

# Kexborough Primary School

2022 – 2023 : Newsletter #8

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023



## Attendance

Attendance in the last week has been affected by a high level of illness and this is reflected in the whole school attendance figure of 91.8% for the final week of the first half term. Well done to FS2 and Y3 for being the two classes to be closest to our target of 97%

FS1	FS2	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
92.2	96	93.5	83	96.6	93.8	93.5	88.6

## CHILDREN IN NEED



On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November we will once again be fundraising for Children In Need.

The theme for 2022 is “The Big Spotacular” and we are therefore inviting children to come to school in their spottiest outfits or Pudsey / Blush clothes.

We ask that children donate £1.00 for this non-uniform day and all proceeds will be given to Children in Need.

## DINNER MENU

We will be having a themed lunch on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November with a “Bonfire Night” menu. The meal choices are outlined below.

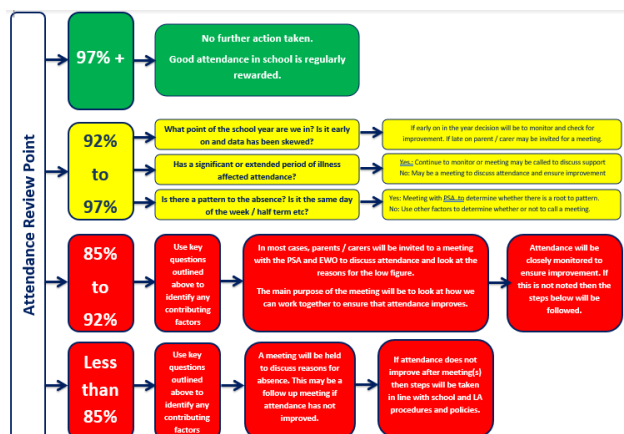
### Lunch

- Hotdog served with chips, baked beans and corn on the cob
- Catherine wheel pizza with chips, baked beans and corn on the cob
- Jacket potato with hot and cold fillings

### Dessert

- Sticky toffee pudding
- Campfire cupcakes

## TERM 1:1 ATTENDANCE



Whole school attendance at the end of the first term stands at 94.84%. The vast majority of absence has been as a result of illness and thank you to everyone who continues to report their child’s absence before 9:30am each morning.

Absence can be reported via telephone (01226 382288) or via email at [KPSAttendance@ecmtrust.co.uk](mailto:KPSAttendance@ecmtrust.co.uk)

Formal internal monitoring of attendance will be taking place over the next couple of weeks and this is an outline of the approach that we take. Further details of attendance procedures can be found in the attendance policy on the school website.

## PE KITS

Could we please ask that you ensure that your child has their school PE kit in school from Monday until Friday each week. As the colder weather approaches we will continue to try and hold some PE lessons outside if dry. Children can bring an outdoor PE kit for these lessons.

Their outdoor PE kit should consist of

- Plain black or grey leggings / jogging bottoms
- Plain, black or grey sweatshirt / jacket / tracksuit top
- Trainers

Outdoor PE kit should be a change from the clothes that the children wear to school.

## PARENT / CARER SUPPORT

Please find details below of a number of parent / carer support groups and courses that we have been asked to share.

### THE CLIMB

**PARENTS/CARERS SUPPORT GROUP**

For parents/carers who are supporting a child or young person with any kind of emotional or mental health problem to include:

**ANXIETY  
LOW MOOD  
SELF HARM**

**SLEEP PROBLEMS  
SUICIDAL THOUGHTS  
EMOTIONAL DIFFICULTIES**

We will be holding monthly meetings for parents/carers to come together to share their experiences, as well as gaining information and support.

The aim of this group is help you feel that you are not alone in this climb to get the help and support your child needs.

Come along and meet parents/carers in similar situations. There will be a fantastic selection of:

**Meeting Dates**  
THURSDAY 9:45AM – 12PM  
8th Sept 3rd Nov  
6th Oct 1st Dec

Practical tips to help you & your child  
Guest speakers  
Chance to talk  
Lots of tea, coffee & biscuits!

For more information contact Compass on  
01226 107377  
info.barnsleyMHST@COMPASS-UK.ORG  
compass-uk.org/services/barnsley-mhst

**H.O.M.E** (Home Online Mental Health) Barnsley, S70 1AP

### ANXIETY WORKSHOP

**FOR PARENTS/CARERS**

The workshop is for parents/carers of children and young people who are struggling with anxiety

The workshop will improve your knowledge and give you a basic understanding of anxiety and it's affects as well as provide coping strategies that you can use to support your child.

**Tuesday 29th November '22**  
**9AM - 11AM**

Scan to book your free place

Kexborough Primary School  
Ballfield Ln, Darton,  
Barnsley S75 5EF

01904 666371  
compass-uk.org  
@compassBeMHST

## Staying Safe Online, at Home and in the Community

Date: 24th November  
Venue: Barnsley Town Hall  
Time: 11:00-14:30

To book a place - email  
SABTraining@barnsley.gov.uk or call  
07786525864

Free training with refreshments

**Speakers -**

Natalie Garret and Phil Butterworth from SYP - how to keep yourself safe from bogus callers, scams and online crime

Cath Erine - Staying safe and well - how adult safeguarding can help you and others

Information available on -  
Making your money go further  
Warm Homes  
Staying safe and well

## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

The school photographer will be in school on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Throughout the school day he will be taking both individual and sibling photographs. If you wish your child to have photographs taken with siblings who are not on roll at school there will be the opportunity for family photographs from 8am. These will take place in the KS2 hall. Please do not arrive before 8am as there will be no facilities for waiting inside. When you arrive please wait on the KS2 playground.

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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

### SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

### NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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## Advice for Parents & Carers

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### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

### GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

### AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-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.



**NOS**  
National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/parents-carers/what-parents-carers-need-to-know-about-group-chats>



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@natonlinesafety



NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

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## Diary

Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October All Day	All children	INSET DAY
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 9:00am	All children	Return to school after October half term
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November All Day	All children	Individual / sibling photographs
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November All day	FS2 – Y6	Flu Spray <i>*This is a change from the original date of 19 October 2022</i>
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November All Day	Y6	School Trip
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December After School	TBC	Christmas Movie Night
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December PM	FS2, Y1 and Y2	Christmas Performance
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December AM	FS2, Y1 and Y2	Christmas Performance
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December PM	FS2, Y1 and Y2	Pantomime Visit
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December Lunch	FS2 – Y6	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December PM	Y3 – Y6	Christmas Carol Concert
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 3:30pm	All children	Break for Christmas holidays