

# Happy Half Year Update and Reminders!

**February 2025**

Dear Parents,

We are already at the half-way point of the school year, can you believe it!

The children have worked very hard this half term and settled back into routine since the winter break. Since our website has been updated and has so much relevant information for parents, plus the use of text messages, email and Dojo for school updates, it seems like the demand and need for newsletters has reduced over recent times. However, I thought I'd just send a few messages around the work we are doing in school at the moment to keep you posted. If you need any more information then please do visit the website, speak to teachers or drop us an email at [admin@wrenpark.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@wrenpark.derby.sch.uk)

Towards the end of the newsletter is some important information regarding PE kits. (PLEASE READ!)



RESPECTFUL



AMBITIOUS



RESILIENT

At Wren Park, we maintain high expectations for all our children, encouraging them to reach their full potential. We challenge them to aim high, work hard, and take pride in their accomplishments.

Together with your support we are committed to providing the best possible education and experience for all our children. We aim to create an environment where your child feels safe, valued and supported, both academically and personally.

Wren Park is a place where we all aim to be: **“the best version of ourselves, ambitious in what we do; where we learn to be resilient to setbacks, and we are respectful and kind to all others”** (Taken from our school prayer- see website for full version).



## Health and Safety

The safety of our children is our top priority. We take all necessary steps to ensure that each child feels secure within our school, and we are committed to maintaining a safe and nurturing environment where children can thrive.

When concerns arise, we are committed to ensuring that any issues are addressed and resolved effectively. We believe in fostering strong positive relationships with our families and we appreciate this reciprocal ambition. We are grateful to those families who work with us to address any issues that arise and do so with respect and courtesy. Sometimes even with the best of intent, school does make mistakes, we are happy to learn from them and accept where we can do better. We are very blessed to have such a dedicated team who work hard to support all children.

Please, always treat our staff with courtesy. If you are unhappy about something we will work with you to resolve issues to the best of our ability.....but we need your support and partnership to enable us to do that.



Last week was mental health week in school, the children took part in wellbeing activities in their classroom and we had a special assembly.

We strive to ensure that all children are happy and feel at ease in their school environment. Our staff work hard to create a supportive atmosphere where children feel comfortable, confident and excited about learning. All children should be comfortable in speaking with a trusted adult if they need some support. Please do ask your child to identify 2-3 adults in school who they would feel confident in talking to if they had a worry of any kind.



## Behaviour and Attitudes

We set high standards for behaviour and respect. Our clear expectations help create a positive atmosphere, ensuring that every child can focus on their learning and enjoy their time at school.

Whilst children can and do make mistakes as part of growing up, we want them to learn from those mistakes and develop positive healthy relationships based upon friendship, respect, tolerance, understanding and empathy. There may be occasions when we need to speak with the children regarding their behaviour, attitude or respect towards others. If your child makes a mistake in their behaviour or displays an unacceptable attitude we will inform you; your support with this is important so we are developing children who take personal responsibility, learn to regulate their emotions and act in kind and thoughtful ways, recognising everyone as unique, special and equally important.



We recently shared a **STOP** Bullying, Be Kind poster with the children in school.

We discussed what bullying is and the abbreviation **Several Times On Purpose** helps us to remember what bullying is.

We are dedicated to addressing any concerns regarding bullying quickly and effectively. Every child should feel supported and we take action to ensure that all children are treated with kindness and respect. Again, if you have any concerns please contact us, we want children to be confident in talking about their feelings and worries and encourage them to always come and tell someone if they are upset or worried. Please continue to reinforce this message with your child.



### **Fire and Lockdown Drills**

The drills for Fire and Lockdown were recently practised and the children were brilliant at knowing what they could do to keep themselves safe in an emergency. Our staff are skilled in providing reassurance to the children and to minimise anxiety when there are such drills and to put into context the need to be prepared. Safety is a priority and these drills do need to prepare children and staff to deal with any emergency even if the likelihood of them being necessary is slim.

### **Online Safety**

It is really important that we protect the children from harm either in school or at home. This week the children have been learning about keeping safe online, what to do if they are uncomfortable online, what a scam is and phishing. Please do ask your children all about it, I'm sure you will be impressed with their knowledge around e-safety but putting it into practice is obviously the difficulty for children, please help as much as possible with this. Thankfully it is rare but on occasions we do have children who have been unkind online. It is very difficult to monitor every interaction but developing a culture of kindness and care online is done through discussion and reflection.

It is interesting to note that Australia are heading towards banning all social media for under 18s. Whilst I don't think the UK will be going down that route anytime soon it does highlight how young and vulnerable our children are if they are not closely monitored online.

At the moment we are looking at the use of AI in school and how it can be used safely. Please be aware we are taking the safeguarding aspects of this very importantly and are treading cautiously at both staff and governor level before implementing its use by children. We will keep you posted about this exciting development.



### **Curriculum and Learning Plans**

We are proud of the academic success our children achieve, and we continue to strive to provide opportunities for every child to learn and make good progress. We offer a broad curriculum that supports childrens' intellectual growth and prepares them for the future. Please see an email recently about celebrating success out of school, please do send us an email about your child's success stories for us to celebrate and share.

Our curriculum offers a diverse range of subjects to ensure that children are exposed to a variety of topics. This approach helps children discover their passions and strengths, providing a well-rounded education.

We review our curriculum plans continually throughout the year. Teachers have been busy updating their long-term plans, please see our website to find out about the subjects and what your child will be learning about this year.



### **Here to Help!**

If you do have any questions or concerns, your child's class teacher(s) is/are the best person/people to speak to about your child's progress. Parents evening meetings will take place week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> March, details will follow after half term.

Having regular updates and feedback ensure that you are well informed and can support your child's development so please do attend.

### **Extra-curricular Activities**

Keep an eye out for the extra-curricular activities taking place. This half term we had a total of 180+ children accessing extra-curricular activities after school, this is a fantastic amount. We offer an extensive range of extracurricular activities that encourage children to explore their interests outside of the classroom. From sports to the arts, these activities help foster teamwork, creativity, and personal growth.



### **Personal Development**

In addition to academic learning, we are committed to supporting the personal development of our children. Through various programs and activities, we help children develop social, emotional and leadership skills that will benefit them throughout their lives. Please see SMSC at Wren Park (on the website) which includes the work we are doing supporting children's personal development.

We have many children in school who now have positions of responsibilities – Prefects, Wren Park Rangers, Librarians, Reporters, School Council members, Peer Mediators and we are looking to create more roles soon. Prefects now help around school and even have their own rewards and certificates given in assembly to the children who they have noticed in some way.

Miss Rhoades has a new weekly lunchtime club for SEMH and drop-in activities which some children have accessed and really enjoy. It is just another way in which we offer support for the children when they need it. We know that emotional health is as important as physical health and promote that regularly with the children.

## Year 6 Leaders

We are delighted that we have so many of our older children organising lunchtime clubs and activities including UNO, Cheerleading, Sports, Art and Drama. We recently made a bid for some funding to support the children's "start-up" projects and were delighted to have been successful. This money will be used to resource the clubs and provide additional resources for all children to access e.g more lunchtime sports equipment.



## Parent Community

We are grateful for the trust and support of our parent community. Together, we work towards creating an environment where every child can succeed, and we value the strong partnerships we have with families, with our PA and local partners in our community such as Middleton Lodge Care Home and Repton Prep School.

We are truly grateful for all the parent volunteers we now have in school. They have taken part in training and induction and now form a very valuable extra support in school. I know they enjoy having some insight into the school day as well as knowing that they really do help provide a little extra care and support for the children. In addition, they are doing some practical jobs such as organising the books in the library and working in the nature garden.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, please do get in touch if you have a little time to spare.



## PE KITS

Recently the school governors discussed PE kit and the arrangements we have following Covid when many of the PE arrangements changed.

**PE uniform will now quite simply be school t-shirt (yellow polo) and sweatshirt or fleece (green) and plain black shorts and jogging suit bottoms/ black leggings (shorts and bottoms should be unbranded).**

The footwear should be trainers or black plimsolls for PE.

The children will therefore continue to wear school uniform each day with the exception of black jogging suit bottoms, leggings or shorts on PE days. Whilst there may be a couple of weeks until the message gets round to all children and parents, we will be firming this up with reminders after half term.

We are sure that this will eventually be helpful to parents and will keep the children looking smart at all times. This policy is in line with most other primary schools and secondary schools. Please do try and remember after half term! In the longer term we anticipate this policy will be financially helpful to parents. We hope that parents will

have sufficient uniform to ensure that the children have clean and fresh clothing each day.

Anyone struggling with the PE uniform can approach school and we will try and provide some pre-loved, good quality items for your child.



Thank you for being an important part of our school community, whether you are a regular helper in school or are doing all that you can at home to support and encourage your child. The greatest thing we can work on with the children is developing confidence, self-esteem, pride and a positive outlook in life. Let's support all children to make the most of the opportunity of being at Wren Park and enjoying learning and childhood. Your ongoing support is appreciated and valued.

Thank you for the great efforts with reading at home recently, it has really helped. I hope you have enjoyed spending time with the children enjoying a good read. 😊



### **Disco - Last call to the dance floor!**

I hope the children are looking forward to the school disco. Thank you in advance to the Parents Association who are working hard behind the scenes making sure the evening is a safe and enjoyable one.

Final call - anyone who has not yet got a ticket for the school disco there are still some left.

Have a great half term everyone.

**“Wren Park, One School, Kind and Resilient Together”.**

Mr. Buckley and the Wren Park Team