

Dear Parents/Carers,

Tuesday 21st February 2017

Welcome back to school. We hope you have had an enjoyable half term break with your children.

Executive Principal Commendations

During the holidays I was delighted to be able to send out letters to children who have been awarded an Executive Principal Commendation. This is part of the tradition of the school. The letters are awarded to children who teachers feel have excelled with their behaviour, progress, and attitude to learning. It is always difficult for teachers to make this choice because so many of the children across school make outstanding progress and have excellent attitudes to learning.

This year's commendations have been awarded to:

Reception Class – Elias Wright and Lydia Hopkinson

Year 1 – Edward Smith and Sophie Keyworth

Year 2 – James Stevenson and Drew Gardiner

Year 3 – Jude Mitchell and Leah Wilby

Year 4 – Jack Schofield and Marisa Massey

Year 5 – Jack Spencer and Melissa Snowden

Year 6 – Sam Sheard and Katie Wade

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 22nd February – Grandparents Day for children in Reception Class and Year 1 starting at 9am.
Year 5 to visit Wakefield Girls High School to watch a production of 'The Sound of Music'.

Thursday 23rd February – The last session of the 'Smart Art' family learning course at the Maypole Centre.

Week Commencing Monday 27th February – Art Focus Week across the academy. This year's theme is Art, Class and Society.

Monday 27th February – Year 6 to visit Ossett Academy to watch a production of 'Matilda'.

Wednesday 1st March – Year 5 visit to Croft House.

Thursday 2nd March – World Book Day. To celebrate we are having a book swap. Children are invited to bring a book to swap with another child. This means they will come home with a different book. If you have any other books that you no longer want then please bring those in as well, as we can send them to the children in Malawi.

Tuesday 7th March – We invite all parents into the academy for our parents open morning. The focus for the morning will be literacy. Each class will be involved in literacy lessons from 9am to 11am. This means that if you have children in two or more classes you will be able to spend time in each class. We hope parents will come and join us. This will be an opportunity for you to see what your children are learning in literacy which in turn will help you to support them at home.

Week commencing Monday 13th March – Scholastic Book Fair at the academy. The fair will be open from 8:20am – 8:45am and 3:15pm to 3:45pm. Please feel free to come and have a look around.

Monday 13th March – Year 4 Football Match Towngate V Gawthorpe. To be held at Towngate Primary Academy.

Wednesday 15th March – Intra school sports event.
Year 6 visit to Croft House.

Monday 20th March – Nursery closure day for all nursery children except for those who have wraparound care on a Monday.

Tuesday 21st March – EOCT Choir celebration will take place at Holy Trinity Church.
World Poetry Day celebration in school.

Friday 24th March – Comic Relief Day.
Mother's Day Tea for Year 2 and Year 3. Mothers or another female relations will receive an invitation to join their child a drink and a tasty home-made treat.

Week commencing Monday 27th March – Assessment Week across the academy.

Monday 27th March – Wellbeing Workshop for parents in the Maypole Centre to start at 1:15pm.

Tuesday 28th March – Nursery INSPIRE Day.

Wednesday 29th March – Year 2 visit to Croft House.

Week commencing Monday 3rd April – Last Choir Standing. The annual choir competition between classes. This year's theme is 'Best of British Beat – 1960's. We had such a success with last years themed dressing up that we are, once again, asking parents if you could provide a 1960's outfit for your child. We don't expect you to go to great expense, it can be as simple as a psychedelic t-shirt, a cap or even just cut up an old outfit and fringe it like a hippie.

The selected songs will be:

Reception - Sugar Sugar

Year 1 – Puppet on a String.

Year 2 – Our House

Year 3 – Beatles Medley, with a twist!

Year 4 – Build me up Buttercup.

Year 5 – Come Together.

Year 6 – Glad all over.

Monday 3rd April – Parents are invited to join us for our traditional Easter Service.
Parent/teacher open evening.

Wednesday 5th April – Year 4 visit to Danelaw.

Year 1 visit to Croft House. Year 1 are invited to bring a decorated Easter Bonnet to school.
This can be worn on their afternoon visit to Croft House.

Thursday 6th April – Children are invited to decorate a hard-boiled egg and bring into school. The eggs will be judged on Thursday evening and prizes for the winning eggs presented in assembly on Friday morning.
Late night parent/teacher open evening.
Year 5 handball match Towngate V Gawthorpe.
EOCT picture book shortlisting event.

Friday 7th April – Easter Bonnet parade at Celebration assembly.

Due Diligence

At the end of last half term school leaders from across our Multi Academy Trust carried out a due diligence of our academy. They looked at all areas of the academy including leadership and management, teaching and learning, pupil's behaviour, welfare and standards. We were very pleased with the outcome which was highly positive. Thank you to all parents who met with these leaders and for the very positive comments you made. It was greatly appreciated by staff.

The team left us with a numbers of ideas as to how we can make the school even better. We will be addressing these issues over the rest of the academic year.

One suggestion made, by parents, was to raise the profile of male role models. We are very aware that we are mainly an all-female staff however we do have male staff who work with us and have asked them to write a little about their roles.

The first profile has been provided by Joe Hitch, known to the children as Coach Joe.

'It is clear that children look to adults as role models, therefore working in an academy that has a ratio of 1 male to 30 female staff, it is important that children visualise the world from both male and female perspectives. As a role model I can instil values and respect for the children to look up to me as a man.

Boys can relate and show their thoughts and feelings when speaking to a man who is approachable. Children look to adult's behaviour so they see mutual respect between male and female staff, ensuring they will continue to build solid relationships and understanding with the opposite sex.

Students emulate the behaviour they see in adults and therefore I can inspire and motivate children to realise their full potential. They copy what they see:

- 1. Passion and Ability to Inspire*
- 2. Clear set expectations and values*
- 3. Selflessness and acceptance of others*
- 4. The ability to overcome obstacles'*



Education City Home Access

Following the workshop that Mrs Gill delivered for Reception Class parents, Education City is back at parent's request. Children in Reception Class and Year 1 will shortly bring home a card with log on and password details. This is an additional expense, we would therefore encourage you to use it with your child to make it cost effective.

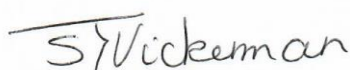
Lateness

Can we ask that any children arriving to school after 9am are brought to the front desk by an adult to sign your child into school.

We look forward to working with you over the next half term.

Regards,

The Leadership Team



Mrs S J Vickerman

Executive Principal



Mrs P M Gill

Executive Vice Principal



Mrs A M Mitchell

Head of School