

# Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL  
Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



13 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Pupils

As well you know, this has been a challenging term and the school would like to thank both pupils and families for their support and patience over the last 14 weeks.

Very well done to all our pupils, who have been working hard both in lessons and increasingly at lunchtime and afternoon clubs. It is really good seeing our pupil body taking full advantage of what the staff at school offer the school community.

As we work through the last week of term there are a number of news items and information details that families will need to be aware of, especially in relation to the return to school in January.

**Covid-19 Pandemic:** Nationally, we are all responding to recent change in protocols, such as the wearing of masks in public areas etc.

**Lateral Flow Device Tests (LFD):** Thank you to all those families who have provided consent to allow pupils to be tested by school staff on the return after the Christmas break. This is an expectation from the government via the Department for Education (DfE) that was announced in November.

For all pupils who have provided consent, LFD tests will take place on Tuesday 04 January 2022. On this day, pupils will attend school, with an appointment time, take the test, and then return home. They will not be required to wear school uniform. Pupils involved in LFD tests will be receiving a separate communication that will detail the process and the time to attend school.

On the same day, Tuesday 04 January, a small number of Year 11 pupils will be invited to attend school to take any PPEs that they may have missed.

**Remote Learning/Live Lessons:** On Tuesday 04 January for pupils who are not having LFD tests, teachers will deliver live remote lessons that will align with each pupil's daily timetable. These classes will be set up on Microsoft Teams and will use the same approach as the school

delivered during the second lockdown. All pupils have had reminders about logons and inputs during form tutor time to remind them.

For pupils attending school to have a LFD test they can, whilst at home on Tuesday 04 January, access remote lessons around their LFD test.

On Wednesday 05 January, the school will be open, as normal, for all pupils.

Over the Christmas break it is still important for pupils and families to undertake regular LFD tests, and importantly, register the results on the NHS website.

Recent DfE guidance asks pupils/families to undertake a daily LFD test if anyone in their household is identified as a close contact, even if they are fully vaccinated. This is for 7 days, instead of self-isolating. School does have supplies of LFD tests for pupils to take home. Do please ask for these.

**Masks:** In line with DfE expectations, all form tutors will distribute face masks to pupils on their return to school in January. This will be to support the wearing of masks by pupils and staff in inside communal areas.

Thank you for your support with the planned return to school.

**Vaccinations:** The Health and Social Care Secretary announced on Monday 29 November that young people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, following advice from JCVI. Parents of children aged 12-15 that have not yet had their first vaccine can book their child's first vaccination slot over the winter break via the [national booking system](#). In some cases, parents will be able to get their booster at the same time as their child getting their first vaccine.

Information on vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds can be found in the [COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12 to 15 guidance](#).

**Nasal Flu Spray:** Over 700 pupils were given their nasal flu spray immunisation in school on Monday 13 November 2021. Unfortunately, we were unable to give the immunisation to all pupils on this date due to the volume of pupils and the number of consent forms which were handed in after the initial deadline of 24 November 2021. Pupils who have consented and were not able to have the immunisation in this session or who were absent from school will be invited to attend the catch-up session in school on Friday 14 January.

**School Uniform:** The uniform shop will not be open on Thursday 18 December. It will re-open after the Christmas holiday. Please remember that our uniform expectation is that all pupils have, and wear, a school jumper or cardigan when in school.

**Pupil Safety:** For pupils riding bicycles into school, do remember to wear helmets, use lights and ride sensibly.

Please note that last month one of our Year 11 female pupils was approached by a bald man in a small black car on Durkar Low Lane. Over the winter months it would be best if pupils walked to school in pairs or small groups. Do please report to school any suspicious behaviour from members of the public so we can inform our school based police liaison officer, PC Vollans. Be safe everyone.

**GCSE Pod:** This really is a great resource and one that we use well as a school. Last year we were the school in the North of England with the highest number of pods viewed. Currently, we are second, behind Goole Academy who are 2000 viewed pods ahead of us. Keep viewing the pods and let's look to retain the title of being the most successful GCSE pod school in the region. Keep podding!

**Fundraising:** The final total this year's Children in Need and support for the Anthony Nolan Trust has now gone over £14500. This is a great achievement.

In addition, the school has supported the 'Light up a Life 2021' Wakefield Hospice Appeal. Also, £221.44 was sent to the annual poppy appeal.

Thank you for your generous contributions to this year's Christmas hamper appeal. Also, thank you to Warburtons who have donated bread for all the hampers. This year we will be delivering 50 hampers to families in our school community.

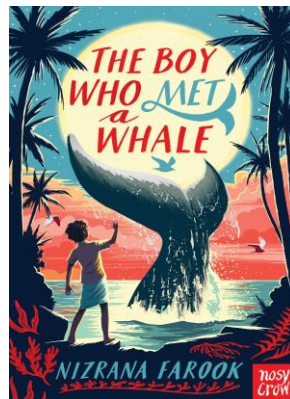
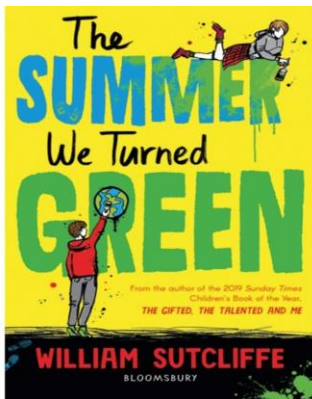
**Cross Country:** Very well done to the following pupils, who have been selected to represent Wakefield Schools in the West Yorkshire Championships. This follows high placements in local school competitions:

- Maya Schofield, Will Pilmer, Owen Carmody, Lucas Ransley all Year 7.
- Beth Griffiths, Year 8, running a year up in the Year 8/9 mixed team.
- Jennifer Whitehead, Year 9.
- Rosie Ransley, Year 10, running a year up in the Year 10/11 mixed team.

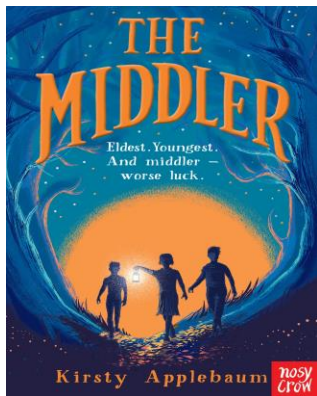
**Literacy:** Since September, we have had a strong focus on literacy as a school. Strong literacy skills are proven to be crucial to success in all areas of life: from gaining positive GCSE results to

having sound mental health, raised aspirations and indeed higher earnings in adult life. At Kettlethorpe High School, we are committed firmly to the ethos that we must do all we can to enable our pupils to leave with solid reading, writing and oracy skills. This focus continues after Christmas.

Richer Reading: Year 7 will continue their Richer Reading lessons with a new book for each band. S Band will be reading, 'The Summer We Turned Green' by William Sutcliffe - A fresh, funny, heartfelt look at this generation's must-win battle on climate change. K Band will be reading, 'The Boy Who Met A Whale' by Nizrana Farook - a sparkling Sri Lanka-set adventure featuring a mysterious shipwreck, a strange child and a big, blue whale. These books will be loaned to pupils after the holiday and they will be responsible for bringing them into school for their Richer Reading lessons.



We are also extending the Richer Reading Programme into Year 8 and, because we launched the Year 7 programme with the gift of a book in September, we are doing the same for Year 8 now. Before the holidays, all Year 8 pupils will receive an early Christmas present – a copy of The Middler by Kirsty Applebaum. This is a tense dystopian thriller with plenty of heart and compassion which we hope will keep pupils entertained and guessing the twists and turns in the plot. Pupils will receive their gift and information about their Richer Reading lessons from their form tutor.



Reading Tests: After Christmas, we will be testing all pupils in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 in reading again. These tests will take place on the 6th, 7th and 10th of January. Each pupil will have a lesson to do their test in and they will be invigilated by their class teacher, invigilators and SLT. We do not want to alarm pupils about the tests and just need them to try their best. They do not need to prepare for them.

Literacy Lasts Tuition: A big thanks to parents and carers for their support in encouraging pupils to attend these after school tuition sessions. Currently, these sessions are just for selected pupils in Year 8 and Year 9. A big well done to those pupils who have attended. Pupils have responded well and teachers are very complimentary about them. Please keep supporting us by encouraging pupils to attend. The sessions will continue after Christmas – after school on Tuesdays. The first session after Christmas will be on Tuesday 11th January. This is due to the school having to conduct Covid-19 testing on Tuesday 4th January.

Oracy: Well done to the Year 7 pupils who have completed their oracy projects, debating topics and presenting to their classes. We are proud of you all and pleased with your increasing confidence. For Years 7-9, we also have a thriving debate club and are entering a number of external competitions in 2022. Pupils who want to be involved, should seek out Miss Jenkins.

#### **End of Term arrangements:**

- School Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day (£1): Wednesday 15 December.
- End of autumn term: Friday 17 December, with school finishing at 1.10pm. School lunch will be on offer before this.

#### **Return to school, January 2022:**

- Tuesday 04 January: LFD testing in school and remote lessons.
- Wednesday 05 January: All pupils in school for a normal school day.

Be sure to have a safe and enjoyable Christmas break and we look forward to returning in January well rested and ready for the challenges and opportunities on offer in 2022.

To conclude, in the words of Ebenezer Scrooge, Charles Dickens' fictional character in A Christmas Carol written in 1843:

‘I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.  
I will live in the Past, the Present and the Future.  
The spirits of all Three shall strive within me.’

Keep safe and warmest wishes for 2022.

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths  
Headteacher

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clean our hands more often using soap and water as well as the hand sanitiser found in all classrooms and social spaces.</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have good respiratory hygiene habits: <b>'Catch it, bin it, kill it'</b>. Use the tissues and bins provided.</li></ul>             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow instructions from all adults quickly and sensibly.</li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not attend school and follow public health advice if we have any symptoms of coronavirus.</li></ul>                                |