



SCISSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Wakefield Road, Scissett, Huddersfield, HD8 9JX

Tel: 01484 865444 Fax: 01484 864340

e-mail: office@scissett.com

Headteacher: Mrs N. Greenough

18th December 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of the year, I wanted to take the opportunity to keep parents up-to-date on matters in school. It has been a very long half term and we have had a number of sickness bugs going around which has affected both pupils and staff. Attendance seems to be returning to normal now so I am hopeful that we are through the worst of it and everyone will be well in time for Christmas.

Parents' Evening Year 6:

Year 6 Parents' Evening will be on 16th and 17th of January. Each class will be assigned one of the two nights and parents will be able to book appointments with teaching staff online when the window opens. More information on how to do this will come home later this week. We guarantee every parent an appointment with their child's English, Maths and Science teacher so please contact school if you are unable to make an appointment. Due to the size of the school, in the specialist subjects, it is not always possible for teachers to meet every parent as some staff teach **all** pupils in school and it would require at least two full days for everyone to have a 5 minute appointment. Consequently, we ask parents to make appointments with staff outside of English, Maths and Science, where they have a specific concern or issue they wish to discuss. Likewise, teaching staff will request an appointment with parents they wish to specifically speak to. We are more than happy to provide phone-calls to any parents who have been unable to make an appointment with any teacher they wish to see to get feedback on their child's progress so please contact school and speak to Mrs Sally Booth if you need any further assistance.

On the day of the Parent's Evening, parents will also receive a report which outlines how well children are progressing towards their targets as well as grades for Attitudes to Learning and Homework. This is for all subjects across the curriculum.

Rewards:

The children have recently been consulting on the rewards available in school. They had open consultations in classes and then representatives came to a meeting with Mr Terry to put forward their ideas. Pupils have had an assembly on these and they will be implemented from January. They include:

- Top year group to leave on the first bell;
- VIP passes from teachers which get you to the front of the lunch queue;
- Lucky dip prizes in class
- Lunchtime first sitting and a reserved table for the top class each week;
- Dress differently day each half term for the class in each year group with the most achievement points combined with highest attendance.
- Graduated termly reward including a trip and film.

Pupils collect achievement points for all the great things they do. They receive one every lesson for arriving on time and quickly getting ready to learn; they receive them for effort; homework; achievement; conduct and



being helpful and kind. We also have double bonus weeks to focus on certain themes such as effort or punctuality. We used to have a system of manually recording incidents of misconduct on paper but now have an integrated system so these are recorded on the same system. We are hopeful that by Easter, Parents will be able to have access to their child's live behaviour logs on line to see all the positive points they are picking up and also get details of any incidents.

Community Events:

We have had a number of events this term in school. We hosted an E-Safety evening for the Pyramid in November which was attended by families from across our local communities. We were lucky to have a number of community groups, such as victim support, as well as a representative from the Kirklees Safeguarding team who gave a speech about how to support children in staying safe when they are accessing the internet. The event was hosted by many staff from Scissett Middle School and I am very grateful to the staff who gave up an evening to ensure this event could take place.

It was also lovely to see so many Grandparents at the Senior Citizen Coffee morning where pupils danced ballroom and Latin dances and some of our pupils also sang. It is always a lovely event and recognises the important role grandparents play in the upbringing of children.

We also had a wonderful Christmas Concert last week where our musical pupils showcased their amazing talent and confidence. We were treated to solo singing performances; group ensembles and some of Mr Clewarth's famous Christmas jokes. It was wonderful to see how some of our Year 8 musicians have developed a real confidence and competence over the last two years, alongside some of our Year 6 pupils who have performed in front of an audience for the first time with great confidence. We have a wonderful tradition for musical accomplishment at Scissett Middle School and the evening was testament to that.

We have also had a number of charity events which have taken place in school to raise money for good causes. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to these events. We have raised the following amounts:

Christmas Fayre (School rewards/enterprise budget): £1000
Film Night (School rewards/enterprise budget): £382
Children in Need cake sale: £383
MacMillan Coffee Morning: £580
Dress Differently Day (Community Garden fund): £534
Radio Aire Cash for Kids gift appeal: £283 plus over 200 gift donations!
Book Fair Commission: £890 (in books to the value of this amount for our library)

Our pupils always show fantastic commitment to raising awareness for very worthy causes and raising much needed money which can really make a difference. We appreciate, the time, effort and support of parents in making these events a success so a big thank you to all our families.

Year 8 Leaders:

Our Year 8 pupils set a great example to younger pupils in school. They are Sports' Leaders; young Librarians; Literacy Mentors; Numeracy Mentors and now we have Prefects. The Prefects, completed an application and have been selected because of the brilliant role model they provide to younger children. They support at break times and lunchtimes and wear high visibility vests and a badges. The next step for our Prefects, will be for them to receive Befriender training and additional training to identify, support and report any concerns. In the new year, we will also be exploring how some of our Sports Leaders can take a lead in developing more structured play opportunities at lunchtimes. This has been a great opportunity for pupils to take on a position of responsibility and develop leadership skills. These experiences are really important as they grow into young adults, enabling them to develop skills of diplomacy; confidence and leadership.



Visitors:

We have had a number of visitors in school recently. Benson Taylor, who is a famous composer and has worked on Hollywood films, came in to discuss a community project for next year's Remembrance. They are looking for boys and girls who would like to be involved in a musical production at St Aidan's church next year. Benson will be involved in the musical production so it is a unique opportunity to showcase talent. Mr Osborne will start talking to pupils who may be interested but anyone with a hidden passion for singing should let him know they would be interested in taking part. Benson has also agreed to come into school in January to talk about some of the work he does as a United Nations ambassador.

Buses:

Myself and the school's Chair of Governors, Mrs Ruth Potter, met with our local MP, Paula Sheriff and Councillor Turner to discuss our on-going concerns over the Yorkshire Tiger Bus Service. She was very supportive and consequently arranged a meeting with school and representatives from Yorkshire Tiger to discuss the concerns and find a way forward. We discussed concerns raised by parents around the reliability of the services and, on occasions, the behaviour of some of the drivers and the punctuality to school. The company were very accepting of our concerns and have agreed to do the following:

- Move forward the times for the Services 435 and 241. This has already been done once but the buses are still bringing pupils in very close to school start times and occasionally late.
- Reinstate the 82 service by moving one of the new times to 8.20am in order that pupils can use the service to come to school at a reasonable time and have safe access to a bus service.
- Ensure that the 424 service is a full size bus and not a Blue Tiger bus.

We were also assured that there is now a proper customer service and complaints procedure in place. I would continue to encourage parents to log any concerns with the bus company and make us aware of any significant concerns as we will contact the company directly. Myself and Mr Terry have written to the Yorkshire Tiger representative to request confirmation of when these changes will take place and will notify parents by text as soon as we have the relevant information.

Up-coming events:

20th December School Christmas Dinner day
 21st/22nd December Scissett's got the X Factor competitions
 16/17th January Year 6 Parents' Evening

Finally, if you are not yet following us on Facebook and/or Twitter, I would encourage you to do so. We post all information around the school canteen menus for the week and Special's Bar each day as well as keeping followers up-to-date on upcoming events and successes in school. Social Media is an easy and instant way for us to do this without overloading parents with letters and text messages.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year from all the staff and Governors at Scissett Middle School.

Kind Regards



Mrs N Greenough
 Headteacher

