

MOAT FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



FRIDAY
8TH NOV

Message from Mrs Shaw & Mrs Scotney

What a wonderful week it has been and a great start to the second half term of the school year!
Parents' Evenings

This week, it was lovely to invite so many parents into school for our first parents' evening of the year. This was a fantastic opportunity for parents to meet their child's teacher and discuss how they have settled into their classes, along with the progress they have made so far this year. We do hope the parents who received phone calls found this conversation just as informative. From parental feedback last year, we have kept this as an option, as it means that more of our families can hear about how their child is doing in school.

During both evenings, many parents commented on the wonderful provision that staff provide for their children each and every day. Your comments are so important to us, and we thank you for being so supportive of all we do in school.

Book Awards (British Value – Individual Liberty)

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news with you! Our school is participating in an upper and lower school book awards competition, this will be an incredible opportunity for our pupils to engage with texts in a fun and interactive way. Selected children will be invited to read a range of nominated books, carefully chosen for their category. They will then have the chance to vote for their favourites. Once the books have been further shortlisted, the judging panel will narrow it down to the top three picks, and then, each child will choose their overall favourite before the winner is announced in the spring term. We are so excited about this opportunity and look forward to seeing the joy it brings to our pupils.



Reading Ambassadors (British Value – Democracy)

This week, we have launched our initiative to recruit Moat Farm's next Reading Ambassadors. Each teacher has taken the time to nominate two children from their class who have shown an exceptional love of reading and have become inspiring reading role models for their peers.

Selected children will receive an application form, where they will have the opportunity to put forward why they should be chosen for the role. Once completed, the applicants will be invited for an interview, providing them with a chance to demonstrate why they would make an excellent Reading Ambassador.

The successful candidates will be announced at the end of next week. As Reading Ambassadors, the children will have the opportunity to promote reading for pleasure throughout the school, lead exciting initiatives, take responsibility for reading areas, and develop leadership skills. What a fantastic opportunity this is for our pupils!

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Poppy Appeal (British Value – Respect)

Last Sunday, Zander spent a few hours in Tesco West Bromwich helping to sell poppies with his Scout group. On Sunday, he will also be taking part in the Remembrance Day parade. Well done Zander for helping such a great cause, we are proud of your efforts!



Litter Watch (British Value – Respect)

All this week Sonia from Litter Watch has been delivering assemblies and workshops to our Year 3 and 4 pupils (Years 5 and 6 pupils will have theirs in the next few days). The pupils learnt so many different facts about littering law and how litter affects our environment. They learnt that: if you drop something outdoors and it does not disappear before it hits the ground, it is littering, they learnt that even throwing fruit that is biodegradable on the ground is littering, that putting rubbish next to a full bin is 'polite littering' and how litter is affecting wildlife. Most importantly, the children learnt what they can do about it. It was a fantastic assembly that reflects respect – one of our British Values.

Attendance (British Value – Rule of Law)

As you will know, we aim for at least 96% for all of our children and we have made a tremendous start to the school year, achieving 97.1% at the end of the half term. We would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to all of our families who consistently ensure their children's attendance and punctuality is good. Getting these important habits established early on in your child's life will make a difference to their future. There is a proven link between attendance and achievement, and we want your children to have the best possible start in life. A child should attend school every day that they are well enough. Unnecessary absences can affect them in many ways, for example by damaging friendships or them missing out on exciting activities.

Next week we are taking part in a 'No Days Missed' challenge, where there will be daily rewards allocated to classes, houses and individuals. Be in to win!

Next week (British Values – Respect and Tolerance)

Anti-Bullying Week 2024 will take place from Monday 11th - Friday 15th November, with the theme: Choose Respect. Odd Socks Day is taking place on Tuesday 12th November, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. We can't wait to see our pupils in their wacky odd socks! Anti-bullying assemblies and lessons will also take place during the week.

We will also be celebrating 'Children in Need' next Friday. Children can come to school dressed in their bright and colourful clothing, from a brightly coloured T-shirt to spotty pyjamas or Pudsey related items, such as furry ears and wristbands. If you wish to make a donation, please use the official Children in Need donation page: donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk

Wishing you all a great weekend!

Mrs Shaw and Mrs Scotney

LEARNING IN PICTURES

LITTER WATCH



BIKEABILITY



SCIENCE EXPERIMENT



SPOOKY STORY WINNERS



UPCOMING EVENTS

12.11.24

Anti-Bullying awareness day -
Wear odd socks

13.11.24

G5 & Y5
Harvington Hall Trip

14.11.24

B5 & R5
Harvington Hall Trip

15.11.24

Children in Need
Non School
Uniform Day

22.11.24

B4 & G4: Bewdley
Museum Trip

27.11.24

Green 6 Class
Assembly 9:00

04.12.24

Red 6 Class
Assembly 9:00

05.12.24

Blue 5 Class
Assembly 9:00

6.12.24

Teacher Training

7.12.24

Winter Market

11.12.24

Red 5 Class
Assembly 9:00

12.12.24

Christmas Jumper
Day

18.12.24

Upper School Xmas
Parties - (1:30 - 2:15 Party
Games and 2:15pm - 3:00
Disco)

19.12.24

Lower School Xmas
Parties - (1:30 - 2:15 Party
Games and 2:15pm - 3:00
Disco)

20.12.24

Pantomime - Dick
Whittington (in school -
pupils only)
Last day of term
Non school uniform

23.12.24
03.01.25

Christmas Holidays

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 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 another.

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.



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1

Download and sign up to the Asda Rewards app

Opt into the Cashpot for Schools campaign and select a specific primary school or select 'Schools in Need'.

2

Shop in store across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com

Asda will donate a percentage of your shop to your chosen school each time you shop and scan.

3

Asda does the rest

The money raised will be donated through Parentkind to schools to spend on what they need most. This won't affect your own Cashpot earn.

Once opted in and selected a school, we will add £1 to your chosen schools Cashpot to help get them started.

Each school will get an additional £50 added to their Cashpot, after at least one customer has shopped and scanned their Rewards app.



Registering your school

A school, PTA or parent council can register on behalf of their school.

To register, they must sign up with our charity partner, Parentkind, via their [website](#). There is a free option for those unable to sign up for the yearly membership. If a school isn't registered by 30th November, the money earned will be transferred to the Schools in Need Cashpot, where it will be distributed to schools in disadvantaged areas.

**CASHPOT
FOR
SCHOOLS**

Parentkind

About Parentkind

Parentkind is one of the largest federated charities and is the membership body for school Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs). They have spent the last 68 years helping an army of volunteer parents organise millions of events to enhance school life, raising billions of pounds for their schools.

As well as fundraising, Parentkind supports the voice of parents at a national level. With more research into parent opinion than any other UK charity, Parentkind offers a vital insight into both education and family life.