

BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 10

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This week, our Year 3 and Year 5 children showcased their enthusiasm and curiosity as they represented Boorley on their trips to Butser Hill and the Science Centre. Their engagement with the activities linked to their learning made us all proud.

Additionally, thank you to all parents and children for the generous contributions to Children in Need Day today; your support helps make a difference to the lives of many children and families.

We are excited to share that alongside this week's newsletter, you will find a separate letter outlining our school's priorities for the next three years. This strategic plan is designed to enhance the educational experience and ensure the continued growth and success of the children. We encourage you to read this letter carefully, as it highlights our goals and information around how we will be undertaking to achieve them. Your support and involvement are crucial and we look forward to working together to create a positive impact in our school community.



INSPIRING MINDS

In Year 1's recent history enquiry, we asked the question, "Do we play with the same toys our grandparents did?" The children took a fun journey through time, looking at the toys we love today and comparing them with the toys our grandparents played with when they were young. We discovered that while some toys have stayed the same, like dolls, balls, and toy cars, many things have changed. Our grandparents' toys were often made from wood, metal, or fabric, while today's toys are more likely to be made from plastic and other modern materials. We even got to explore how the materials used in toys affect how they look, feel, and last over time.

To bring it all together, we used our science knowledge to look at the different materials these toys are made from. We discussed the properties of materials, like how wood is strong but can break, while plastic is flexible but might not last as long. We also thought about why toys are designed the way they are and how changes in technology and materials have allowed for new types of play.

It was inspiring to see how our toys connect us to the past and how sharing them with our friends—just like our grandparents shared with each other—helps us learn more about history and the world around us. This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the joy of playing and sharing, both with our classmates and across generations!



NURTURING FUTURES

This week, we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week and World Kindness Day, with a unified focus on respect within our school community. Throughout the week, the children have engaged in various activities and discussions aimed at promoting kindness, understanding and support for one another. By fostering an environment where respect is at the forefront, we empower our children to build positive relationships and stand up against bullying. We believe that by nurturing values of empathy and respect, we can create a school community where everyone feels safe and valued. Thank you for your continued support in helping us cultivate a compassionate community.

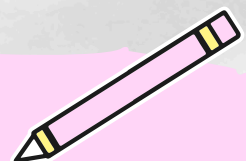


STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

On Monday, our school community came together to honour Remembrance Day with assemblies and moments for reflection. The children participated in activities that encouraged them to think deeply about the significance of this day. Our Key Stage 1 children crafted beautiful wreaths, which were proudly displayed throughout the school. Key Stage 2 children engaged in a range of activities from art work to the creation of emotive poems. These meaningful tributes served as a visual reminder of our collective commitment to remembering those who have served. On Monday, the whole school observed a moment of silence, uniting us in gratitude and reflection. This highlighted the importance of respect, empathy and community spirit.



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SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

Following Anti-Bullying week with our focus on Kindness and respect within our school community, please consider how you can continue this message with your children at home and support them in developing and maintaining healthy relationships. Healthy relationships are essential for the well-being of our children.

Families play a vital role in this process by encouraging open communication and teaching empathy. Engage in conversations with your children about friendships, asking your child about their feelings and experiences. Encourage them to express themselves and listen actively to others. Role-model positive interactions by demonstrating kindness and respect in your own relationships. Additionally, help your child navigate conflicts by guiding them on how to resolve disagreements in a respectful manner. By creating a supportive environment and providing tools for effective communication, we can empower our children to build and maintain meaningful relationships throughout their lives.



KEY DATES



November and December

Friday 22nd November 2:30-3:15pm – Year 1 Parent Workshop

Wednesday 27th November 1:30-1:45pm – Year 5 Listen2Me: Violin Concert to parents-In the hall

Wednesday 27th November 2:00pm Rocksteady Concert to parents for those that attend Rocksteady
INSET day - Friday 29th November 2024 - School closed

Tuesday 3rd December 2:30-3pm Year 2 Hedgehog Class - Parent Workshop

Wednesday 4th December 2:45-3:15pm Year 5 Parent Workshop

Thursday 5th December 2:30-3pm Year 2 Fox Class - Parent Workshop

Friday 6th December 3-3.15pm Year 4 Parent Workshop

Monday 9th December 3:50pm Choir Performance - In the hall

Tuesday 10th December 9:15-10:15am KS1 Show - In the hall

Tuesday 10th December 2:30pm Mouse Class - Parent workshop

Wednesday 11th December 2:15-3:15pm KS1 Show - In the hall

Thursday 12th December 2:30pm Deer Class - Parent workshop

Friday 13th December - Christmas Lunch - Wear a Christmas Jumper for Save the Children Friday 13th
December at 2:30pm Year R Christmas Craft workshop

Tuesday 17th December 9:15-10am Year R Nativity Play - In the hall

Wednesday 18th December 2:30pm Christmas Carols on the playground

Thursday 19th December 2:15pm-3pm Year R Nativity Play - In the hall

Thursday 19th December PTA Disco (Time TBC)

Friday 20th December Santa Dash in the morning

Friday 20th December - Last Day of Term Christmas Holidays

Monday 23rd December 2024 – Friday 3rd January 2025

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each other.

9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/choose-respect>