



Kelford School
 An Academy within Nexus Mat
 Oakdale Road, Kimberworth, Rotherham
 Tel: 01709 512088
 Mail us : kelfordschool@nexusmat.org
www.kelfordsschool.co.uk



Friday 19 January 2024

Dear Families,

I hope you are all well and enjoyed your week! It has been a busy week in school with visitors, including animal visitors, curriculum work, visits to Forest View and Enterprise Works (Nexus Head Quarters) and delivery of Team Teach training for our new starting staff.

ONLINE SAFETY

According to Ofcom, 69% of under-18s use a smartphone as their main method of going online. Additionally, 49% of children use them for online gaming – putting smartphones only behind consoles (59%) as the device of choice for playing games on. What the statistical evidence shows is the huge importance of phones to young people.



Given that Santa’s recent visit is likely to have bestowed smartphones on an even greater number of young people, it’s a particularly opportune moment to ensure that children are able to use their handsets responsibly – and, above all, safely. From passcodes to parental controls, and from screen time to scams, our #WakeUpWednesday guide has the essential advice. I will share the Smartphone Safety Tips on Class Dojo for families to access.

CHANGES OF LEADERSHIP

This school year we have introduced a new curriculum. Ensuring that we have an effective curriculum in place is a key school improvement priority. Designing and developing a whole school curriculum is a major piece of work and one that needs dedicated time. We are at the beginning of the journey with our new curriculum and have had external partners to review our work to help us to ensure our curriculum is the best it can be. In order to move this piece of work forward, we are creating capacity for our Curriculum Lead – Carl Haag to work on our curriculum priorities. This will mean that Carl will be Assistant Headteacher for the whole school with Kirsty Medcalf being the Assistant Headteacher for Secondary and Sixth Form Kelford until the end of the school year. Kirsty will be picking up day-to-day organisation and be the main point of contact for families. Carl will continue to be involved with ongoing pieces of work with specific families.

PRIMARY

Primary pupils have continued their learning about Animal Kingdoms and especially enjoyed meeting our visitors from Animal House. In Rainbows class, pupils have been sharing the text ‘Owl Babies’. They made their own owl baby pictures using different materials and then went on a nature walk to find out about their habitats, collecting twigs and leaves on their travels. Pupils in Purple class have been finding out about pond habitats this week and will continue their work throughout this term,

<i>Dates for your diary Spring 1:</i>	
<i>Name of Event</i>	<i>Date & time</i>
School Opens to pupils	Monday 8th January 2024
Nexus Dance Festival Part 1	Friday 12 th January
Sensory Diets & Routines – link to be sent home in newsletter on 12 th January	Wednesday 17 th January
Whole School Holocaust Memorial Day	Friday 26 th January
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 6 th February
Nexus Dance Festival Part 2	Thursday 8 th February
School Closes	Thursday 8 th February
INSET Staff Training Day	Friday 9 th February

Check out these dates!!!



finding and matching animals to their habitats. Our assembly focus has been 'Random Acts of Kindness' and we are working hard to make sure we show consideration for other people in our lives.

SECONDARY

It has been another positive and busy week in secondary and 6th form this week. As part of our topic learning for Animal kingdoms we were lucky to have Animal house in school to give our pupils to experience meeting and handling a wide range of animals. Pupils have been extending their learning in class, grouping animals into their categories and learning about their characteristics! It was a hugely positive experience which really engaged our learners across Secondary and Sixth Form. Elsewhere, it has been great to see groups getting out and about, and we are particularly proud of the Kelford 6th formers who have been to Forest View to take part in their catering and horticulture sessions. Anne Marie who leads the group has commended them for their maturity, focus and dedication when working with less familiar peers and adults.

FOREST VIEW

Georgia from South Yorkshire police visited Forest View to deliver a brilliant session on internet safety. The students got involved with answering questions and debating issues relevant to staying safe online. It was a really productive session that everyone enjoyed.

FV2 are taking part in the 'Big Garden Bird Watch' which is a national event encouraging young people to get outside and study nature. Being at Forest View means there is plenty of activity to observe in the surrounding areas. All the tasks have cross curricular links including Maths and English so will benefit students on many levels. Keep an eye on our X (Twitter) page for photos of all events.

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours sincerely,

S. Mulhall

Sarah Mulhall – Headteacher