



Ellenbrook

COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Longwall Avenue, Ellenbrook, Worsley, Salford M28 7PS

Tel: 0161 799 6347 Email: ellenbrook.primaryschool@salford.gov.uk

Head Teacher: Mr. R Blackburn B.Ed PQSI

Wednesday 3rd October 2018

Welcome & Update

Dear Parents\Carers

I wanted to write today and thank you all for the very friendly welcome I have had from you all so far. I have had a great few weeks as Head teacher and now feel very much part of the school community. As with any change of leadership, new ideas are developed and we have a number of those in the pipeline for the rest of this term. I am really keen to keep you all informed of what's changed and what will be changing over the next few weeks.

I appreciate this is a long letter but it will hopefully serve as a point of reference over the next few weeks.

Representing the School in Sporting events

I know this can always be a cause of debate as there is nothing better than representing your school in a team or individual event but not all children who want to be involved can be accommodated. This year, we have slightly changed the way we select squads and teams for competitions starting with football. I want to thank those of you who have already contacted us about the squad for your feedback, rest assured we have taken it all on board.

As an inclusive school we would like to give everyone who wants to, the opportunity to compete for their school and so for all major squads there will be a trial to select a squad of players who will play in fixtures. Once this squad is selected, they will all have the opportunity to participate in matches. We believe in putting out a competitive team but also want all squad players to be involved. In the case of football, we have selected a large squad as we have a lot of fixtures coming up over the course of this term.

However, the squad will be changed regularly with trials taking place throughout the term. Anyone not making the squad on the first attempt will have the opportunity to try out again during the term. By this same token, players selected for the first squad, may not be selected for other squads and so on.

We also believe strongly that representing your school is a privilege and children will only be allowed to be in the squad and play matches if their behaviour meets the high standards we expect of all our children. Anyone's place in the squad can be removed if we feel their behaviour is not at the standard we expect.

Parents' Evening

We are changing both the format and timing of Parents' Evening this year. We will be splitting Parent's evening over two days, **Tuesday 4th December & Thursday 6th December 2018**. The **Tuesday session will run from 3.30pm until 6.30pm** and the **Thursday session will run from 6.00pm until 9pm** which will give you the opportunity to have a 10 minute slot with your child's class teacher.

Appointments with the teachers will be in the main hall for EYFS and Key Stage 1 and the new hall for Key Stage 2. This leaves the rooms free for you to look at your children's work whilst waiting for you appointment.

We will also be trialling an online booking system this year which will allow you to log on and book an appointment with your child's teacher. We will write to you fully explaining the process and giving you your login details closer to the time.

Harvest

Our Harvest assembly will take place on Friday 19th October 2018 in school. This year we have decided to keep the Harvest assembly in house as we will be doing a bigger event at Christmas which you will all be invited too.



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As with last year, we will be asking for food donations which we can then pass on to the local food bank. A list of items will be sent out closer to the time.

House Captains and Prefects

This year we have appointed House Captains and Vice Captains from Year 6. This was a very democratic process where the children in each house picked the candidate they felt would do the best job of leading the house based on the speech they gave after a mini 'hustings.'

The House and Vice Captains will do various high profile roles throughout the year such as school tours, organising events, etc. We will also be introducing prefects after half term who will also have responsibilities around the school.

Behaviour and Rewards

Hopefully the children will have told you that we have changed our behaviour policy this term. We have moved away from bad choice cards to a red and yellow card system. This works in a very similar way, with children being given two warnings before a yellow card is issued. If the unwelcome behaviour continues, a red card is issued and a member of the Senior Leadership Team will phone home to discuss it with you. Red cards are also given outright for hitting or kicking another pupil or adult, and swearing. We have included a copy of the key part of the policy below for you to look at. We explained the new policy to the children in the assemblies on the first week back so they should be able to explain it to you too hopefully!

Alongside our new sanctions, we have a new rewards policy based on House Points. We really want to raise the profile of the House system currently in place at Ellenbrook. To do this, we have restructured the rewards system to allow for more flexibility for the children and more chances for them to achieve throughout the term both individually and collectively as a house.

House points will be awarded for good behaviour or good work and the points awarded will be added to a 'totaliser' in the hall for all the children to see which House is leading. At the end of the term, the House which has earned the most points in that term, will receive an extended playtime taken by me or Mr Marks. This will mean there will be a different House winner which is separate to sports day and other House events.

The house points awarded to each child will also be kept on a record sheet in each class. Every Thursday, the House points awarded for that week are collected and announced in assembly the next day. These House points will build up each week during the term and at the end the children will be awarded a special certificate which will either be Gold, Silver or Bronze depending on how many House points they have achieved.

If three gold certificates are gained in a single academic year, the children will receive a platinum certificate and a special prize! Everyone who receives a gold certificate at the end of term will receive a half an hour long treat taken by me or Mr Marks.

As well as individual rewards, each term there will be a House event for the children to enter to win points for their House. In the Autumn that will be an 'Ellenbrook's Got Talent!' competition where children will be able to showcase an entertainment skill. In the Spring term, there will be an inter house quiz followed by an inter-house rounders competition in the Summer. There is also a weekly 'challenge' in assembly linked to our theme of the week and children can also win points for their house by completing the challenge successfully.



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Below is a copy of the rewards and Sanctions part of our new policy which will be on the school's website by the end of the week.

House Points

The use of House Points at Ellenbrook enables the children to develop a sense of community as well as fostering and encouraging healthy competition.

The children are able to earn House Points that count towards a personal reward as well as contributing to the House Cup which is awarded every year. In assembly each week, the number of House Points awarded during that week is read out and the House Points total is changed accordingly. At the end of term, the House with the most House Points will receive a House Treat.

The House Points children earn will go towards a certificate and end of term reward. The number of House Points they earn in a single term will determine the colour of certificate they receive. Below is a list of the certificates the children can earn and how many House Points they need to gain that certificate.

BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
30 House Points	60 House Points	90 House Points

All Gold certificates will be given out to the children in the final assembly of each term and the children will also receive a 30 minute 'Golden Time' treat. This treat will be taken by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. The remainder of certificates will be given out in assembly.

If three gold certificates are gained in a single academic year, the children will receive a platinum certificate and a special prize (to be decided at a later date).

During the school year there will also be a number of inter house competitions which can win the individual house a treat. These competitions are really important in developing pride in the houses and will be focused around drama, sport and academic activities.

Restorative Justice

Being 'Restorative' focuses on building positive relationships based on respect and fairness. In turn this creates a community that is supportive, accountable and respectful. We believe that every individual is responsible for their own behaviour. The Restorative framework is based upon knowing the effect that I have on others. Making changes to the way we approach incidences and issues provides children, and others, the opportunity to think about how they relate to each other and how they can find positive ways of repairing harm caused, rather than focusing solely on punishing poor behaviour or individuals avoiding taking responsibility for their actions.

All adults in school will support the children to put things right themselves where possible. We understand the importance of modelling positive language, behaviour and take time to develop positive and meaningful relationships with colleagues and pupils. When positive relationships are developed and connections are made individuals are less likely to cause harm to others or choose to damage relationships.



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Sanctions In Class

A yellow and red card system operates in classes and during break and lunch for children who exhibit less than satisfactory attitudes or behaviour during work or play.

First warning

A first WARNING is given for unacceptable behaviour or attitude towards work or poor manners. The child will be asked if they understand what the warning is being given for and will be asked to think about how they can make a better choice and not repeat the behaviour. If the child is unable to explain, the teacher will calmly and carefully explain why it is given and the impact of the unacceptable behaviour. The pupil's initials will be recorded on the whiteboard when this warning is given to aid other adults teaching in the class.

Second warning

A yellow WARNING is given for a repeat of the above or similar behaviour with a more stern warning that the behaviour is not acceptable and if it continues a yellow card will be given. A tick is placed next to the child's name on the whiteboard to aid other adults teaching in the class.

Yellow Card

A yellow card is given if unacceptable behaviour continues despite the issue of two warnings or unsatisfactory behaviour warrants it. A yellow card can also be issued for significant incidents of unacceptable behaviour. The child is moved to an isolated position within the class to work uninterrupted until the teacher can sit with them to discuss the issue and consequences. A yellow card means being kept in for a part of break time. Class teachers will log incidence of Yellow Cards on the class record sheet and in the child's reading record. Two ticks will be placed next to the initials on the whiteboard to aid other adults teaching in the class.

Red Card

A red card is issued for violent or seriously unacceptable behaviour. The Headteacher, Deputy or Senior Leader will use their discretion in relation to violent incidents that occur between children. Should a child reach the red card stage, they are to be removed to the Headteacher's office or a Senior Leader's classroom or suitable supervised area. The Headteacher, Deputy or Senior Leader will discuss the issue with the child and record the behaviour in their homework diaries before returning them to their class and will record the child's name and the nature of the incident in the Central Discipline book which is kept in the Headteacher's office. At this stage, parents will be contacted directly regarding the incident. A ban from playtime will be given; however, depending on the nature of the behaviour, other appropriate sanctions may be given.

For extreme behaviour such as deliberate or thoughtless harm to others, bad language, or rudeness to staff, children will be referred immediately to the Headteacher or Deputy and parents notified as soon as possible.

LUNCH TIMES

Welfare Assistants also operate a similar warning card system.



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<p>Unacceptable behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goading or provoking others and deliberately getting other children into trouble • Teasing and winding other children up • Spoiling work • Not managing temper appropriately • Being disrespectful • Using swear words or racist language or calling other children names which upset them • Disrupting lessons and preventing others from learning • Taking others' belongings • Needing a lot of reminders to follow instructions (age/need appropriate) • Refusing to follow instructions after two warnings and plenty of encouragement • Chasing people when they don't like it • Calling out • Hurting others • Negative peer pressure • Bringing the school into disrepute 	<p>Consequences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive reinforcement • Warning / choices & consequences • Yellow and red cards • Sit away from others • Sent to another class / deputy / head teacher (dependent on severity of behaviour) • Parents informed as appropriate • Internal/External exclusion at discretion of Headteacher • Apology (verbal or written)
<p>Dangerous/Severe Behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggressive actions e.g. shoving, kicking or punching in ways which are likely to injure others at any time (including fighting) • Violent outbursts of temper in lessons or playground • Swearing directly at members of staff or verbally abusing them • Misusing objects or equipment in ways which put others at risk • Running out of lessons or attempting to leave the premises, without permission • Deliberate and serious acts of stealing • Deliberate, sustained, vindictive bullying/victimisation of another person (including racist incidents) • Wilful damage to property or the work of other children 	<p>Consequences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red card for less serious offences • Senior member of staff to be informed and to deal with the incident (restorative approaches to be used) • Parent to be notified <p>We acknowledge that some children have additional needs which may cause them to behave inappropriately. However certain behaviours are not tolerated and could lead to a severe consequence such as exclusion.</p>

As usual, if you have any feedback or questions on any of the updates in this letter, please don't hesitate to speak to me or Mr Marks.

Many thanks

Mr Roger Blackburn
Headteacher