

Headteacher's Blog November (2) 2018

Thrive Approach

I am delighted to have now completed, and passed, my 'Thrive Approach Practitioner' accredited course. Many aspects of this approach, to supporting pupils with emotional wellbeing needs, were already part of our staff skills base, however, I am enjoying working with pupils on introducing some new methods and creative approaches to addressing emotional development needs.

This approach is being shared with all staff and forms part of our PSHE curriculum work, as well as being an effective behaviour management strategy. I am receiving very positive feedback from pupils and some families. Many thanks for your support with this.

Online Safety

On 12th November, we had an external online safety audit. The report is sent to our local authority and I am pleased to report that we were given no actions for the second time running. The auditor particularly liked our subject planning and commented on the high standard of pupil work and understanding of online safety.

Thank you to the positive response to our reminder that pupils and staff are not allowed to wear wrist-worn devices with cameras, due to the safeguarding risks they pose. Any pupil mobile phones have to be handed-in to the Office and are returned at the end of the day. GDPR regulations are very strict about image storage and usage. Watches with pointers are a real benefit for pupils learning to tell the time and boost their assessment results.

If purchasing games for young people at Christmas, please remember to check the PEGI ratings to see if they are suitable. There are links to lots of useful guidance from the 'online safety' section of our school website, such as how to set-up safe searching on devices.

Uniform

Thank you for your responses to our investigation into uniform issues. Options that were suggested for us to investigate were: BSB (Belford); Tesco; Sportsworld; and suggesting changes to our Border Embroideries supplies. Having investigated the cancelled orders issues with Border, this was because of a technical issue on the website, which priced sweatshirts at 50p, so the 40 orders at this price were naturally stopped.

The results of our investigation are:

- * BSB are able to provide us with an additional uniform service, including the option to buy direct from them, rather than online, so offering a try-on service. Further details will follow.
- * Tesco are unable to offer an embroidered uniform option.

- * Sportsworld would not make any money from offering a try-on service, so this is not an option they want to offer.
- * Border Embroideries will continue with their current service and we are investigating if they can provide all hoodies in the same make as the PE ones; changing the PE t-shirt to improve quality; they will also offer a self-coloured, embroidered pupil initials option on clothing.

Please remember to let us know about any issues as soon as possible, as once queried, they are usually sorted quickly.

Sport Clubs

It has been great to see the number of pupils attending the sports clubs increase. From January, Badminton will be on Mondays from 14th January, for the first half-term. It will then move to Thursdays after February half-term, as a block of Rugby sessions will start. Miss Baines' club on Wednesdays will stop at the end of term (as we will start some Y6 revision classes after school- info. to follow.) From January, the after-school club will offer crafts each Wednesday. Kathy will be sending out further information, so please contact her about signing up for clubs.

Stage

We took arrival of our bespoke, portable staging yesterday. KS1 pupils loved using it today for their rehearsal. Thanks to PTA for helping fund this and to Mr Swinbank for building it to our exacting specifications.

Kind regards, Diane Lakey