



Friday 20th October 2023

Dear parents/carers

As we approach the end of the first half-term of this academic year, we wanted to take this opportunity to write to you again. Firstly, to say thank you to all the parents and carers who have so warmly welcomed us into the community and introduced yourselves. Getting to know you is very important to us and we are grateful for the warmth you have shown.

Values & Behaviours

You'll remember at the beginning of September we shared with you the re-established values for Kenley Primary School - Ambition, Responsibility and Community.

We believe these will enable all children to develop to their full potential during their time at Kenley, supporting the personal, social and academic development of every child throughout the school. every child throughout the school. Fostering compassion, tolerance and mutual respect in order that our children are confident, capable and respectful members of their classroom, school, local and wider communities now and in their future lives.

It is already clear how much these principles have become an intrinsic part of the everyday life at school and support The Kenley Way - Be Ready | Be Respectful | Be Safe - while continuing to guide and support us in all we do and say – adults and children alike. They are proving to be valuable goals and aims that are aspired to and reflected through the actions of all, including parents and carers.

Positive Relationships & Behaviours

As part of our commitment to nurturing positive relationships and behaviour, we seek to create a happy and safe learning environment, which encourages and reinforces good behaviour. Our new [Positive Relationships & Behaviours policy](#) outlines the strategies which we consistently use and are fundamental to ensuring successful learning and excellent social behaviours for all children.

Our policy is also rooted in the British values of mutual respect, democracy, rule of law, liberty and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs – as well as needs.

Everyone is responding well to a new restorative approach, which helps children to find meaningful, positive solutions to problems and conflicts – seeing these incidences as opportunities to learn and shifting responsibility for conflict resolution back onto the child means that they are in a much better position to deal with social relationships and not rely on being 'monitored'. Already, we are seeing children being more reflective and considerate of their words and actions, leading to success and happiness.

Executive Principal (interim): Mrs Katie Turner

Head of School (interim): Mrs Jacki Keogh



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Communication

Developing positive home-school partnerships with parents and carers has seen a great use of email, Class DoJo and sharing messages via the school office. Your support with this is appreciated.

To ensure that any messages you might have are dealt with quickly, any questions and comments about children's school days, break times, friendship issues, low-level behaviour incidents etc are best directed to class teachers, who are usually best placed to respond. If teachers aren't in a position to do so, they will pass to an appropriate person and let you know that this has happened. Staff will endeavour to acknowledge all correspondence from parents/carers the same day and respond fully within 3 working days.

As always, it is recommended that any issues between your child and another is brought to the attention of class teachers as they are best placed to look into these and resolve effectively.

Attendance & Punctuality

Currently, our whole-school attendance figure is 97%, which is above our target. This is fantastic! We understand how strong attendance directly links to a child achieving their full potential now and later in life. Your commitment to ensuring your children attend school as often as possible - including when they have minor coughs and colds - remains essential.

It has been encouraging to see children arriving for school on time, getting their day off to a good start and feeling in a positive frame of mind. The 10-minute soft-start at the beginning of each day is certainly supporting children's social development and improving self-confidence. Not only that, arriving on time means that no vital information is missed at the start of the day and learning isn't disrupted.

Safeguarding

At Kenley, we have four colleagues who are *Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)*. These colleagues receive enhanced safeguarding training to ensure that a culture of safeguarding is at the heart of the school's work. The Kenley DSLs are Mrs Keogh, Mrs Smy, Mrs Simpson and Mrs Jones. If children have any worries or concerns, they can tell any adult who must then share with one of DSLs who is then responsible for providing support and response to the concern. Please remind your children who the DSLs are and how important it is that they share any concerns or worries.

Any visitors to site must go through the main entrance and always be signed in by colleagues in the office. No adult who is not a member of staff can access the site unless they have a valid and clear Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check, obtained through the school or are supervised by a member of staff. This is why it is not possible for parents to access the site at the beginning or end of the school day.

With the half-term break fast approaching, it is a useful time to remember the potential dangers of online access to children. The NSPCC offers useful guidance to support adults in this ever-changing online context. On this page [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#) there

is a useful section named, *Online safety guides for parents*. You may wish you refer to this to help you feel informed and updated about ways to keep children safe.

Reading at Home

We are excited to have launched a digital reading log for children in Reception and KS1, an easily accessible and efficient way for parents and carers to regularly log children's reading; for class teachers to receive feedback and share reading that's taking place in school. With the option for entries to be made as audio files and photographs, we can already see how motivating this initiative has been for children to read at home.

It has been encouraging to see the high levels of engagement in reading at home across the school. Children's reading for pleasure habits are clearly increasing, with purposeful entries being made in the new Reading Records by children and families in KS2.

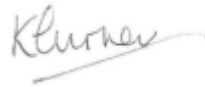
For further information, please refer to the Letters section of the school website, or speak with class teachers.

It just remains for us to wish you all an enjoyable half term break.

Kind regards



Mrs Jacki Keogh
Head of School



Mrs Katie Turner
Executive Principal