



Respect – Responsibility - Resilience – Kindness – Teamwork

Mrs Thirkill's Blog – 25.3.22

Good afternoon,

It's been another busy but productive week in school. It's great to see children happily learning and making good progress.

We are all enjoying the better weather and this week the field has had it's first cut and we've been able to get children up there which has been great to see. We've also planted another 10 fruit trees on our grounds this week and we're developing our own little orchard which will be wonderful when it comes to fruition.

I mentioned a few weeks ago about Marks and Spencer's uniform. At present we are trialling samples for fit and quality. We will let you know how this goes. We will still continue to also use Whitakers at Shipley and potentially have two suppliers so parents can choose. I have spoken to Whitakers and he is completely understanding about the need to ensure choice, quality and value for money too.

I wanted to let you know about some lovely break out spaces which we have across school. We have created and revitalised pockets of breakout spaces in school which are multi-functional and available for every child. We are hoping that in the near future parents will be able to be invited into school to see what we've been up to but in the meantime:

- The Burrow – This room is in the key stage 1 end of the building, it is used for group interventions such as Magic Monday, Ginger Bear, Phonics and reading. In addition to this it can be used as a regulation space for any children who may need it.
- The Nest – This room is up in Key Stage 2. It is quite a large room that can host 12/14 children comfortably. It is used for small group teaching, interventions, meetings and also as a regulation space if and when required.
- The Roots – This is a smaller room in key stage 2 which has recently been redecorated and brought back to life. It is great for 1:1 confidential discussions or if a child needs a moment of peace and relaxation before returning to the classroom.
- The Branches – This is also in the key stage 2 end of school, it is a lovely little room with no formal furniture, just bean bags, cosy blankets and soft den building materials. It provides a perfect little hideaway and is used by children in all key stages.

We are very lucky to have these additional spaces across school. Please be assured that the spaces are always used under adult supervision and are available for all members of our school to use.

I have been contacted by a parent this week who is helping to support children in the UK by providing uniform items for when they start new schools. The majority of children in Ukraine don't wear school uniform so it is a new thing for them. We are hoping to be able to collect any uniform that maybe no longer fits. We are looking only for items without logos, so plain polos, jumpers, cardigans and also skirts, trousers or dresses. We will set up a collection box in the front entrance if anybody feels they

have any items they could donate. I will make the collection box available from Monday so please have a little search through over the weekend and see if there is anything you could give. Thank you for your support.

At the moment in school, we are trialling – Now Press Play. The children are loving it and we've had some fabulous feedback this week, from the children.

These are a sample of quotes from children in Miss Sykes class.

Honey - 'It was nice because it was like a real adventure.'

Ethan - 'I loved it so much and want to do it every single day'

Isla- "It was the best game ever!"

Inny- "I love it and want you to buy it for all the classes!"

Ava- "I really like rescuing the animals and thought it was really fun!"

Penny- "It felt like we were actually there."

This is Mr Burrows class, also enjoying Now Press Play.



Mrs Tordoff, our school business manager, will be retiring this year after being with our school for 22 years. She will leave us at the end of this academic year. She has worked tirelessly for our school and built relationships with all she has worked with. Mrs Tordoff has adventures planned for the future and will be gallivanting in her camper with Mr Tordoff, all around the country and beyond. I would like to wish Mrs Tordoff the happiness and relaxation she deserves.

We are pleased that this week we have been able to appoint a new business manager Mr Litvinov who will do some transition visits during the summer term and take over the position from September.

Mr Smith, our site manager, has taken the decision to leave Parkside Facilities Management. This means that he will no longer be with us. Parkside will be providing a new site manager for us from April 1st. We look forward to welcoming our new site manager into our team and wish Mr Smith success and happiness as he moves on.

Covid will keep me confined to my house and garden this weekend, but I hope you are all able to make the best of the sunshine and enjoy the weekend.

Take care

Mrs Thirkill