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. They have recognised ELSA training and help support children in school facing life challenges that detract from their ability to engage with learning. Some will require greater support to increase their emotional literacy than others. ELSA is an initiative developed and supported by educational psychologists. ELSAs aim to provide support for a wide range of emotional needs such as:
  - o Recognising emotions,
  - o Anxiety,
  - o Self-esteem,
  - o Social skills,
  - o Friendship skills,
  - o Anger management,
  - o Loss and bereavement
- **Our Mental Health First aiders** – A number of staff have been on a two day, Mental Health First Aid training course provided by MIND, to help support those that are in real need.
- **Our Mental Health Team** – this is a team from the staff that look to support children, staff and parents as best as they can and all have differing roles within the group.

## Mental Health Week 2021

Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week 2021. For this, the children will be carrying out class-based mindfulness activities. **We are also having a non-uniform day on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May to raise money for Hull and East Yorkshire MIND** who do excellent work supporting children and young people with mental health and wellbeing. Please can your child bring in a donation to the school and place it in the buckets provided.

## Parent Questionnaire

Thank you for all your support that has come out of the questionnaire, the staff are working very hard and it is great to see that it is appreciated.

I'm working through all the comments at present and will provide a report soon. I particularly found the areas where we need to improve useful and I am aware that there are parents/carers that have expressed some particular needs and I would like the opportunity to talk to them to see how we can help. As it is an anonymous questionnaire it is hard to follow up so please do get in contact and I will be happy to talk to you.

### Testing Your Children

If your child is in the unfortunate position of not feeling well and you suspect they have COVID symptoms, please do not use a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) to test your children as we cannot accept these as evidence. They have been provided for older children and adults so please book your child in for a PCR test instead.

If your child does develop symptoms and you need to inform us out of school hours please email the school at [office@kirkella.eriding.net](mailto:office@kirkella.eriding.net). If your child tests positive out of school hours please do not send your child to school and inform us using the out of hours number 07399355450.

### Recording absences or changing arrangements

If your child is ill and you need to record an absence or you need to change pick up arrangements, please phone the school office on 01482 657208. We have had some parents informing staff on ClassDojo and this message does not always get through as the teachers may be teaching. The office is required to chase up any absences they have not heard about and it will make sure you are not contacted unnecessarily.

### A reminder of the 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 this 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)

Have a good weekend,

Mr Church

