



NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL: MR S WEBSTER

TEL: (01283) 247535

Email: office.richardwakefield@deferrerstrust.com

Web site: www.richardwakefieldschool.com

No. 6

6th November 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The second half of the term is normally very busy, especially as we are now on the run up to the festive season.

For all of us, this year will feel like no other. Indeed as I write this newsletter we are just about to enter the second national lockdown.

Normally everyone in school has begun to prepare for all the events that make this always a special half term in schools. This year there will be so many things that we are unable to do but as a school we are determined to focus on what we can do and make the best of a difficult situation. I hope that you can understand and appreciate this position.

We continue to be impressed with both the resilience and attitude of all of our pupils during these trying times. Some aspects are difficult for them but all the staff are trying to make the best of this awful situation whilst also managing their own circumstances. Please recognise this in any dealings you may have with anyone. Everyone is trying to do the best they can – that is all we can expect.

There will always be issues that arise in school but please speak to either the staff, Mrs Lowe or myself if you have any queries or concerns, however minor. As we say on every newsletter, please do not wait to contact us because the sooner we know about any issue the quicker we can resolve it. In the current situation it is best to ring to speak to one of us

PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF AT SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone for adapting to the alterations at the end of the school to avoid using the grass. It is appreciated.

With everything tightening up please remember to stick to the staggered times to help us manage the number of adults on site at any time and ensure that only one person drops off or picks up.

Now that we have entered the second national lockdown we urge all adults to wear a mask whilst on our school site and adhere to social distancing.

Thank you for supporting us in trying to keep our whole community safe.

ANTI-BULLYING WORK

The week starting Monday 16th November, is the national awareness week around bullying. As in previous years, over the next month the children will be discussing and working around issues linked to this and how to prevent and deal with them.

Every year as a school we spend time with all the children defining what bullying is and how we can deal with it should it arise? Once again, we have gone back to the definition established by the children via the Pupil Leadership Team:

'Bullying is where someone continuously has hurt someone or some people by being mean and unkind to them – either by hurting with actions or words'

This will be revisited again next week and renewed if needed. Also, we will be reiterating the ways the children came up with for dealing with bullying:

- **Walk away and ignore.**
- **Try to stick up for yourself but don't shout or hit back.**
- **Talk to your friends to get help.**
- **Talk to an adult – your parents or an adult in school you trust.**

This year's theme is 'United against bullying' and alongside our monthly worship value of 'Empathy' the children will be working on these aspects during November. In an age-appropriate way, the children will look at bullying. They will consider how it can be prevented but dealt with if it should arise.

The school has a clear policy on this issue and procedures to follow. Please see our website for these. Any comments or suggestions to improve this are always welcome.

To signify this event we will be inviting all of the children to join in Odd socks day on Monday 16th to celebrate what makes us all unique.

NEW PARENTS SEPTEMBER 2021

As with many events this year, we are currently unable to offer visits to our school for prospective Reception parents. We will hopefully be able to provide a short video tour of our school to support parents in making their decisions.

We will release all details on our website in the coming weeks. Please register your interest via the office email to receive notifications of any updates for our prospective parents.

Please share this information with anyone who may be interested. Thank you

Useful information: How can I apply for a Reception place?

The quickest and easiest way is to apply online. Applications opened on 1st November 2020 and the closing date is 15th January 2021.

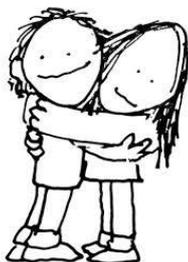
If you are unable to apply online, a paper form is now available and please contact the school office who will be happy to send a copy to you.

Note: you must make an application by 15th January 2021. There is no automatic entry into Reception.

Further information is available on the Staffordshire County Council admissions website at <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary>

VALUE OF THE MONTH

This month's value is Empathy



There is huge potential to cover this value in many different ways. When we initially chose the Values in 2016, the staff and children discussed which values to study in which month. They chose Empathy for November as Remembrance Sunday, Anti Bullying Week and Children in Need fall in this month.

We teach the children that **Empathy means...** *understanding what others are feeling because you have experienced it yourself or you can imagine experiencing it.*

You can *simply explain it as, 'Put yourself in their shoes.'*

Every time we cover this value I am amazed how the children, even our youngest, understand and embrace this value. By relating it to all that is going on around them the children have an opportunity to understand how empathy relates to them and their relationships with others.

Empathy is the quality that underlies love, caring, and compassion. When you empathise with people, you're able to put yourself in their place and recognise them as human beings with feelings just like you. You notice when they're sad or hurt, and you might offer your help - or simply say a kind word. Empathy is the foundation of the Golden Rule - "Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you." Although a capacity for empathy is innate, parents can help it flourish.

REMEMBRANCE 2020

Unfortunately we have been unable to sell poppies in school this year. Please continue to donate where you can to support this worthy cause.

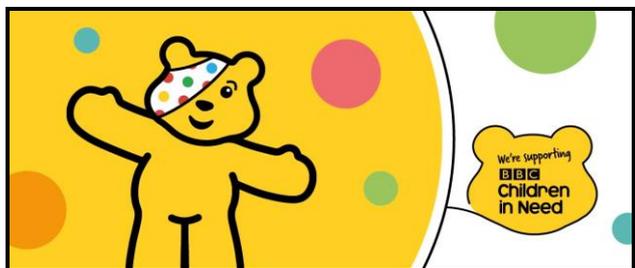


We will be partaking in a minutes silence in our classrooms and undertaking remembrance activities in school.

CHILDREN IN NEED 2020 Friday November 13th

On Friday 13th November we are once again taking part in supporting Children in Need. The school council are organising some activities in school and we are having a non-uniform day. Since Joe Wicks is an ambassador for Children in Need 2020 we have decided to dress in

sportswear for the day, this will still enable the classes who have their PE lesson to take part in their normal timetable. Under the current restrictions we believe that it will be best for you all to make a donation directly to the charity rather than sending any money in directly to school. We hope you can understand this. We value the opportunity to fundraise for this worthy charity and thank you for your support.



PTA 'EVENTS'

Our fabulous PTA have been working very hard behind the scenes to continue to raise money for our garden project and to contribute to future events for the children.

The wooded area has now been cleared as part of the initial phase; the area will later be developed into an outdoor learning space for all of the children in our school to benefit from.

Since September they have raised over £1000 through online sales, garage sales - they could not have done this without your support.

You have now received tickets for the PTA Christmas raffle for the chance to win a range of fantastic prizes. We have set the return dates to be earlier than usual to allow safe handling of the tickets and distribution of the prizes.

CHRISTMAS CARD POST BOX

Apologies for mentioning this at the start of November but we have been asked!

During December we are looking to operate this in a safe way – more information to follow.

HOME LEARNING

Your child has been sent home with a blank book from school. This is to remain at home in the event that your child is required to work from home in the current climate. Obviously, this is the worst-case scenario and we hope that it will not be needed. Having the book at home will enable your child to complete written activities in any of our subjects; the work can then be photographed and uploaded onto the google classroom. We hope this is a way that we can minimise screen time for some of the older children.

SCHOOL TERM DATES

Friday 13 th November	Children in Need Wear sportswear for the day.
Monday 16 th November	Odd socks day for Anti-bullying week
Friday 18 th December	End of Term
Monday 4 th January	Inset Day
Tuesday 5 th January	Inset Day
Wednesday 6 th January	Start of Spring term 2021