

I have a few nags - sorry

- **Walking home, playing on the park**

As the nights begin to get lighter many of you allow your children to walk home and go to the park with their friends. This is an important step towards independence and responsibility. However, we have noticed that behaviour in school, particularly in Year 5 and Year 6 becomes more challenging as incidents of poor behaviour outside of school are continued inside school the next day. We will always put sanctions in place for poor behaviour in school, even if the root cause of this behaviour started with an incident outside of school.

- **Road safety**

We also get reports that some children do not keep themselves safe when crossing roads. I would hate for a child to be involved in a road accident. We run classes and assemblies at school and remind them to cross safely but we cannot be there to ensure they follow these messages. Please talk to your children regularly about crossing the road safely. If you see children putting themselves at risk on the road please tell their parents or school so that we can tell their parents. I'm sure you would prefer to be told if your child is not being safe so that you can deal with it rather than waiting until they have an accident.

- **Jewellery**

Jewellery is becoming an issue. Our behaviour policy states that children can wear a watch and stud earrings. No rings, necklaces or bracelets. I have asked staff to ask children to remove any jewellery that does not fit this policy. This includes earrings that are not a simple stud, rings and second or third piercings. Children should be able to remove their earrings for PE and swimming. If they are not able to do this themselves then you need to send them to school without earrings in on PE day.

- **PE Kits, Swimming Kits, book bags**

Far too many children do not have, or forget to bring their PE kits, swimming kits and book bags and are not organised for the day ahead. When they are left to sort themselves out they are forgetting so can you ask them everyday and ensure they bring the things they need to school on the correct days.

Year 5 go swimming every Thursday every week. Please ensure they have a kit in school. If they forget their kit I will not be ringing home to ask for it to be sent in as we are spending too long every week doing this. Your child will go to Year 6 and miss their swimming lesson.

The easiest thing to do with PE kits is put a pair of black shorts, a white t-shirt and a pair of pumps in a bag and leave it at school. That way your child will always be prepared. They do not need to go home every week to be washed and unfortunately, the children who do this tend to forget to bring it back. Some classes have started cancelling PE because only 8 out of 26 children have a PE kit in school. This is not acceptable.

- **WhatsApp and TikTok**

We are having increasing amounts of complaints about comments children are sending to each other via WhatsApp, particularly the girls in Year 5 but also children as young as Year 1!!

There is a reason why WhatsApp and TikTok have a minimum age of 13 and it is because many children do not have the experience and maturity to understand that messages sent electronically can often come across as insults even though that is not how they were intended.

Please could you monitor your child's online activity regularly – maybe even daily. If they are sending or receiving inappropriate messages then you need to take responsibility for this and either talk to them about what they are sending or even deleting the app / confiscating their phone until they can learn to use it more responsibly.

We have a very good online safety education program and teach the children about how to keep themselves safe. We have a duty to deal with online bullying and keep children safe. We will put sanctions in place for any child who behaves inappropriately in the real world or the virtual world.

- **Attendance**

If you are bringing your child in late or collecting them early due to a medical appointment please could you bring evidence of that appointment in order that we can authorise the absence. A doctors note, appointment card or text confirmation will be fine.



NORBRIGGS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Norbriggs Road, Mastin Moor, Chesterfield S43 3BW
Tel: 01246 473398 - Fax: 01246 470917
E-mail: info@norbriggs.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr P Scragg
Assistant Head: Mrs F Hurcum
Assistant Head: Mrs D Ester



Spring 2 Week 4 Newsletter

Round up of the last 3 weeks

Apologies for missing the last two newsletters, it's been a busy time!

- Father Ian came into school to lead assemblies on Shrove Tuesday and Lent. Later this term we will be taking all the children to St John The Baptist church in Staveley as part of our program of visiting special places of worship to look at the features of these buildings. We have been to a mosque, are about to visit a church and in the Summer term we aim to visit either a gurdwara, synagogue or temple.
- We celebrated World Book Day with the most incredible costumes. The children were very imaginative in their choice of character and I was impressed at how much they enjoy reading and could talk about the books they love. We finished the day with a big readathon in the hall with many, many family members coming to read with children. It was a lovely thing to see and really helps reinforce the message that reading is not only important but also great fun and enjoyable.
- We had a coffee morning with Chesterfield Council. There is a genuine desire to want to provide more services for the families of Mastin Moor and hopefully this meeting will be the first where we can begin putting some of your ideas into practice.
- Years 3, 4 and 5 held a science day. Children were split up across the three classes and spent all day doing a series of different science experiments. They really enjoyed themselves and were amazed by the work they were doing. Hopefully this might inspire some of them to go on and want to pursue a career in science or engineering when they are older.
- Steve Kent from Sheffield police force came in to lead an assembly on the dangers of carrying a knife. Thankfully knife crime is low in Chesterfield and we want to keep it that way. The key messages were:
 - If you find a knife do not touch it. Leave it where it is and tell an adult who will call the police.
 - If you carry a knife you are more likely to find yourself in dangerous situations – it gives you a false sense of security.
 - A large number of people injured with a knife had had their own knife taken off them and used against them.
 - Don't carry a knife – you can face up to 4 years in prison just for carrying it without a good reason.
- Our dance club performed at the Winding Wheel Dance Festival. They did an absolutely fantastic job and me and Jonny were very proud of them. They will be performing their dance to the rest of school and to the parents this Friday.
- Last Friday we joined in with Red Nose Day. As well as £153.65 we raised awareness of children and families who need our help because they are not as fortunate as us. The children came up with some great ideas on things that we could do all year round that won't cost money but will help others. I am hoping we can set a couple of their ideas up.
- Our free Boogie Bounce session was so popular we have started up a Boogie Bounce after school club. We held the first session yesterday. It was a sell out and all that took part had a really great time.

Coming up next week

It's a quiet and settled week in school next week where we can concentrate on teaching and learning before it gets very busy again for the last two weeks of term.

- Mrs Birds has worked at Norbriggs Primary School for a long time and has been a valuable member of staff. However, she has decided to move on for personal reasons. I'm sure you would like to join us in saying thank you for everything you have done for the children and the school and we wish you luck and good fortune in whatever you choose to do next.
- Bank will be on Wednesday next week rather than Thursday.
- Year 5 children swim on Thursday afternoon. Please make sure they have a swimming kit in school.



Derbyshire Healthy Schools
Community Award



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