



Wren Park Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Alex Buckley
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Gill Pettit

December 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents

Wow! How time is flying by this term.

There has been so many great things happening in school with many more things to fit in before the Christmas Break.

We will share with you a few of the things we have been doing and a few requests and reminders.

Values

You will be aware that this term we have launched our new school values:



The children have been learning about these values within lessons and assembly and we have been rewarding the children who have demonstrated applying these values in their own lives through our new look Friday "Golden Book" assembly. If your child receives a certificate please ask them what they have done- I'm sure you will be proud of them.

What's in a Motto

As well as our Wren Park Values we have been working with the school council during the term and I am delighted that today we have formally agreed our new school motto.

We are really excited about this as it will be our motto for at least the next few years, I think you will agree it is a great one. We will be officially revealing this motto to the school in our assembly at the end of next week before sharing across our school community. (Until then we are keeping it under wraps!)

What have we been doing?

Personal Development

As part of our Personal Development there have been many trips and activities the children have enjoyed. Please take a look at our website next week to see what each year group has been up to. A big thank-you to the many parents who have given their time to support the smooth running of trips or support in school craft activities, we really couldn't have done it without you! 😊

Exciting meaningful Partnerships

We have been developing our partnerships with Derby Heights care home and have taken several groups of children to visit the residents and take part in activities including St. Andrews's Day celebrations, quizzes, cake decorating, card games and in the last week some residents are making the journey up the hill to see the Y5 children sing. I'm sure that



will be a lovely occasion for everyone. Children have also supported our charity partnerships with the Padley Group and Royal British Legion.

We have recently developed a Charity and Partnerships policy. This will be shared in the New Year.

Not sure what Personal Development is?

Our Personal Development “statement of Intent” is on the website, please do take a look - we think it is a really useful document and would welcome any feedback. To find out more about Personal Development and to read the statement, please click on the link below.

<https://www.wrenpark.derby.sch.uk/personal-development/>

We want to hear from you!

A few weeks ago, we sent out a link to a parents survey on Personal Development within school. Thank you to all those parents who have already completed the survey. In case you missed it don't worry there is still time to share your views. Please click on the link below to complete the survey.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ayyxz2fU09>

The survey will take a few minutes and consists of 13 multiple-choice questions, and you have the opportunity to comment on what you think is going well in school and what things could be improved.

Good things going on?

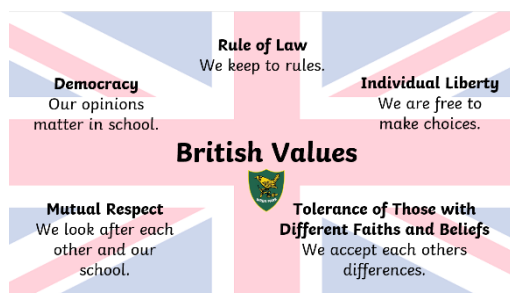
There certainly has been many great lessons and interesting topics being covered this term. Please do keep talking about what the children have been learning- I know they might say “not much!” but dig a little deeper and I am sure they will be able to talk about their learning, the activities they enjoy as well as things they find easy or hard. It is good to keep these conversations a regular and positive experience to show you are interested in their learning.

Learning Much?

You will be aware that as well as the ongoing lessons as part of our curriculum we also assess the children to ensure they are “on track” and so lessons can be adapted to suit the needs of all children. If we (or you!) are concerned in any way about learning then it is useful to have an early conversation so we can work in partnership to support the children to learn and achieve well.

Please do take a look at the website curriculum pages where you will find plans of what we are teaching in each subject across the whole year group. Any further questions do not hesitate to speak with the class teacher.

British Values and Protected Characteristics?



You will be aware that this is an area of focus following our OFSTED inspection. We have been implementing our scheme of work and learning about Democracy and Rule of Law in particular this term. (**Do you know the British values?** - If not, head over to the school website pages).

<https://www.wrenpark.derby.sch.uk/british-values/>

You will also be aware that in our report last year OFSTED stated that some of the older children had not been respectful to each other. Although this was identified as a minority of children at that time we are focused on improving matters. If your child displays inappropriate language, behavior or comments towards another child your child will be spoken to about this. If we feel it is useful and necessary we will notify you so you can reinforce our message of respect and kindness and we would welcome your full support in order for us to improve on this area.

Please do see the website if you are not sure on what we mean by individuals / groups with Protected Characteristics.

<https://www.wrenpark.derby.sch.uk/equality/>

We hope that all parents support this work, respect and share our values and that this is not undermined in anyway. Please support school in helping the children develop in a positive and caring attitudes.

Staff Learning New Things!



During INSET all staff took part in pediatric First Aid Training. Although we don't want any injuries please be reassured that there will always be a qualified First Aider close by. Our training is obviously basic and we will refer on when our minor casualties need further help from home or medical intervention.

In addition all Teaching Staff and Teaching Assistants have been brushing up on their knowledge in supporting children with Trauma or Attachment difficulties – there was already a wealth of knowledge in school and again we have improved the basic understanding for all staff. I am proud that our approach for supporting all children is really ambitious and we achieve as well as it can reasonably be expected with the resources we have in a mainstream school.

SEND Coffee Morning



We were delighted that our first SEND coffee morning was a big success. I would like to thank all parents who attended. I could see how much knowledge and support was available within the room as well as it being a time to relax and share experiences and ask questions. We will definitely continue with this and will be setting a date for our next morning. Don't worry if you didn't join us this time as you will be very welcome to join us at the next one.

Reminders and Requests

Dogs on site

We do not allow dogs on site at any time. Although there are many parents who are responsible dog owners and trying to get the dog walked at the same time as collecting children does seem like an efficient use of time especially on these dark days! However dogs can pose a danger to children and some children are very anxious around dogs. Please do help us by not bringing your dog to school and if waiting outside school gates please be mindful of other children and parents who may be anxious.

What is suitable footwear for school?

Some parents have asked this over recent times. Our policy is that children should wear black, brown or dark coloured school shoes. Trainers are not acceptable unless on a PE day for older year groups. If your child comes to school in trainers we will ask them to change in to school shoes if they have them available. We understand that children's feet do grow quickly but it is essential for a smart and appropriate look for school life without logos.

Parking and Driving on Jackson Avenue

I arrived a little late one morning this week due to a road closure and I was dreading the Jackson Avenue approach (as I'm sure many of you do!) but I was delighted to see that many parents were showing care and courtesy and many had travelled by foot. Keep it up everyone. I do have complaints regularly from residents about parking, turning round on the road and "enthusiastic / furious driving" let's continue to keep calm, safe and considerate to others.

No Parking in School please



Please remember that the school car park should not be used by parents for collection or dropping off at the start and end of the day including Breakfast club or after school events.

What's Happening?

Disco Night

Thank you to the Parent Association who have been busy planning DISCO Night next Thursday (14th December)



We hope that children enjoy this evening of dancing and music. We ask the DJ to keep the music levels to a safe level for little ears and lights will be flashing. Whilst we try and support all children to enjoy the evening if you know your child will struggle with the different sensory environment it may not be appropriate for them and may cause upset or dysregulation which we all wish to avoid. There will be other social events during the year that they may wish to attend. Whilst we want the children to be excited and enjoy the evening of fun we expect all children to be considerate and kind to others.

Tickets are available from the front office or send in £3 with your child along with the supply slip on previous letter. Disco times: KS1 5:30-6:45pm, KS2 7:00-8:15pm.

School Christmas Dinner Day 15th December

We are looking forward to the kitchen cooking up a feast next Friday. Even if the children don't usually have a school dinner they will be welcome to have a Christmas dinner. You can order and make payment online in the usual way.

Winter Fair



Following recent years success we are putting on a Winter Fair for the children during the last week of term. This will take place on one of the mornings during the last week of term. This will not be a fundraising

event as such as we wish it to be inclusive for all children. They will each play some games and receive a small treat (to be taken home), we will be asking for a small voluntary contribution of £2 per child (or more if you are able). Any monies raised above the incurred costs will be put towards Parents Association funds. Please pay online or send in cash with your child in an envelope to be passed to the class teacher.

Christmas Sing-along Performance

On Monday 18th we will have a great afternoon with one of our ex- teachers (Sam Hudson) leading us into the festive period with a Christmas Sing-a-long. The children and staff have previously really enjoyed these events and I know Mr. Hudson has been practicing hard and perfecting his performance ready for us all to sing and join in with.

And that's not all!

There are several other events going on during the final busy two weeks of term including performances, pantomime trips and Christmas Parties but as they are year group specific these will be notified to the year groups involved.

Other Information

I realise that this is a fairly lengthy newsletter but I hope you have found it useful.

Next week we will be sending out a few messages and information on how to keep you child safe on line and some information on frequently asked questions, which may be helpful to you.

In the meantime, I hope you have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Alex Buckley