



Borough Green Primary School



Learning Together with Kind Hearts and Determined Minds

Newsletter

Week ending 19 April 2024

A message from Mrs Jackson & Mrs Martin

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to say thank you everyone in this lovely community of Borough Green Primary School. I have loved every minute of my first week here and feel privileged to be head teacher at such a wonderful school. It was delightful to receive the Ofsted report and to discuss this with Mr Cooper. It really does reflect the warm, friendly and caring ethos that makes up this school. A huge thank-you to the staff team and children for working together and sharing the fantastic learning that takes place within our school.

During my visits to classrooms this week, I have seen children working hard and enjoying their learning. The excitement of Pandora's Box and King Midas in years 5 and 6 and the life of a Roman soldier in years 3 and 4 have captured some interest. It was great seeing the year 2 children taking part in their swimming lessons despite the sudden onset of hailstones thundering down on the dome! How lucky we are to have such a facility on site.

Year 1 and Early Years impressed me this morning with their independence and focus. Some great counting in maths and a discussion around personality adjectives for a character in a story. I look forward to visiting the nursery on Monday.

In assembly on Tuesday, the children showed me that they are 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' and listened carefully as we talked about the school motto. We discussed what is meant by a 'determined mind' and talked about persistence and resilience when faced with a challenge. We learnt about Spencer Silver, who never gave up on his peelable adhesive, and 6 years later, the Post-It note was created.

The sun is now starting to shine and we hope for this to continue...

We thank you for your continued support and wish you a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Jackson and Mrs Martin

A window into school life...

Reception: It has been a lovely start to the new term in Reception this week. The children are enjoying reading and writing about the book 'The Rainbow Fish'. We have seen some fantastic work during plan, do, review involving water play, sculptures and spending time in the 'under the sea' role play area to name but a few!



Year 1: In our learning in DT on wheels, axles and chassis', we have designed and made a model taxi.



Year 3/ 4: Some photos of Y3/4 Stunning Start for our Emperors and Empires topic. We used multilink cubes to build and label timelines and used them to place our previous history learning on them. Then we created our own timelines of the Roman Period.



Year 5/6: Children have already made a Stunning Start to our new Groundbreaking Greeks unit by considering the use of doric, ionic and Corinthian columns in Classical Greek architecture and as well as in more modern buildings, closer to home, such as The British Museum and Edinburgh University. They then used this to inspire their own column, art creations.



Malyon

As winners of the Term 4 house points competition, Malyon have enjoyed an own clothes day today.



The race for this term's winner has now begun and all children have the chance to help their House to be victorious – good luck to all!

Top Tips for Parents & Carers...

Each week this term we will focus on some top tips for parents and carers, This week is topic is Self-regulation.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

- 1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE**
Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.
- 2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS**
Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.
- 3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS**
Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into every-day conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"
- 4 LISTEN ACTIVELY**
When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or 'teenage angst' – or to assume that they'll simply 'get over' whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.
- 5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS**
Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"
- 6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES**
If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.
- 7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.
- 8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS**
Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here: you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a cafe, or just a weekly walk.
- 9 PROVIDE RESOURCES**
It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.
- 10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION**
It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

Meet Our Expert
With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

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Attendance...

Apple	96.49%
Lime	91.11%
Myrtle	89.63%
Bay	89.26%
Cherry	94.91%
Poplar	97.94%
Sycamore	94.44%
Acacia	88.49%
Maple	97.32%
Oak	93.65%

Congratulations to this week's winner **POPLAR**

The total attendance so far this year is 91.4%, while the national average is 94.2%.

Please make sure your child is always in school whenever possible, as attendance needs to improve.

Awards this term...



Well done to our Stars of the Week who have shown that they know how to take pride in their work and support their classmates. Also huge congratulations to Mrs Martin's Citizenship Award winner, Matty in Year 5. The Citizenship Award recognizes children who go beyond in their general attitude and behaviour around the school.

Term House Points

House	Ashdown	Seamark	Malyon	Morris
This Week	423	470	544	403
Grand total	423	470	544 Winner	403

Star of the Week



Apple	Harper-Rose	Poplar	Tomas
Lime	Hannah	Sycamore	Evie
Myrtle	Zac	Acacia	Thomas
Bay	Sienna	Maple	Marthe
Cherry	Reggie	Oak	Ben



Year group / Club messages & emails sent....

All Years: Ofsted Report issued can also be viewed on our Website.

All Years: Reminder to pay for your child swimming lessons by 24 May please.

All Years: Unfortunately, we have had to postpone the workshop on Friday 19 April. The new date is Thursday 9 May. If you can come on the new date please let the school office know.

Reception: A polite reminder to return borrowed mugs and items of clothing (washed) that have been loaned to the children.

Year 3/ 4: Years 3 and 4 - School Trip to Maidstone Museum. Consent and payments to be made via Arbor.

Choir: Email inviting the children to sing at the school May Fayre on Saturday 11 May. We will be singing at around 12.30 for 5-10 minutes.

PTA...

We hope you all had a brilliant Easter Holidays!

Our next event is the Year 5 Cake Sale is next week on Friday 26th April.

Be our First May Queen and King! Deadline to apply is the 22nd April - get your slip from the office, fill it in and pass it back to the office. Everyone who enters will be invited to join our May Queen and King Procession at the May Fair on 11th May.

Our May Fair is the 11th May! We are trying something a little different this year. All PTA games will take tokens, not cash. Tokens will be available to buy at the entrance - 10 for £5, 22 for £10. We will be asking for volunteers to help out on BBQ, Stalls etc, so please keep an eye out!

Term 5 Dates to remember...

Wednesday 24 April: Final instalment for the Year 6 IOW trip

Friday 26 April: Year 5 Cake Bake Sale

Tuesday 30 April: Deadline for Parents to accept/decline Reception intake Sept 2024 spaces.

Monday 6 May: Bank Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED

Thursday 9 May: Parenting Workshop with Una Archer in the Hall from 9-10am, All welcome

Saturday 11 May: PTA May Fair

Monday 13 to Thursday 16 May: Year 6 SATs week

Monday 20 to Friday 24 May: Year 6 Residential Trip to the IOW

Friday 24 May: Year 3/ 4 Maidstone Museum Trip

Friday 24 May: End of Term 5

Monday 3 to Wednesday 5 June: INSET DAYS – NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

Thursday 6 June: Start of Term 6