



# Wombwell Park Street Primary School

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Chief Executive Officer of the ECM Trust: Mrs G Foster-Wilson

Headteacher: Mrs C Lawson

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs L Longden

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Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

## Newsletter – Spring 1

I hope you have all had a restful February half term and you managed a little family time with the children being off school.

I am writing to keep you up to speed on some recent news from school over this past half term and to remind parents of key information.

## COVID-19

Thank you for your continued support of the school in recent months. The second half of the autumn term has continued to present its challenges, largely because rules are changing quickly and it is sometimes tricky to keep up!

In spring 1 we continued to see a number of small outbreaks in classes and worked with the DfE and our local Public Health teams to help prevent the spread. At the moment, spring 2 seems much more settled. However, I would please ask that **parents and families continue to remain vigilant and follow the Government guidance which Park Street adopts.**

Separate letters have been sent out in line with recent national guidance, to try and keep you abreast of the current requirements. Should you have any queries or doubts in your mind then please do phone school and discuss your situation with the Admin team. They will refer in to the Senior Leadership Team for advice and support.

## Attendance Policy

Despite COVID-19 and the impact this is having on children's attendance, we still adopt a policy promoting excellent attendance and punctuality. The school is working as part of a wider Trust team now to ensure excellent attendance is achieved by all children. Obviously if your child develops COVID-19 and has to self-isolate, there is nothing that can be done about it and the priority is that the child (and your family) are keeping as safe and well as possible. We also know, from time to time, your child may become unwell with other things too. Whatever your child's illness we ask that you let school know at your earliest convenience and keep us informed each day of their absence. Should you wish to discuss any illnesses then the school's Admin team or our Parent Support Advisor, Mrs Hitchens, will be able to help and advise.

We are also keen to continue to work with the Education Welfare Service and improve certain children's punctuality. Please note the notification for drop off and collection times which will come in to play on 21.03.22 - a letter regarding this has been previously sent. From this date, your child should be at school for 8.40am and should report to the main school entrance if they arrive later than 8.45am. Until the 21.03.22, we still have flexible drop off and collection times. Thank you to those parents who always make sure their child attends school on time.

We are seeing a rise in holidays being taken again in term time. Can I take this opportunity to remind you that these will not be authorised unless there are extra special reasons – holidays being postponed and re-arranged in term time due to COVID-19 will not be authorised. Schooling has been disrupted far too much

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Wombwell Park Street Primary School is proud to be part of the



**Every Child Matters Academy Trust**  
*Children at the heart*

and we are having a real surge on teaching and learning to help the children 'catch up' – please support us in this.

### Uniform Policy

Generally speaking, the children have looked smarter than ever this last spring term – thank you! If any families are in need of support with school uniform then please simply mention this to a member of staff who will bring it to the attention of Mrs Hitchens (PSA). She has a stock of almost brand-new uniform ready to hand to anyone in need. Similarly, if you have any good quality spare uniform, we can always use this and if you place it in a plastic bag and pass it to a member of staff in your child's class team, they will pass it on to Mrs Hitchens (PSA). Leggings are also not part of the school uniform so please can these be avoided.

Children are welcome to bring an additional jumper in to school during the winter months, to help keep them warm in class. Ventilation will remain key at the moment and is something which is practised in every classroom as a crucial way to help limit any COVID-19 spread.

Children should not be coming to school wearing items of jewellery eg bracelets / necklaces. This is for health and safety reasons but also, we do not want the children to be upset should they misplace or lose valuable or important items.

### Lost property

Items of clothing are sometimes misplaced by children especially outdoor coats. Could you please ensure items are clearly marked/labelled up with your child's name - this will make it easier to locate any missing items and re-unite them with their owner.

Lost property is placed in the baskets in the entrance of school, should you need to try to locate a piece of uniform.

**Thank you to the many children who always wear suitable school uniform – it does not go unnoticed!**

### Interfaith Week at Park Street WB 31.01.22

Mr C Holmes, in his new role as Religious Education subject lead, has organised Park Street's Interfaith Week this term. The children have had an amazing time celebrating diversity and acceptance during the week.

As part of the week, Teams have been challenged to plan a 'Meaningful Act of Kindness'. As such, we have seen children taking part in the following challenges, encouraging them to think with consideration and do good for others. Examples of these are:

**Team CB (Y3)** – baked and decorated dragon cookies to give to Wombwell Care Home on Park Street, to put a smile on the faces of the residents and to celebrate the Chinese New Year!

**Team CW (Reception)** – raised money for the Tiny Hearts Appeal and Bluebell wood Hospice by selling salt dough heart decorations for Valentine's Day. So far they have raised over £50 and still have hearts on sale for £1 or a donation in the school entrance. Team CW will be looking at other ways we can raise money for our chosen charities in the run up to Easter and also finding out about some of the good work that these charities do to help children.

**Team CH (Year 1)** – written special letters to Parkside Care Home to make the residents smile after nearly two years of isolation.

**Team AF and LL (Year 6)** – planned a bring a £1 contribution for healthy snack and run a mile fundraiser for Children's Hospital, a cause close to all of Year 6 hearts for two massive reasons! This is organised for spring 2!

I am sure you will join me in saying well done to the Teams for their innovative and incredibly thoughtful ideas of ways to be kind to others in need. What amazing little citizens we have at Park Street!

### **Wear it Red Day for Chinese New Year – 01.02.22**

All of the school was invited to 'Wear it Red' this February, as we celebrated the Chinese New Year. Mr Holmes (RE subject leader) organised the day and launched the team challenge questions for children in a virtual whole school assembly. Teams were tasked in answering the following questions:

What animals are part of the Chinese zodiac?

Where is China?

What do people eat during Chinese New Year?

What are the similarities and differences between the Chinese New Year (Buddhism) and Easter (Christianity)?

Why is red the main colour of the Chinese New Year?

What can be learned from significant others?

What can we learn from the Chinese New Year story?

Why is the moon significant in Chinese culture?

How can the Chinese New Year contribute to community cohesion?

Teachers were absolutely astonished at the end of the day, with how much the children had learnt and understood about the Chinese New Year! Well done Team Park Street and thank you to Mr Holmes for organising the events of the day.

### **Year 6s go on Residential to Robinwood – 2-4.02.22**

During February our Year 6 Teams enjoyed three days on their residential trip to Robinwood at Dobroyd Castle in Todmorden. This trip was organised incredibly quickly by staff in school when we got the 'go ahead' from the Government that residentials could once again take place.

The three days entailed rock climbing, kayaking, archery, zip wire and caving and was thoroughly enjoyed by all! I am not quite sure who had the most fun – staff or the children! What I do know is that on all of their returns to school on the Friday evening, they were all completely worn out!

The staff team which went, were all incredibly proud of the children and their effort, enthusiasm and personal successes. Well done Years 6s!

I know the Year 6 parents will join me in thanking the staff team for looking after the children for the full three days, acting as parents. Thank you for taking the time out of your own lives for the good of the children at Park Street!

### **Sporting trips**

Park Street have participated in a hockey league against other schools in the Barnsley area. Both Y5 boys and girls have played two matches each.

First matches against High View away:

High View boys 5 Park Street boys 5

High View girls 2 Park Street girls 1

Mr Smith reported *'Two great matches, a high scoring first game with the boys coming away with a draw. The girls fell to a narrow defeat but played incredibly well!'*

Second matches against Kings Oak at home:

Park Street boys 7 Kings Oak boys 4

Park Street girls 2 Kings Oak girls 1

Mr Smith reported: *'Wins for both our boys and girls! They showed real togetherness and worked very well as a team. I'm really proud of everyone who has participated so far!'*

As well as this, there was a table tennis competition that some of the Year 5/6 girls took part in at Bradford Grammar School, as part of the Butterfly National School Team Championship. The girls involved were: Aliza, Zunaira, Amelia and Mollie-Louise. Well done on achieving third place! What a success!

**Well done for a successful tournament and thank you for representing school so well!**

### **NSPCC Number Day – 04.02.22**

Children enjoyed an action packed 'Numbers Day' this February! There was a full range of maths activities taking place throughout every Team in school, throughout the course of the day!

In Early Years and Key Stage 1 children were tasked with designing a Number Robot surprise, which Mrs Fitchett judged. The winners were:

Team CW – Rae; Team CH – Georgie; Team AC – Joshua!

In Key Stage 2, Times Table races were held and the children receiving top prizes for this were:

Team Ac – Filip; Team CB – Layla; Team DB – Blake; Team LF - Mia

Throughout the day, we also hosted a competition to see which Team could construct the tallest coin tower! A big well done to the winning Team, Team CH, who managed to successfully build an 8cm coin tower!

Thank you to Mrs Firth and Mr Fidment for organising the day for the children! Our Park Street children love Maths!

### **Beyond Words training for staff – 04.02.22**

Staff have received quality training this half term to use the 'Beyond Words' books to better support children who have experienced early childhood trauma and upset in their lives.

This may be as a result of the pandemic, bereavement, loss and anxiety, neglect and abuse, or alcoholism, drugs or domestic violence in the home. The books cover an array of issues which sadly some children still face today. Staff are confident that these books and the work which will come from this will best support those children in need.

If you feel like your child may benefit from support like this in school, please do discuss this with your child's class teacher at Parental Meetings this spring term. It may be that this training may help, but also an 'Incredible Me!' plan may also help, which is our system for supporting children with social, emotional and behavioural needs.

### **UK Safer Internet Day – 08.02.22**

Thank you to Mrs Firth and Mr Fidment for organising this year's Safety Internet Day at school. The children had a great day learning about how to keep themselves safe online, which I am sure you will agree, is very important to

'All things fun and games?' was the theme of the day and saw Teams working on bespoke sessions, which were age appropriate and helped the children to learn more about keeping safe on line and who to go to if they ever felt threatened or intimidated, by something they had seen online. The theme was 'Exploring respect and relationships online' and allowed for staff to emphasise the need for the children as individuals to always present themselves well on line and look after each other online.

This day is celebrated globally each year and is always a firm favourite with the children as it allows them to talk openly about their experiences online and allows for staff to monitor the children's understanding of 'online safety'. We teach the children to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.

Our Computing Leaders in school (Mr Fidment and Mrs Firth) have spent much of this term improving the infrastructure for Computing in school and as such we have purchased new equipment and a new scheme of work, to best support the children in their Computing learning.

### **Captain Allott Funding 2022**

We have been incredibly fortunate this term to receive some funding from the Captain Allotts Charity – all £457.50 of it!

Our Governor and fellow parent, Sabeena Chavan, made a bid for the funding as link PE Lead Governor. She worked with Mrs Firth (PE Lead) and Mr Smith (Sports Coach) following parental feedback. Parents were understandably keen for the children to have a professional sports kit to wear when representing

school. We do have a kit, but this was too small for the UKS2 children to wear. After much planning for money raising activities, the bid was submitted and we found out just before half term, that it had been successful! Thank you to ALL involved – what a success! We now have money to spend on a professional kit – we can't wait to see the children in their boys / girls kits next time they have the opportunity to represent school!

We also have another kind donation of £500 from the Captain Allotts Charity! This will be spent in line with the school's School Improvement Plan and will be used to develop our Early Years area!

THANK YOU TO THE CAPTAIN ALLOTTS CHARITY! Two amazing achievements which couldn't have been attained without your kindness!

### Parental Evenings – spring term

Parental Evenings this term will be held on the following dates, in spring 2:

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, 3.30-6pm

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 3.30-6pm

Letters have been sent out inviting parents to book a date and time with their child's class teacher(s). If you haven't received these or if you haven't yet seen the letters, then please do contact school to organise an appointment. It would be lovely to see all parents attending!

### SEN Information

As many of you will know, Mr Fidment is our school's Special Educational Needs & Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCo). To ensure optimum communication with parents of children with SEND needs, he is often out on the school site at the top of the drive every day possible (staffing dependent). If you would like to speak to him face to face then this is a good opportunity, even if it is to simply ask for a call back. As well as this, an email address has been organised for parents of children with SEND needs to email in to school directly about their child.

This email address is: [WPSSendco@ecmtrust.co.uk](mailto:WPSSendco@ecmtrust.co.uk)

Please could you use this email address in future and not Mr Fidment's personal work email. We have recently recruited an Administrative Assistant, called Mrs Sarah Goddard. This email inbox will be checked even more regularly and will be the **only** point of contact for issues relating to SEND. Mrs Goddard will be working 10.30-2.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will be a key contact for parents whose children have SEND needs.

### Remote Learning

Should your child have to self-isolate, then school are able to post learning on our online platform for learning (Seesaw). Please ensure you have access to this platform for if / when this situation arises.

Obviously, if your child is poorly with COVID-19 and is unable to learn from home, then there is no pressure to do so. Your child's health is the absolute priority.

On occasions, depending on staffing limitations, it may take a little while to sort, but staff will prioritise this when they can. If you have any issues or concerns regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact our Senior Leaders in school. Mr Fidment continues to be our school's Remote Learning Lead.

### Exciting staffing information

This half term we have enjoyed welcoming Mrs V Jones to the school staff team. She is currently based in Nursery with Miss McGinnes and Mrs Hart. Thank you for joining us!

We have also appointed two new SMSAs to our school team: Mrs M Whitmore and Miss E Hirst. We welcome you to the school team and look forward to you enhancing the care and play provision for children at Park Street during lunch times!



As mentioned above, we have also appointed Mrs S Goddard as Assistant Administrator to the SENDCo. Mrs Goddard will work alongside Mr Fidment as SENDCO and provide much needed administrative support in this area. (In effect, she will be doing a similar role to that which Mrs L Dodson did a year or so ago.) She will primarily be working with parents of children on our SEND register in school and liaising between them and professionals to ensure we have optimum provision for such children.

### **Safeguarding**

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in school are as follows:

Mrs C Lawson (Headteacher) and Mrs L Longden (Deputy Headteacher) – DSLs  
Mrs C Hitchens (PSA) and Miss C McGinnes (EYFS/KS1 Lead) – Deputy DSLs

Staff who are trained to DSL standard, who you could talk to if you have any concerns:

Mrs C Turner (School Business Manager)  
Mr A Fidment (SENDCo)  
Mrs L Fitchett (HLTA, Art Therapist, DSL for trips)  
Mr R Smith (Sports Coach and DSL for sports trips)

Should you have any concerns regarding the welfare of any of Park Street's children, please do not hesitate in speaking to a member of the team above. Safeguarding is our priority!

I look forward to a positive half term here at Park Street on the lead up to the Easter holidays. We break up on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022 for two weeks. Our remaining INSET day this academic year falls on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and with the additional Bank Holiday substitute day on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022, school will be closed to children on these days in the lead up to the spring bank holiday.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the school and the staff team.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Lawson  
Headteacher