



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

Monday 9th May 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Newsletter – Spring 2

I hope you all had a restful Easter holiday 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 spring term has continued to present its challenges, with a number of staff absences due to COVID-19.

I would please ask that **parents and families continue to remain vigilant** and **follow the Government guidance which Park Street adopts**.

Much of the school routines are now completely back to normal, but of course we would act in line with any Local Authority or Public Health guidance as and when given and communicate this to parents. As the saying goes, we are 'learning to live with it all now'.

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 for the 5 days, 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.

The original school start times are working well: your child should be at school for 8.40am and should report to the main school entrance if they arrive later than 8.45am. We do still have a handful of families who continue to drop their children off a little later than expected. This has a clear detrimental impact on the children as they miss learning when they are at their most alert! Such families are being managed by our Attendance Team and will be referred to the Educational Welfare Team if situations do not improve. Thank you to the families who always make sure their child arrives at school on time.

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

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Uniform Policy

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 not part of the school uniform so please can these be avoided.**

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. However, with the weather now much milder, your child does not need to bring an additional non-uniform jumper/jacket in to school. Their normal school uniform will suffice.

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. Please also avoid having children's ears pierced during the academic year. Children are not allowed to do PE with them in (a compulsory part of the National Curriculum) and our staff team are not allowed to take these out for children either. Please try to stick to the summer holidays to have your child's ears pierced as this will leave 6 weeks for them to have them done and potentially learn how to take them out themselves. If your child has their ears pierced but finds it tricky to take them out independently for PE lessons, then it may be advisable to check your child's normal PE days and take their earrings out on the morning. On occasions, PE lessons move around during the week, depending on staffing, but this would help massively. Also, if your child is wearing earrings, it is not advisable that they wear expensive earrings as in a busy school, they can be easily misplaced, through no fault of anyone's. Your support would be appreciated!

PE: as mentioned, your child's team has set PE days when they complete their PE lessons. However, some weeks due to staff absence, school trips, school events etc, these lessons may be moved around. So, we always suggest that your child brings their PE kit to school on a Monday morning, leaves it in school for the duration of the week on their coat peg and then takes it home on a Friday afternoon to be washed over the weekend (and back again for Monday morning)!

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.

In the warmer weather, children often take their coats off outside at lunch time and leave them on the field. Our Playground Leaders run around towards the end of the lunch time to collect these and return any back to their rightful owner (if they are clearly labelled). The remaining jackets get put in the lost property boxes.

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

Books back to school

Prior to COVID-19, school spent an awful lot of money on resourcing the school library, so there were quality and varied books at age appropriate levels for the children to read. As lockdowns began, children were sent home with books to keep reading, but unfortunately, we still find ourselves in the situation where a lot of these books have not been returned to school and as such, our library is looking a little depleted, which is such a shame. We are now faced with having to spend another £2000+ in resourcing it.

PLEASE COULD ALL CHILDREN AND PARENTS HAVE ONE FINAL CHECK OF YOUR HOMES AND BOOK SHELVES AND RETURN ANY BOOKS TO SCHOOL – THEY WILL BE STAMPED AT THE FRONT WITH THE SCHOOL'S NAME. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND EFFORTS IN THIS!

Team CB enjoy a Spanish tasting afternoon – 01.03.22

Team CB thoroughly enjoyed their Spanish food tasting afternoon!

They enjoyed munching on Tapas, Gazpacho, Spanish Omelette, Churros and Paella! The Churros and Paella were a firm favourite, but they did not think much to the cold Gazpacho soup!

This experience is something which the children in Team CB asked for as we have begun to learn this as our new modern foreign language in school. As they began learning about Spain, they wanted to know more about Spanish food – who can blame them!

An enjoyable afternoon for the Team!

Imam visits Years 4 and 5 at Park Street – 03.03.22

We have been really lucky to have Imam Abdul Aziz, from Barnsley Mosque, in school to speak to Teams LF, DB and JD about the Islamic faith. He spent one hour in each of the Teams, talking all about the Islamic faith and what it means to Muslims.

The children listened so incredibly well and were really interested to learn from him. They asked interesting and thought-provoking questions.

I was so proud to hear that Imam Abdul was so impressed with the children and remarked on how thirsty for learning the children were and very attentive to new information. Well done Years 4 and 5 and thank you to staff for organising such a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn more.

World Book Day – 03.03.22

Once again, this March we have celebrated World Book Day in school - thank you for organising this Miss McGinnes and Miss Baxter!

The children (and staff) all had a wonderful day, celebrating their favourite book character! All of the costumes were amazing and the children's love of reading was very evident!

We had book treasure hunts going off throughout the day also, as well as a story which each class built on called '**The totally random, completely unpredictable story of the year**' - it certainly was!

We held an extreme reading competition, children wrote 'rites of passage' about which books mean the world to them and each class created their own Super Villain!

A fabulous day enjoyed by all! Well done Team Park Street!

Hydrocephalus Awareness Raising Day – 11.03.22

The children and staff enjoyed a super day of fundraising for the Shine charity. This is a cause which is incredibly close to our hearts here at Park Street. Many of you will know, but for those new to our school, four years ago, Max in our Year 6 cohort had brain surgery to remove a tumour and then a year later further successful surgery to remove it once again. As a result of the massive surgery, he was diagnosed with Hydrocephalus. His parents asked if we could raise awareness of this condition and money to support the charity, which of course we jumped at!

We managed to raise a fabulous: £293.02. We had a fantastic donation from Max's dad's work (Rainworth Skoda, Sheffield) for £100 towards the successful day!

We enjoyed dressing up in our favourite head gear! We had rabbits, mad hatters, colourful wigs and all kind of wonderful and creative bespoke gear! Each team had a winner and these were rewarded with a lovely Easter egg! - I mean, why not!?

Thank you to all involved!

Red Nose Day – 18.03.22

The children and staff had an amazing day! We enjoyed lots of fun activities including:

- 'Feel good Friday' dress wear and fun physical activity (as always) for a coin donation for every lap completed!
- Non-uniform - this year's Red Nose Day theme was 'Funny is Power'. A voluntary contribution of £1 was greatly appreciated – the children looked amazing!
- A bun sale at a cost of 20p – thank you so much for all of the kid donations of buns in to school. They were delicious!
- A penalty shoot-out against members of staff – 20p per shot!
- In class activities to develop teamwork skills amongst the children – one of the most important life skills to have as an adult!
- Design/decorate your own red nose biscuit as part of 'Incredible Us!' time – it was lovely to see all of the children munching their lovely biscuits at home time!

In total we managed to raise a tremendous: £303.04

Thank you and well-done Team Park Street!

Sporting trips

Year 5 children have begun their swimming experience at Hoyland Leisure Centre this spring term. This is an amazing opportunity for the children to go on a school trip together each week with their friends, to do something that they all enjoy! The trips there not only give the children the opportunity to swim and gain better skills in this area, it also provides the children with the opportunity to socialise more with their peers and gives them an added opportunity to become independent and resilient learners. Thank you to staff for supporting the children in this weekly opportunity and thank you to parents for your contributions to school towards the trips, it is massively appreciated.

Some of Park Street's Year 5s participated in three sporting competitions at Barnsley College:

Dodgeball

Netball

Tag Rugby

Mr Smith reports that Park Street played against four or five different schools in each event. He was very proud of all the pupils that participated!

Year 3/4 competitions are coming up this half term – good luck!

Special Jobs Around School

Park Street's 'special jobs' have once again started this March in school, following a period of time where the school had to ensure the safety of children and staff and not allow the children to mix fully, due to COVID-19. We are now thrilled that we have the confidence to reintroduce these, for the children to continue to have that sense of responsibility and ownership. These really do encourage the children to be active citizens! Such jobs include:

Playground Leaders - these children buddy up with SMSAs and support younger children in school by encouraging them to play positively with the equipment.

Eco-Reps - these children look after the school environment and will be doing regular litter picks in the locality!

School Council Reps - these will meet Miss Baxter and Mrs Firth on a regular basis and are the pupil voice for the school. They already have lots of fantastic ideas to further improve our lovely school!

Art Council Reps - these meet with Mrs Longden and Mrs Fitchett to look at ways in which our curriculum can be further enriched by Art and performance opportunities.

Digital Leaders - these work with Mrs Firth and Mr Fidment to ensure that the Computing equipment is well looked after and organise the i-pads for use through school.

Junior Reader Leaders - these work with Miss Baxter to look at ways in which they can encourage even more of a love of reading in children than we already have!

Prefects and Head boy / girl - these Y6 children are known as prefects because of their incredibly positive behaviour over their years at Park Street! They set the example for others to follow, show people around school and model outstanding attitudes towards the entire school community. They are practically perfect in every way!

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

Please could you use this email address in future and not Mr Fidment's personal work email. We are in the process of recruiting an Administrative Assistant, called Mrs S Goddard. This email inbox will be checked even more regularly and will be the **only** point of contact for issues relating to SEND.

Exciting staffing information

As you will all know, Mrs Firth began her maternity leave as we broke up for Easter 2022. It doesn't seem two minutes since I first informed you all on a newsletter in the autumn term! Time has flown!

I am sure you will all agree that Mrs Firth's boots will be big to fill! We have spent a considerable amount of time recently trying to recruit a teacher to step in, in her absence. This has not been as 'easy' a task as it normally is! Not only is it tricky to find teachers at the moment, we also always want the *best* teachers too for our amazing children!

I am now thrilled to let you know that we have managed to secure a lady called Miss Hannah Gliniecki, who will be teaching Year 5 / Team LF at Park Street from after Easter time. She has visited the school recently and loved meeting the children and staff through school. Mrs Firth and Miss Gliniecki have completed the transition process, so as Miss Gliniecki is up to speed on the children's characters, needs and abilities, ready for a strong start after Easter.

It is a good job that we managed to fit this in before Easter, because during the holidays, Mrs Firth has had her baby boy! She and her family welcomed baby Arthur in to the world. Both baby and Mummy are doing well and the family describe themselves as very much in love with their bundle of joy. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Mrs Firth and her family lots of love and wish them lots of lovely happy memories together!

Important Dates this term

Please find below some important dates which may apply to your child in the following year groups:

SATS for Year 6 – 9-12th May 2022 inclusive

SATS for Year 2 – throughout the course of May 2022

Phonics Screening Check for Year 1s (and Year 2 retakes) – week commencing Monday 6th June 2022 (and the following week if needed)

Multiplication Check for Year 4s – week commencing Monday 6th June 2022 and the following two weeks

Safeguarding Awareness Month – May 2022

Records of Achievement out to parents – WC 11th July 2022

Optional parental evening to discuss report – 20th July 2022

Sports Week (further details to follow this half term for specific dates and times) – WC 27th June 2022

Equality and Diversity School Objectives

Please find below the equality objectives for Wombwell Park Street Primary School. If any parents would like to support with the delivery of these objectives, then please do email parkstreet@ecmtrust.co.uk to express an interest in supporting the school. There are some ideas / ways in which you could help below this table:

Objective 1	To further develop the accessibility of information relating to school life for parents/carers with difficulties accessing written language (e.g. parents/carers with English as an Additional Language, Speech and Language difficulties etc).
Objective 2	To further develop opportunities for children to engage with people from different ethnic/religious/cultural backgrounds in order to raise children's awareness of the multicultural world in which they live.
Objective 3	To raise aspirations among children and parents/carers and raise awareness of a career options for all children, challenging gender stereotypes.
Objective 4	Improve the provision and achievement for identified groups of pupils to close any gaps between them and their peers: Disadvantaged, EAL, SEN and any other group identified as with a protected characteristic.

Do you find it difficult to access information relating to school due to having English as an additional language, for example?

Please always communicate this to our school's Admin team so as this information can be passed to the Leadership Team and plans can be put in place to support this.

Have you got links to others in the community that could contribute to developing opportunities for our children to engage with people from different backgrounds?

Please always communicate this to our school's Admin team so as this information can be passed to the Leadership Team and opportunities can be created through your links.

Have you got a job which you would like to share with the children as part of a career's week in school? Would you be willing to come in to school and speak to the children about how you got the role, what it entails and why it is 'the best job ever'?

Please email parkstreet@ecmtrust.co.uk to register your interest in doing this and your willingness to speak to groups of children to enhance their learning and raise their aspirations. We have had Air Hostesses, RAF members, Nurses etc in before! We would welcome anyone to support us with this.

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)

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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. Our future and only remaining INSET day this academic year falls on Friday 27th May 2022, when school will be closed to children. Just as a reminder, school will also be closed on Thursday 26th May 2022 as the school's chosen day for the Queen's Jubilee. All the school's holidays for this academic year can be found on the school website:

https://www.wombwellparkstreet.co.uk/uploads/9/6/1/3/96132594/wombwell_park_street_-_school_calendar_2021-2022.pdf

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Lawson
Headteacher