



**PARK WOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION**  
**HEADTEACHERS NEWSLETTER**  
**JANUARY 2018**

**A BIG PUSH AGAINST UNWANTED WORDS**

As a school and staff we are currently having a very big push on educating the children not to use rude words or inappropriate language. We realise that these words are far more commonly used today than in the past and that the children probably hear them more often, but we also feel school is a special place and that children should not be saying them at Park Wood.

Although swearing is an obvious place to focus on, we also feel that the children should avoid name calling or the use of silly or rude words which may not be swearing, but even our youngest children can use from time to time.

We are working very closely with Year 6 to make sure our oldest children lead by example and there are sanctions in place for children who are found to be using inappropriate language, but we will also be concentrating on this issue across the school. We really hope that parents can reinforce this at home and also support the school if their child has to be reminded about their use of language.

**ABSENCE REQUEST FORMS**

Parents are aware that absence from school cannot be authorised unless there are special or exceptional circumstances. This is separate to illness or absence on compassionate grounds, which we always try to help our families with. As a school we realise the price implications of holidays in non term time and completely sympathise with this but it is the law and as a school, until the law changes, we need to uphold it.

I need to make it clear, that where parents have been fined, the school does not get any money from this. So it creates a complicated situation where schools and parents want to keep a really positive and honest relationship, where both understand the unfairness of the price changes and where neither benefits. Schools cannot provide work, as this endorses the absence.

Absence Request Forms along with guidance about what does not constitute exceptional circumstances are available at the school office. It is national advice from the government, but does not give guidance on what constitutes exceptional circumstances. This comes down to individual circumstances and it's rare that two sets of circumstances are the same.

Attendance at Park Wood is very high and we want to keep it that way. There have been several examples lately of more than one class obtaining the highest attendance trophy on the same week. Recently three classes all finished on 100%, which is amazing. It's really great that our families are so supportive in helping this excellent attendance.

**..HAVING SAID THAT (THE TISSUE ISSUE)**

As a school, despite some very challenging financial times, which we face at the moment and is much documented in the media, we have tried really hard not to ask for too much from parents. Many schools ask for all stationery to be provided, or for donations to school fund. We currently are resisting this but this may need to be an option in the future. However, we have recently had a large number of colds and bugs and sniffles. If parents were able to donate boxes of tissues, by sending them in with their children to their class teacher, this would be massively appreciated.

**ONE GIANT LEAP FOR PARKWOOD'S TRAMPOLINING TEAM**

Great news for our trampolining team. All the children gave a great account of themselves and their school in the recent zonal competition held in London. Not only did they perform admirably, but they also got praised for their great sporting attitude. Well done to all the children and for Mrs Power's support.

I would also like to wish the boys all the best of luck as they have qualified for the national competition to be staged in Ireland.

### **SPORTING AND ARTISTIC RECOGNITION**

We have been delighted recently both by the sporting and the artistic talent we have in the school.

At a recent assembly, the school was rightly praised for its ongoing excellence in the sporting arena. A second gold mark from the Howard Sports partnership was celebrated as well as an award for the most participants of any school in the Medway Mini Youth Games. I would like to congratulate all the staff and the wonderful young athletes we have, for achieving this fantastic 'double' of trophies.

We also had, thanks to the organisation of Mrs Kelk, a really enjoyable Arts Day at the school, where many famous artists were studied and their work emulated by the children. A number of pieces were chosen to be the 'House Arts Champions' in an approach organised by Mr Wintle, to give praise for our talented young painters and designers and artists as well as win a significant amount of house points. The work will be displayed in the coming weeks.

### **PARKING CREEPING BACK**

Please continue to respect local residents and traffic restrictions and park sensibly. If you have children at the Sunshine club before school, the cut off time for driving on site is 8am. Please don't block residents access in local streets and please, never park on the pavement or by the gates. It sounds like a moan, but it is genuinely to keep our children and families safe as well as our local residents.

### **THE GREAT FLOOD!**

Some parents may have witnessed the 'all hands to the pump' experience of last week when the extreme rain caused a drain to over fill and create a small river through our join. The cleaning, admin and staff team were great. Gutters were emptied, water cleared and a safe passage for the children created in a matter of minutes. What a great team. Parents were very supportive and patient. Thank you.

### **WATCHING FOR WATCHES**

I would ask that children do not bring in either smart watches (as these are clearly a safeguarding issue and are essentially phones on a wrist strap) or Fitbit type watches or accessories (as they are expensive items). Please could any children who do have watches, keep them as basic time keepers without other capabilities.

### **DIARY DATES INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL**

- 7 Feb School Nurse – Drop in Session
- 8 Feb PSA Disco Yr 1 & 2 Only 3.30 – 5.00pm
- 9 Feb Last Day of Term
- 19 Feb Term 4 – Children back to School
- 22 Feb Multi-Skills Festival Yr 3 & 4
- 28 Feb Year 5 School Trip
- 1 Mar Parent Consultations 3.30 – 7.00pm
- 2 Mar Parent Consultations 7.30 – 8.20am
- 5 Mar PSA Mother's Day Presents (Infants)
- 7 Mar PSA Mother's Day Presents (Juniors)
- 8 Mar Parent Consultations 3.30 – 5.30pm
- 9 Mar Parent Consultations 7.30 – 8.20am

**Mr A Moir**  
**Headteacher**

