

# Kexborough Primary School

## Newsletter - May 2016

### Transition

I have had a number of requests for information around the transition arrangements for the end of the school year. At this point we are not in a position to confirm what these will be due to a number of changes coming in for 2016 / 2017. As you may have seen we are currently in the middle of recruiting some new staff. These vacancies have arisen as we have some staff leaving us in the summer.

Mrs Fox will be retiring after x years with Kexborough Primary School. Mr Oldham is leaving us to take the opportunity to teach abroad. Mrs Smith will obviously be taking some time off for maternity leave and Mrs Dawson will also be retiring after x years with the school.

As soon as we have details confirmed around new staffing and the arrangements for transition we will share them with you.

### Colour Tombola Reminder

FStage	Red
Year 1	Yellow
Year 2	Pink
Year 3	Green
Year 4	Purple
Year 5	Orange
Year 6	Blue

*Search for us on Facebook - Friends of Kexborough Primary School PTA*

### Thank you

The money raised from Christmas performances was used to part fund the performance of Charlotte's Web. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

As a staff at school we are supporting an initiative currently being lead by Stephanie Illingsworth (Mrs Illingsworth's daughter). Stephanie is a sister on the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and is currently asking for donations of toiletries to create "parent packs"

"Most children are admitted to the unit as an emergency and are critically ill, leaving parents with no time to collect items that they may need for the first few days. The parent packs will hopefully help parents during what can only be described as a traumatic time. Items needed include toothpaste, toothbrushes, shower gel, shampoo and deodorant. Any help will be gratefully appreciated. Many thanks. Steph Illingsworth"

If you do have any donations they will be gratefully received. A box will be placed in Reception to collect these.

It has come to our attention that an increasing number of children within school have profiles or accounts on a number of social media platforms, predominantly Facebook. According to the terms and conditions of Facebook, and other social media providers, the permitted minimum age for use is 13.

As a school we are committed, as part of our safeguarding duties, to promoting the safe and responsible use of the Internet and as such we have a responsibility to raise this particular issue as a concern.

The internet and social media provide amazing opportunities for communication, interaction and opportunities to connect but with these opportunities come many risks. The decisions around your child having a Facebook account lay entirely with you as parents and carers but we feel it is important to highlight the risks of using these sites underage and with a false date of birth.

The first consideration is that Facebook use "age targeted" advertising which could expose your child to adverts of an adult nature. This is of course dependent upon the date of birth entered when registering. We would ask you to consider the following - if you have registered your child now with a date of birth which may indicate that they are 15 or 16, in 2 to 3 years time (whilst your child may still be under the permitted age for use) Facebook will recognise them as being an adult, as will other users. This could then expose them to significant danger and risk.

In terms of the school position we cannot have any responsibility or control over what children post on Facebook, including cyber bullying, even though they are pupils at our school. If you choose to allow your child to use Facebook under the age of 13 then this is your responsibility. We will however take action (such as reporting under aged profiles) if a problem comes to our attention that involves the safety or wellbeing of any of our children. We will also take action if our school is brought into disrepute by any postings on Facebook.

Should you decide to allow your child to have a Facebook profile we strongly advise the following.

- You have your own Facebook profile and insist that you are "friends" with your child. This allows you to see their postings and ensure that they are behaving in a safe and appropriate manner.
- Ensure that your child's profile has the highest privacy settings activated and that you monitor constantly the "friends" that they accept and request.
- Insist that they install the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) application from [www.facebook.com/clickceop](http://www.facebook.com/clickceop) on their profile. This places a bookmark on their profile to CEOP and the Report Abuse button which has been known to deter offenders.
- Have constant conversations with your child about how to stay safe online and be aware of how these conversations may change as your child becomes older. Children could potentially leave themselves vulnerable online as social media can blur the lines between a person's public and private self. This could place them in situations which they are not emotionally mature enough to deal with.

We cannot and should not fight the advances that technology and the internet bring and we are unable to predict the future advances that will come in the years ahead. We do however have a shared responsibility to ensure that our children are not at risk from harm by helping them, through constant conversations and education, to keep themselves safe online.