



HONESTY - KINDNESS - RESPECT – ASPIRATION – HEALTHY

Newsletter October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Since returning in September, our students have settled into their new classes, embedding routines and embracing new challenges with resilience and curiosity.

Our young people have been working hard to also embed our school values in daily practice. This is essential for fostering a positive school culture and promoting students' personal and social development. Here are some ways our pupils actively incorporate these values: By integrating these practices, students not only learn about the values but also experience and live them daily, creating a cohesive and supportive school environment.

- 1. Modeling Behaviour:** Students demonstrate school values like respect, responsibility, and kindness in their interactions with peers and teachers. For instance, showing kindness by helping a classmate or respecting others' opinions during discussions.
- 2. Classroom Agreements:** Students involved in creating classroom norms that reflect school values. This gives them ownership and encourages them to uphold these standards.
- 3. Reflective Practices:** Students are encouraged to reflect on their actions and decisions, discussing how they align with school values. This is embedded through our RSHE lessons, sessions in the Hive, or group discussions.
- 4. Recognition:** Systems implemented that recognise and celebrate students who exemplify school values, reinforcing the importance of these principles. Weekly, pupils can earn value tokens which is then celebrated alongside the weekly class attendance award, Star of the Week and headteacher awards.
- 5. Integration into Curriculum:** Teachers weave school values into lessons across subjects, ensuring that discussions about character and ethics are part of the academic experience.

Dojo points/tokens

Our young people can also earn dojos for being kind, respectful, learning, going above and beyond. Classes win the trophies weekly. At the end of the year, classes who win the most tokens win a prize. They can choose a disco or film and popcorn. Individual pupils can also win a prize for every 200 dojo points collected. They will have the opportunity to attend the school bookshop and buy a book with their winning voucher.

Parent workshops, meetings have been well attended so far with Reception Class Maths workshop on the 21st October at 08.45am. These sessions have provided valuable insights into supporting children's learning at home, and parents have expressed appreciation for the collaborative spirit and practical strategies shared. Together, we are building a supportive community that nurtures our children's growth and development.

School trips and experiences

Throughout the year pupils have a planned number of trips and experiences to support the curriculum and for enjoyment which were shared with you last term. Throughout the year we also get 'last minute' offers from local museums, zoos, farms etc who offer at a reduced price and at times free which year 2 have already had the pleasure of attending Forge Mill farm. It is important parents contribute to trips as travel is getting increasingly expensive and at times, we have had to cancel trips due to not having sufficient funds to pay for the experiences. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Smith to discuss any concerns regarding payment etc. We will always support you.

Parent Code of Conduct

Grace Mary Primary School is a nurturing learning community. We believe pupils learn best in a safe and supportive environment based on respect and trust and underpinned by an effective partnership between parents, staff and the school community. High standards of behaviour are required of pupils and staff are expected to always act professionally. The positive support of parents and carers is needed and highly valued by the school.

This 'Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and Visitors' has been adopted and agreed by the school's governing body. It provides a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about the conduct expected of them. It sets out both what they should aim to do and conduct which will not be tolerated. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

This code complements the school's 'Complaints Policy' which is designed to handle parental concerns or complaints in a sensitive and mutually supportive manner (see the school website or contact the school office).

Expectations

We expect parents and carers (and, where appropriate, visitors) to:

- Respect the caring ethos and values of our school
- Work together with school staff for the benefit of their children
- Treat all members of the school community with respect using appropriate language and behaviour
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern
- Where appropriate, clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue
- Always promote good behaviour of your own children, especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive or unsafe behaviour (but avoid using teachers as a threat if your child misbehaves).

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment, the school will not tolerate parents, carers or visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive or other inappropriate behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's operation or activities anywhere on the school premises
- Approaching another parent or child to discuss or chastise them because of an issue between the children – please talk to a member of staff to resolve problems

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- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper
- Threatening, in any way, a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil
- Using physical or verbal aggression towards another adult or child, including physical punishment of your own child on school premises
- Any other behaviour, verbal or otherwise, which could be considered to be inappropriate, offensive, or abusive
- Sending abusive or threatening e-mails, text/voicemail/phone messages, or other written communications to anyone within the school community
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/carers/staff at the school on Facebook or other social media (See Appendix below)
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises (alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events)
- Taking photographs with phones or other devices on school premises without permission from the school

If we are unable to resolve issues in a reasonable manner, the school may have to ban parents/carers/visitors from entering the school grounds, and in extreme cases we may need to involve the police.

We trust that parents, carers and visitors will assist our school with the implementation of this policy and we thank you for your continuing support of the school.

(Full policy can be found on the website)

Reminders

If you wish to speak to Mrs Smith privately the email address is familysupport@gracemary.sandwell.sch.uk She will respond to you as soon as she can. Or speak to the office to arrange a meeting.

Start and Finish Times

Gates open	8:25am
School start	8:30am
Gates reopen	2:55pm
School finishes	3pm

Ordering meals

We outsource our meals to a catering firm. We are charged for every meal they cook, whether it is taken or not. Therefore, they cook for the number of meals ordered for each day. It is important that you order your child's meal before 8am and if they are not attending school the meal is cancelled online. If meals are not ordered in advance children will be given a cold packed lunch and will not be able to have a hot meal.

Safeguarding notice *We have been alerted by the Local Authority*

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pups series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you:

- If your child has any Spy Dog, Spy Cat or Spy Pups books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

Diary dates are on the website for your convenience and are updated regularly

Class assemblies

Tuesday 14 th October	8:45	Y5 Harvest Festival (families welcome)
Thursday 23 rd October	8:45	Y3 Diwali Assembly (families welcome)

School closes on Friday 24th October and reopens on Monday 3rd November.