

# Weddington Primary School



Every Child

Every Chance

Every Day



## Relationship and Behaviour Policy

The second meeting took place last Monday. Thank you for all of the parents who attended and shared their views.

There were many parts of the policy that was discussed and several ideas in particular, will be edited / added to the policy.

This will be a 'live' policy and there may be further edits to ensure it further develops and any areas that may not be successful, will be adapted.

The main focus of this policy is to develop positive relationships across school and offer consistency on how behaviour is dealt with. The policy will be adapted where appropriate for children to ensure it includes and supports all children. We will be starting this after half term.

Again, we took on board your views through the survey and we will continue to make further improvements to other areas of school that was mentioned in the survey.

Good news – Miss Carwardine is expecting her first child. She is due halfway in spring 1. We wish her all the best.

Have a great week.

Mr Patel

### Golden assembly

Lots of children having a special mention this week in our assembly. Quite a few medals for external clubs – well done everyone.

### Harvest Assembly – Year 1 and 2

Thank you to all of the families that donated food to the Harvest celebrations this week. It was good to see many parents to see the Year 1 and 2 children perform their Harvest assembly. They did a brilliant job. They sang and spoke clearly and confidently. So proud of all of the children. Thanks again to the parents who were able to visit this week and thank you to the KS1 Team who made this assembly happen.

### WhatsApp Groups Concern

It has come to our attention that there has been discussion regarding various members of staff and the school on WhatsApp Class/Year Groups. These messages have been sent to the school.

Should you choose to join a WhatsApp Class/Year Group, these can be a great way of sharing messages about school, dates etc. We would like to reiterate that messages posted on such groups should always be respectful in language and tone, and such groups should not be used as a platform to air views or grievances regarding members of staff, especially false accusations. Such negative comments are fundamentally detrimental to the wellbeing and welfare of the children and the school community.

The messages shared by several parents in particular, does not reflect our values and ethos of school. We would certainly not expect this from our children, let alone our parents.

Advice from the local authority's legal team has been sought and this conduct may be deemed as libellous and slanderous. We are hoping this issue stops as we all need to be role models for our children.

We are more than happy to deal with a concern and if any parent has any concerns, please speak to the school directly and we will always look into this and resolve. Remember, not everything you read online or in WhatsApp groups are true.

Please refer to: **Acceptable use of the internet: agreement for parents and carers** on the school's website.

*Weddington's vision is for all to thrive. 'Weddy' graduates will venture into the wider world as curious, courageous and confident individuals, who are equipped with the tools for continued success*

# Attendance update from the Local Authority

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The regulations regarding Leave of Absence (The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.) advise:

- Head teachers **shall not** grant **any** Leave of Absence during term time **unless they consider** there are **exceptional** circumstances relating to the application.

If the leave is granted, Head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. When making an application for Leave of Absence in advance parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is their responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence and could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

*Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case-by-case basis and on its own merits.*

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice. All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council.

**It is important to note**, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

**Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority**

### Calendar dates:

- 23.10.23 – New Reception Open Evening
- 26.10.23 – Halloween Disco
- 27.10.23 – Half Term Holidays begin

### Other promotional material:

These can be found on the website under, **Parents – News and Letters – Letters home/ external club activities**

**School dinner menu** – This is found on the website under, 'PARENTS – SCHOOL LUNCHES'.



Mindfulness Perseverance Respect Reflection Truth Aspiration Inspiration

