

A Learning Adventure

Discover | Learn | Become

Stoke Park Primary School

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PARK
PRIMARY

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The year is well underway now and the children have made a great start to the term. Therefore, as we think about the year ahead, I wanted to share with you some of our priorities for the Autumn and beyond. These priorities have arisen from our pupil survey which we carried out at the end of the Summer. Listening to what the children have to say gives us a really important insight into what is going well and what we, as a school and community, need to improve.

Results from the children's survey

The survey focused on learning in the classroom, behaviour and pastoral support for children. There were some very encouraging responses but there are also areas that the children are saying we need to work on. These are the key headlines:

- 98% of children said that teachers help me to do my best
- 94% of children said that their work challenges them to do their best
- 89% of children said they enjoy school
- 92% of children said that they enjoy learning
- 91% of children said that there is an adult they can talk to if they are worried
- 94% of children said that they felt safe at school
- 94% of children thought that teachers were good at sorting out bullying if it did happen

However, although the children said most children behave well:

- 18% of children had strong concerns about behaviour in their lessons
- 12% of children had strong concerns about behaviour around the school

It is pleasing to see such positive responses regarding children's learning and their relationships with teaching staff. However, a significant minority of children had concerns about behaviour and I think the children are right to have the highest expectations of each other.

Although we know that from time to time children will fall out and the way these issues are resolved is part of growing up, I think 100% of children should feel that other children behave well. From our conversations in assemblies, children and the staff agree with this and I'm sure parents will too. At Stoke Park, we have always said that children have a right to learn and a right to feel happy at school. They also have a responsibility to allow others to learn and to ensure that they do not do anything to make another child unhappy.



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To help achieve this, the children have put forward their ideas for the school rules. Using their suggestions, these are our new school rules:

Rules that help us **care for ourselves**

1. Celebrate your strengths; work on your weaknesses
2. Be yourself – don't compare yourself to others
3. Don't pull others down, lift yourself up
4. Work hard and try your best

Rules that help us **care for ourselves and others**

5. Be kind to everyone and keep them safe
6. Listen to teachers' instructions and don't distract others
7. Be a role model to younger children
8. Take turns and share
9. Look after your school and the environment

How can parents help?

To give them the best chance of being successful in life, we have always told the children to: believe in yourself, learn as much as you can and learn to get on well with others. These rules will help children build those successful habits. Parents can help their child by discussing these rules with them.

In addition to our weekly 'outstanding behaviour' award, we have also introduced a 'good behaviour' award. Your child should be getting the good or the outstanding behaviour award every week. Therefore, please look out for the weekly text message for your child's class and celebrate their success or remind them of expectations if his/her name is not on the list.

What are staff doing to help those who need to improve their behaviour?

In addition to the new award and new school rules, we will be promoting positive behaviour by:

- Making sure our curriculum matches the children's interests. For example, drama, art, gymnastics and dance are very popular and we will continue to keep these subjects as a central part of our curriculum. However, many of the older boys wanted to learn to play cricket and have more opportunity to play football. Consequently, we have added these clubs to Friday afternoons.
- Making sure that school life feels fair by ensuring that the rewarding activities are predominantly going to children who behave well. For example, we would not pick a child who is being unkind in training for the school football team.
- Alongside sanctions, continuing to offer advice and support to children who are struggling with the rules.
- Drawing up behaviour plans with parents to support children who are disturbing lessons or who are consistently being unkind. We will also ask the parents of these children to attend a meeting at school every two weeks to review progress.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or talk with me at parents evening this week.

Yours sincerely,



Gareth Simons – Headteacher