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## Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July Newsletter

### **Anti-Racism Week – A Powerful Week of Reflection, Learning and Action**

This week, we launched our very first **Anti-Racism Week** at Wren Park—a significant and memorable event that we are incredibly proud of.

The week began with a **thought-provoking assembly** led by visiting speaker **Emeka**, delivered to both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Emeka's message focused on the importance of **empathy, kindness, and celebrating individuality**, while reminding us that we all have more in common than we may think. His words sparked curiosity and compassion, setting a powerful tone for the days ahead.

Following the assembly **Year 4 and Year 6** took part in engaging and reflective workshops led by Emeka. These sessions provided a safe space for children to explore **real-life scenarios**, share experiences, and have meaningful discussions. The focus remained on building understanding, showing respect for others, and challenging prejudice where it exists. It was truly inspirational, and we hope these lessons will help shape positive and respectful attitudes now and in the future.

Across the school, **all year groups** took part in themed lessons throughout the week, each day with a specific focus:

- **Monday – Celebrating Difference**
- **Tuesday – What Is Unfair?**
- **Wednesday – Recognising and Challenging Racism**
- **Thursday – Voices of Change**
- **Friday – Taking Action**

Children explored these themes through stories, class discussions, creative activities, learning about identity and heritage, deepening their understanding of the richness and diversity within our school and beyond. Please do speak with your children about what they have been learning- some really challenging topics covered from injustice, prejudice including. Some of the older children have been learning about sensitive issues of discrimination but also inspiring stories of people standing up to racism.



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We were delighted to welcome a **Local Authority Officer**, who visited to see some of the work taking place. They were extremely impressed by our commitment to tackling racism, the quality of the teaching, and most importantly, the **thoughtful engagement of the children**. They are now looking to share our approach with other **Derby City schools**, which is something we are incredibly proud of.

We are excited to confirm that **Anti-Racism Week will become an annual event** at Wren Park—a key part of our commitment to creating an inclusive, respectful and safe environment for all.



### **Year 6 SATS Success – Congratulations!**

A huge **well done** to our **Year 6 pupils**, who received their SATS results this week. We are delighted to say that our results are, once again, **very strong**, and we expect them to be **significantly above the national average**—putting Wren Park amongst the best-performing schools in the city again.

However, beyond the numbers, we want to recognise the **effort, perseverance and resilience** of every single child. For some, these tests are a real challenge, and we are just as proud of those who gave it their best, even when things felt tough.

**SATS** are only one part of the picture. We know that our children have many talents—creative, social, emotional, practical—that aren't measured in a test. As they approach their final few weeks at Wren Park, we hope they feel proud of everything they've achieved and the childhood memories they take with them.

### **Respecting All Children – A Community Responsibility**

We would like to remind all parents and carers about the importance of showing **respect for all children** in our school community.

While it is natural for parents to feel protective of their own children, we ask that you **think carefully before sharing criticism or concerns about other children**, particularly on platforms such as **WhatsApp**. Even when these discussions may feel private, they can quickly become damaging.



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Please remember—**every child is learning**. Learning is not a straight line, and all children develop at their own pace. Some may face challenges with their **behaviour, emotional health, or resilience**, and they need the understanding and encouragement of the whole community to thrive.

Before speaking about another child, please consider how you would feel if it were your child being spoken about. Let's model **compassion, patience, and empathy**, and support one another in helping every child feel safe and respected.

### Update on Fun Run



A huge congratulations and respect for the Y6 children who recently organised the Fun Run. They organised and led the whole event, and the collective efforts of all runners raised £1,193.10 for Brain Tumour Charity. Well done, not only is this for a good cause but it exemplifies the attitude and creativity of our children.



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### Partnerships with Repton Preparatory School

I am so pleased that our partnership work is going from strength to strength. We have had 7 partnership activities with them this year and recently our reception classes enjoyed a lovely Teddy Bears Picnic with children in the school grounds (which are really amazing). I also had the pleasure of taking 10, Y6 children as part of a chess tournament- after lunch with their children the chess began, what a battle it was but I believe we were victorious and gracious! All players were brilliant, but standout performances were Sammi and Henry- true test of resilience and skilful play- I've not been brave enough to play them yet!



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## **Wren Park is a Phone-Free School**

We would also like to remind families that Wren Park is a **Phone-Free School**. Children are **not permitted to bring mobile phones** into school.

In the new term we will be sharing more about our work in promoting a **phone-free childhood**, which is part of a wider movement across many schools nationally. We are joining with others in recognising the importance of allowing children to **enjoy the freedom of childhood without unnecessary digital distractions**.

Reclaiming childhood means giving children space to play, connect, imagine and grow—and we thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide the very best for our pupils.

## **Linked to the above is Online Safety – A Growing Concern**

We want to remind all families about the **importance of supervising children's online activity** at home. We are hearing more frequently from pupils that they are using **smartphones and devices unsupervised**, sometimes late at night or even in bed. Some children have shared that they use devices to "chill out" at night time or fall asleep with them.

Please be aware that this raises several concerns:

- **Children may be exposed to inappropriate or harmful content**
- **Sleep routines are disrupted**, affecting focus and wellbeing
- **Device dependency** can negatively impact emotional development

If you want your child to succeed at school and feel rested and ready to learn, we strongly encourage you to:

- **Establish a calm, screen-free bedtime routine**
- **Keep devices out of bedrooms at night**
- **Spend time talking or reading with your child** before bed

A conversation with you is far more valuable than any app or video.



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## **Sun Safety Reminder**



As we enjoy the summer sun, please make sure your child:

- **Brings a water bottle to school daily**
- **Wears a sun hat, if possible**
- **Has suncream applied before coming to school**

Let's keep everyone safe and comfortable during the warmer days.

## **End of Term & Start of New School Year**

- **School will close for summer on Thursday 24th July**
- **We return on Monday 8th September for all children**
- Term dates for the 2025–26 academic year will be shared shortly.

## **School Meal Price Update**

From **September**, the price of school meals will increase by **10p per meal** due to rising food and supplier costs. Thank you for your continued support for school meals service.



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## **Sports Day**

Thank-you to everyone who came and supported Sports Day. We were very pleased with the turnout from parents and the efforts of children. It was a time for some children to shine but the greatest achievement was the efforts made by everyone whatever their position this year I am sure you will agree that there was an atmosphere of support for all. Whilst it is not an overly competitive Sports Day, I do think it is lovely to keep it a traditional whole school event.

This year we asked for no photography and video but are aware that some parents may not have heard / followed our requests. If you did make any recordings on the day, please do not share them on social media. Whilst we do not wish to ban photography from all events at this time we will need to move to that position if when we do request for photos not to be taken. Please be aware that this issue is about protecting children and not school being heavy handed. Of course, we want you to have memories, but we must request that you follow school guidance on such matters to prevent a “blanket ban” being needed.

## **Thank -You**

Thank you for your ongoing support. It has been a meaningful, educational, fun and hopeful few weeks at Wren Park that truly reflects and celebrates the values we want to pass on to our children.

Have a restful weekend, keep safe and take it easy in the sunshine!

I heard this morning that hosepipe bans may be looming, so get those paddling pools out this weekend whilst you can- but keep them shallow and reuse the water for watering the garden or washing the car!

Best wishes  
Alex Buckley