



SCISSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs N. Greenough

20th December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been another busy term here at Scissett Middle School. Our new Year 6 pupils have settled in really well and are quickly adapting to life at Middle School. We have had lots of events including the Christmas Concert; Christmas Fayre; Macmillan Coffee Morning and the Grandparents' Tea Dance – which is always a wonderful event for the grandparents of Year 8 pupils. In the new year, we are excited to host our first Musical show for many years- Aladdin. Pupils have been working really hard and it is set to be a real extravaganza.

As we come to the end of the first term, I thought it was worth updating parents on things happening in school.

Staffing Update:

I am pleased to announce that Miss Coggin has had her baby boy, having started her maternity leave just before half term. She is doing very well. Her class are now being led by Miss Turnbull and her teaching commitment is being covered by Mr Large. To ensure continuity for the pupils, this will continue until the end of the academic year.

We have recruited a new part-time teacher for January, Mrs Gail Degnan. Mrs Degnan will take over some of the teaching commitment for Mrs Large and Mrs Hull who have taken on additional leadership roles. Pupils who will have Mrs Degnan have had a letter sent home by 'pupil post'. She is a very experienced teacher, with a particular passion for teaching Maths, and is a really exciting addition to our team. There will be lots of handover time and no disruption to the pupils' scheme of learning.

We also have Mr Adam Lawlor starting with us in the role of Specialist Behaviour Support Worker. Mr Lawlor comes from a Social Work background and provides extensive expertise. We also have two new members of the lunchtime supervisory team: Mrs Lynne Chambers and Mrs Andrea Merrick.

You will also have received a letter from the Governing Body clarifying some changes to leadership roles. From January, I will take on some leadership responsibility within the Academy Trust working across schools for part of my time. To ensure there is full capacity in school at all times, Mrs Large has taken on the role of Head of School. This model of collaboration between schools and the sharing of expertise brings real benefit to Scissett Middle School as we ensure our staff are exposed to the best practise. Communication channels are unchanged for parents, but obviously Mrs Large, as well as myself, can also be contacted should parents have any concerns or feedback.

Class Charts:

Last year, parental feedback suggested that parents wanted more information around pastoral issues. We have launched our Class Charts App which I know many parents now use. This provides daily updates on attendance, rewards and any conduct points issued. It also allows you, as a parent, to see what homework your child has been set and any missed homework. Pupils also have a log in and can order items from the reward shop once they get the correct amount of points. These are delivered to form rooms. There is a support document on our Social Media feed for any technical difficulties and parents, can of course, contact school. For parents not on Social Media, the Twitter feed is live on our website and so information can be accessed.



Homework:

In the last few weeks, we have had a focus on homework. In the Media, there are lots of views around the purpose and value of homework, but there is lots of evidence that, when it is purposeful and built into the scheme of learning, it is hugely beneficial. We are a homework school and follow the same policy for homework as Kirkburton Middle School and Shelley College to ensure an ease of transition. Consequently, homework is an integral part of the plan for teaching and when it is missed, pupils miss out on key learning points.

To support pupils, we now provide lots of opportunities for them to complete homework in school. Every day, the computer room is open for the first 40 minutes of lunch for pupils to work silently. We also have homework club after school every day with ICT access.

During the last 3 weeks, pupils have received triple points for homework and the first bell has been awarded to the year group with least missed homework. Pupils have really embraced this and the number of missed homework is now very low – a special mention to Year 7 where from the 205 of them, not one homework was missed last week!!

Email Accounts:

All pupils now have a school email address. This means, we can do surveys with pupils easily through Google allowing us to collect pupil views quickly and effectively. Pupils can also email homework to themselves at school avoiding the need for memory sticks. Pupils all received a letter about how to use their account and the system is secure as it will only allow emails from school accounts and Bedrock.

Schools Awards:

These are some of the awards we have received or are in the process of working towards:

Music Mark: Mr Osbourne was awarded the Music Mark for excellence in recognition of the extensive opportunities pupils have at Scissett Middle School in the Creative Arts. There are opportunities for pupils to learn musical instruments and participate in public performances. For pupils who have not yet joined a club and tried something new, there is an opportunity to join either the Pop Choir or the Rock Singers group. These clubs take place at lunchtime so are accessible to everyone.

Careers Mark: We want our pupils to leave us having been exposed to the broad and exciting opportunities 'out there' in the world of work. Having a developing vision of their future gives a purpose to education. We recently had an assessment for the Careers' Mark and will hear in February if we have been successful. Mrs Greenleaf has put on lots of events to ensure pupils, especially in Year 8, are exposed to a full range of possibilities post 16 years of age. Pupils have visited New College; will all visit a University and attend a Careers' Fayre. Pupils will also have some 'Drop Down days' later in the year to begin to understand salary and the cost of living.

Wellbeing Award: Finally, in January, we will be assessed for the Wellbeing Award. Miss Crossley has developed a comprehensive programme for pupils around mental health awareness and wellbeing is a top priority in school. Those of you who follow us on Facebook will be aware that this year we introduced a 'mindful mile' every lunchtime. Participation was really high and it reinforced with pupils the positive benefits of physical activity in physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

Diversity and Tolerance:

In the new year, we are going to have a focus on diversity and tolerance. Incidents of intolerant behaviour or language are very rare at Scissett Middle School and any incidents are always dealt with seriously. However, the reality of our modern society is that children are exposed to a variety of views, through the media, which can sometimes be hard to comprehend and make sense of at a young age. We are going to celebrate difference in all aspects of life and develop a school charter. More information will come out in the new year and we hope parents will help at home by talking about things which appear on the news around the theme of diversity and equality.



Charity Events:

As always, our pupils and parents have been incredibly generous supporting the charities pupils have selected this year. We have had a number of events including the following:

Cash4kids(Mission Christmas)	175 presents and £257
Christmas Fayre	£1167
Children in Need	£620
Bun sale (Homeless Charity)	£133 – a charity event ran and organised by pupils who had a personal interest in supporting this particular cause.
Welcome Centre	Donations of food and materials for local families who need some extra support. An event organised by Mrs Glencorse as part of Harvest Festival.
MacMillan Coffee Morning	£655

We are very grateful for the incredible support from our families which allow us to support so many charities. It is central to our ethos as a school, where we think of others – especially those who may be less fortunate than ourselves – in order to develop empathy and compassion and understand what it is to be a responsible member of a community. In the new year, we will run our 'Technology Raffle' to raise funds to cover the insurance shortfall to replace our Apple Macs and for additional technology and creative projects. Thank you to everyone who has made contributions and offered support.

School becoming Cashless:

As you are aware the school kitchen is already cashless and most parents now use ParentPay to put money on to their child's lunch account and to pay for trips and other payment items. Following this we have now made the decision to become a completely cashless school, in line with most other schools within the Shelley Pyramid. This will come into effect after Easter 2019, in the Summer Term. If you are unable to set up an online account, we can issue you with a barcode letter which would allow you to pay for items at local shops who have a PayPoint. We will send further information about this in the new year. If you have any queries or concerns please contact Mrs S Booth, my PA.

Upcoming events for your calendar:

Tuesday 15 th and Thursday 17 th January 2019	Year 6 Parents' Evening
Thursday 17 th January 2019	Yorkshire Rose Dog Rescue Bun Sale
Week commencing 4 th March 2019	Scholastic Book Fair
Friday 15 th March 2019	Dress Differently – Red Nose Day (Comic Relief)
Last week in March	Aladdin Production
Friday 12 th April	Year 7 Ski Trip Departs

As always, thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind Regards



Mrs N Greenough
Headteacher

