



DARELL PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter 18, 31.01.2020

Headteacher's Letter

Dear Parents & Carers,

As you may know I am now working on a weekly rota basis with my current school. Working a full week has really helped myself and Mr Gilbert drive school improvement at Darell and I thought it would be useful to update you about what we have been focussing on as a school. This year we have placed great emphasis on developing the role of talk at Darell School. The ability to express yourself effectively is an essential life skill and we intend that all our children leave the school as great communicators. Every class has used talk frames to encourage this process and it is incredible what impact this has already had. I have just returned from a Year 2 class where a young girl stood up in front of the whole class and clearly stated her opinion about a piece of text. She then explained why she had formed this opinion. Developing oracy also benefits the writing process and we have begun to see evidence of this. We will keep you updated about this as the year progresses.

As a staff team we have also been focussing on developing the curriculum at Darell School. This has involved enabling the subject leads (which in a small school like ours is every teacher!) to further improve the teaching of their subject across the school. I have also been working with the school council on a developing a number of pledges that we would like to make to every child who enters the school. This will be an experience that we would like them to have during their time at Darell School. Here is a flavour of their suggestions;

- Build a robot
- Set up a small business
- Climb a tree
- Perform on stage to an audience
- Go rowing on the Thames
- Take part in a parade
- Make a picnic and eat it in Kew Gardens
- Have work displayed in an art gallery
- Host a radio show

There is some work to be done on how we integrate these experiences into the curriculum but we love the ambition that has been shown at this early stage. We will continue to work on these and will publish our pledges in September.

Alongside this, we still continue to place a high value on the acquisition of key skills that children need as they move on from our school. With that in mind, it is a pleasure to attach a letter sent to the school from our local MP, Sarah Olney, praising our exceptional Key Stage 2 results.

As ever we are looking to work in partnership with our parents and carers and as such are looking for some volunteers to become class representatives. This role exists within the umbrella of the PSA and will involve disseminating key information and rallying support for all of the exciting initiatives we have planned. Please let the office know if you are able and willing to undertake this role.

Have a great weekend,

Joe Porter & Paul Gilbert

Updates from the Office team

Darell Road KS1 Gate Closure

Please be aware that the KS1 school gate on Darell Road will now be closed during pick up time. This is to ensure that there is only one point of entry and exit at the end of the day. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Late arrivals

Can we please remind all parents and carers that when dropping children off and the gates are closed. You need to accompany the children into the front office and sign them in.

Missing scooter

We have a missing metallic, red, 2 wheeled, large scooter that was parked in the bike rack. Please if you have taken it by mistake could you return it as soon as possible. Thank you.

Upcoming diary dates:

Tuesday, 4th February:

- **Yr 4 Boys Football Tournament**
- **Yr 5/6 Girls Football Match Darell v Thompson House**

Letters/Communications sent out this week:

- **Pancake Day Menu**
- **Girls Yr 5/6 Darell v Thompson House Football Match**
- **Karate Club Flyer**
- **Mini Bees Football Flyer**

Star of the Week:

Mozart: Sanveer, Allen and Neil – for successfully participating in year 1 PE lessons

Newton: Whole Class – for being super readers

Packham: Yousif – for always trying his best with his learning

Peake: Millie – for having an excellent attitude to learning every day

Weir: Oscar – for being resilient with his beautiful setting description

Simmonds: Avesta – for working hard to produce neat joined up handwriting

Thunberg: Oliver – for amazing effort in class especially in English

Malala: Lina – for her great progress in maths

Darwin: Grace – for being super helpful in the class and always willing to help

Attenborough: Lillian – for her superb presentation and her mature attitude to learning

Parks: Aliyan – for high levels of concentration and maturity in class

Mandela: Rufus – for his valued contributions in class discussions

Attendance:

Overall, school attendance last week was 96.4% our target is 96.8%.

Well done to Weir Class for the highest attendance with 98.5% last week. Best for punctuality was Thunberg Class (with 0 late). Let's do our best for next week!

Maths Challenge:

Last week's Maths Challenge 1 winner was Elikyah from Malala Class, well done!

Last week's Maths Challenge 2 winner was Renee from Mandela Class, well done!

Please see the attachment with the newsletter for next week's Maths Challenge.