



Polite



Ambitious



Responsible



Kind



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Head Teacher **Mrs McColl Park View Primary**

December/ End of term Newsletter 2023

We have got to the end of a busy but wonderful term. Lots of excitement at this time of year but at the risk of sounding like a Head Teacher, we do keep them busy and disguise work right until the end to ensure we keep to routine with as much consistency as possible. The children might think they like to ‘do nothing’ in the last week but in reality they get bored and irritated. We have seen some fantastic skills being developed this week – in particular Mrs Aiton’s design group who created some great interior designs! Well done for keeping up the great work right to the bitter end!



Elf walk

The Elf walk was a huge success and we are all pleased that we have taken part in something to help others at this time of year! Your huge generosity has raised approx £1800 for the Wish Upon a Star foundation! Special thanks to Mrs Phillips for organising it all!

Uniforms

For those that have stuck with uniforms right to the end- thank you – it really does help keep a community spirit and balances inequity in the school. For the 10 year assembly I made sure EVERY child had a school tie – unfortunately this seems to have been wasted money as many of our children are back to not wearing ties on a regular basis. It would be ideal for all children to return in full school uniform after the holidays and for the school ties to be dug out.

It is a time of year when it is colder and the children are keen to show off their designer hoodies but as a school we are always mindful of the inequity in our school community. Not everyone can afford to have the latest Tech Fleece or whatever new thing is highlighted on tiktok, which is one of our main reasons for having a set uniform. Therefore, we ask that school jumpers or cardigans are provided rather than branded jumpers or hoodies. As always we are always happy to help provide these.

Leggings are not part of the school uniform and they seem to have crept in lately – as well as the hoodies! Tights, jumpers and jackets are just as warm and much more appropriate for school.



Labels – we have an ever growing mountain of lost property. Make sure you have your child’s name on all things as with the best will in the world, the children just don’t seem to be able to recognise their own clothing etc. And sometimes the sniff test doesn’t work either!

Christmas Jumper Donation

You will know that we are aware of the cost of the school day so at this time of year we encourage Christmas dress rather than forcing people to buy Christmas jumpers. However, some children love them! If you are a regular buyer of Christmas jumpers that are quickly grown out of, please think about handing these in so that we can re-use them each year for many children who would love one but don’t get one!



Other Donations

We would love to have more opportunities for the children to play musical instruments. Over the holidays, when you have a big clearout, if you have any musical instruments lying around getting dusty or up the loft, we would love to make use of them!



Parent Partnership

Our next Parent Partnership meeting is Monday 22nd January online at 7pm. We will send the joining details nearer the time. This may need to be the last online one as we have been trialling various formats and it looks like online is the least well attended. With the huge support that the Parent partnership gives us, we need these meetings to be as well-supported as possible! Once again thank you to all the parents who support in any way you can!



Attendance

Mr McKissock has sent out a sperate Attendance & Punctuality newsletter. Lots of positives but some startling statistics too! Only 50% of our children have never been late! And there have been 506 late recordings for the school so far since August! That doesn't include the children who arrive 10 minutes late as we have not recorded these – I wouldn't like to imagine how many thousands we would be into then! Mornings are really tricky for most families but we are always aiming to provide the best education and the best start to the day for all of our children. We are always happy to help in any way for any family who struggles with this. Please just ask.

Twitter/X

Please make sure you are signed up for our Twitter/X account so that you can see what is going on each day.

Communication

If you know of parents who are not receiving emails, please get them to contact the school office asap as all of our communication is via email. Too many letters get lost in bags!

Parent Portal

Now that we have Mrs Gilroy - our fantastic Office Team Leader, we will have a renewed push for Parent Portal app and we will start to make use of this in the new year.

Thank You

There are so many aspects to being Head Teacher at Park View that has been amazing over the past 4 years and this year in particular has been really rewarding - and challenging! But at the end of every week, no matter what challenges have been thrown our way, I always have a huge list of what I'm grateful for:

- the children who continually make me proud and make me laugh every single day;
- the staff who all work so hard to create an amazing school and support every child in every way they can;
- the cleaners who have their work cut out sometimes – if you have a son you will know what I mean – imagine having 100 sons in your house!
- The kitchen staff who go way above and beyond – the Christmas Dinner this year was delicious!
- Parent Partnership for everything they do!
- Wider parent community who are happy to chat at the office, who understand the varied needs of all children in our school, for the financial support you provide, for working with us for the benefit of your child, for the Christmas gifts to all staff, etc etc etc
- Ross & Ian at the church who have helped us in so many ways this year - not least as simply an extra pair of hands when we really needed it!
- For our new Team Leader!
- For our old Team Leader who still pops in after a night shift to help us out!
- To the Park View babies born in 2023 and we hope for one more before 2023 is out – Miss Stobo we are thinling of you!
- ETC ETC ETC it's Christmas and you've probably switched off by now but I amtruly thankful for Park View – it is very much unique – it should be one of our school values!

There will definitely be aspects of this newsletter that sound very 'headteachery' when it comes to attendance and uniform etc and I won't apologise for this as it is my job and I know that deep down every parent wants their child's school to have high standards so this is an inevitable part of my job as Park View's Head Teacher. But I am always more than happy to listend and try and help wherever I can too! Raising children is the toughest job and we all need to work together for them. Always more than happy to help in any way I can!

Mrs J McColl
Head Teacher