



# KIRKBY LA THORPE

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## EMMANUEL

In Collective Worship this week we looked at Emmanuel's dream and how it links the the bible story Jesus Heals the Paralysed Man (Mark 2:1-12). Showing our values of Kindness and Trust. The man could not walk, but with faith and the help of friends he was healed by Jesus

## CLASSES

**Robins:** What a super first few weeks we have had in Pre-School and Reception. All of the children have settled in really well and are making friendships. We have started our first topics - 'Me and My Community' and 'Exploring Autumn'. The children have enjoyed talking about who is in their families and the things they like doing when they are not at school. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about people who help us, including firefighters, police and paramedics. We have been on an Autumn treasure hunt and collected lots of conkers and leaves. Reception children have made a great start to their Phonics learning. Keep a look out for Phonics videos to practice at home during the next week. In maths, Pre-school have been learning about making collections and using the words more and fewer. Reception children have been exploring the number 4 and what that looks like on a 5 frame. We have been reading the story 'The Colour Monster' and using this to talk about our own feelings and emotions. Great work, Robins.

**Goldfinches-** We have had a good start to the term. We have been practicing our phonics and learning new sounds. In science we are looking at our body and the senses. We went on a senses walk to see what we could see, touch, hear, smell and taste. We even got to taste the pears from the trees. In art we have been looking at primary and secondary colours and painting numbers.

**Kingfishers-** What an amazing first few weeks back we have had. We have got into a lovely new routine, and children are following new expectations well! We have really enjoyed learning all about the American Civil War whilst reading our wonderful book/poem The Undeclared – ask your child all about this, as we know they will be able to tell you lots! We have got stuck into our new book for writing, practising expanded noun phrases, prepositions and fronted adverbials so far ready to write a setting description. In History, we have loved learning all about what children's lives used to look like from 1500s onward until now and observing and making deductions about what has changed. In Science we have started to look at electricals and the difference between appliances that use mains and how that gets to our plugs, and ones which uses batteries which need a full/finished circuit to work. Well done, Kingfishers!

**Golden Eagles:** WOW! What a fantastic start to the term in Golden Eagles. Our children have been working hard in all lessons, asking insightful questions and supporting one another through challenge. We have spent some time on our school routine during the first few days back at school and already we are showing the rest of the school what super role models we are. In Maths, we have been focusing on place value. In English we have written some egg-celent character descriptions of Humpty Dumpty, based on the book 'After The Fall by Dan Santat'. We have not moved into our next unit on descriptive narrative. In science this week we have dissected different flowers and labelled the parts. In our history unit on 'Census' we have explored different information on a census and gathered one as a class. In RE we have been introduced to three characters who will help support us ask and answer questions as lead into the first lesson next week. In PE the children have enjoyed badminton and yoga. We also really enjoyed our school visit from Rock Steady where some of our children had a go on the instruments provided, including our teacher! What a super couple of weeks back it has been!

# E-SAFETY

Are you **up** to date on Snapchat risks? Our updated **#WakeUpWednesday** guide explores the latest risks on Snapchat – including sextortion, AI chatbots and spending pressure from new paid features.

# CLUBS

Clubs will commence on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September

Monday - Y5/6 Football club (25 max)

Wednesday - Y3/4 Archery (16 max)

Friday - Y1/2 Multi Skills (20 max)

# KEY TIMINGS

Breakfast Club: 7:50am

School gate opens: 8:30am

Registration opens 8:45am

End of school day: 3:15pm

After school Club: 4:45pm or 6:00pm

Please be aware that if you are late collecting for 4:45pm session, then you will be charged for a 6pm session

# Pre-School

8:30-11:30- Morning session

11:30-2:30- Afternoon session

2:30-3:15- Optional additional session

Owls phone number to be used 3:15-

6:00pm

07511 855786

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT**

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of "snaps" sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

**AGE RESTRICTION 13+**

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**  
Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the My AI chatbot and AI-generated filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Misused AI and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

**SCREEN ADDICTION**  
Snapchat boasts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks. Daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend. When a streak is being going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. This number alongside it shows the number of days, but it ceases to show a day and break the streak. The only way to restore it is to play. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

**SEXORTION**  
Because Snapchat's disappearing message feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of extortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images. Many predators capture these images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

**SNAPCHAT+**  
Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2023, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to subscribe in order to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

**ACCESSIBILITY**  
Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make security harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of inappropriate communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

**INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The technology used to group content is determined by the creator, an even an innocent search term could yield paid age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing message feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit or inappropriate content, which continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

**ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB**  
Created with guidance from Catherine Senior Weeks, Snapchat has developed a family safety hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

**BLOCK AND REPORT**  
If a stranger contacts with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots at that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, such as harassed/reporting section under the "Nude and Sexual Content" category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or "nudes".

**ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS**  
Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before setting children up. If they're involved in a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgmentally about sexting, emphasising its criminal status. Furthermore, explain how popular "challenges" on the platform can have harmful consequences.

**USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**  
Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are better than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr. Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented online bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

Source: See full reference list on guide page 16: <https://the-national-college.com/guides/snapchat>

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# PE SLOTS

- EYFS- Monday and Friday
- Y1/2 Monday and Wednesday
- Y3/4 Wednesday and Thursday
- Y5/6 Wednesday and Friday

Children are to come in to school in their PE Kits. Please can jewellery stay at home on these days, if possible and hair is to be tied back

# CLASS ATTENDANCE AWARDS

The winning class gets to keep an attendance trophy for a week. We are aiming for 97+%



Robins-100 %  
Goldfinches-99.5 %  
Kingfishers-98.2 %  
Golden Eagles- 97.3 %

Well Done Robins

## MEET THE TEACHER CURRICULUM MEETINGS

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Meet the Teacher Curriculum Evenings. If you were unable to join us, please visit your child's year group page on the school website or contact the school office by phone or email to request a copy of the presentation slides. Following last year's feedback requesting printed handouts, we provided them this year and hope you found this a useful addition.

## HOMEWORK POLICY

At Kirkby la Thorpe Primary School, we have created a new homework policy to strengthen the partnership between home and school and to support every child's learning and independence. The policy sets out a clear, consistent approach so that homework tasks are purposeful, manageable and appropriate for each year group. Activities are designed to build on classroom teaching, giving pupils meaningful opportunities to practise key skills, consolidate knowledge and develop positive study habits. Clear guidance is included to help parents and carers support their child, encouraging curiosity confidence, and a love of learning beyond the school day.

For more information please visit our school website.

# FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1Y8xJqZpfn/>

## Kirkby La Thorpe Primary School

Kirkby La Thorpe Primary School. 96 likes. Welcome to our brand new school Facebook page. This page is run directly by the school and is intended to keep parents and carers informed of important...

 facebook.com

If you haven't done so already, take a look at our Facebook page and give us a follow 😊

# PEBBLE

To link with spirituality at school, we'd like each child to bring a small pebble with them by the end of next week. We'll be painting these pebbles together to create a special spirituality area in our school. A peaceful space that reflects our community. Every new pupil who joins us will add their own pebble, helping this area grow and evolve over time.

# ROCKSTEADY

We were thrilled to welcome Rocksteady into school and we had an absolutely rocking time! The children loved getting hands-on with real instruments and experiencing what it's like to be in a band. If you'd like your child to join the fun and develop their musical skills, leaflets are available from the school office with all the details on how to sign up.



# ATTENDANCE LETTER



**Kirkby la Thorpe**

**Church of England Primary Academy**

Church Lane, Kirkby la Thorpe, Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 9NU

Tel/Fax: 01529 302595

Head Teacher: Clare Early

Email: [enquiries@kltprimary.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kltprimary.co.uk)

Website: [www.kltprimary.co.uk/](http://www.kltprimary.co.uk/)

9<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As part of our commitment to maintaining high levels of school attendance, we would like to remind you about our policy regarding holiday absences and unauthorised leave. Our policy, which is on the school website, follows the Department for Education (DFE) guidance on improving school attendance which was published in August 2024.

The Academy consistently emphasises the significance of good attendance. We recognise that absences impact not only a student's academic performance but also their social well-being within the school community. The Academy closely monitors the attendance of all our learners and communicates with families when concerns arise. Our aim is to continue to work collaboratively with the families to address any issues and we will provide support and explore solutions together to support all learners to be in school regularly and on time.

### Penalty notices and prosecution.

It is important to be aware that poor attendance may result in the issuing of penalty notices to parents. These notices can apply to term-time holidays, any unauthorised absences, or a combination of both.

The national threshold for issuing a penalty notice in England is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a 10-week period. This typically equates to 5 school days. (e.g. 4 sessions of holiday taken in term time plus 6 sessions of arriving late after the register closes all within 10 school weeks). These sessions can be consecutive (e.g. 10 sessions of holiday in one week) or not (e.g. 6 sessions of unauthorised absence taken in 1 week and 1 per week for the next 4 weeks). The period of 10 school weeks can also span different terms or school years (e.g. 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer Term and a further 8 within the Autumn Term).

A Penalty Notice can be issued under the following legislation:

- **Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 places upon parents a duty to ensure that their child receives efficient full-time education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise**
- **Where a child is a registered pupil at a school and the parent fails to ensure that child's regular attendance at school the parent is liable to be prosecuted for a criminal offence under Section 444 of the Education Act**
- **In cases where this duty is not being fulfilled Section 444B of the same Act empowers the Local Authority to issue a Penalty**

Please note: A Fixed Penalty Notice can also be issued if your child is seen in a public place within the first 5 days of an exclusion from their school.

- Section 103 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 makes it a duty for parents in relation to pupils subject to a fixed period or permanent exclusion to ensure that their child is not present in a public place during school hours, without reasonable justification, during the first five days of any such exclusion. If a child is present in a public place during the first five days of an exclusion during school hours the parent may be guilty of an offence for which they can be prosecuted by the LA before a magistrates' court or issued with a Penalty Notice.

See below for further information:

Penalty Notice	Details
First Notice in a <u>3</u> year period:	Issued to each parent. Charged at £80 if paid within 21 days £160 if paid within 28 days.
Second Notice in a <u>3</u> year period:	Issued to each parent. Charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.
Third Notice in a <u>3</u> year period:	Alternative action should be taken, for example prosecution or other attendance legal interventions. Fines per parent are capped at two within any three-year period. If a parent is prosecuted for their child's non-attendance, they could face a fine of up to £2,500.

It is important to note that fines are a last resort, and parents are offered support from the academy on many occasions to improve their child's attendance first.

Below is a reminder of the key attendance procedures to note:

#### Reporting absence

If your child is absent from school, please promptly notify the academy providing the reason on each and every day of the absence. Accurate and detailed attendance records are essential, and your swift action contributes to this.

#### Medical Appointments

While we encourage scheduling medical appointments outside of school hours, we understand that it's not always feasible. If you must have an appointment during the school day, please take only the essential time away from school to minimise disruptions to your child's education. Additionally, we kindly request that you provide the academy with a copy or screen shot of the appointment letter so that we can document it in the child's file.

#### Term time holidays

The DfE emphasises that term-time holiday should be avoided. Absence during this time can significantly impact your child's education. We kindly request that you plan holidays during breaks to minimise disruption in learning. Any such absences will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

If you believe there are exceptional circumstances that require a term-time holiday, please submit a written request to the academy as soon as possible and an appropriate meeting or discussion will take place. We will assess each case individually and provide guidance accordingly. However, if we

determine that the circumstances do not qualify as exceptional, we will notify you in writing, indicating that you may be subject to a penalty notice issued by the local authority, which could result in legal action.

#### Unauthorised absence

These could be situations where a learner is absent without valid reason or permission. This could include being absent without notifying the school of the reason, taking term time holidays, arriving late to school, leaving early without a valid reason or truanting. Occasionally, we may request evidence to validate an absence. For instance, providing a medical appointment letter can change an absence from unauthorised to authorised.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that your child's education remains a priority. If you have any questions, or you would like any support with the attendance of your child, feel free to contact the Attendance Officer, Mrs Adams at [enquiries@kltprimary.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kltprimary.co.uk).

Yours Sincerely,



Mrs C Early  
Headteacher